

EUROPE – Cultures



Major Historical Periods of Europe

- Ancient Greece and Rome (B.C. and first four centuries A.D.)
- Dark Ages (4th-10th century)
- Middle Ages (10th-14th century)
- Renaissance (15th and 16th century)
- Enlightenment (18th century)
- Age of Conquests (15th-20th century)

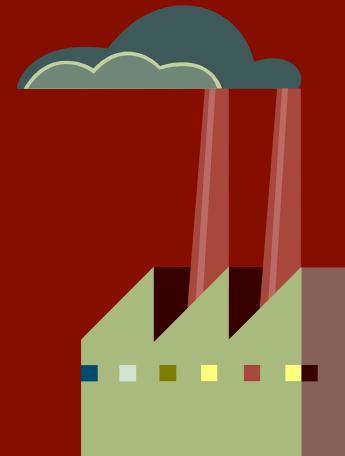
AGRARIAN REVOLUTION

- Began in Europe in the 1750s
- Based on new agricultural innovations
- Enabled increased food production
- Enabled sustained population increase



INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- Developed in the UK between **1750-1850**
- Evolved from technical innovations that occurred in British industry
- Proved to be a major catalyst towards **increased urbanization**

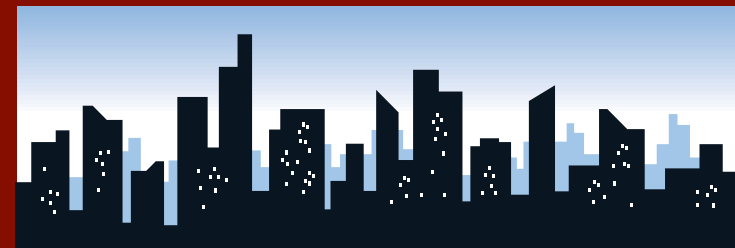


EUROPE'S CHANGING POPULATION

- Falling share of the world's population
- Fertility at an all-time low
- Fewer young people
- Smaller working age population
- Immigration partially off-setting the decline

URBAN TRADITION

- **Urbanization** – 73% of Europe is urbanized.
- **Related concepts**
 - **Primate city**- largest city that encompasses the cultural ideals
 - **CBD**- downtown (business and commerce)
 - **Metropolis**- terms used to describe central city and suburbs



20th Century Major Political Events

- World War I
- World War II and Holocaust
- Cold War (primarily USSR)
- Reduction of empire/colonies (primarily British Empire)
- Rise and fall of Communism

Supranationalism

- A venture involving three or more nations
- Political, economic, and/or cultural cooperation to promote shared objectives



New “Euro” Currency



European Union (EU)



- Original Members: (12) Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, UK
- Established: 1992
- Aimed to coordinate policy among the members in three ways:
 - **economics**
 - **defense**
 - **justice and home affairs**



Supranationalism Problems

- Loss of autonomy and control
- Differences in levels of economic development
- Cultural barriers

Languages

- In Europe, there are about 50 different languages and more than 100 **dialects**, most of which belong to the Indo-European **language family**
- The **Slavic** languages of Eastern Europe, the **Germanic** languages of Northern Europe, and the **Romance** languages of Southern Europe are Indo-European languages.

Religions



- Europe is predominantly Christian.
- Most of Southern/Western Europe's Christians are Roman Catholics, whereas most Northern European Christians are Protestants.
- In much of Southeastern Europe, Eastern Orthodox Christians predominate.
- Many Muslims also live in southeastern Europe (Turkish influence), and Jewish communities exist in all major European cities.