Chapter 13
Human Geography of Europe: Diversity, Conflict, Union

Over the millennia, Europe’s diverse landscape, waterways, and climate have hosted great civilizations, empires, and a variety of peoples.

Section 1: Mediterranean Europe
Section 2: Western Europe
Section 3: Northern Europe
Section 4: Eastern Europe

Section 1: Mediterranean Europe

• The ancient Greek and Roman civilizations and the Renaissance all began in Mediterranean Europe.
• In the 20th century, the region has seen economic growth and political turmoil.

A History of Ancient Glory

Geographic Advantages Boost Civilization
• Survival is easier in mild climate; institutions develop over time
• Mediterranean allows trade; ideas spread, knowledge grows

Greece: Birthplace of Democracy
• People enter Balkan Peninsula around 2000 B.C.
• City-state—a political unit made up of a city, surrounding lands
• Athenian democracy—a government in which the people rule
• Greece conquered by Macedonia’s Alexander in 338 B.C.

The Roman Empire
• Rome rules Italian Peninsula by 275 B.C.; Iberia and Balkans later
• Rome is a republic—elected representatives rule in citizens’ name
• Christianity spreads from Palestine; is official religion by A.D. 400
• In A.D. 395 empire splits into eastern, western halves
  - Western Roman Empire weakens, falls A.D. 476
  - Eastern Roman Empire lasts another 1,000 years

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Moving Toward Modern Times

Italian City-States
• Without strong central government, Italy divides into small states
• Christians start Crusades in 1096 to regain Palestine from Muslims
• Renaissance—renewed interest in learning, arts from 1300s to 1500s
• In 1347, Asian bubonic plague reaches Italy, kills millions in Europe

Spain’s Empire
• North African Muslims conquer Iberian Peninsula in 700s
  - retaken by Catholic rulers, Ferdinand and Isabella, by 1492
• Spain, Portugal launch Age of Exploration, colonize Americas

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A Rich Cultural Legacy

Rome’s Cultural Legacy
• Greek the language of the Byzantine Empire
• Rome’s Latin spawns Romance languages Portuguese, Spanish, Italian
• Two halves of Empire develop their own forms of Christianity
  - Eastern Orthodox: Greece
  - Roman Catholicism: Italy, Spain

Centuries of Art
• Ruins (like the Parthenon) remain in Greece, Italy
• Spain has Roman aqueducts—carry water long distances
  - Spain also has Muslim mosques
• Artistic legacy: classical statues, Renaissance art, modern art

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Economic Change

Agriculture to Industry
• Mediterranean nations less industrialized
• Economy once based on fish, crops (olives, grapes, citrus, wheat)
• Changed in 20th century: manufacturing, service industries growing
• Greece, Portugal, Spain join European Union (EU) in 1980s
Economic Problems
- Italy’s northern region is more developed than southern half
- Mediterranean region poor in energy resources, relies on oil imports

Modern Mediterranean Life

20th-Century Political Turmoil
- After dictator Francisco Franco, Spain sets up constitutional government
- After WWII, Italy became republic, but had many governments
- Greece has also had political instability

The Basques
- Spain gives Basque region self-rule in late 1970s
  - some Basques want full independence, use violence to fight for it

City Growth
- Move to cities for jobs creates housing, pollution, traffic problems
- People hope to preserve historic cities

Section 2: Western Europe
- France and the Germanic countries developed very different cultures.
- These cultural differences led to conflicts that shaped the history of Western Europe.

A History of Cultural Divisions

French and German Culture
- France, Germany are region’s largest, most productive countries
- They strongly influence the cultures of many nearby, smaller nations
- French, German culture also strong in Benelux countries
  - Benelux countries—Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg

Rome to Charlemagne
- Rome conquered Celtic tribes, so French is a Romance language
  - didn’t conquer Germanic tribes, so Germanic languages still exist
Continued A History of Cultural Divisions

Rome to Charlemagne
- Germanic king Charlemagne conquers area in late 700s
  - after his death, his empire falls into small, competing kingdoms

The Reformation
- In 1517, Martin Luther’s critical 95 statements launch Reformation
  - many Christians break from church, formed Protestant churches
- Today France is mostly Catholic
- Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany have Catholics and Protestants
  - most German Protestants live in north, Catholics in south

The Rise of Nation-States

Nationalism
- Feudalism—Middle Ages system where lords own most of the land
- Lords give some land to nobles; strong kings gain power over lords
- Nationalism develops—belief people should be loyal to their nation
  - nation is people who share land, culture, history
- Nationalism leads to growth of nation-states; France is one of first
- 1789 French Revolution deposes king, forms republic
- Napoleon Bonaparte takes power, tries to conquer Europe, is defeated

Modern Conflicts
- Nationalistic rivalry, competition for colonies cause WWI
  - Allied Powers (France); Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary)
- Allied Powers win WWI; harsh terms forced on Germany lead to WWII
Continued  The Rise of Nation-States

Modern Conflicts
• In WWII, Nazi Germany’s Adolf Hitler tries to conquer Europe
  - Nazis carry out Holocaust—mass murder of European Jews, others
  - Allies defeat Germany in 1945
• After WWII, Germany split into non-Communist West, Communist East
• German capital of Berlin is split in half, divided by Berlin Wall
• In 1989 anti-Communist reforms lead East Germany to open Berlin Wall
  - two Germanys reunite in 1990 as a democracy

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Economics: Diversity and Luxury

Agriculture to High-Tech
• Agriculture important to Belgium, France, Netherlands, Switzerland
• Coal, iron made France, Germany, Netherlands industrial leaders
  - today they have high-tech industries
• Switzerland’s neutrality makes it a banking center

Tourism and Luxury
• Tourism is major part of French, Swiss, Austrian economies
• German cars; Swiss watches; French clothes, food; Dutch flowers

Economic Problems
• Germany experiences cultural, economic difficulties after reuniting

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Great Music and Art

Music
• Famed German and Austrian composers
  - Germany: Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven
  - Austria: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Painting
• Dutch painters
  - Jan Van Eyck (from Flanders), Jan Vermeer, Rembrandt
• Major French painters
  - Claude Monet, Paul Cezanne, Paul Gauguin, Pierre Auguste Renoir

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Modern Life

City Life
- Strong economies allow high standard of living
- Most Western Europeans live in cities
  - good public transportation, cultural attractions, low crime rates
- Most homes are small, so socializing is done in public cafés, parks

Recent Conflicts
- In 1980s “guest workers” from Yugoslavia, Turkey go to West Germany
  - declining economy leads to racism, violence against immigrants

Section 3: Northern Europe

- The United Kingdom and the Nordic countries have seafaring histories that often led to conquest.
- The region played a role in developing representative government and industry.

A History of Seafaring Conquerors

Early Conquerors
- Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
- Romans conquer Britain’s Celts by A.D. 80
  - later, Germanic invaders push Celts north, west
- Vikings invade Britain, sail to Iceland, Greenland, North America
  - other settlements in Normandy, France, and Russia
- Normandy’s William the Conqueror invades Britain in 1066
  - French-speaking Normans alter English language

Continued A History of Seafaring Conquerors

Dreams of Empire
- Denmark, Sweden, Norway become kingdoms in 900s
  - no Nordic country becomes a major empire
- England controls British Isles (Wales, Ireland, Scotland)
  - becomes United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801
- British Empire grows due to island’s safety; never invaded after 1066
• By 1800s, Britain has colonies in Americas, Asia, Africa, Oceania
  - “The sun never sets on the British Empire”

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Moving Into the Modern Age

Representative Government
• **Parliament**—representative lawmaking body; members elected, appointed
• Britain has monarchy and parliament, but rulers slowly lose power
  - 1215 Magna Carta: trial by jury, no taxation without representation
  - political ideas spread to U.S., Canada, colonies
• Nordic countries develop representative governments

Industrial Revolution
• As Britain industrializes, colonies supply materials, buy goods
• In 1800s Industrial Revolution spreads to Western Europe, U.S.

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Continued Moving Into the Modern Age

Since 1900
• After WWII, British colonies gain independence, experience turmoil

The Irish Question
• Protestant English rulers seize Catholic Irish land
  - many Irish left in poverty, starve in 1840s potato famine
• Irish seek independence, Britain splits country in 1921
  - mostly Catholic Republic of Ireland becomes independent
  - mostly Protestant Northern Ireland still part of U.K.
  - religious conflict in Northern Ireland leads to anti-British violence

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Economics: Diversity and Change

Industry and Resources
• Sweden and U.K. have strong vehicle, aerospace industries
  - produce paper and food products, pharmaceuticals
• Sweden has timber, Iceland has fishing, Norway has North Sea oil
High-Tech
- Computer production is major part of Ireland’s economy
- Scotland has Silicon Glen—a area with many high-tech companies
  - produces at least a third of Europe’s personal, notebook computers

Union or Independence?
- Mixed feelings about European Union and euro—common currency

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Cultural Similarities and Modern Art

Increasing Diversity
- Nordic nations usually have only one ethnic group
  - U.K. (London) more diverse

Similar Languages and Religions
- Germanic languages (except Sami in north; Celtic in parts of Britain)
- Most of region is Protestant; Ireland is only mainly Catholic country

Modern Culture and Literature
- Great Britain, Ireland, Nordic countries have strong literary traditions
  - Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen
  - Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman
  - England: William Shakespeare, Charlotte Brontë
  - Irish author James Joyce

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Life in Northern Europe

Great Political Strides for Women
- By the late 1990s, most Nordic parliaments are about 1/3 women

Social Welfare
- Nordic countries, Britain have national health insurance programs

Distinctive Customs
- British afternoon tea, Swedish smorgasbord, Finnish saunas

Leisure
- In Nordic countries, outdoor sports are popular despite cold
  - home to many winter Olympic skiing sports
- British have horseback riding, jumping, fox hunting
  - developed rugby and cricket
Section 4: Eastern Europe

- Eastern Europe has great cultural diversity because many ethnic groups have settled there.
- Many empires have controlled parts of the region, leaving it with little experience of self-rule.

History of a Cultural Crossroads

Cultures Meet
- Location between Asia and Europe shapes Eastern Europe’s history
  - migration creates diversity, empires delay independent nation-states
- Area includes:
  - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland
  - Czech Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia
- **Cultural crossroads**—place where various cultures cross paths
  - people move through the region, world powers try to control it

Empires and Kingdoms
- Rome holds Balkan Peninsula, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary
  - later held by Byzantine Empire, then Ottoman Empire in 1300s, 1400s
- Slavs move in from 400s to 600s; Polish, Serbian kingdoms form
  - non-Slavic Magyars take Hungary in 800s; later conquered by Ottomans
- Austria becomes great power in 1400s, takes Hungary from Ottomans
  - in late 1700s, Austria, Prussia, Russia divide up Poland

Turmoil in the 20th Century

War after War
- Balkan nations break from Ottoman Empire in 1908
  - Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia defeat Ottomans in 1912
  - **Balkanization**—a region breaks up into small, hostile units
- Slavic Serbia wants to free Austria-Hungarian Slavs
- Serb assassin kills Austrian noble, starts WWI

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*Continued Turmoil in the 20th Century*

**War after War**

- After war, Austria and Hungary split
  - Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia gain independence
- Germany takes Poland in 1939, starts WWII
  - Soviets capture, dominate Eastern European nations
  - they become Communist USSR’s *satellite nations*

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**Recent Changes**

- In late 1980s, USSR has economic problems, Gorbachev makes reforms
  - Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania remove communism in 1989
- After communism comes instability, return to ethnic loyalties
  - Yugoslavia violently divides
  - Czechoslovakia splits: Czech Republic, Slovakia

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**Developing the Economy**

**Industry**

- Under communism, government owns and controls factories
  - inefficient system brings shortages, trade deficiencies, pollution
- After 1989, region tries *market economy*—making goods consumers want
  - factories are privately owned, but inflation, unemployment rise
- Cost cutting and improved production help some economies grow

**Lingering Problems**

- Albania has old equipment, lack of materials, few educated workers
- Romanians lack money to invest; government owns some industries

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**A Patchwork Culture**

**Cultural Diversity**

- Numerous languages make regional unification difficult
- Religions include Catholicism (Roman); Eastern Orthodox (Byzantine)
  - Protestant minority; Islam from Ottoman Empire
• Holocaust kills 6 million Jews, half of them from Poland

Folk Art
• Folk art is produced by rural people with traditional lifestyles
  - pottery, woodcarving, traditional costumes
• Folk music influences Frédéric Chopin (Polish), Anton Dvorák (Czech)

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Moving Toward Modern Life

Less Urban Development
• Large cities include 1,000-year-old Prague in Czech Republic
• Most of region has fewer urban residents than rest of Europe
  - only 40% in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 37% in Albania live in cities
• Cities will grow as industry develops
  - so will pollution, traffic, housing problems

Conflict
• Fierce loyalty to ethnic groups leads to violence
  - many Serbs hate Croats for WWII collaboration with Nazis

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Continued Moving Toward Modern Life

Conflict
• Discrimination against minority groups
  - anti-Semitism—discrimination against Jewish people
  - discrimination against nomadic Romany (Gypsy) people

Democracy
• Eastern Europeans must overcome old hatreds
• Unlike past dictators, officials must obey the rule of the law
  - in 2000, Yugoslavs force out a dictator who lost the election