EUROPE – Part 1

Defining the Realm
Geographical Features: 

Europe’s Eastern Boundary

- Realm of peninsulas and islands on Eurasian landmass
- Bounded by Atlantic, Arctic, and Mediterranean waters
- Undefined by clear physical boundaries
- Cultural boundaries are fuzzy and dynamic
- Textbook boundary: Russia’s western border
Geographical Features: Climate and Resources

- Climates influenced by position windward of moist Atlantic air
- Large and varied stores of raw materials:
  - Consequence of wide range of natural environments
  - Helped fuel various stages of development
North Atlantic Drift, an ocean current, brings warm water from the Gulf of Mexico across the North Atlantic toward Europe.

Eastward-blowing winds push the warm wet air above the North Atlantic Drift over northwestern Europe and the North European Plain.

Figure 4-5
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Europe's Climates

**B Dry Climate**
- BS: Semiarid
  - h = hot
  - k = cold

**C Humid Temperate Climate**
- Cfa
  - No dry season
- Cfb
  - Dry summer (Mediterranean)
- Cfc

**D Humid Cold Climate**
- Dfa
  - No dry season
- Dfb
- Dfc

**E Cold Polar Climate**
- E: Tundra and ice

**H Highland Climate**
- H: Undifferentiated highlands

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Figure 1A-2

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Geographical Features: Landforms and Opportunities

- **Physiography**: total physical geography
- Four physiographic units:
  1. Central Uplands
  2. Alpine Mountains
  3. Western Uplands
  4. Northern European Lowland
Geographical Features: Locational Advantages

- **Relative location** situated at the crossroads of the *land hemisphere*, or the half of the globe with the greatest land surface
- **Maximum efficiency for global contact**
- **Dense network of navigable rivers and canals**
  - Aided contact within Europe and beyond

  - **European interaction**
    - Close proximities and immense cultural diversity

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Ancient Europe: Ancient Greece and Imperial Rome

- Greece’s cultural and political foundations:
  - **City-states**: small territories of cities and their hinterlands ruled by elected governments

- Rome’s political and urban system:
  - Borrowed from Greeks, but expanded their empire and built a vast *infrastructure* network
  - First metropolitan-scale urban center in Europe
Ancient Europe: Triumph and Collapse

- Roman political and economic spheres:
  - System of rule over a vast area and peoples would continue as a European hallmark.
  - **Local functional specialization**: people in particular places concentrate on specific goods and services.
- Spread of Roman culture: Romance languages, Christianity, and political practices.
- Collapse in fifth century A.D. allowed influx of diverse groups from elsewhere on Eurasia.
Early Modern Europe

- After feudal turmoil of the Middle Ages, monarchies laid foundations of modern states.
- European revival or *Renaissance* in science, discovery, and culture began in fifteenth century.
- *Mercantilism* driven by exploration led the way for competition-driven capitalism and colonialism.
- Social revolutions between aristocratic and newly wealthy merchants challenges status quo.
- Rapid growth of cities, industry & population
Approximate Preindustrial Land Cover

- Forest
- Other woods, grasslands and fields
- Ice
- Tundra
- Semideserts and/or barren
- Modern national boundaries

Preindustrial

Figure 4-33a
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Early Modern Europe

The Agrarian Revolution
- Growth in markets and population created economic opportunities for European farmers.
- Changed landownership and farming practices.

The City-States of Early Modern Europe
- Grew by agricultural output and expanding trade
- Dominated by merchant classes
- Found on the Mediterranean and Baltic coasts
Modern Historical Geography: The Industrial Revolution

- **Industrial Revolution** created industrial transformation of agrarian Europe.

**British Primacy**

- Epicenter of Industrial Revolution
- Advantages: global influence and significant innovations at home

**Diffusion Onto the Continent**

- Eastward from Britain
- Followed belt of coal fields

Figure 1A-9: Europe: Spread of the Industrial Revolution
Transfers of Wealth to Europe, 1500–1840 (in billions of 1990 U.S. dollars)

- Profits from slave trade (British ships)
- Profits from slave trade (French ships)
- Silver exports to Spain and Portugal (1531–1810)
- Gold exports to Spain and Portugal (1503–1800)
- Sugar profits from use of slave labor in North America and Caribbean (18th century)
- Profits from Dutch spice trade (1650–1780)
- Profits from India-China opium trade (1800–1840)
- Land rents, taxes from small farmers (1760–1810)

Figure 4.7
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Modern Historical Geography:
The Industrial Revolution

- Industrialized society
  - Urban and population explosion
- Industrial cities became backbone of Europe’s population cluster
- East-west industrial axis remains major feature of Europe’s population geography
1. Is there a relationship between physiography and population clusters?

2. What else explains the pattern of population clusters?
Modern Historical Geography: Political Revolutions

- Involved centralization of power into larger national territories into absolutist states.

**Competing Ideologies**

- End of absolutism started with the French Revolution (1789–1795).
  - Uneven affects throughout Europe
  - Introduced competing ideologies of liberalism, socialism, nationalism, and fascism.
  - Culminated in World War
Modern Historical Geography:  
Political Revolutions

A Fractured Map
- Legacy of feudal and absolutist periods:
  - Territories were controlled by force, taxes, and tribute.
  - Marriages, alliances, and wars further complicated.

State and Nation
- Created form of political-territorial organization:
  - *Nation-state*: state was embodied by its cultural distinct population, or *nation*.
  - Very few states today embody such an ideal.
Contemporary Europe: A Dynamic Realm: Cultural Diversity

- Diversity of ancestries and languages:
  - Most belong to the **Indo-European language family**
  - English as *lingua franca*

- Religious strife:
  - Historically between Catholics and Protestants
  - Today with the rise of Islam

![Map of Europe showing language distribution](image-url)

*Figure 1A-7: © H. J. de Blij, P. D. Muller, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.*
European Geographies

Map Analysis Activity:
Comparing Physiography and Language

1. Is there a relationship between physiography and language family regions?
2. What can be inferred about the diffusion of language across Europe’s physiography?
Contemporary Europe: A Dynamic Realm: Spatial Interaction

- Europe is unified as an enormous *functional region* that operates based on two principles:
  - *Complementarity*: as one area produces a surplus of a commodity that is required by another area
  - *Transferability*: ease with which a commodity can be transported by producer to consumer
- Creates a highly interdependent economic realm
Complementarity

- Two places, through an exchange of goods, can specifically satisfy each other’s demands.

- One area has a surplus of an item demanded by a second area.
Complementarity
Transferability

- The ease with which a commodity may be transported or the capacity to move a good at a bearable cost
- Rivers, Mountain Passes, Road networks
- Advances in transportation technology
Intervening Opportunity

- The presence of a nearer source of supply or opportunity that acts to diminish the attractiveness of more distant sources and sites.
The European **metropolis**, or central city plus suburban ring, has a long history:

- Focused on the **central business district (CBD)**, as the oldest commercial part
- Wide and dense residential sectors radiate outward
- Public transportation is well-developed
A Changing Population

Negative Natural Population Growth
- Shrinking population and below-replacement fertility
  - Impacts workers whose taxes pay for social services

Immigration
- Partially offsetting population decline
- Changing once-homogenous nation-states
  - Growth in Muslims clustered in cities and unassimilated

The Growing Multicultural Challenge
- Restriction of immigration and cultural differences
European Unification

- **Forces at work:**
  - **Centrifugal forces** contribute to social and political divergence that may break-up a state.
  - **Centripetal forces** help to politically unify as a cohesive and stable entity.

- **European integration and unification**
  - Triumph of *centripetal forces*
  - Proceeded after WWII
  - Effort to maintain stability, prosperity, and security
European Unification: Background

- Primary motive: rapid postwar economic recovery
  - Led by the United States with interest in:
    - Reopening European markets for U.S. goods
    - Securing Europe as a buffer against the USSR
  - European political considerations
    - Close political cooperation was necessary for peace
- Changing motives
  - Open market to compete globally with U.S. and Asia
  - Maintain stability in an increasingly diverse society
European Unification:
The Unification Process

European Union

- Example of supranationalism, a cooperative venture involving three or more states each giving up some sovereignty for mutual benefit
- Several member state expansions: started at 6 in 1958 and is now 27 as of 2007
- Parliament headquarters in Brussels, Luxembourg, and Strasbourg
Regional Issue: How Desirable is Economic and Political Union?

**IN SUPPORT OF UNION**
- Opportunity to overcome divisions.
- Development and prosperity will be more equitable.
- Union is more economically powerful.
- Political unification will aid global competitiveness.

**IN OPPOSITION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**
- Not a true democratic choice, was decided by the elite.
- Economic inequity: high prices and cheap immigrant labor.
- Development subsidies are being squandered.
- No such thing as Europe.
Consequences of Unification: One Market

- Free movement of workers and goods
  - Requires harmonization of member state laws
  - Reduces legal barriers and remove internal borders
- Introduction of a single bank and currency: Euro
  - Signals strengthening unity in Europe
  - Helps to counter the global power of the U.S. dollar
  - Some members states have chosen to opt-out
Consequences of Unification: A New Economic Geography

- Reduced effect of national boundaries.
- Some subnational regions have become powerful engines of growth.

**Four Motors of Europe:**
1. Rhône-Alps
2. Lombardy
3. Catalonia
4. Baden-Württemberg
Consequences of Unification: A New Economic Geography

- Policies of subsidies:
  - Development of less prosperous subregions
  - Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and farmers

- Uneven development:
  - Major differences still persist between regions and within member states
Consequences of Unification: Diminished State Power and New Regionalism

**Devolution:** centrifugal forces of regions or people within a state that demand and gain political strength at the expense of the state:

- Results when absolute sovereignty of the state over its territory erodes.
- States respond in a variety of ways, from suppression to accommodation.
Consequences of Unification: Diminished State Power and New Regionalism

Map Analysis Activity: Context of New Regionalism

1. What relationships can be seen between the map, *Europe: Foci of Devolutionary Pressures, 2012*, and the map, *Languages of Europe*?

2. How might the cultural context, such as language, influence a subnational region’s demands for devolution?
Defining Europe: Difficult Choices
Widening or Deepening?

- **Widening**: expand membership of the EU
  - Difficulty including uneven economies, disparate political systems, and greater cultural diversity
  - Yet, negotiations with potential members continue

- **Deepening**: intensify policies and laws of the EU
  - Difficulty in maintaining and creating uniform laws
  - Rising “Euro-skepticism” and public resistance to deepening
Defining Europe: Difficult Choices:  
The Remaining Outsiders

- Negotiations with prospective members
  - Balkans
  - Europe’s “Far East”
  - Turkey

- EU demand for political, economic, and social reform is becoming more urgent.

- Cultural distinctions could impede membership.
End of Cold War political divisions between West and East Europe:
- Economic contrasts remain.
- Historical ties between West and East also remain.

The eastward expansion of the EU might define this boundary in the future.
Defining Europe: Difficult Choices: EU versus NATO

- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**
  - Mutual defense alliance created in postwar, Cold War context
  - Partially overlaps with the EU, but includes non-EU, United States, Canada, and Turkey
  - Eastward expansion of members

- **Today’s security needs:**
  - Terrorism
  - Rogue states
  - Cyber war
NATO MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPE

Joining dates:
- **Founders** (1949)
- **Joined after 1949**
- **Potential candidates**

*Also includes Iceland, United States and Canada*
Defining Europe: Difficult Choices:  
*Impact of the Global Economic Crisis*

- **Economic woes:**
  - Growth rates are down. — Unemployment is up.
  - Skyrocketing national debts. — *Eurozone* bailouts.

- **Social-political consequences:**
  - Polarization of national politics is difficult for EU activities.
  - Overall, benefit of Union is widely questioned.
  - Unskilled, unemployed immigrants drive negative economic indicators & become scapegoats.
Defining Europe: Difficult Choices:  

Future Prospects of the EU

- Uncertain solvency of economic union and the euro
- Recurring structural challenges of supranationalism that occur with each widening and deepening effort
- Continuing struggles with uneven development and cultural diversity
- Addressing the “democratic deficit”

What do you think?

- Do you think political and economic power should be focused at the local, national, or global scale? Why?