World Regional Geography People Places and Globalization Version 2 0 2nd edition Berglee Solutions Manual

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Chapter 2
Europe

Identifying the Boundaries

- Europe is a continent of peninsulas, islands, and varied landforms. The traditional boundaries of the European continent include the North Atlantic Ocean to the west and Russia up to the **Ural Mountains** to the east.
- Since the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991, Russia has been given its own identification and, in this text, is not included in the study of Europe. Russia will be discussed in chapter 3.
- Greenland is located next to the North American country of Canada but has traditionally been considered a part of Europe because of Denmark's colonial acquisition of the island. Greenland is physically more a part of North America.
- The **Arctic Ocean** creates a natural boundary to the north.
- The southern boundary of Europe is the **Mediterranean Sea** and includes the islands of Malta and Cyprus as independent countries.
- A portion of Turkey is in Europe, but most of the physical region of Turkey is located in Asia. The waterway between the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea is the Bosporus, or the Istanbul Strait, which creates a natural border between Asia and Europe.
- Turkey is considered to be a part of Asia Minor and is usually included in the study of the Middle East region. Europe is close to North Africa, and Morocco's coast can be seen across the **Strait of Gibraltar** from Spain.

1. Introducing the Realm

- Describe the various climate types and physical landforms of the European continent.
- Explain how Europe's physical geography has supported its development.
- List Europe's various natural resources.
- Summarize the environmental concerns Europe faces.

Section Outline

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- From the Roman Empire to the European Union (EU), Europe's historical pattern of development is a model study in regional geography.
- The powerful impact European colonialism has had on the world since the Industrial Revolution is still felt today.

Location and Climate

- Europe is a northern continent. All the British Isles, for example, fall above the fiftieth parallel.
- Europe's northern position affects its growing seasons and people's moods, and it should be taken into consideration as an important influence in the evolution of the European character.
- The oceans exert significant influence on the world's climates. The oceans collect and store vast amounts of solar energy, particularly around the equator, and transport that heat with their currents.
- This influences not only temperature but also precipitation patterns over wide regions of Europe and the rest of the world.
- The **Gulf Stream** is perhaps the most important current for Western Europe's climate and is responsible for producing a temperate climate for a northern latitude location.
    - The Gulf Stream originates in the Gulf of Mexico, where the waters are warmed. This powerful current follows the Eastern Seaboard of the United States before crossing the Atlantic Ocean for Europe.

Four Main European Landforms

- Europe has four main landforms, many islands and peninsulas, and various climate types. The four main landforms include the Alpine region, Central Uplands, Northern Lowlands, and Western Highlands.
    - Alpine region: The **High Alps**, which range from eastern France to Slovenia, are central to the **Alpine region**. Included in the **Alpine Range** are the **Pyrenees**, located on the border between France and Spain; the **Apennines**, running the length of Italy; the **Carpathians**, looping around Romania from Slovakia; and finally, the shorter **Dinaric Alps** in former Yugoslavia.
    - Central Uplands: Alps to the north, which includes a large portion of southern Germany extending eastward, is known as the **Central Uplands**. These foothills to the Alps are excellent sources of raw materials such as forest products and coal, which are valuable resources for industrial activities.
    - Northern Lowlands: Similar to the breadbasket of the midwestern United States, Europe's Northern Lowlands possess excellent farmland. Major agricultural operations here provide for a large European population. The land is flat to rolling with relatively good soils.
    - Western Highlands: On the western edges of the European continent arise short rugged mountains called highlands that extend throughout Norway, parts of Britain, and portions of the **Iberian Peninsula** of Portugal and Spain.
        - **Scottish Highlands:** Noted for their wool products and Highland cattle.

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        - **Pennines:** Central chain of highlands in England
        - **Tundra**: Located in the far northern regions of **Scandinavia**. The coldest and driest biome.
- Two main rivers divide Europe: the **Danube** and the **Rhine**. Both have their origins in the region of southern Germany on or near the border with Switzerland.
    - The Rhine River flows north and empties into the North Sea in Rotterdam, Holland, one of the world's busiest ports.
    - The Danube flows east through various major European cities, such as Vienna, Budapest, and Belgrade before emptying into the **Black Sea**.

Natural Resources in Europe

- The physical landforms of Europe provide a diversity of geographic opportunities that have catapulted Europe through the Industrial Revolution and into the information age.
- The highly urbanized society has struggled to find a balance between modernization and environmental concerns.
- Chief among the mineral deposits in Europe is iron ore, which can be found in Sweden, France, and Ukraine. Other minerals exist in smaller quantities, including copper, lead, bauxite, manganese, nickel, gold, silver, potash, clay, gypsum, dolomite, and salt.
- The ready access to vast areas of the Atlantic Ocean and a number of major seas, lakes, and rivers has elevated fish to an important natural resource in Europe. Changes to the fishery are a major concern for strictly ecological reasons and also because fish comprise such a significant portion of the European economy.
- Forest covers more than 40 percent of the continent's land area, with the majority on the Russian side. Forests exist primarily in the less populous Nordic and Baltic countries and in Central Europe.
- Soil resources are of critical importance. Soil is necessary for growing food, supporting livestock, supporting other natural resources such as the forests, and supplying groundwater.
- Coal, now substantially depleted, is abundant in several areas of Great Britain, including some offshore areas, as well as in the industrial centers of Germany and in Ukraine.
- Petroleum and natural gas deposits exist underneath the North Sea and were first tapped in the 1970s.Before the extraction of petroleum products from the North Sea, Russia and the former Soviet Union's other republics supplied petroleum to Europe.
- The European Energy Commission is devoting substantial energy and resources to encouraging use of renewable resources such as wind and solar energy.

Key Takeaways

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- The Gulf Stream provides a moderate type C climate for much of Western Europe. Eastern Europe can experience colder type D climates.
- Europe has four main physical landforms that provide a diversity of natural resources. The North European Lowland holds the majority of its agricultural potential.
- An increase in population has also increased the demand on the environment. Various environmental concerns are becoming more evident. Acid rain from industrialization has caused extensive damage to forests and fish populations in northern Europe. Atlantic fisheries are also experiencing a decline in production.

Exercises

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1. Identify the following key places on a map:
   - Alpine region
   - Alps
   - Apennines
   - Black Forest
   - Black Sea
   - Carpathians
   - Central Uplands
   - Danube River
   - Dinaric Alps
   - Iberian Peninsula
   - Mediterranean Sea
   - North Sea
   - Northern Lowlands
   - Pyrenees
   - Rhine River
   - Scottish Highlands
   - Strait of Gibraltar
   - Ural Mountains
   - Western Highlands

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Key Terms

- **acid rain:** When nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide mix with water molecules in the atmosphere to create acidic precipitation.

2. Historical Development Patterns

- Outline how the Roman Empire and the Viking era contributed to European development.
- Describe how European colonialism changed or influenced other countries.
- Explain the major developments that prompted the Industrial Revolution.
- Summarize the impact of the rural-to-urban shift and its impact on urbanization specifically.
- Outline the concept of a nation-state and explain how this applies to Europe.
- Explain how cultural forces can positively or negatively influence political units.
- Identify the three main language groups and the three main religious denominations of Europe.

Section Outline

- Historical events in global development have favored this realm because of its physical geography and cultural factors.
  - In southern Europe, the Greeks provided ideas, philosophy, and organization. Greek thinkers promoted the concept of democracy.
  - The Romans carried the concept of empire to new levels, and introduced a common infrastructure to Europe. They build roads, bridges, aqueducts, and port facilities.
  - Regions that specialized in certain goods because of local resources or specialty skills could transport those goods to markets long distances away. The Roman Empire connected southern Europe and North Africa.
  - The Vikings of Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, and Denmark; 900–1200 CE) are often referred to as rogue bands of armed warriors who pillaged and plundered northern Europe. Though they were fierce warriors in battle, they were actually farmers, skilled craftsmen, and active traders who demonstrated a high level of organizational skills.
  - The Vikings made advances deep into Europe—all the way to **Constantinople**.

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Colonialism

- The Renaissance of the late fifteenth century prompted activity in Europe that changed the world.
- In 1492, Columbus and his three ships crossed the Atlantic to land on the shores of the Americas. This event symbolized the beginning of the era of European colonialism
- Colonialism was fueled by the economic concept of mercantilism that outlined the drive of governments to control trade. Colonialism included the development of colonies outside the home country, usually for the expansion of imperial power and the exploitation of material gain. It brought newfound wealth from the colonies back to Europe.
- Most of the current political geographic boundaries were drawn up or shaped through colonial conflict or agreement.

The Agrarian Revolution

- The post-Renaissance era introduced a number of agricultural changes that impacted European food production. This era's progress in agricultural advancements is often referred to as the agrarian revolution.

The Industrial Revolution

- The **Industrial Revolution**, initiated in northern England in the late 1700s, introduced an industrial period that changed how humans produced products.
- Industrialization with cheap labor and adequate raw materials brought enormous wealth to the industrial leaders and their home countries.
- With the mass production of goods and advancements in technology, there was a major shift in human labor. Fewer people were needed on the farms, and more workers were needed in factories. There was a large rural-to-urban shift in the human population.

Central Business Districts and Primate Cities

- European urban development centered on port cities that had industrial activity. A central business district (CBD) developed around these activities.
- Modern cities emerged from this industrialization process; Europe is one of the more urban realms on the planet.
- The term primate city indicates a city that is more than twice as large as next largest city; it is exceptionally expressive of national feeling and heritage.

Rural-to-Urban Shift and Population Growth

- The population growth principle states that as countries industrialize and urbanize, family size naturally goes down and incomes traditionally go up. With the planet's

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human population increasing overall, one might think that a smaller family size is a positive trend.

- There is a rural-to-urban shift that occurs when countries progress through the five stages of the index of economic development.
- Because Europe is an urbanized realm, one can understand why family size in Europe is small. With a lower fertility rate and an increase in postindustrial activity, Europe is a magnet for people from poorer peripheral countries, and even peripheral regions within Europe, who are looking for opportunities and advantages.

Nation-States and Devolution

- The political revolution that transformed Europe was a result of diverse actions that focused on ending continual warfare for the control of territory and introducing peaceful agreements that recognized sovereignty of territory ruled by representative government structures.
- The political revolution laid the groundwork for a sense of nationalism that transformed Europe into nation-states. European countries have progressed to the point where the concept of forming or remaining a nation-state is a driving force in many political sectors.
- Though the political borders of many European countries resemble nation-states, there is too much diversity within the nations to consider the ideal of creating a nation-state a true reality. Various ethnic populations in Europe desire their own nation-states within their countries of residence. The term devolution refers to the process whereby regions or people within a state demand independence and autonomy at the central government's expense.

Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces

- Cultural forces continually apply pressure on a country. Some of these cultural forces pull the nation together (centripetal forces) and others pull it apart (centrifugal forces).
- When there is division, conflict, or confrontation, the centrifugal forces are at play. When unification, agreement, or nationalism are being exercised, centripetal forces are evident.

Religion and Language in Europe

- Europe has historically been considered a Christian realm. The three main branches of Christianity in Europe are Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox.
- Three main Indo-European language groups dominate Europe.
- Though there are additional language groups, the dominant three coincide with the three main religious divisions.

Key Takeaways

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- The Roman Empire connected southern Europe and created an infrastructure to help promote trade and intercultural connections. The Vikings connected northern Europe through trade and exploitation.
- Technological advancements helped European colonialism dominate other countries and exploit their labor and resources. Coastal European countries created colonies and external sources of wealth.
- The Industrial Revolution was promoted by the development of steam power with coal as a fuel source. The mass production of goods gave the European countries an advantage in the world marketplace.
- The Industrial Revolution prompted a shift in population from the rural agricultural regions to the urban centers. More people were needed in the factories and fewer workers were required on the farms because of improved agricultural methods. This shift resulted in smaller families and more women entering the workplace.
- The early empires of Europe gave way to the concept of a similar people (the nation) unifying under a common government (the state) to create nation-states.
- Divisive centrifugal cultural forces tend to divide and separate people in a state, whereas cohesive centripetal cultural forces tend to unify a state.
- The Indo-European language family has three dominant groups in Europe: Germanic in the north, Romance in the south, and Slavic in the east. The Christian religion

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Exercises

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1. Identify the following key places on a map:
    - Barcelona, Spain
    - Constantinople
    - Denmark
    - Lyon, France
    - Milan, Italy
    - Norway
    - Stuttgart, Germany
    - Sweden

3. The European Union and Supranationalism

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- Outline how Europe has been divided during the twentieth century.
- Describe the measures or methods that have been implemented to help unify Europe.
- Explain the dynamics of supranationalism and its advantages and disadvantages.
- Summarize how globalization has increased with the advent of the European Union.

Section Outline

Unification Efforts in Europe

- After World War II ended in Europe, the three small countries of Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg realized that together they would be much stronger and recover more quickly from the war than if they remained separate. In 1944 the three countries signed an economic pact called the Benelux Agreement. Despite many problems, since World War II steady efforts have been made toward European unification.
- Implemented from 1948 to 1952, US Secretary of State George Marshall's Marshall Plan helped rebuild war-torn Europe with American aid and business connections.
- The **Treaty of Rome** created the Common Market. This agreement provided the structure necessary to unify Europe under the **European Union** (EU) in 1992.

Supranationalism

- **Supranationalism** is defined as the voluntary association of three or more independent states willing to yield some measure of sovereignty for mutual benefit. The process of supranationalism and unification can be a painful.
- With common standards and a common currency comes the reality that a common cultural landscape might develop.
- One problem with supranationalism is the lack of a common language. One of the solutions proposed was to use Esperanto as the international language. Introduced in 1887 as a neutral language, it was formed using words from the Latin, Germanic, and Slavic language groups (the three main language groups of Europe).
- Another problem was the lack of a common currency. To address the differences in the many currencies used in Europe, the EU introduced a common currency called the euro. This solution encountered resistance but has been accepted by most EU members.
- Unification has created economic problems between the wealthy industrialized countries and the poorer regions of southern Europe. There are also other problems: How will the EU manage foreign affairs? Will the EU have a military?
- Travel within the EU has also changed; members of the EU can travel as easily between countries as Americans travel from state to state.

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- Every continent has organizations that promote economic development for their regions or countries. Many of these agreements have developed into a type of economic supranationalism. The EU is an economic trading bloc designed to compete with the United States and Japan.
- European countries have to confront both the centrifugal forces that rally their nations to remain uniquely independent and the centripetal forces that call for integration into the EU. Europeans are caught between holding on to cultural heritage and moving forward economically in a competitive global economy.
- In 2016, Great Britain held a referendum to remove itself from membership in the European Union. The referendum, commonly referred to as Brexit, passed by a majority vote. This will initiate the process of removing the UK from membership in the supranational formation of a more unified Europe. The Brexit event will bring changes to the political and economic forces that shape the EU and greater Europe.
- Germany, which united its western and eastern regions after the Iron Curtain came down, has climbed to the top of the economic ladder in Europe.
- Many Europeans are suspect of what the EU may evolve into while others welcome a more open European community.

About the European Union

- According to the 1993 Copenhagen European Council, "a country has to meet certain requirements to join the EU. These requirements include:
    - a stable democracy which respects human rights and the rule of law
    - a functioning market economy capable of competition within the EU
    - the acceptance of the obligations of membership, including EU law
- In 2017, the EU had twenty-eight member states representing almost five hundred million people.
    - The removal of the UK from the EU, as a result of the 2016 Brexit vote, was in progress.
    - Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland have opted not to join the EU. A number of additional states including Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Turkey are considering or applying for membership.

Key Takeaways

- Although World War I, World War II, and the Cold War divided Europe during the twentieth century, the EU has emerged as a unifying force for the European people.
- The Benelux Agreement, the Marshall Plan, and the Treaty of Rome all helped set the stage for the European unification that evolved into the EU.

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- Supranationalism has provided European countries with the ability to compete economically in the global marketplace. Difficulties have been in the areas of cultural and historical differences that have influenced the continuing economic and political challenges.
- The EU represents a core economic region for the planet. North America and Eastern Asia each have worked to create competitive trading relationships to compete with the EU economically.

Exercises

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1. Identify the following key places on a map:
    - Barcelona, Spain
    - Constantinople
    - Denmark
    - Lyon, France
    - Milan, Italy
    - Norway
    - Stuttgart, Germany
    - Sweden

Key Terms

- **Cold War:** Conflict between capitalist Western democracies and the Eastern Communist countries that developed after World War II ended and continued until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The two main powers were the United States and the Soviet Union, which did not have direct military conflicts but fought each other in third world countries.
- **Iron Curtain:** The physical barrier in the form of walls, barbed wire, and land mines that divided Eastern Europe and Western Europe during the Cold War.
- **Supranationalism:** The voluntary association of three or more independent states willing to yield some measure of sovereignty for mutual benefit.

4. Regions of Western Europe

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- Locate and describe the various traditional regions of Western Europe.
- Outline how the physical geography varies from region to region.
- Explain how each region has met the challenges of retaining its cultural identity or uniqueness.
- Summarize how each region has developed an industrialized economy.

Section Outline

Northern Europe

- Northern Europe has traditionally included Iceland, Finland, and the three Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Peripheral isolation from the rest of Europe—because of their northern location and dividing bodies of water—have allowed the northern culture to be preserved for centuries and shape the societies that now exist in northern Europe.
- Human rights, education, and social concerns are high priorities of the governments of northern Europe, and the quality of these elements rank highly by global comparisons. Northern Europe has worked diligently to integrate itself with the global community and yet maintain its cultural identity. As a standard practice, the northern European countries have exploited the opportunities and advantages of their natural resources to expand their economies.
- As a standard practice, the northern European countries have exploited the opportunities and advantages of their natural resources to expand their economies. Sweden, northern Europe's largest country, has used its natural iron ore supply to develop its manufacturing sector.
- Vikings were masters of the seas and colonized **Greenland** , which is located next to Canada and is considered to be the world's largest island. Danish colonization in the eighteenth century included Greenland and the **Faeroe Islands**, which are located between Scotland and Iceland.
- Denmark has a consumer economy with a high standard of living. This Scandinavian country is often ranked as the least corrupt country in the world and has the happiest people.
- The Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have often been included in the northern European designation because of their northern location.
- In the core-peripheral spatial relationship, northern Europe most resembles a semiperipheral region. Norway, Sweden, and Finland are quite large in area but are not densely populated compared with other European nations.

Southern Europe

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- Southern Europe includes three large peninsulas that extend into the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. The **Iberian Peninsula** consists of Spain and Portugal. Greece, the most southern country on the **Balkan Peninsula**, includes hundreds of surrounding islands and the large island of Crete. The **Italian Peninsula** is the shape of a boot with the Apennine Mountains running down its spine.
- There are five ministates in this region: Malta, Monaco, San Marino, Andorra, and Vatican City.
- Southern Europe's type C climate, moderated by the water that surrounds it, is often referred to as a Mediterranean climate, which has mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers.
- Rural-to-urban shift in southern Europe has not been as strong as that of Western Europe and southern European countries have much larger populations than their northern European counterparts.
- Historically, southern Europe, Portugal, and Greece in particular each have had a much lower gross domestic product (GDP) per capita than northern or Central Europe. Cultural factors are also different in southern Europe than in northern Europe. The culture of southern Europe has been built around agriculture. The people of southern Europe are diverse and hold to many different traditions but are tied together by the sea and the land, which create similar lifestyles and economic activities.
- The most dominant religious affiliation in the south is Roman Catholicism, except in Greece, where the Eastern (Greek) Orthodox Church is prominent.
- Spain is the most diverse nation in southern Europe with a number of distinct ethnic groups.
    - The Basques in the north along the French border would like to separate and create their own nation-state.
    - The region of Galicia in northwest Spain is an autonomous region and was once a kingdom unto itself.
    - There are many other autonomous communities in Spain, each with its own distinct heritage and culture.
- Farther east in the Mediterranean is the island state of Cyprus, which is divided by Greek and Turkish ethnic groups.
    - The southern part of the island is dominated by Greek heritage and culture.
    - The northern part of the island is dominated by Turkish culture and traditions.

Central Europe

- In the regional sense of location, when discussing the political geography of the European continent, the specific states located in the western part of the European mainland are often referred to as Central Europe. Central Europe is a powerhouse of global economics.

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- Germany and France are the two dominant states, with Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg making up the Benelux countries. These countries are located in the core economic region of Europe and have stable democratic governments and a relatively high standard of living by world comparisons.
- Central Europe is a powerhouse of global economics.
    - The Rhine River is a pathway for industrial activity from southern Germany to Europe's busiest port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands.
    - Western France has the political capital of the EU along the Rhine at Strasbourg.
    - To the south is France's second-largest city, Lyon, which is a major industrial center for modern technology.
- Germany is the most populous country in Europe, with over eighty million people in 2017.
- Germany is also Europe's largest economy and has the largest GDP overall as a country.
- All these Central European countries complement each other in creating one of the dominant economic core areas in the world.
- In the first half of the twentieth century, the political geography of Central Europe was not conducive to the high level of economic cooperation that now exists. Europe is gradually being united economically, but each country or region still retains its cultural uniqueness.

The Benelux Countries

- The Benelux countries have a great deal in common historically. Before the economic union that created the term *Benelux*, these countries were collectively referred to as the Low Countries, so called because of their relative position to sea level.
- The capital and largest city in Belgium is Brussels, with the other urban areas being the ports of Antwerp and Ghent. Belgium has a significant service sector and is the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty organization (NATO). When the Industrial Revolution diffused across the English Channel and arrived in Europe, Belgium was one of the early countries to adapt to the technological developments.
- The largest city in the Netherlands is Amsterdam. The Hague is its seat of government, which is home to the United Nations International Court of Justice. Rotterdam, located at the mouth of the Rhine River, is one of the busiest ports on the continent. Reclaiming land from the sea in areas called polders has provided this densely populated country with more land area to expand their activities. For a small country with few natural resources, the Netherlands has an impressive GDP. The Netherlands also includes the colonies of the Netherlands Antilles in the Caribbean.
- The main languages spoken in the small landlocked country of Luxemburg are French, German, and Luxembourgish. Luxemburg has an enviable economic situation with a stable and prosperous economy, low unemployment, and low inflation.

France

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- France covers 211,209 square miles and is the second-largest European country. Its physical landscapes vary widely from the northern low-lying coastal plains to the Alpine ranges of the east.
- During the colonial era, France was a major naval power and held colonies around the world.
- In 2010, France's population was about sixty-five million, with about ten million living in France's primate city of Paris.
- France leads Europe in agricultural production and enjoys a robust economy as one of the world's leading industrial producers, though lately, French governments have been challenged by the country's high unemployment rates. France has a significant immigrant population, which means that the settlement and integration of new arrivals is an issue. In 1995, France experienced three terrorist attacks, which killed eight people and wounded more than a hundred. Balancing civil liberties with the quashing of terrorist plans has become a constant challenge for many countries, including France. Another demographic matter is a strong rural-to-urban shift.
- More than seventy languages are spoken in France due to its large immigrant population, though French has been recognized as the official language by law.
- Nuclear energy supplies about 80 percent of the country's electricity, which reduces the need for fossil fuels and imported oil.
- Agriculture is an important sector of the French economy, as it has been for centuries, and is tied to industry through food processing.

Germany

- Germany's location in Central Europe has meant that throughout history many peoples—all with their own cultures, ideas, languages and traditions—have traversed Germany at one time or another.
- Germany's present geopolitical configuration is quite young, as it reunified the eastern and western portions into a single entity in 1990.
- In 1933, with an environment of poverty, disenfranchisement of the people, and great instability in the government, Germany gave way to the appointment of Adolf Hitler as chancellor of Germany. A centralized totalitarian state quickly resulted. Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 kicked off what would become World War II.
- Though reunification in 1990 posed some challenges for the economy today, Germany is a vibrant country and an active EU member. It is Europe's largest economy, and has promoted manufacturing as a major component of its economy.
- Germany is also a major tourist destination.
- German is the official language of the country and the one spoken by most of its people.
- While over 60 percent of German's people self-identify as Christian, another 30 percent self-identify as agnostic or atheistic.

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The Alpine Center

- Landlocked in the center of Europe are the two main states of Switzerland and Austria. Sandwiched on the border of these two states is the ministate of Lichtenstein.
- As of 2010, Switzerland's population was about 7.8 million. Internationally, Switzerland is well known for its political neutrality. The UN European offices, the Red Cross, and the main offices of many international organizations are located in Switzerland.
- The Swiss people enjoy a high standard of living. There is an emphasis on science in Swiss culture with good historical reason: the field of modern chemistry originated in Switzerland.
- Austria is larger than its neighbor Switzerland. In 2010, the population was estimated at 8.4 million.
- Austria has a well-developed social market economy and a high standard of living.
- For more than six hundred years, beginning just before the dawn of the fourteenth century, Austria was tightly associated with its ruling dynasty, the Habsburgs.
- Austria is predominantly Roman Catholic and was home to many monasteries in the Middle Ages, influencing a strong Austrian literary tradition.

The British Isles

- The British Isles are an archipelago (group of islands) separated from the European mainland by the English Channel.
- The British Isles consists of two separate, independent countries: the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain.
- Influenced by the Gulf Stream, the climate of the British Isles is moderate, in spite of its northern latitude location.
- The Western Highlands and the Northern Lowlands dominate the islands.
- The Pennines mountain chain runs through northern England, this was the source of the coal, ores, and waterpower that fueled the Industrial Revolution.
- Though the heritage of the British Isles is unique to this region, the geographic dynamics are similar to Central Europe. Smaller families, urbanization, industrialization, high incomes, and involvement with economic globalization.
- The regions of the British Isles follow similar dynamics to those of other countries in Western Europe.
- Devolutionary forces are active in the United Kingdom. Scotland and Wales are already governing with their own local parliaments.
- Devolutionary cultural differences can be noted by studying the different heritages found in each region.
- Each region has made efforts to retain local heritage and rally support for its own nation-state.

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Northern England

- Home to the Industrial Revolution, major industrial cities such as Manchester and Birmingham brought together the labor, raw materials, and industry connections necessary to manufacture products.
- Raw materials such as cotton, which did not grow well in Britain, became a major import that fueled the textile mills of the Industrial Revolution.
- Industrialization caused a rural-to-urban shift in Britain.
- The British colonial empire also caused a migration pattern whereby people moved from colonies to the home country.
- As the information age developed, the industrial centers of northern England gave way to a postindustrialized southern England. The postindustrial economic activities have shifted the focus of employment away from manual labor to the service sector of information.
- Many places have looked to tourism to boost their economic situation.

Southern England

- Southern England is the most populous region of the United Kingdom with a density of about one thousand people per square mile. Anchored by the primate city of London, it is Great Britain's most affluent region and is a center of postindustrial activity. London is also the largest administrative municipality in the entire EU.
- Located on the Thames River, London is a central player in the world economic markets. It is not only the primate city and capital of the United Kingdom;
- Southern England also houses about one-third of the UK population, a large portion of which is immigrants.
- About one-fifth of Europe's largest corporations have their headquarters in London.
- Southern England is also home to Great Britain's seat of government.

Wales

- A highland region to the west of England, Wales holds a Celtic heritage in which the Welch language and stories of coal mining can still be heard.
- Devolution is alive and well in Wales.
- Welsh nationalism prompted the declaration of a separate parliament in the capital of Cardiff.

Scotland

- United with England in 1707, Scotland has been integrated into the United Kingdom while keeping its separate heritage and culture.
- United with England in 1707, Scotland has been integrated into the United Kingdom while keeping its separate heritage and culture. Scotland has strong centripetal forces uniting the Scottish people.

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- Though Scotland would like to separate into an independent state, they do not wish to isolate themselves from the EU or greater Europe. This contradictory trend, in which local states want autonomy and self-rule yet also want to remain within the larger regional community for economic and national security, is common.
- The Scottish Highlands provide for livestock production, and the central Scottish Lowlands are favorable for agriculture. The North Sea has extensive oil resources.
- Postindustrial activities have become a focus of the current economy. High-tech computer industries have concentrated in **Silicon Glen**, an information-age industrial sector that lies between Scotland's largest city, Glasgow, and its capital of Edinburgh.

Northern Ireland

- Northern Ireland is a place in which strong cultural forces often erupt into violence. Officially part of the United Kingdom, this small region with about 1.7 million people has a unique set of cultural problems, the core of which is based on political affiliations. Because cultural differences can be clearly witnessed between Catholics and Protestants, religion has become the identifier of the two sides.
- The troubles of Northern Ireland have diminished its economic and employment opportunities.
- Underground paramilitary groups such as the **Irish Republican Army (IRA)** have heightened tensions between the two groups for decades, with car bombings and other terrorist acts.

The Republic of Ireland

- The whole island of Ireland was under the control of the British Crown for centuries; in 1921 independence was gained from the British for all but Northern Ireland.
- The Republic of Ireland has ascended the economic ladder to become a part of the global economic community.
- Ireland is not a large country and currently has a population of about four million. In the early 1800s, however, the population of the whole of Ireland (including what is now Northern Ireland) was as high as eight million.
- The history of the Black Death may have led to the term *Black Irish*, which referred to people who fled Ireland during the potato famine and immigrated to the United States.
- The lack of natural resources and the lack of opportunities and advantages held back the Republic of Ireland from developing a strong economy. It wasn't until the 1990s that conditions improved and economic growth earned Ireland the title **Celtic Tiger** to indicate its growing economic power.
- However, the rapidly expanding economic conditions of the 1990s have not extended into the twenty-first century. Since 2007, the global depression has taken its toll on the Irish economy. Starting in 2008, the country witnessed a sharp increase in unemployment that coincided with serious banking scandals.

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- Overall, Ireland is working to reposition itself for future economic growth. The country wants to maintain itself as an important link in the EU's relationship with the United States.

Key Takeaways

- Western Europe can be divided into a number of smaller geographic regions, including northern Europe, southern Europe, Central Europe, and the British Isles.
- The differences in climate, terrain, and natural resources provide for a diversity of economic activities that influence cultural development within the European community.
- The countries of Western Europe have high standards of living compared with world standards. The southern countries of Portugal, Greece, and southern Italy are more agrarian and have been struggling economically since the global recession began in 2007.
- The British Isles comprise the two independent countries of Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. Great Britain is made up of five geographical regions, with Wales and Scotland having more autonomy to govern local affairs.
- Since World War II, the many states of Western Europe have been evolving into a more integrated realm. Each nation has worked to develop its economy to take advantage of its physical geography and its cultural history and heritage. Devolutionary forces remain strong in many areas to counterbalance the forces of supranationalism..

Exercises

1. Identify the following key places on a map:
    - Baltic Sea
    - Greenland
    - Faeroe Islands
    - Balkan Peninsula

Key Terms

- **Ancona Line:** An imaginary line that cuts across Italy from Rome to Ancona and divides Italy into northern Italy and southern Italy.
- **Iron Curtain:** The physical barrier in the form of walls, barbed wire, or land mines that divided Eastern Europe and Western Europe during the Cold War.

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5. Eastern Europe

- Explain how Eastern Europe and Western Europe were divided and how they united again.
- Describe the various aspects of transition from socialism systems to capitalist democracies.
- Outline which countries were former republics of the Soviet Union but are now a part of Eastern Europe. Define the current borders of the Eastern European countries.
- Describe some of the cultural dynamics that make each region or country unique.
- Summarize the basic economic activities that are evident in the various countries and how they have transitioned into a postindustrial economy.
- Understand the cultural and political geography of former Yugoslavia and how the drive for nationalism and nation-state status has fractured and divided the region.

Section Outline

- After World War II ended in 1945, Europe was divided into Western Europe and Eastern Europe by the Iron Curtain. Eastern Europe fell under the influence of the Soviet Union, and the region was separated from the West.
- Most Eastern European political borders resemble ethnic boundaries; each of the regions once resembled nation-states.
- The collapse of Communism and the Soviet Union led to upheaval and transition in the region of Eastern Europe in the 1990s. Governments that had been controlled by Communist dictators or authoritarian leaderships before 1991 were opened up to democratic processes with public elections.
- The open markets invited private capitalism and western corporate businesses.
- The power of the state was transferred from the Communist elite to the private citizen.
- The stage for the transition from communism to capitalism was further set by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who began to liberalize the Soviet Union by allowing multiparty elections and encouraging economic reform (**perestroika)** and societal openness (**glasnost**).

Countries of Eastern Europe

- **Hungary**:

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- During the Communist period, Hungary enjoyed a higher standard of living than its neighbors. Recent economic reforms have not been easy for Hungary and have resulted in a lower standard of living for most people.
- An important characteristic of post-Communist Hungary is its desire to become an active member of the global community by joining international organizations.
- Each country in Eastern Europe has a different story to tell regarding its path from communism to independence.

- **The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic (Slovakia)**
  - Countries such as the Czech Republic and Hungary were more prepared and better equipped to meet the challenges and were early qualifiers for entry into the EU.
  - The Czech Republic and Slovakia were, until recently, part of the same country: Czechoslovakia.
  - Czechs and Slovaks alike descended from Slavic peoples.
  - Under Communist rule, the standard of living was relatively high in Czechoslovakia. When market reforms began in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the standard of living declined.
  - In general, the Czech Republic has more rapidly and effectively transferred state control of industry to private ownership than has Slovakia.
  - However, both countries expanded their economic opportunities when they were admitted into the EU in 2004.
- **The Baltic Republics**
  - The small Baltic states of **Latvia**, **Estonia,** and **Lithuania** transitioned away from their old Soviet connections.
- **Poland**
  - **Poland** has a long-standing history of working to oppose the Communist domination of its country. The Solidarity movement in Poland started out as an independent trade union in the 1980s but became a lightning rod for political change in Poland.
  - Since the fall of Communism, Poland left behind its old state-directed economy and transitioned to a market economy, in which businesses are privately owned and run.
  - Nowadays, Poland produces cars, buses, helicopters, trains, and heavy military equipment, including tanks and ships. It also continues to be one of Europe's leading agricultural producers, with a variety of crops, and dairy and meat production.
  - Reforms, including privatization, tax incentives, and foreign investments have been part of its strategy for future growth.

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- Unemployment has at times presented very significant problems for the Polish economy and society. Unemployment skyrocketed to nearly 20 percent in the early 1990s. The situation improved, but unemployment was still at about 14 percent in 2006. By 2010 the situation improved further, and the unemployment rate was around 7 percent.
- When Poland joined the EU, many people left Poland in search of work. Some of those workers who left have recently returned, as the employment rate and wages are both increasing substantially.

- **Moldova**
  - Different cultural and social forces provided different levels of civility in the transition from Communism to independence.
- **Belarus**
  - In 1991, independence came to the former Soviet Republic of **Belarus**, but Belarus took a different path from most of the other Eastern bloc countries in that Belarus did not distance itself from its Russian connection.
  - Belarus has consequently experienced authoritarian governments well into the twenty-first century.
  - As of 2017, Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova have not been admitted into the EU. Belarus has indicated that it might join with the Russian Republic and has not even applied for entry into the EU.
- **Ukraine**
  - With the largest physical area in Europe, Ukraine is slightly larger than France. Its population in 2017 was approximately forty-two million, and 77 percent of the population is ethnically Ukrainian and 17 percent is Russian.
  - Though the official language is Ukrainian, many Ukrainians still speak Russian. The demographic trend in Ukraine follows a pattern of industrialization with smaller family sizes but continues to have a higher death rate than most European countries.
  - Of the former Soviet Union republics, excluding Russia, Ukraine was far and away the most important economic component, producing about four times the output of the next-ranking Soviet republic.
  - Its fertile black soil generated more than one-fourth of the overall Soviet agricultural output, and its farms provided substantial quantities of meat, milk, grain, and vegetables to other republics.
  - Likewise, its diversified heavy industry supplied steel pipes and raw materials to Russia's oil and mining industry.
  - Though Ukraine has transitioned from a Soviet republic to a fully independent country, divisive centrifugal forces have made Ukraine's path to free elections and democratically elected leaders difficult.
  - Shortly after the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Vladimir Putin's Russian military invaded the Crimean Peninsula of Ukraine and annexed it as Russian territory. This action by Putin prompted sanctions and condemnation by countries and leaders in Europe, the US, and other parts of the world.

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- **Romania**
    - A number of countries of Eastern Europe have fully transitioned from Communist dictatorships to modern, integrated economies.
    - **Romania** is one of those countries. It has a population of nearly 20 million. Its capital is Bucharest.
    - The Carpathian Mountains circle Romania, with the Transylvanian Alps to the south. The Danube River runs across the region and creates a natura border with Bulgaria and Serbia before flowing into the Black Sea.
    - The transition to integrate Romania's economy with that of the greater European economy has been delayed because of Romania's obsolete industrial infrastructure.
- **Albania**
    - The southern Adriatic is home to the small country of **Albania**. Poverty, unemployment, and a lack of opportunities to gain wealth have plagued the country.
- **Bulgaria**
    - Located in the crossroads of the continents, **Bulgaria** has a major trans-European corridor running through its territory that connects all the way to Asia. Upon declaring independence from Russia, Bulgaria held multiparty elections. Its economy is emerging, but the transition to a capitalist system has not been without the difficulties of unemployment, inflation, and corruption.

Former Yugoslavia: A Valuable Lesson in Political and Cultural Geography

- The name Yugoslavia, applied to the region along the Adriatic in 1929, means **Land of the South Slavs**.
- Distinct sub-ethnic divisions in Yugoslavia developed into the Slovenes, Macedonians, Bosnians, Montenegrins, Croats, and Serbs, with various additional groups.
- World War I started in the city of Sarajevo, Bosnia, when a Serb advocate assassinated Archduke Ferdinand of the Austria-Hungarian Empire.
- A group headed by Marshal Tito (a.k.a. Josip Broz) led Yugoslavia after World War II ended in 1945.Tito was a centripetal force for the region of Yugoslavia—he held the many ethnic Slavic groups together under what he called *Brotherhood and Unity*.

The Breakup of Former Yugoslavia

- The unity that had helped hold the country together began to break down in the early 1990s with the Soviet Union's collapse.
- In 1991, Slobodan Milošević began pushing for the nationalistic goal of uniting all the ethnic Serbs that lived in the various parts of Yugoslavia into a **Greater Serbia**. The bitter hatred between Croats and Serbs, which had been handed down from the World War II era, surfaced for a new generation.

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- The region of Bosnia included people of Serb, Croat, and Bosnian ethnic backgrounds The battle for Bosnia extended from 1992 to 1995, and Europe wondered if the Bosnian war would develop into World War III.
- In 1995, with strong pressure from Europe and the United States, the warring groups signed a peace agreement known as the Dayton Accord

The War for Kosovo

- Yugoslavia, under the leadership of President Milošević, sought to ensure that Kosovo would never leave the umbrella of Greater Serbia.
- The main opposition to the Serb power structure in Kosovo in the early 1990s was the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).
- In March of 1999, NATO implemented a unified mission, called **Operation Allied Force**, to force an end to the violence in Kosovo.
- In June of 1999, Milošević yielded to a peace agreement that brought Kosovo under the auspices of the UN and NATO forces. NATO forces continue to be stationed in Kosovo to keep the peace and work toward restoring order. After much negotiation between the UN and regional entities, the Kosovo Assembly declared its independence from Serbia in 2008.
- Serb officials overwhelmingly opposed Kosovo's independence, as they had in 1991. Kosovo was placed under UN administration and its status of independence has been accepted by a majority of UN members. It was not a full member of the UN as of 2017.

Conclusion of Former Yugoslavia

- Kosovo and former Yugoslavia provide an excellent study in the dynamics of ethnicity, culture, and political geography. Geographers have called Eastern Europe a shatterbelt because of the conflicts and divisions that have occurred there.
- Former Yugoslavia represents an example of how divisive centrifugal and devolutionary forces can lead to war.
- In spite of the problems with the transition in Eastern Europe, the region has nonetheless seen enormous economic gains.

Key Takeaways

- After World War II ended in 1945, Europe was divided into Western Europe and Eastern Europe by the Iron Curtain. Western Europe promoted capitalist democracies, and Eastern Europe came under the Communist influence of the Soviet Union. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Eastern Europe began to transition toward Western European ideals.

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- Eastern Europe has been shifting toward democratic governments, open market economies, private ownership, and the EU rather than the old Soviet Union.
- Countries with stable governments and industrial potential have been accepted into the EU and have expanding economies. Other countries that have not reached that level of economic development or political reforms have not been admitted into the EU.
- The transition of former Soviet republics to capitalist systems has not been without difficulties, including unemployment, inflation, corruption and crime, and poverty. Political infighting has been evident in the transitioning countries that do not yet have a stable democratic government or economy.
- The breakup of former Yugoslavia was an example of how strong devolutionary forces can promote nationalism resulting in open war. The once stable country of Yugoslavia split into seven separate countries patterned after the nation-state concept. Bosnia remains the most diverse state, with a majority Muslim population.

Exercises

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1. Identify the following key places on a map:
    - Adriatic Sea
    - Albania
    - Baltic Sea
    - Belarus
    - Black Sea
    - Bosnia
    - Croatia
    - Czech Republic
    - Estonia
    - Hungary
    - Kosovo
    - Latvia
    - Lithuania
    - Macedonia
    - Moldova
    - Montenegro
    - Poland
    - Romania

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- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Ukraine

Key Terms

- **shatterbelt**: Region with political fracturing and splintering such as Eastern Europe.

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World Regional Geography: People, Places, and Globalization

Royal Berglee

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CHAPTER 2
Europe

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the various climate types and physical landforms of the European continent.
- Explain how Europe's physical geography has supported its development.
- List Europe's various natural resources.
- Summarize the environmental concerns Europe faces.
- Outline how the Roman Empire and the Viking era contributed to European development.
- Describe how European colonialism changed or influenced other countries.

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain the major developments that prompted the Industrial Revolution.
- Summarize the impact of the rural-to-urban shift and its impact on urbanization specifically.
- Outline the concept of a nation-state and explain how this applies to Europe.
- Explain how cultural forces can positively or negatively influence political units.
- Identify the three main language groups and the three main religious denominations of Europe.

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Outline how Europe has been divided during the twentieth century.
- Describe the measures or methods that have been implemented to help unify Europe.
- Explain the dynamics of supranationalism and its advantages and disadvantages.
- Summarize how globalization has increased with the advent of the European Union.
- Locate and describe the various traditional regions of Western Europe.
- Outline how the physical geography varies from region to region.

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain how each region has met the challenges of retaining its cultural identity or uniqueness.
- Summarize how each region has developed an industrialized economy.
- Explain how Eastern Europe and Western Europe were divided and how they united again.
- Describe the various aspects of transition from socialism systems to capitalist democracies.

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Outline which countries were former republics of the Soviet Union but are now a part of Eastern Europe. Define the current borders of the Eastern European countries.
- Describe some of the cultural dynamics that make each region or country unique.
- Summarize the basic economic activities that are evident in the various countries and how they have transitioned into a postindustrial economy.
- Understand the cultural and political geography of former Yugoslavia and how the drive for nationalism and nation-state status has fractured and divided the region.

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KEY TERMS

- Gulf Stream
- steppe
- Scandinavia
- tundra
- acid rain
- European colonialism
- mercantilism
- agrarian revolution

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KEY TERMS

- Industrial Revolution
- central business district (CBD)
- primate city
- political revolution
- nation-state
- devolution
- centripetal forces
- centrifugal forces

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KEY TERMS

- Cold War
- Iron Curtain
- Benelux Agreement
- Marshall Plan
- Common Market
- supranationalism
- Ancona Line
- Zuider Zee

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KEY TERMS

- polder
- Chunnel
- the troubles
- Solidarity
- ethnic cleansing
- Dayton Accord
- shatterbelt

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Gulf Stream provides a moderate type C climate for much of Western Europe. Eastern Europe can experience colder type D climates.
- Europe has four main physical landforms that provide a diversity of natural resources. The North European Lowland holds the majority of its agricultural potential.
- An increase in population has also increased the demand on the environment. Various environmental concerns are becoming more evident. Acid rain from industrialization has caused extensive damage to forests and fish populations in northern Europe. Atlantic fisheries are also experiencing a decline in production.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Roman Empire connected southern Europe and created an infrastructure to help promote trade and intercultural connections. The Vikings connected northern Europe through trade and exploitation.
- Technological advancements helped European colonialism dominate other countries and exploit their labor and resources. Coastal European countries created colonies and external sources of wealth.
- The Industrial Revolution was promoted by the development of steam power with coal as a fuel source. The mass production of goods gave the European countries an advantage in the world marketplace.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Industrial Revolution prompted a shift in population from the rural agricultural regions to the urban centers. More people were needed in the factories and fewer workers were required on the farms because of improved agricultural methods. This shift resulted in smaller families and more women entering the workplace.
- The early empires of Europe gave way to the concept of a similar people (the nation) unifying under a common government (the state) to create nation-states.
- Divisive centrifugal cultural forces tend to divide and separate people in a state, whereas cohesive centripetal cultural forces tend to unify a state.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Indo-European language family has three dominant groups in Europe: Germanic in the north, Romance in the south, and Slavic in the east. The Christian religion has three main divisions in Europe: a Protestant north, Catholic south, and an Orthodox east.
- Although World War I, World War II, and the Cold War divided Europe during the twentieth century, the EU has emerged as a unifying force for the European people.
- The Benelux Agreement, the Marshall Plan, and the Treaty of Rome all helped set the stage for the European unification that evolved into the EU.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Supranationalism has provided European countries with the ability to compete economically in the global marketplace. Difficulties have been in the areas of cultural and historical differences that have influenced the continuing economic and political challenges.
- The EU represents a core economic region for the planet. North America and Eastern Asia each have worked to create competitive trading relationships to compete with the EU economically.
- Western Europe can be divided into a number of smaller geographic regions, including northern Europe, southern Europe, Central Europe, and the British Isles.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The differences in climate, terrain, and natural resources provide for a diversity of economic activities that influence cultural development within the European community.
- The countries of Western Europe have high standards of living compared with world standards. The southern countries of Portugal, Greece, and southern Italy are more agrarian and have been struggling economically since the global recession began in 2007.
- The British Isles comprise the two independent countries of Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. Great Britain is made up of five geographical regions, with Wales and Scotland having more autonomy to govern local affairs.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Since World War II, the many states of Western Europe have been evolving into a more integrated realm. Each nation has worked to develop its economy to take advantage of its physical geography and its cultural history and heritage. Devolutionary forces remain strong in many areas to counterbalance the forces of supranationalism.
- After World War II ended in 1945, Europe was divided into Western Europe and Eastern Europe by the Iron Curtain. Western Europe promoted capitalist democracies, and Eastern Europe came under the Communist influence of the Soviet Union. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Eastern Europe began to transition toward Western European ideals.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Eastern Europe has been shifting toward democratic governments, open market economies, private ownership, and the EU rather than the old Soviet Union.
- Countries with stable governments and industrial potential have been accepted into the EU and have expanding economies. Other countries that have not reached that level of economic development or political reforms have not been admitted into the EU.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The transition of former Soviet republics to capitalist systems has not been without difficulties, including unemployment, inflation, corruption and crime, and poverty. Political infighting has been evident in the transitioning countries that do not yet have a stable democratic government or economy.
- The breakup of former Yugoslavia was an example of how strong devolutionary forces can promote nationalism resulting in open war. The once stable country of Yugoslavia split into seven separate countries patterned after the nation-state concept. Bosnia remains the most diverse state, with a majority Muslim population.

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