

The Making of a United Europe

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Learning



Contents

A Multi-Cultural Europe	4
The Effect of the World Wars	5
A Divided Europe	6
A Great Idea	7
A New Beginning	8
Food and Farming	10
The Union Grows	11
The Benefits of Belonging	12
A New Government	13
The Four Freedoms	14
The End of the Cold War	15
A New Currency	16
The Future of Europe	17
Comprehension Questions	18
Glossary	19
World History Timeline	21

A Multi-Cultural Europe

The countries of Europe are quite different and all have their own languages, customs, and laws. Throughout history, these countries have often been at war with each other.



A map of Europe



The countries in Europe are very different from one another.



They all have different customs.

The Effect of the World Wars

In the 20th century, there were two very big wars involving many European countries who were fighting one another: World War I and World War II.

Many people were killed, and a lot of damage was done to factories and towns. The wars were difficult to live through.



Wartime damage



Planes dropped bombs.



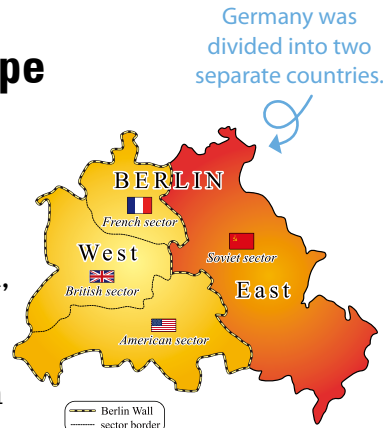
Soldiers during a war

A Divided Europe

In 1945, after World War II finished, Europe was divided. Ideas about politics were very different between the East and the West. People said it was as if there was an “iron curtain” keeping them apart.

The city of Berlin in Germany was even divided by a real wall. The Berlin Wall was built in 1961 to stop people in East Germany from going to West Germany.

The communist Eastern Europe sided with the Soviet Union. And the democratic Western Europe sided with the USA. These countries never fought, but they were enemies. It was called the Cold War.



A Great Idea

The idea of a union of the nations of Europe was first suggested in 1946 by Sir Winston Churchill.

He thought that if the countries of Europe joined together, there would be no World War III. By working together, everyone would benefit.



A statue of Sir Winston Churchill



The wall that separated East and West Germany



War graves from World War II

A New Beginning

Weapons of war



In 1951, the countries of Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands joined together to form the European Coal and Steel Community.

Coal and steel are two very important things that are used to make weapons for war. The idea was that the nations in the community would not be able to use them to make weapons to fight each other if their industries worked together.

Steel making



Coal mining



Rome, where the 1957 treaty was signed

In 1957, the same six countries signed the Treaty of Rome, which created the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). These countries worked together to create a common market.

Comprehension Questions

1. Europe is a...
 - (a) country.
 - (b) continent.
 - (c) state.
 - (d) mountain.
2. After WWII, Europe was divided because of a difference...
 - (a) in politics.
 - (b) in languages.
 - (c) in customs.
 - (d) in money systems.
3. The EU parliament is in which country?
 - (a) Belgium
 - (b) Denmark
 - (c) The United Kingdom
 - (d) Italy
4. Coal and steel were needed to make...
 - (a) food.
 - (b) paper.
 - (c) weapons.
 - (d) factories.
5. The Coal and Steel Community started in...
 - (a) 1910.
 - (b) 1951.
 - (c) 1991.
 - (d) 2004.
6. The community was formed so that countries would...
 - (a) have free food.
 - (b) be ready for WWII.
 - (c) control all of the coal.
 - (d) work together instead of fight.
7. Which countries must follow the laws of the European Parliament?
 - (a) The USA
 - (b) The Soviet Union
 - (c) Countries in the EU
 - (d) All countries
8. Which of these was NOT one of the four freedoms?
 - (a) Freedom to work
 - (b) Freedom to move goods
 - (c) Freedom to study
 - (d) Freedom of religion
9. What money is used in the Eurozone?
 - (a) Dollars
 - (b) Pounds
 - (c) Yen
 - (d) Euro
10. Which country decided to leave the European Union?
 - (a) The United Kingdom
 - (b) Germany
 - (c) France
 - (d) Belgium

Glossary

- **coal** a black rock you can burn to create fire and heat
- **communist** someone who believes in a political system in which the government controls the economy and everyone works for the government
- **custom** a habit or tradition
- **democratic** describing countries in which people can vote for their government
- **dissolved** ended; broken up
- **divided** broken into two or more parts
- **domestic** concerning things within a country
- **freedom** ability to do things freely and without restrictions
- **production** the process of making or growing something
- **recover** to return to good standing; to become well again
- **steel** a hard metal used for making cars, tables, weapons, etc.
- **treaty** a formal agreement between countries
- **union** a group of people, organizations, or countries joined together for a common purpose