



World Regional Geography: People, Places, and Globalization

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CHAPTER 2

Europe



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



KEY TERMS

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



KEY TERMS

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



KEY TERMS

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



KEY TERMS

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



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.