CHAPTER FOUR

Europe
Europe

Figure 4-1
World Regional Geography, Fourth Edition
© 2008 W.H. Freeman and Company
I. THE GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

- Best example of indeterminacy of region boundaries
- Europe: peninsulas branching off of peninsulas; main peninsulas:
  - Scandinavia
  - Iberian
  - Italian
  - Balkan
A. Physical Patterns

- **Landforms**
  - Mountains, uplands, and lowlands
    - Stretching in east-west bands
    - Alps: Collision between African and Eurasian plates
    - North European Plain: Stretches across northern Europe
  - Other mountain ranges: Southern peninsulas, Scotland, and Norway
A. Physical Patterns

► Landforms
  - Uplands to the north of the Alps: navigable rivers, mineral wealth, and industry
    - Large rivers link interior Europe to the seas
    - Rhine, Danube Rivers

► Vegetation
  - Crops and pasture grasses replace former forest cover
    - Except Scandinavia and selected areas of forest regrowth
Alpine Village Near Innsbruck, Austria

Figure 4.4
A. Physical Patterns

► Climate

- Temperate midlatitude: North Atlantic Drift brings moderate temperatures and rain
  - Northwestern Europe
- Mediterranean: hot, dry summers/mild, rainy winters
  - Southern Europe
- Humid continental: temperatures not moderated by the sea
  - Eastern Europe
Climate Zones

North Atlantic Drift, an ocean current, brings warm water from the Gulf of Mexico across the North Atlantic toward Europe.

Eastward-blowing winds push the warm wet air above the North Atlantic Drift over northwestern Europe and the North European Plain.

Climate Zones
- Arid and Semiarid Climates (B)
  - Desert
  - Steppe
- Temperate Climates (C)
  - Midlatitude, moist all year
  - Mediterranean, summer dry
- Cool Humid Climates (D)
  - Continental, winter dry
- Coldest Climates (E)
  - Arctic
  - High altitude

Winds
Ocean currents

Figure 4.5
World Regional Geography, Fourth Edition
© 2008 W.H. Freeman and Company
B. Human Patterns Over Time

- Many “European” ideas and technologies came from elsewhere
  - Cultural borrowing from Mesopotamia
    - Greeks directly borrowed, Romans borrowed from Greeks and spread with their empire
  - Cultural borrowing from Islamic culture
    - Moorish conquest of Spain, Ottoman influence in southeastern Europe
    - Reintroduced ideas from Rome, Greece, Egypt, Persia after Dark Ages
B. Human Patterns Over Time

- Feudalism as a Social, Economic, and Political System
  - Objective: to organize rural areas for defense
  - Knights emerge as permanent aristocracy collecting revenues from serfs
  - Serf: land cultivators, bound by law to land
  - Monarch: Chief aristocrat who emerges dominant over others
Remnants of Feudalism in Slovenia

Figure 4.7
World Regional Geography, Fourth Edition
© 2008 W.H. Freeman and Company [Mac Goodwin.]
B. Human Patterns Over Time

- The Rise of Towns
  - Towns able to defend themselves, hence no feudalism
    - Starting point for capitalism
  - Town charters: established rights of weak against the strong
    - Led to increased innovation
  - Renaissance: cultural movement tied to humanism
    - Dignity and worth of individual
  - Protestant Reformation
    - Led to increased literacy, colloquial languages
B. Human Patterns Over Time

- Age of Exploration
  - Technological innovation in navigation, shipbuilding, commerce
    - Establishment of colonies around the world
  - Mercantilism
    - Colonization and management of production, transport, and trade for the colonizer’s benefit
Transfers of Wealth from Colonialism

Figure 4.8

Transfers of Wealth to Europe, 1500–1840 (in billions of 1990 U.S. dollars)
- Profits from slave trade (British ships)
- Profits from slave trade (French ships)
- Silver exports to Spain and Portugal (1531–1810)
- Gold exports to Spain and Portugal (1503–1800)
- Sugar profits from use of slave labor in North America and Caribbean (18th century)
- Profits from Dutch spice trade (1650–1780)
- Profits from India-China opium trade (1800–1840)
- Land rents, taxes from small farmers (1760–1810)

Figure 4.8
World Regional Geography, Fourth Edition
B. Human Patterns Over Time

Evolution of European Cities

- Medieval trading wealth (Venice, Genoa) shifted to mercantilist cities (NW Europe)
- Resources from colonies create wealth in manufacturing centers
  - England, Holland, Belgium, France, Germany
  - Paris, London: imperial status later results in “world city” status
Shifts of Power Among Urban Areas, 1450-1800

Figure 4.9

World Regional Geography, Fourth Edition
© 2008 W.H. Freeman and Company [This map was prepared for this text with the assistance of geographer John Agnew.]
B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Age of Revolutions: colonialism fueled two revolutions:
  ▪ The Industrial Revolution: mechanization of industry to meet demand in textiles and later coal and steel
  ▪ Led to global power of the United Kingdom, armed with the world’s greatest navy to protect its trading networks
B. Human Patterns Over Time

The Democratic Revolution

- Financial power and independence of urban merchants and industrialists led to compromise with nobility
- French Revolution: 1st inclusion of common workers in democratic institutions
- Nationalism: political structures aligned with loyalty to cultural group

However, numerous minority groups

- Marxism: lead to post-WWII welfare states
B. Human Patterns Over Time

- World War, Cold War, and Decolonization
  - World Wars ended European hegemony
    - Holocaust
  - Germany, Europe split by Iron Curtain
    - Ideological divide
    - Demotion of geopolitical importance vis-à-vis USA and USSR
  - End of colonialism (1950s-1960s)
B. Human Patterns Over Time

Europe’s Rebirth and Integration

- In 1950s, some Western European countries began economic integration
  - Free movement of people, goods, money, and ideas
  - Policy coordination in civil, judicial, economic, military, environmental, and foreign affairs
- Expansion of European Union to include most countries in the region
  - Recent expansion into Cold War enemies in Eastern Europe
B. Human Patterns Over Time

- Ethnic Cleansing in Southeastern Europe
  - Breakup of Yugoslavia
    - Led to ethnic cleansing in Bosnia in attempt to create ethnic majority
  - Later, intervention by U.S. and EU peacekeepers
    - 5% of Bosnian population killed
C. Population Patterns

- 525 million people
- One of the most densely occupied regions
  - Esp. NW Europe, Northern Italy
- Population Density and Access to Resources
  - Europe has exceeded its own resource base and depends on global resources
Population Distribution
C. Population Patterns

Modern Urbanization in Europe

- High urbanization: From 72% in North Europe to 62% in Central Europe
- Medieval central cities, with apartment blocks in concentric circles outside
- High density: excellent public transportation, few detached houses
- High quality of life in large cities; relatively few slums

Cosmopolitan Urban Life

Figure 4-12
World Regional Geography, Fourth Edition
© 2008 W.H. Freeman and Company [Peter Adams/Agency Jon Arnold Images/Agefotostock]
C. Population Patterns

- Europe’s Aging Population
  - Death rates higher than birth rates
  - One-child family increasingly common
  - Women making pro-career choices
  - Increasing pro-natalist policies at EU and other levels
  - Without more population:
    - Markets will contract
    - Lack of workers
    - Lack of tax income
  - Reluctance for large-scale immigration
Population Pyramids

Figure 4.13

World Regional Geography, Fourth Edition
© 2008 W.H. Freeman and Company
II. CURRENT GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES

- Three major sources of change in Europe:
  - The disintegration of the USSR
  - The end of the Cold War
  - Economic and political integration
A. Economic and Political Issues

► European Economic Community (EEC): founded in 1958
  - Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Italy, West Germany
  - Eliminated tariffs and promoted trade

► European Union (EU): created from EEC in 1992
  - New role: competitor and counterweight for the United States
EU Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium
A. Economic and Political Issues

- Governing institutions
  - Parliament: Directly elected representatives of the European people
  - Council: Represents the member-states, consists of government ministers
  - Commission: Represents the EU as a whole, with 27 members appointed by the Parliament
A. Economic and Political Issues

► Economic and Social Integrative Role of the European Union

- Allows smaller countries to achieve economies of scale
- About 489 million people comprise the EU; combined exports are 19% of the world’s total
- Promotes the equitable distribution of economic activity, opportunity, human well-being, and environmental quality
A. Economic and Political Issues

► Common European Currency

- Euro (€) – official currency of 13 EU members
- UK, Denmark, Sweden all voted not to use it
- New members pledged to switch to Euro, beginning in 2008

► Eliminates currency exchange fees

► Eliminates currency fluctuations that impact trade within the EU
A. Economic and Political Issues

The European Union in the Global Economy

- European Regional Redevelopment Fund: used to update technology and infrastructure in poorer regions
- Industry being shifted to low-wage parts of the EU to gain efficiency
- Negotiates privileged access to markets
A. Economic and Political Issues

► European Union as a Geopolitical Counterforce to the USA
  - Combined EU economy bigger than USA’s economy
  - Seen as more pacific than USA following Iraq War
  - Role of NATO in future?
    - International peacekeeping as in Afghanistan?
    - With or without U.S. leadership?
A. Economic and Political Issues

► Central Europe and the EU

- Membership is attractive:
  - For social programs and funds
  - For attracting foreign investment

- Requirements:
  - Political stability and democracy
  - Rule of law, minority rights, and human rights
  - Functioning market economy
  - Ability to take on financial/administrative duties

- Fears of cultural homogenization
A. Economic and Political Issues

► Future of EU Organizational Development

- EU Council requires unanimity
  - Move to majority rule following enlargement?
  - Vote proportionate to population size?

- Smaller EU members worry about representation diminishing
A. Economic and Political Issues

► Economic Change in Europe

- Deindustrialization: The process by which industries modernize and become more efficient
  - Increased productivity with fewer workers
- Also, jobs shifting to cheaper parts of Europe (South and Central Europe) and beyond
  - Spurred by easing of trade restrictions; switch away from coal to oil, gas, and nuclear power; expansion of transport systems
Principal Industrial Centers: Shifts from 1960-2000
A. Economic and Political Issues

Europe’s Growing Service Economies

- 70% of labor force works in services
  - Producer services, communication, finance
  - Significant numbers of government workers
- Tourism: one in eight jobs in the European Union
  - 13.5% of EU’s GDP; 15% of EU taxes
  - Most Europeans get four paid weeks of vacation
A. Economic and Political Issues

► Energy Resources
  - Shift from coal to oil and natural gas
  - Large imports; oil and gas in North Sea
    - Growth of nuclear power and renewables

► The Transportation Infrastructure
  - Traditional focus on high-speed rail
  - Growth of multi-modal transport
    - Rail, road, air, water
Trans-European Transport Network

Figure 4.21
A. Economic and Political Issues

► Agriculture in Europe
  ▪ 2% of Europeans involved in agriculture
  ▪ European Common Agricultural Policy
    ► Tariffs, subsidies
    ► Largest part of EU budget
    ► Unpopular in developing world
    ► Overproduction; dumping
  ▪ Opposition to genetically modified food
  ▪ Small farms in west, larger farms in east
B. Sociocultural Issues

► Immigration

- Schengen Accord: free movement of people across intra-EU borders
  - Facilitated trade, employment, tourism, common identity
- Guest workers: temporary residents, largely from Turkey and North Africa
- Refugees: Afghanistan, Albania, Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo, Rwanda, Serbia, Sudan
- Questions of national identity
Migration to Western Europe

Immigrants in Europe, 2005

Migration into the European Region, 2005
- Original 15 EU countries
- 10 newest EU countries
- Other European countries
- No data

Immigrant population in the 15 original EU countries, by country of origin, 2004

- North America and Australia: 4%
- Middle and South America: 2%
- North, West, and South Europe: 23%
- Southwest Asia, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa: 22%
- East, South, and Southeast Asia: 10%
- Russia and the Newly Independent States: 13%
- Turkey: 6%
- Central Europe before EU membership: 20%
B. Sociocultural Issues

► Citizenship
  ▪ Rules regarding gaining citizenship are relaxing

► Rules for Assimilation
  ▪ Race and skin color less important than culture
  ▪ Drifting from assimilation to acculturation as standard for acceptance

► EU legal standards implemented regarding cultural diversity
B. Sociocultural Issues

► European Ideas About Gender
   - Leading region in gender equality
     - Generally more traditional in central and south Europe
   - Double Day: work outside the home plus household duties
     - Only Iceland and Sweden report equal housework
     - Women’s workdays usually 3-5 hours longer
B. Sociocultural Issues

► Social Welfare Systems

■ Tax-supported systems that serve all citizens

► Health care, education, subsidized housing, unemployment, and pension payments

■ Differences in national systems cause concern over migrants’ exploitation

► Conversely, brain drain
B. Sociocultural Issues

Types of Social Welfare Systems

- Social Democracy: aim for class and gender equality (Scandinavia)
- Conservative: provide a minimum standard of living (West Europe)
- Modest welfare: encourage individual responsibility (United Kingdom)
- Rudimentary: burden falls on local government (South Europe and Ireland)
- Post-Communist: social democracy with collapse in funding (Eastern Europe)
Social Welfare Systems

Figure 4.32

World Regional Geography, Fourth Edition
© 2008 W.H. Freeman and Company