

2014-2015

# ESSENTIALS NOTES: EUROPE

# Europe: Regional Characteristics

## ○ Physical Geography

- Europe is a peninsula of peninsulas!
  - Iberian, Scandinavian, Jutland,
  - Italian, Balkan
- It has several islands
  - Ireland, United Kingdom, Sicily, Iceland
- The borders of Europe are the Atlantic, Mediterranean, the Arctic, and the Ural Mountains
- Major mountains are called the Alps and are located in Southern Europe
- Many rivers run throughout
  - Danube, Thames, Seine, The Rhine



# Europe: Regional Characteristics

- Natural Resources
  - Rivers provide power for hydroelectricity and easy travel
    - Because of this, many early businesses and factories were located along rivers.
    - These centers of trade would grow into large cities.
    - Even today, rivers like the Danube and the Rhine are the locations for a large amount of industry and trade.
  - Coal and iron deposits that were easy to mine allowed Europe to make a lot of steel earlier than a lot of other places.
  - This helped Europeans begin making steel, an important metal for industrialization.
  - The North Sea contains a large amount of petroleum.
    - Surrounding countries like the U.K., Norway, and Sweden benefit from this petroleum in two ways.
    - It costs less for them to supply their industrialized economies with petroleum because they do not have to buy it from someone else.
    - They are able to sell their surplus petroleum to other countries and make money that way.

# Europe: Regional Characteristics

## ☉ Climate

- Western Europe is Marine West Coast.
- Northern Europe is Subarctic
- Central and Eastern Europe are Humid Continental
- Southern Europe is Mediterranean
- Most of these climates are good for growing food.



## ☉ Population

- The population of the region is around 750 million
- There are many different ethnic groups
- Ethnicity is the culture you follow and the place your family is from.
- Increasingly, there are more non-Europeans living in Europe.
- This is because of the zero or negative growth rates many countries have.
- This is the cause of a lot of cultural tension
- European countries are usually Fed or Super Fed.

# Europe: Regional Characteristics

## ◎ Economy

- Most of the countries in Europe are mixed-market.
- Most are highly industrialized
- Because of their early adoption of technology and science, many European countries began exploring and colonizing the world in the 1500s.
- The United Kingdom developed an empire with places they controlled all over the world. .
- This helped them because the UK is a small island. It lacks the resources necessary to industrialize.

# Europe: Standards Alert!

- ⦿ The United Kingdom is a very small island off the coast of continental Europe.
- ⦿ They were good at travelling the ocean because they were an island.
- ⦿ They managed to take over and control a huge part of the world.
- ⦿ This allowed this very small piece of land, which could not possibly have all the resources necessary to run a modern, industrialized economy to develop a **TRADING NETWORK** of all these places and get the resources they needed.

# Europe: The European Union

- ⦿ After World War 2, the countries of Europe worried about competing economically with US and USSR.
- ⦿ They decided to cooperate and build a big economy.
- ⦿ This group of countries that cooperate are called the European Union.
- ⦿ Some of the countries of the European Union have the same kind of money called the Euro.

# Europe: Regional Characteristics

## ◎ Culture

- Europe is mostly Christian although recently there has been an increase in Islam.
- Most governments are parliamentary democracies.
- Some countries still have monarchs but they usually have little, if any, power. They are symbolic monarchies.
- The band U2 and lead singer Bono are from Ireland.
- Europeans speak many, many different languages.

# Europe: Polders Capture Land from the Sea

- People in the Netherlands build a wall in the water called a dike.
- They use a pump (sometimes powered by a windmill) to pump out the water inside the wall.
- Presto! New land available for farming and living reclaimed from the sea.
- This land is called a polder.