

CHAPTER FOUR

Europe



Europe



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Figure 4-14
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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



Figure 4-4

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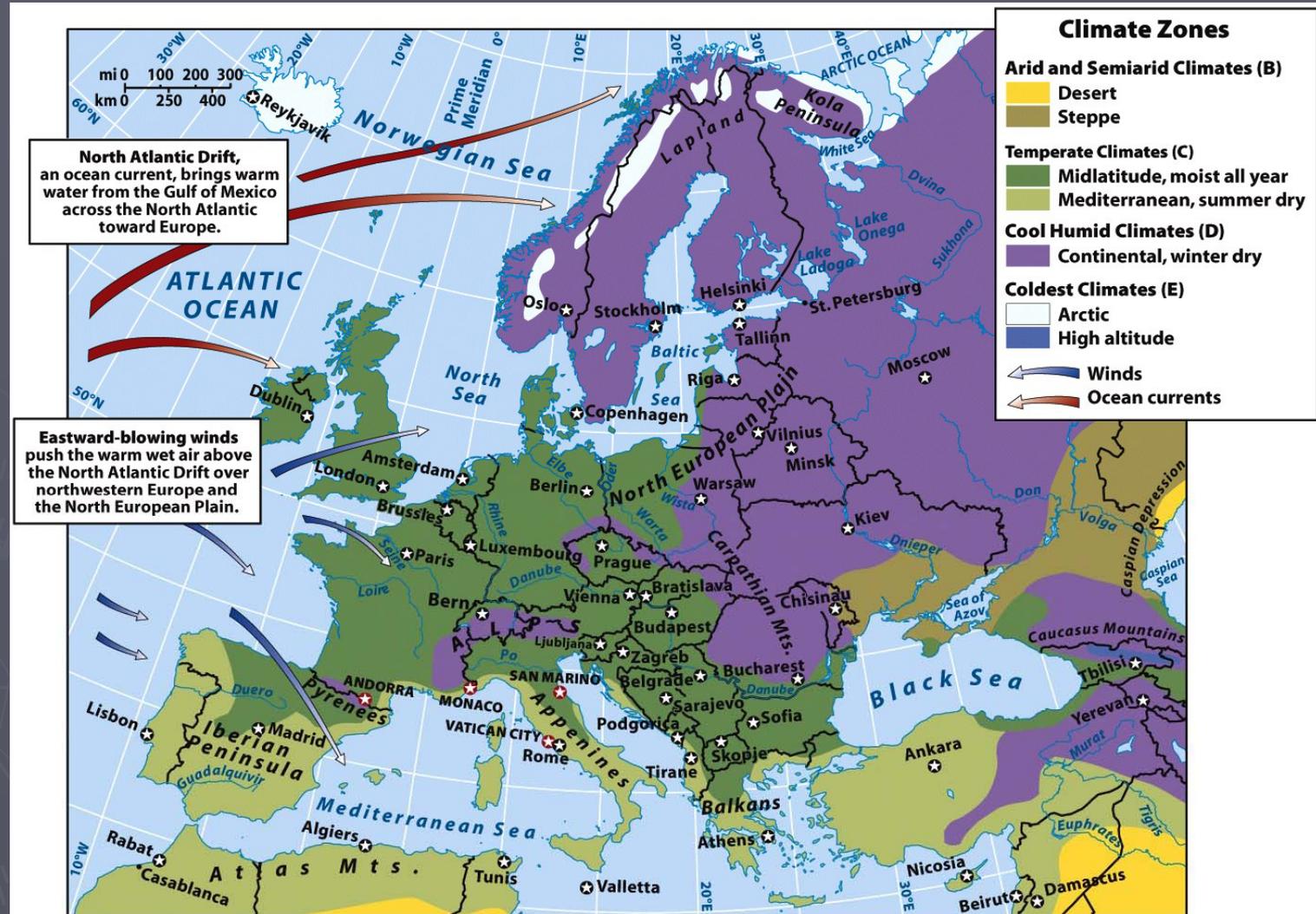
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A. Physical Patterns

▶ 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



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

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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

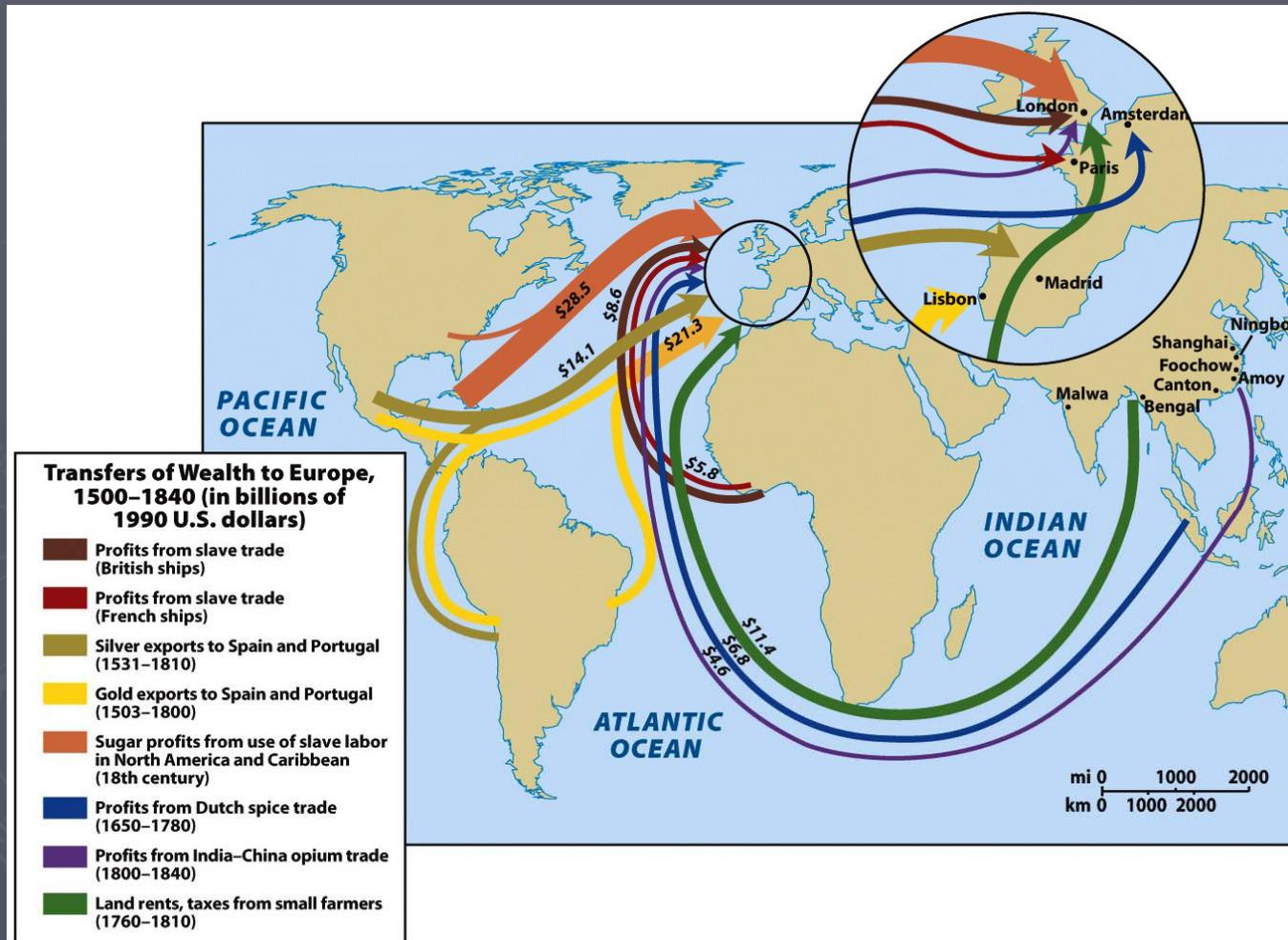


Figure 4-8

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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

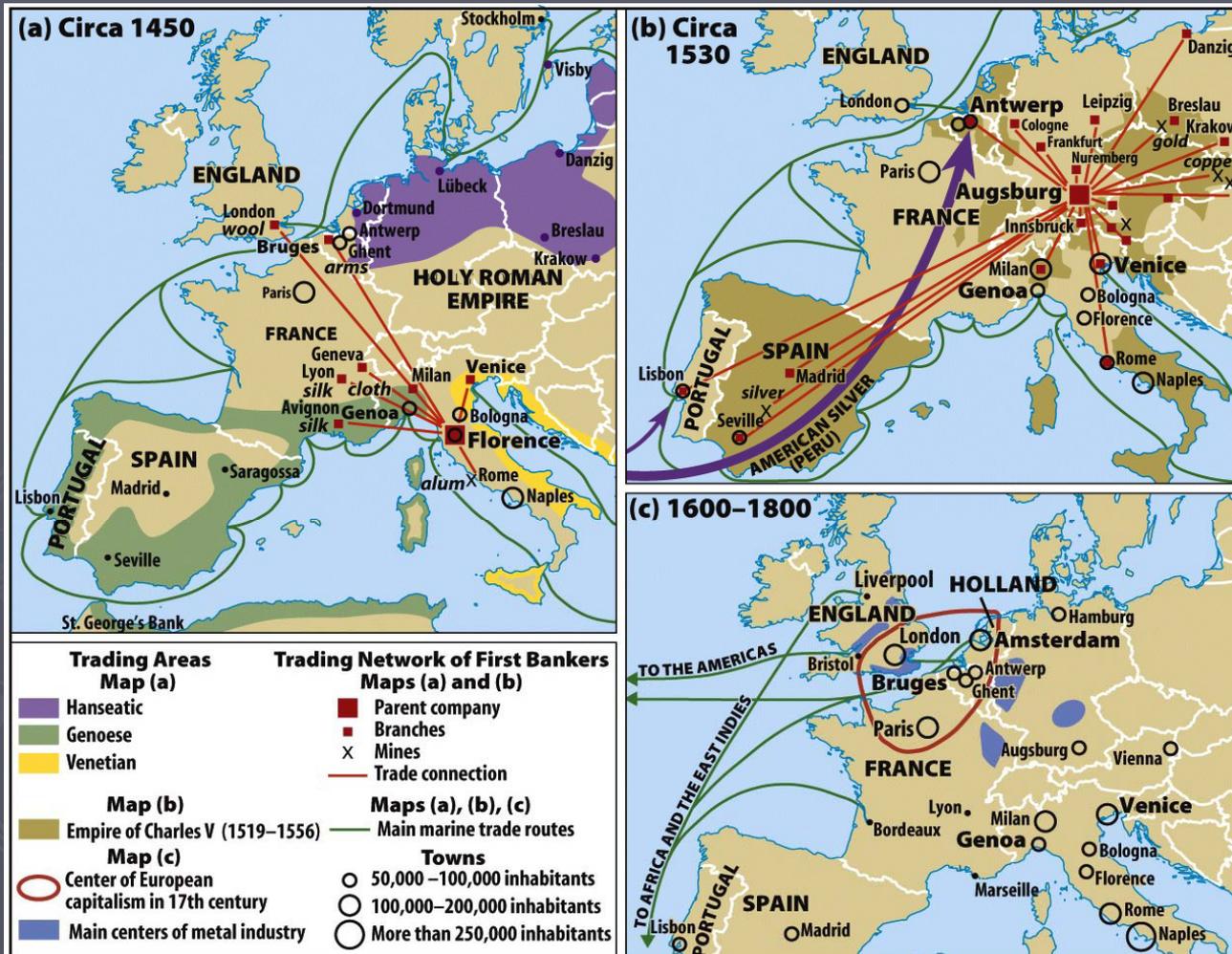


Figure 4-9

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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

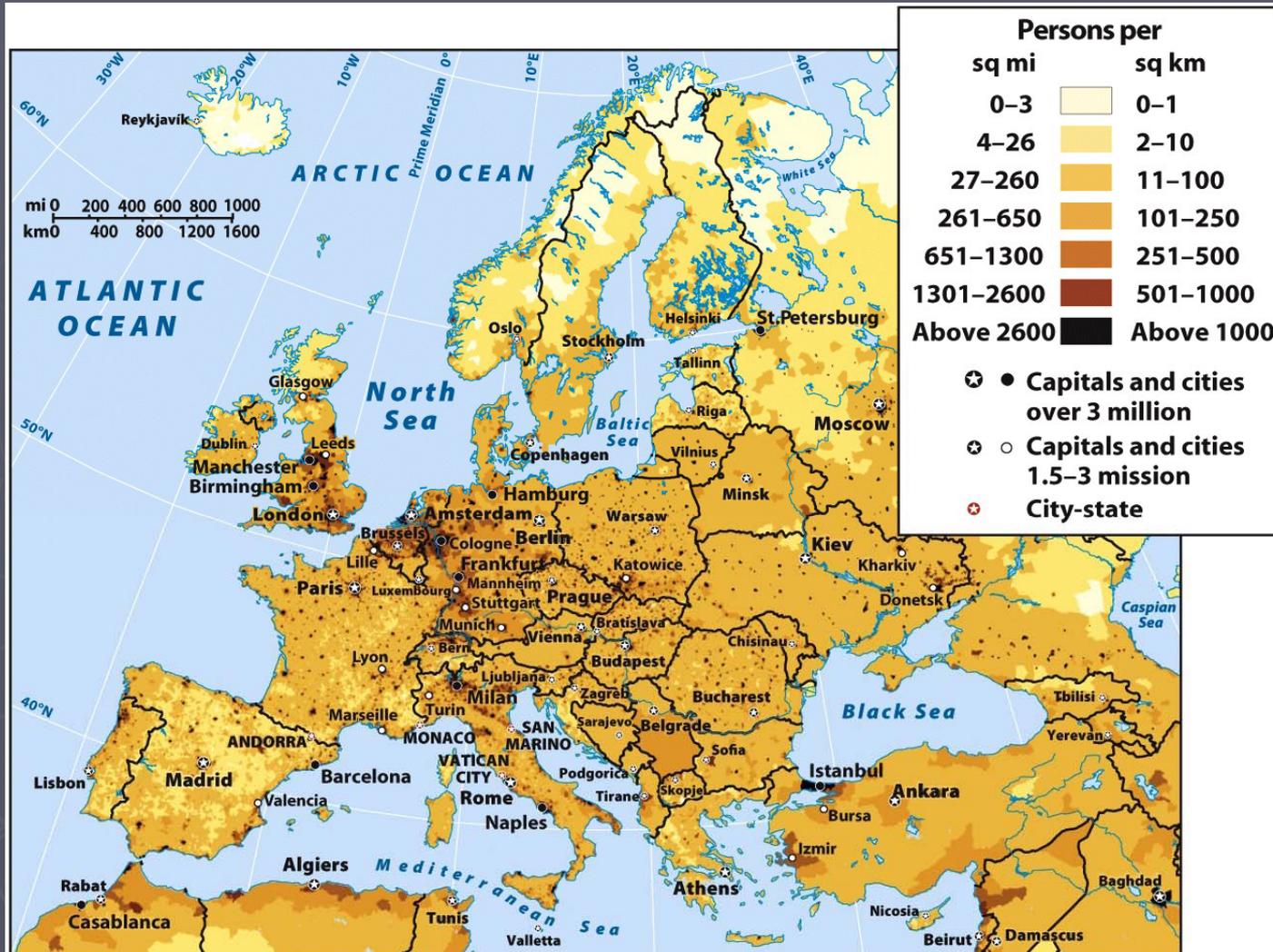


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C. Population Patterns

- ▶ 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
 - ▶ Population: London: 12 million, Paris: 9.9 million, Madrid: 5.6 million, Berlin: 2.3 million

Cosmopolitan Urban Life



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► Peter Adams/Agency Jon
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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

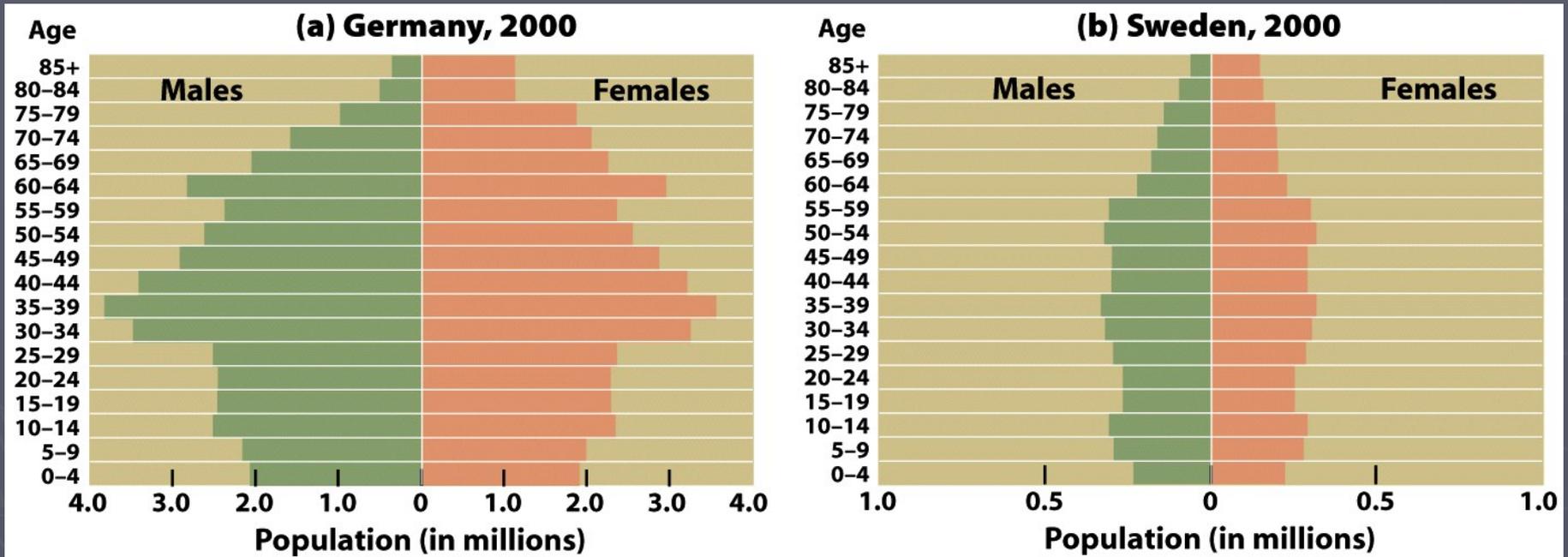


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II. CURRENT GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES

- ▶ 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



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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

The EU Economy



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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

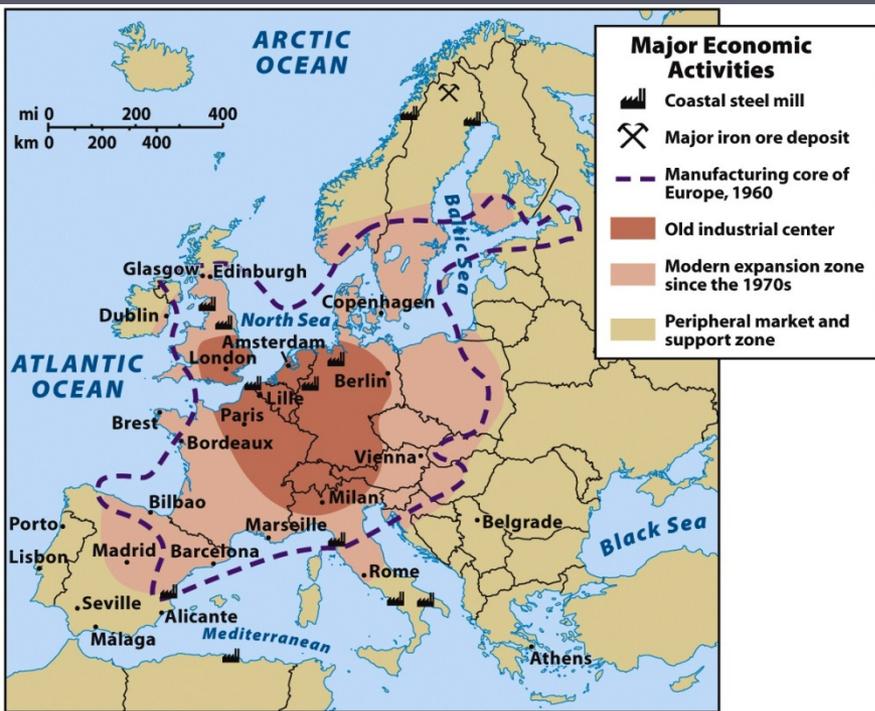


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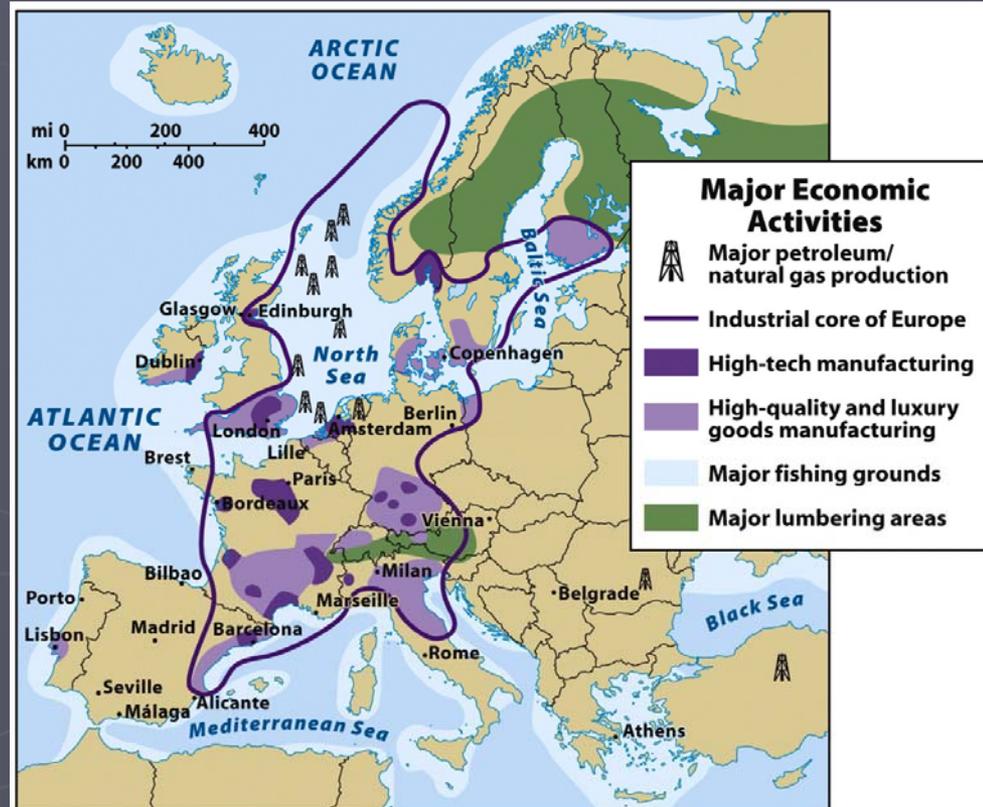


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A. Economic and Political Issues

- ▶ 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



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A. Economic and Political Issues

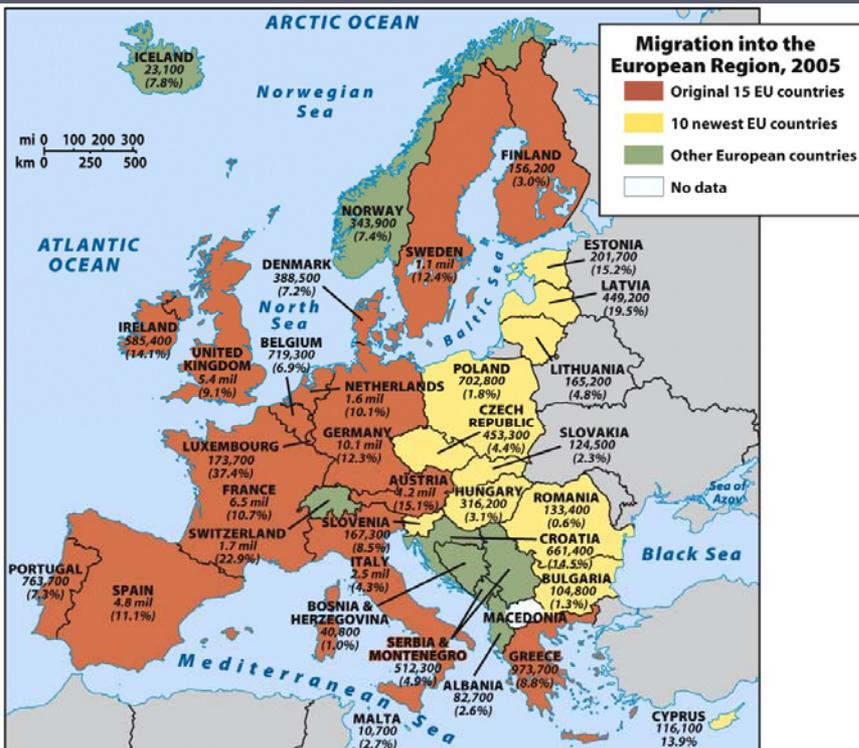
- ▶ Agriculture in Europe
 - 2% of Europeans involved in agriculture
 - European Common Agricultural Policy
 - ▶ Tariffs, subsidies
 - ▶ Largest part of EU budget
 - ▶ Unpopular in developing world
 - ▶ Overproduction; dumping
 - Opposition to genetically modified food
 - Small farms in west, larger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

B. Sociocultural Issues

▶ Immigration

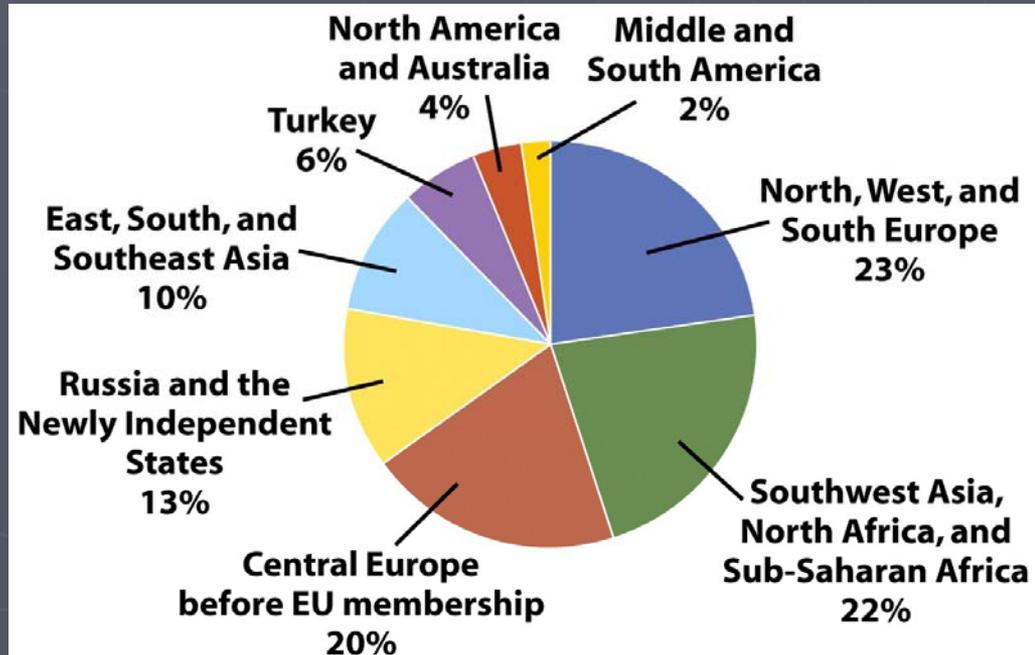
- Schengen Accord: free movement of people across intra-EU borders
 - ▶ Facilitated trade, employment, tourism, common identity
- Guest workers: temporary residents, largely from Turkey and North Africa
- Refugees: Afghanistan, Albania, Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo, Rwanda, Serbia, Sudan
- Questions of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

Migration to Western Europe



Immigrants in Europe, 2005

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

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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

European Women in Politics

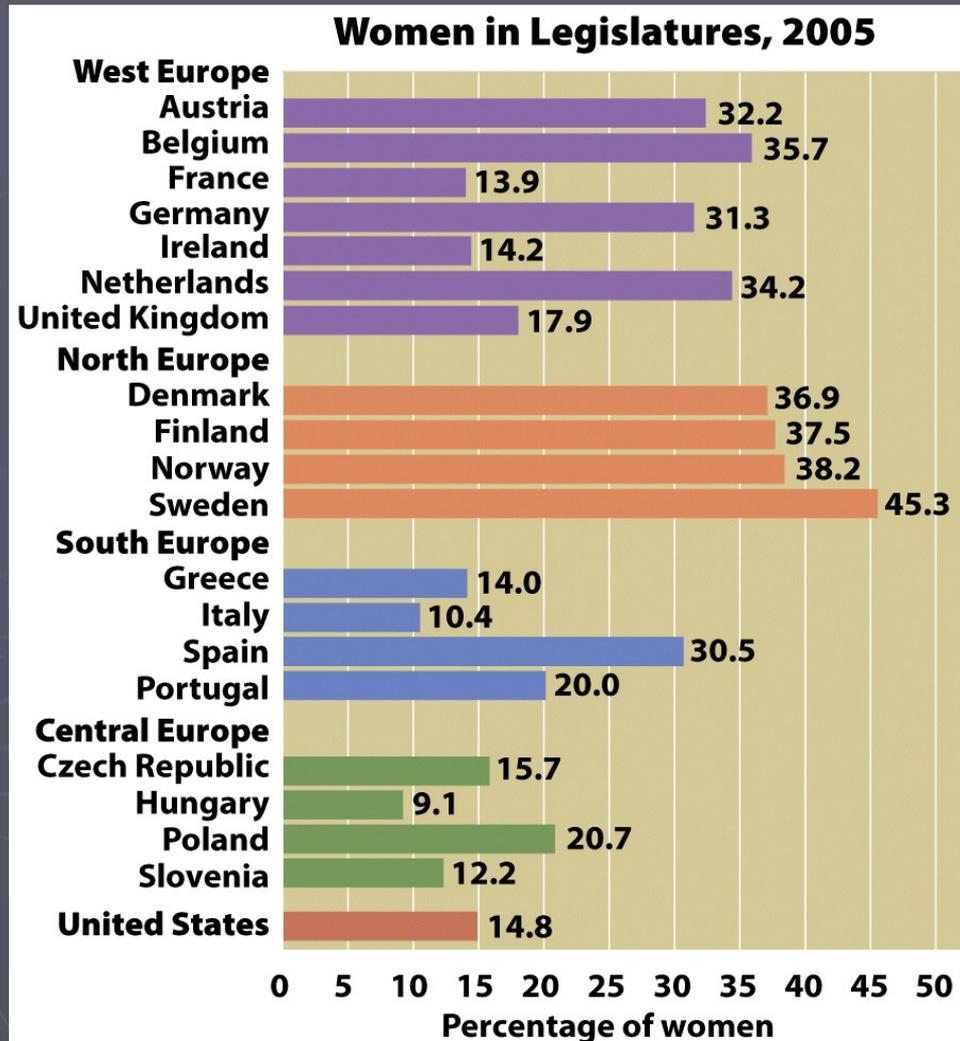


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B. Sociocultural Issues

▶ 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



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