

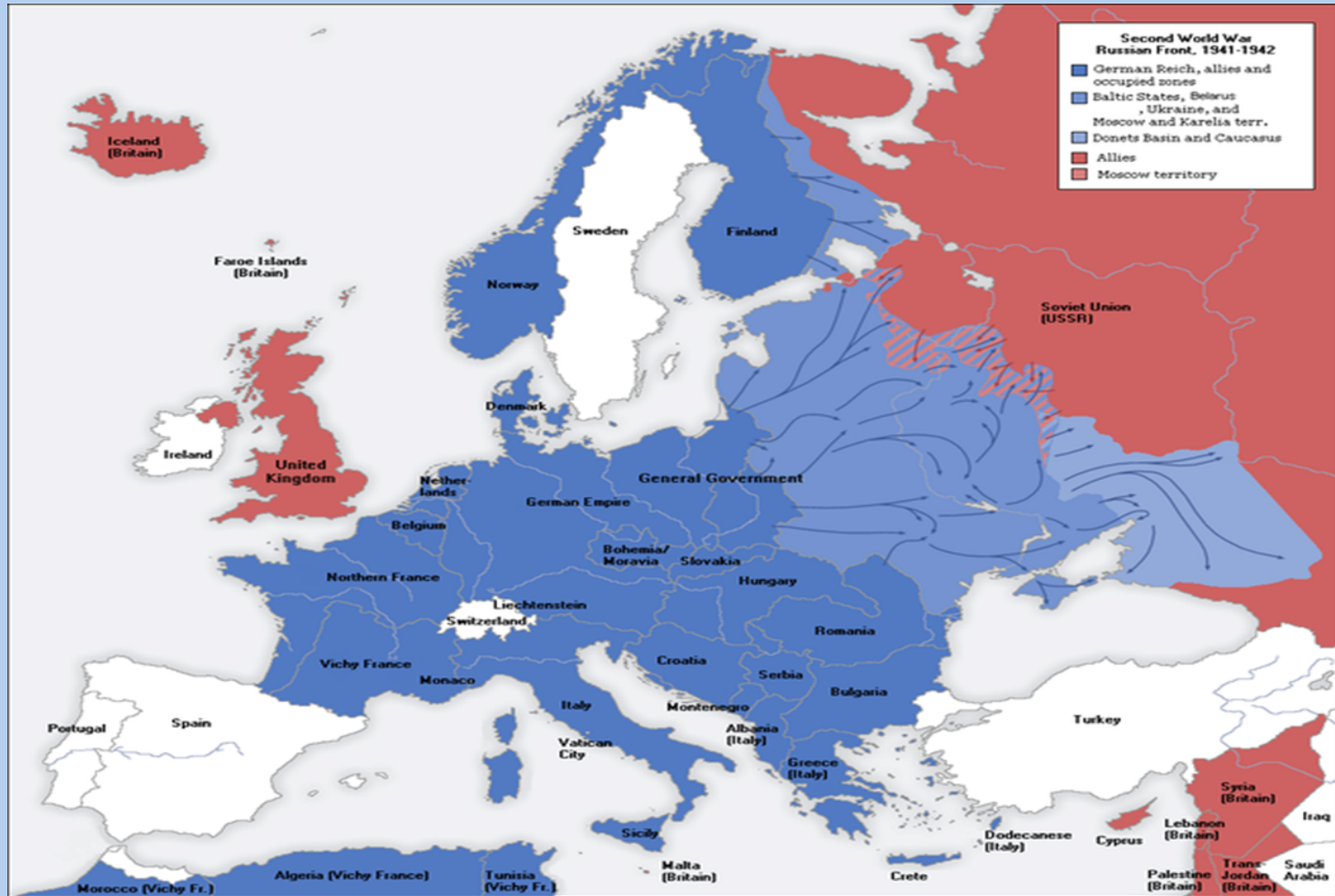
The European Union

WWI Alliances (Europe)



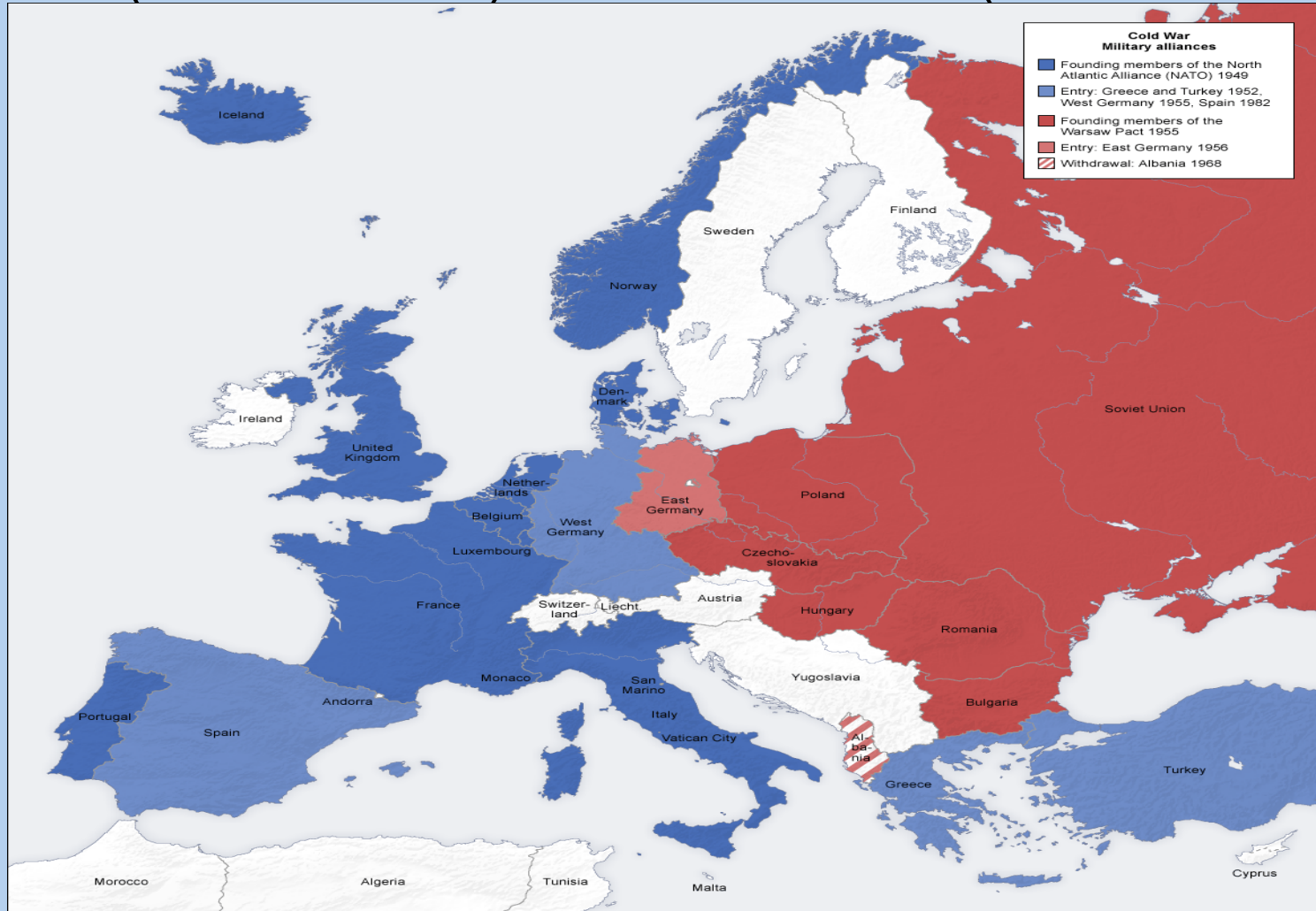
WWII Alliances (Europe)

Blue: Axis Powers & Red: Allies



Cold War Alliances

NATO (Democracies) vs. Warsaw Pact (Communists)



Original European Union Members



Purpose of the EU

- For its members to work together for advantages that would be out of their reach if each were working alone.
- Believe that when countries work together they are a more powerful force in the world because they involve:
 - more money
 - more people
 - more land
- Helps make small countries more competitive in the world market

	EU	United States
Land Area (Approximate)	1,500,000	3,700,000
Population (Approximate)	500,000,000	305,000,000
Gross Domestic Product	\$14 Trillion	\$13.5 Trillion
GDP Per Capita	\$28,213	\$43,444

- The United States is much larger than separate European countries
- When the EU countries combine, they have more people and a larger economy; they can compete in a global economy.

What's the Big Deal?

- EU does NOT handle all the government business for the members (Confederation)
- Each country still makes its own laws, has a military, and elects its leaders

Benefits for Members

- Members may use a common currency (euro) that makes trade easier
- EU works to improve trade, education, farming, and industry among its members
 1. No tariffs (taxes) among member countries (free trade zone)
 2. Citizens of one nation can move freely to another
 3. Citizens can live and work in any EU country
 4. Citizens can vote in local elections even if they are citizens of another country.

Euro

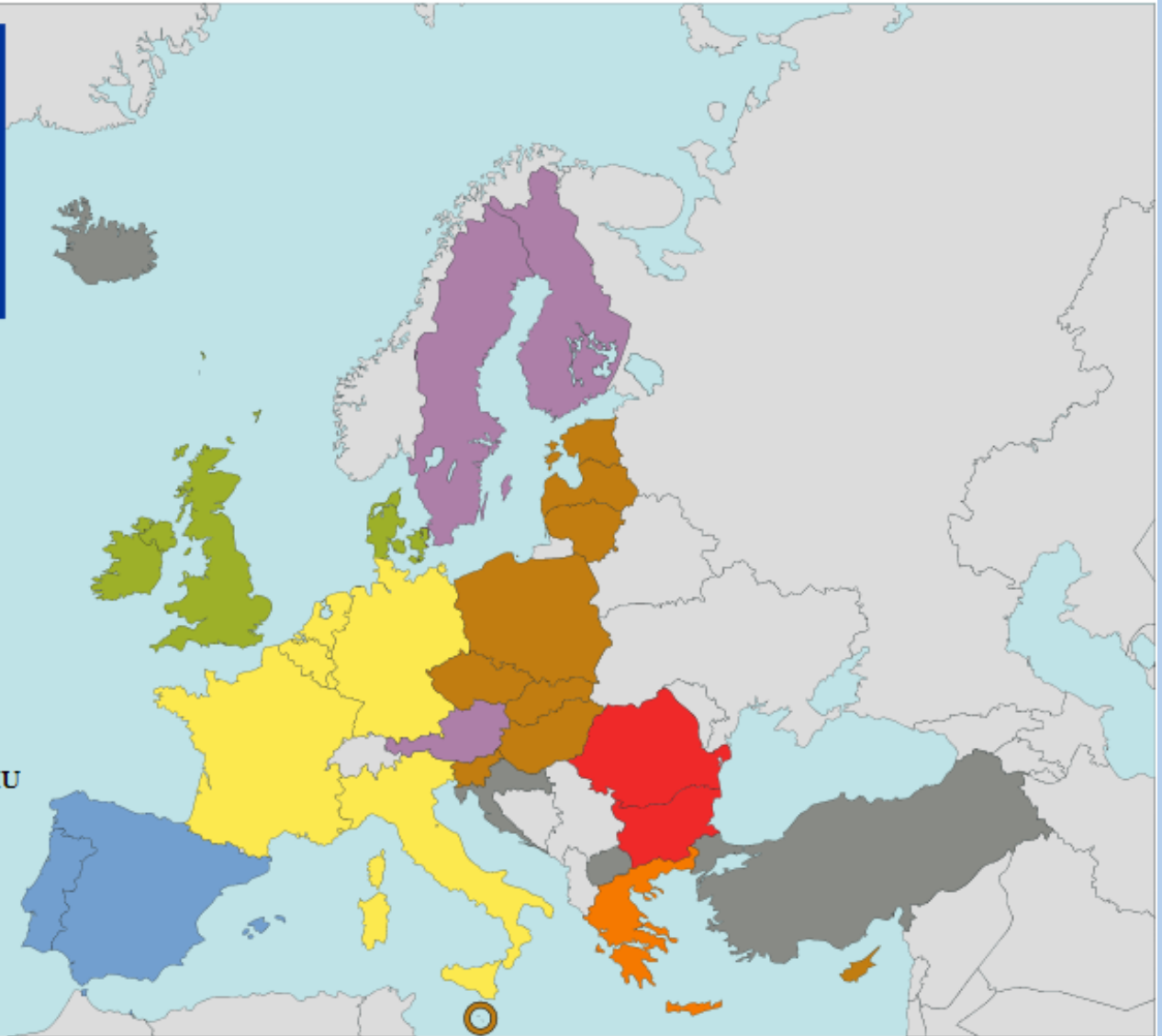
- The euro is the currency of MOST EU countries.
- Member nations can choose to give up their own currency and exchange them for for euros.
- French francs and German marks have been replaced by the Euro
- Common currency makes trade between the countries much easier and less expensive
- 12 countries in the EU do not use the euro. The United Kingdom continues to use the British pound.

Euro Coins and Bills





1957	BE - DE - FR IT - LU - NL
1973	DK - IE - UK
1981	GR
1986	ES - PT
1995	AT - FI - SE
2004	CY - CZ - EE - HU LT - LV - MT PL - SI - SK
2007	BG - RO
?	HR - IS - MO ME - TR



There are currently 27 members of the EU

EU Member States

Austria	Finland	Latvia	Romania
Belgium	France	Lithuania	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Cyprus	Greece	Malta	Spain
Czech	Hungary	Netherlands	Sweden
Republic	Ireland	Poland	United
Denmark	Italy	Portugal	Kingdom
Estonia			

Non-Members

- There are several countries that are NOT EU members, including Turkey, Switzerland, Iceland & Russia
- WHY?
 - Turkey's culture (98% Muslim), stability, and location to the Southwest Asia causes some EU members to not want Turkey to join
 - Switzerland has one of the world's highest standards of living and prefers its economy to not be regulated under the EU
 - The EU has strict limits on the fishing industry, and Iceland does not want the EU's control on its most important economic activity.
 - Russia prefers to be an independent world leader over its resources and economy.