Europe
1) Location

What to Know for the Map
What is Europe?

- Part of “Eurasia” west of the Urals Mountains, including part of Russia.
- A big peninsula made of many smaller peninsulas.
- Dense population, crowded with large cities.
- Many wealthy countries.
A Peninsula of Peninsulas

- Scandinavian Peninsula
- Jutland Peninsula
- Iberian Peninsula
- Italian Peninsula
- Balkan Peninsula
Major Mountain Ranges of Europe

- **Alps** – Southern Europe
- **Apennines** – Italy
- **Carpathians** – Eastern Europe
- **Pyrenees** – Separate France and Spain
- **Urals** – Mountains in Russia, run North to South. Divides Europe from Asia.
Major Rivers of Europe

- **Loire River** - France
- **Rhine River** – Germany, Northern Europe
- **Danube River** – Southern and Eastern Europe
- **Volga River** – European Russia
Major Islands of Europe

- Iceland
- The British Isles – Ireland, Britain, and others
- Mediterranean – Malta, Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, Cyprus
- Greece’s nearly 2,000 islands in the Aegean Sea
2) Human-Environment Interaction

Describing the Physical Environment
How do the physical features affect humans?

- Mountains act like walls, dividing regions from each other.

- Rivers act like roads, connecting regions together. Europe has many small rivers, useful for transport.
Climate and Vegetation

- Good soil, good climate, and lots of natural resources.

- Mostly **Humid Continental** in the north, drier in the south.

- Formerly heavily forested, reduced by expansion of farmland, population, and timber industry.
Fjords

- Long, narrow inlet with steep sides or cliffs, created by glacial erosion.

- Found in Scandinavia
Massif Central

• Elevated region in south-central France, consisting of mountains and plateaus.
Mistral and Sirocco

- Powerful seasonal winds that affect climate of Europe.
- **Mistral** blows from northwest, bringing clear weather
- **Sirocco** blows from Sahara, hot and dusty
North Atlantic Drift

- The North Atlantic Current is a powerful warm ocean current that continues the Gulf Stream northeast.
- Keeps Europe warm enough to live in.
Zuiderzee

- The Netherlands have reclaimed land from the sea, by building dikes, then pumping the water out of the enclosed area. This becomes new land, protected from flooding by pumps.
3) Movement

Population and Migration

Urban Geography
Demographics of Europe

• About 731,000,000 people in Europe.

• Population is aging, growing very slowly or even shrinking.

• Large immigrant population from Middle East and Africa.

![Population in Germany (2000)](chart.png)
Urbanized Europe

- Dense, **urbanized** population – 75% live in major **metropolitan areas**
Immigration to Europe

• Immigration from Middle East and Africa, initially as construction workers after WW2.

• Assimilation of immigrants into European culture has been difficult in many places

Specific issues:

• Illegal immigration from Africa and Middle East
• Radicalization of Muslim immigrant communities
• Backlash from European far-right
• Growth of anti-Semitism
Transportation

• Most European countries have extensive **mass transit** systems.

• Germany has the **Autobahn** – highways with no speed limits.
4) Place

Nine Traits of Culture: History, Language, Political, Economic, et cetera
France
Germany
Spain
Italy
Great Britain
A Quick History of Europe

Ancient Europe – Prehistory to about 500AD
  • Stonehenge, Greece, Roman Empire

Middle Ages – 500AD to about 1400AD
  • Feudalism, Knights, Black Plague

Renaissance and Reformation – 1400AD to about 1600AD
  • Rebirth of reason, religious turmoil, exploration and conquest of New World

Early Modern Era – 1600AD to about 1850AD
  • Colonization of world by Europe, Napoleonic Wars, Revolutions

Modern Era – 1850AD to Present
  • WW1, WW2, Cold War, Unification of Europe
Politics of Europe

- More than 40 countries in Europe, all either republics or monarchies.

- Most of Europe (28 countries) currently united into the **European Union**

- Europe is divided in various ways – often into “Western Europe” and “Eastern Europe”, a cultural leftover from the Cold War.

“Western Europe” includes France, West Germany, Spain, Italy, UK, and others that aligned with the USA during Cold War (1945-1991). These countries joined an alliance called **NATO**.

“Eastern Europe” includes Russia and its neighbors and satellite countries during the Cold War (1945-1991).
What is the **European Union**? (EU)

- Established in 1992
- Intergovernmental union of 28 states
- The EU is one of the largest economic and political entities in the world
- 502 million people
- Combined GDP $15 trillion in 2010.
The origin of the EU:
The European Coal and Steel Community came into existence in July 1952. The Treaty of Rome creating a broader "common market" was signed five years later.
What is NATO?

• “North Atlantic Treaty Organization”

• Military alliance originally intended to protect Western Europe from the Soviet Union.

• Established in 1949 at start of Cold War

• Member states agree protect each other from external attack.

• Currently active in Afghanistan and recently in Libya
Economy of Europe

- Nearly all Tertiary/Quaternary sectors
- European countries have high GDP’s, but some parts are lower.
- Economy centered around the European Union (we will discuss this next class).
- Dependent on foreign oil (from Russia) and nuclear power.
Europe has 80+ ethnic groups; 33 have their own countries. They range from tiny minorities to 30 million each.

Dozens of languages, in three main linguistic families:

1. Romance – Spanish, Italian, French
2. Germanic – German, English, Swedish
3. Slavic – Russian, Polish, Czech
Religions of Europe

- Europe is predominantly Christian, but with atheist tendencies in some countries.
- Most of S Europe is Roman Catholic, whereas most N Europe is Protestant.
- In much of SE Europe, Eastern Orthodox Christianity predominates.
- Many Muslims also live in SE Europe (Turkish influence), and Jewish communities exist in all major European cities.
Is Russia part of Europe?

• Yes: The parts of Russia west of the Urals Mountains are technically in Europe.

• No: Russia is different enough culturally from Europe that it stands apart in many ways.

So the correct answer is “yes and no.”

We will discuss Russia separately in the next unit, along with the other nations of the former Soviet Union.
5) Regions

How are places categorized?

- Northern Europe
- Western Europe
- Southern Europe
- Eastern Europe
NORTHERN EUROPE
• Iceland
  – Reykjavik
• Finland
  – Helsinki
• Norway
  – Oslo
• Sweden
  – Stockholm
• Scotland
  – Glasgow
• N. Ireland
  – Belfast
• Ireland
  – Dublin
• England
  – London
• Denmark
  – Copenhagen
Physical Geography of Northern Europe

- Region includes Scandinavian Peninsula, Jutland Peninsula, British Isles, Iceland, and areas around the North Sea.

- Region is heavily affected by **glaciation** during last ice age. Many fjords, erosion features.

- Climate generally **“Marine West Coast”** – cloudy and damp, with cool temperatures moderated by a warm ocean current (North Atlantic Drift)

- Turns to **“Sub-Arctic”** and **“Arctic”** further north.
Demographics of Northern Europe

- Low birthrates and long lifespans, except for immigrant communities.
British Isles (subregion)

Two Nations:
• Great Britain, aka United Kingdom (62 million)
• Ireland (6 million)

United Kingdom is composed of:
- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

Ireland is composed of:
- Ireland, independent nation
- Northern Ireland, annexed by UK
Scandinavia (Subregion)

- Scandinavia/Nordic Subregion, includes:
  - **Finland** (5 million)
  - **Sweden** (9 million)
  - **Denmark** (6 million)
  - **Norway** (5 million)
  - **Iceland** (300,000)

- All of these countries are wealthy, stable republics. They generally have high taxes and extensive welfare systems.
HISTORY OF NORTHERN EUROPE

Ancient Europe – Prehistory to about 500AD
• Germanic tribes settled region

Middle Ages – 500AD to about 1400AD
• Viking raids
• English history

Renaissance and Reformation – 1400AD to 1600AD
• Importance of Sweden grows
• Reformation – Martin Luther and John Calvin

Early Modern Era – 1600AD to about 1850AD
• Industrial Revolution
• British Empire

Modern Era – 1850AD to Present
• World Wars, Cold War, The Welfare State
Life in Northern Europe

**Religion:** Northern Europe is mostly secular, but many people are members of Protestant Christian churches. Islam is a small percentage but rapidly growing.

**Issues:** Old stable cultures now clashing with newer immigrant cultures. Breakdown of welfare state due to world financial crisis.
What is this region known for (art, music, literature)?

- Hans Christian Andersen - writer *The Little Mermaid*
- Björn Borg — Champion Tennis Player
- Ingmar Bergman - Swedish Film director
- William Shakespeare - writer....
- Alfred Nobel - Swedish chemist/engineer - Nobel prize
- J. R. R. Tolkien - *The Hobbit, Lord of the Rings*
- Robert Louis Stevenson - *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*
- Irish Music from traditional to U2
- JK Rowling - *Harry Potter*
- *Ikea*
- *Sex Pistols* — Music Punk Rock
- *Skiing, Hockey, Football, Rugby*
Western Europe
Western Europe

- France
  - Paris

- Switzerland
  - Bern

- Belgium
  - Brussels

- Luxembourg
  - Luxembourg

- Austria
  - Vienna

- Liechtenstein
  - Vaduz

- Netherlands
  - Amsterdam

- Germany
  - Berlin
The Rise of Nation-States

The political shape of the modern world owes nearly everything to the influence of Western Europe.

Major revolutions in the late 1700’s and early 1800’s shaped these ideas.

- **Feudalism** – lords owned the land, gave away for service
- **Nation-State** – independent nation of people with a common culture.
- **Nationalism** – people should be loyal to their nation
- **Communism** – government and economy rules entirely by the state.
What are some examples of governments from this region?

• Republic
  – France, Austria, Germany, Switzerland
  – President or Prime Minister
  – Branches of Government

• Constitutional Monarchy
  – Belgium, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Netherlands
  – Monarch - King
  – Rules based on a constitution
  – Also republics in Western Europe.
Demographics of Western Europe

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.
Economics: Diversity and Luxury

- Western European nations tend to be wealthy and stable, with diverse economies.
- Increasing manufacturing sectors.
  - Rich in coal and iron ore
- Nuclear Energy
  - France 75%
- Banking - Switzerland
Arts and Culture of Western Europe

• Germany and Austria are famous for their influence on classical music.
  – Bach
  – Beethoven
  – Mozart

• France is famous for painting and the visual arts.
  – Jan Van Eyck
  – Rembrandt
  – Claude Monet
  – Paul Gauguin
  – Paul Cezanne
Current Issues

• Countries with extensive welfare systems having issues paying for all of it, thanks to slowing economies.

• Like most European countries, this region has changing demographics – low birthrates, and high immigration from other regions are changing cultures.

• France and Germany both have to bail out other European economic failures.
Southern Europe
Which countries are a part of this region?
Physical Geography of Southern Europe

• Consists of the Iberian, Italian and Balkan Peninsulas.

• Many islands are associated with this region.

• The Climate is... **Mediterranean**!
  • HOT - DRY SUMMERS
  • WARM/COOL - MOIST WINTERS

• Region is tectonically active – many volcanoes, including some large and very dangerous ones close to major urban areas.
History of Southern Europe

**Ancient Europe** – Prehistory to about 500 CE
- *Greece and Rome*

**Middle Ages**– 500 CE to about 1400CE
- *European empires, Islamic expansion*

**Renaissance and Reformation** – 1400 CE to about 1600 CE
- *Rebirth of knowledge and art, started in Italy*

**Early Modern Era** – 1600 CE to about 1850 CE
- *Conflict between Spain, Italy, and the Ottoman Empire (Turkey)*

**Modern Era** – 1850AD to Present
- *Unification of Italy, dictatorships, and modern Europe.*
Demographics of Southern Europe

Italy Population Pyramid for 2010

Predicted age and sex distribution for the year 2010:

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.
Culture and Politics of Southern Europe

• **Discontinuous region**, parts not physically connected.

• On the “**Periphery**”, not in the center of power or culture in modern times.

• **Cultural continuity** with Greek and Roman times.

• Economies of region are large, but burdened by debt, corruption, and huge government spending.
Iberian Peninsula
Portugal and Spain

- Spain is a constitutional monarchy, with 46 million people. Portugal is a republic with 10 million people.

- Both were dominated by Arabic-speaking Muslim conquerors from the 700’s to the 1400’s, leaving a deep impact on the language and culture of the region.

- Most of the peninsula is a warm, dry plateau, but the Pyrenees Mountains form a barrier between it and the rest of Europe.
Italy

• Most populated of the Mediterranean countries (61 million)

• Best connected to the European core.

• Most economically advanced.

• **North is industrial, South is agricultural – split affects Italian culture and politics.**

• Also home to the Vatican, the core of Catholic Christianity.
Greece

• Home of roots of Western culture and democracy, 11 million people

• Economy based on agriculture and tourism.

• Conflicts with Turkey over some islands.

• Currently unstable due to economic collapse, rioting...
Mediterranean Europe is known for:

- History
- Culture
- Art
Modern Life in Mediterranean Europe

- **Style**
  - Ducati Motorcycle

- **Crowds**
  - Image of a crowded train with many people.

- **Industry**
  - Ferrari 458 Italia

- **Tourism**
  - Image of a scenic Mediterranean town with people walking and enjoying the sights.
Eastern Europe
Eastern Europe

- Poland
  - Warsaw
- Czech Republic
  - Prague
- Slovakia
  - Bratislava
- Hungary
  - Budapest
- Romania
  - Bucharest
- Bulgaria
  - Sofia
- Macedonia
  - Skopje
- Albania
  - Tirane
- Serbia & Montenegro
  - Belgrade
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
  - Sarajevo
- Croatia
  - Zagreb
- Slovenia
  - Ljubljana
Physical Geography of Eastern Europe

- **Landforms:**
  - Baltic Sea in North, Mediterranean Sea in South, Black Sea in East
  - Carpathian Mountains, Danube River affect travel and trade. How?
  - Balkan Peninsula has most of the southern countries.

- **Climate:** Nearly all “Humid Continental”, four regular seasons.

- **Terrain:** Most of region is low hills and forests, plains in north and Hungary.

- **Resources:** Abundant coal, some oil and natural gas, agriculture.
Demographics of Eastern Europe

- Declining birthrates, immigration out of the region looking for work.

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**Poland: 2010**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.

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**Serbia and Montenegro: 2010**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.
History of Eastern Europe

- **Cultural Crossroads**: Place where various cultures cross paths – This region was dominated by outsiders.
  - Roman Empire A.D. 100
  - Byzantine Empire A.D. 395
  - Ottoman Empire 1300's
  - Austria 1400’s
  - Germany 1700’s
  - Prussia 1700’s

- **First World War**: Much of Eastern Europe was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, ruled by the Hapsburg family.
  - Serb group “The Black Hand” (Gavrilo Princip, 19yo) assassinated Austrian noble Archduke Franz Ferdinand & his wife Sophie.
  - Serbs supported by Russia,
  - Austria-Hungary supported by Germany
  - Other countries join sides
Modern Eastern Europe

- Europe’s poorest region, except for Poland
- Still heavily influenced by Russia
- Many areas have had political and economic instability during the last two decades.
- Several nations look towards NATO, the EU, and Western Europe for economic and military assistance.
Religious Influences

- Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity are widespread in the region.

- Before WW2, millions of Jews lived in Poland and Eastern Europe. Most of the survivors emigrated to the USA or Israel.

- Large percentage of people practice Islam in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo.
Political Concepts of Eastern Europe

- **Centrifugal Forces**: Forces that divide a country such as religious, linguistic, ethnic, or ideological *differences*

- **Balkanization**: Breaking up a region into small, mutually hostile units.

- **Centripetal Forces**: Forces that unite a country, such as strong national culture, shared ideological objectives, and a common faith

- **Satellite Nations**: Nations dominated by another larger neighbor, such as Russia for Eastern Europe
Ethnic Cleansing in the Balkans – 1990’s

**Yugoslavia** was composed of many small, scattered populations with ancient disputes and grudges, kept in check by a military dictatorship under Josef Tito. After 1991, it broke apart, leading to a series of vicious wars called the “Yugoslav Wars”.

This led to many massacres and atrocities as these groups struggled for control. People were pushed out of their homes in a process called “**ethnic cleansing**”. People were killed or turned into refugees as the new nations fought to define borders and make their populations uniform.
THE MODERN BALKAN PENINSULA

Until the 1990’s, these small countries were all part of Yugoslavia, dominated by Serbia. Now, there are many small countries in the region.

• **SERBIA**: Most powerful nation in Balkan region.

• **MONTENEGRO**: Independent since 2006

• **SLOVENIA**: The first to secede, most ethnically homogenous.

• **CROATIA**: Good economy, tourism on Adriatic sea.

• **BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**: US intervention in 1995, still there.

• **MACEDONIA**: Landlocked, not same as historical Macedonia

• **KOSOVO**: Disputed status, Serbia does not accept Kosovan independence.
The European Union: Why form a union?

• Competition with the rest of the world
• Political ties and prevent conflict
• Make big decisions together such as environmental laws
• Free trade is good for everyone
• Stabilize currency (protect value of money)
European Union: Governance

President of European Council
Herman Van Rompuy, of Belgium

• The EU is regulated by the...
  1. European Commission (executive),
  2. the Council of the European Union (legislature-presidents of member states), and
  3. the European Parliament (legislature-elected).
Functions of the European Union

• The EU creates a system of laws which apply in all member states.
• Guarantees the freedom of movement of people, goods, services, and capital.
• It maintains a common trade policy.
The European Union: Membership

To join the EU, a country must meet the “Copenhagen Criteria”:

• Developed countries instead of developing countries
• Stable governments
• Adequate resources
• No human rights violations
• Accept all EU laws and policies.
The Euro

- In 1999 the EU introduced a common currency, the **Euro**, which has been adopted by fifteen member states, called the “Euro Zone”.
- **Euro** is a trade-off: Eurozone countries get increased economic stability in exchange for losing some economic decision-making power.
The European Union: Possible Problems with the EU

• Many languages- communication can be difficult
• Countries won’t always agree - each may have different needs
• Compromise is necessary
• Big countries versus small countries, big economies versus small economies