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Chapter 13

Human Geography of Europe: Diversity, Conflict, Union

Over the millennia, Europe's diverse landscape, waterways, and climate have hosted great civilizations, empires, and a variety of peoples.

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Section 1: Mediterranean Europe

Section 2: Western Europe

Section 3: Northern Europe

Section 4: Eastern Europe

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Section 1: Mediterranean Europe

- The ancient Greek and Roman civilizations and the Renaissance all began in Mediterranean Europe.
- In the 20th century, the region has seen economic growth and political turmoil.

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Section 1: Mediterranean Europe

A History of Ancient Glory

Geographic Advantages Boost Civilization

- Survival is easier in mild climate; institutions develop over time
- Mediterranean allows trade; ideas spread, knowledge grows

Greece: Birthplace of Democracy

- People enter Balkan Peninsula around 2000 B.C.
- **City-state**—a political unit made up of a city, surrounding lands
- Athenian democracy—a government in which the people rule
- Greece conquered by Macedonia's Alexander in 338 B.C.

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Continued A History of Ancient Glory

The Roman Empire

- Rome rules Italian Peninsula by 275 B.C.; Iberia and Balkans later
- Rome is a **republic**—elected representatives rule in citizens' name

- Christianity spreads from Palestine; is official religion by A.D. 400
- In A.D. 395 empire splits into eastern, western halves
 - Western Roman Empire weakens, falls A.D. 476
 - Eastern Roman Empire lasts another 1,000 years

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Moving Toward Modern Times

Italian City-States

- Without strong central government, Italy divides into small states
- Christians start **Crusades** in 1096 to regain Palestine from Muslims
- **Renaissance**—renewed interest in learning, arts from 1300s to 1500s
- In 1347, Asian bubonic plague reaches Italy, kills millions in Europe

Spain's Empire

- North African Muslims conquer Iberian Peninsula in 700s
 - retaken by Catholic rulers, Ferdinand and Isabella, by 1492
- Spain, Portugal launch Age of Exploration, colonize Americas

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A Rich Cultural Legacy

Rome's Cultural Legacy

- Greek the language of the Byzantine Empire
- Rome's Latin spawns Romance languages Portuguese, Spanish, Italian
- Two halves of Empire develop their own forms of Christianity
 - Eastern Orthodox: Greece
 - Roman Catholicism: Italy, Spain

Centuries of Art

- Ruins (like the Parthenon) remain in Greece, Italy
- Spain has Roman **aqueducts**—carry water long distances
 - Spain also has Muslim mosques
- Artistic legacy: classical statues, Renaissance art, modern art

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Economic Change

Agriculture to Industry

- Mediterranean nations less industrialized
- Economy once based on fish, crops (olives, grapes, citrus, wheat)
- Changed in 20th century: manufacturing, service industries growing
- Greece, Portugal, Spain join European Union (EU) in 1980s

Economic Problems

- Italy's northern region is more developed than southern half
- Mediterranean region poor in energy resources, relies on oil imports

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Modern Mediterranean Life

20th-Century Political Turmoil

- After dictator Francisco Franco, Spain sets up constitutional government
- After WWII, Italy became republic, but had many governments
- Greece has also had political instability

The Basques

- Spain gives Basque region self-rule in late 1970s
 - some Basques want full independence, use violence to fight for it

City Growth

- Move to cities for jobs creates housing, pollution, traffic problems
- People hope to preserve historic cities

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Section 2: Western Europe

- France and the Germanic countries developed very different cultures.
- These cultural differences led to conflicts that shaped the history of Western Europe.

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Section 2: Western Europe

A History of Cultural Divisions

French and German Culture

- France, Germany are region's largest, most productive countries
- They strongly influence the cultures of many nearby, smaller nations
- French, German culture also strong in Benelux countries
 - **Benelux** countries—Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg

Rome to Charlemagne

- Rome conquered Celtic tribes, so French is a Romance language
 - didn't conquer Germanic tribes, so Germanic languages still exist

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Continued **A History of Cultural Divisions**

Rome to Charlemagne

- Germanic king Charlemagne conquers area in late 700s
 - after his death, his empire falls into small, competing kingdoms

The Reformation

- In 1517, Martin Luther's critical 95 statements launch **Reformation**
 - many Christians break from church, formed Protestant churches
- Today France is mostly Catholic
- Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany have Catholics and Protestants
 - most German Protestants live in north, Catholics in south

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The Rise of Nation-States

Nationalism

- **Feudalism**—Middle Ages system where lords own most of the land
- Lords give some land to nobles; strong kings gain power over lords
- **Nationalism** develops—belief people should be loyal to their nation
 - nation is people who share land, culture, history
- Nationalism leads to growth of nation-states; France is one of first
- 1789 French Revolution deposes king, forms republic
- Napoleon Bonaparte takes power, tries to conquer Europe, is defeated

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Continued **The Rise of Nation-States**

Nationalism

- European nation-states become rivals
 - wars break out repeatedly between France and Germanic states
 - Germany unifies in 1871
- In 1800s, industrialized nations seek colonies for materials, markets

Modern Conflicts

- Nationalistic rivalry, competition for colonies cause WWI
 - Allied Powers (France); Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary)
- Allied Powers win WWI; harsh terms forced on Germany lead to WWII

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Continued **The Rise of Nation-States**

Modern Conflicts

- In WWII, Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler tries to conquer Europe
 - Nazis carry out **Holocaust**—mass murder of European Jews, others
 - Allies defeat Germany in 1945
- After WWII, Germany split into non-Communist West, Communist East
- German capital of Berlin is split in half, divided by **Berlin Wall**
- In 1989 anti-Communist reforms lead East Germany to open Berlin Wall
 - two Germanys reunite in 1990 as a democracy

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Economics: Diversity and Luxury

Agriculture to High-Tech

- Agriculture important to Belgium, France, Netherlands, Switzerland
- Coal, iron made France, Germany, Netherlands industrial leaders
 - today they have high-tech industries
- Switzerland's neutrality makes it a banking center

Tourism and Luxury

- Tourism is major part of French, Swiss, Austrian economies
- German cars; Swiss watches; French clothes, food; Dutch flowers

Economic Problems

- Germany experiences cultural, economic difficulties after reuniting

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Great Music and Art

Music

- Famed German and Austrian composers
 - Germany: Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven
 - Austria: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Painting

- Dutch painters
 - Jan Van Eyck (from Flanders), Jan Vermeer, Rembrandt
- Major French painters
 - Claude Monet, Paul Cezanne, Paul Gauguin, Pierre Auguste Renoir

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Modern Life

City Life

- Strong economies allow high standard of living
- Most Western Europeans live in cities
 - good public transportation, cultural attractions, low crime rates
- Most homes are small, so socializing is done in public cafés, parks

Recent Conflicts

- In 1980s “guest workers” from Yugoslavia, Turkey go to West Germany
 - declining economy leads to racism, violence against immigrants

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Section 3: Northern Europe

- The United Kingdom and the Nordic countries have seafaring histories that often led to conquest.
- The region played a role in developing representative government and industry.

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Section 3: Northern Europe

A History of Seafaring Conquerors

Early Conquerors

- **Nordic countries**—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
- Romans conquer Britain’s Celts by A.D. 80
 - later, Germanic invaders push Celts north, west
- Vikings invade Britain, sail to Iceland, Greenland, North America
 - other settlements in Normandy, France, and Russia
- Normandy’s William the Conqueror invades Britain in 1066
 - French-speaking Normans alter English language

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Continued A History of Seafaring Conquerors

Dreams of Empire

- Denmark, Sweden, Norway become kingdoms in 900s
 - no Nordic country becomes a major empire
- England controls British Isles (Wales, Ireland, Scotland)
 - becomes United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801
- British Empire grows due to island’s safety; never invaded after 1066

- By 1800s, Britain has colonies in Americas, Asia, Africa, Oceania
 - “The sun never sets on the British Empire”

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Moving Into the Modern Age

Representative Government

- **Parliament**—representative lawmaking body; members elected, appointed
- Britain has monarchy and parliament, but rulers slowly lose power
 - 1215 Magna Carta: trial by jury, no taxation without representation
 - political ideas spread to U.S., Canada, colonies
- Nordic countries develop representative governments

Industrial Revolution

- As Britain industrializes, colonies supply materials, buy goods
- In 1800s Industrial Revolution spreads to Western Europe, U.S.

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Continued **Moving Into the Modern Age**

Since 1900

- After WWII, British colonies gain independence, experience turmoil

The Irish Question

- Protestant English rulers seize Catholic Irish land
 - many Irish left in poverty, starve in 1840s potato famine
- Irish seek independence, Britain splits country in 1921
 - mostly Catholic Republic of Ireland becomes independent
 - mostly Protestant Northern Ireland still part of U.K.
 - religious conflict in Northern Ireland leads to anti-British violence

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Economics: Diversity and Change

Industry and Resources

- Sweden and U.K. have strong vehicle, aerospace industries
 - produce paper and food products, pharmaceuticals
- Sweden has timber, Iceland has fishing, Norway has North Sea oil

High-Tech

- Computer production is major part of Ireland's economy
- Scotland has **Silicon Glen**—area with many high-tech companies
 - produces at least a third of Europe's personal, notebook computers

Union or Independence?

- Mixed feelings about European Union and **euro**—common currency

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Cultural Similarities and Modern Art

Increasing Diversity

- Nordic nations usually have only one ethnic group
 - U.K. (London) more diverse

Similar Languages and Religions

- Germanic languages (except Sami in north; Celtic in parts of Britain)
- Most of region is Protestant; Ireland is only mainly Catholic country

Modern Culture and Literature

- Great Britain, Ireland, Nordic countries have strong literary traditions
 - Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen
 - Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman
 - England: William Shakespeare, Charlotte Brontë
 - Irish author James Joyce

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Life in Northern Europe

Great Political Strides for Women

- By the late 1990s, most Nordic parliaments are about 1/3 women

Social Welfare

- Nordic countries, Britain have national health insurance programs

Distinctive Customs

- British afternoon tea, Swedish smorgasbord, Finnish saunas

Leisure

- In Nordic countries, outdoor sports are popular despite cold
 - home to many winter Olympic skiing sports
- British have horseback riding, jumping, fox hunting
 - developed rugby and cricket

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Section 4: Eastern Europe

- Eastern Europe has great cultural diversity because many ethnic groups have settled there.
- Many empires have controlled parts of the region, leaving it with little experience of self-rule.

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Section 4: Eastern Europe

History of a Cultural Crossroads

Cultures Meet

- Location between Asia and Europe shapes Eastern Europe's history
 - migration creates diversity, empires delay independent nation-states
- Area includes:
 - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland
 - Czech Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia
- **Cultural crossroads**—place where various cultures cross paths
 - people move through the region, world powers try to control it

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Continued History of a Cultural Crossroads

Empires and Kingdoms

- Rome holds Balkan Peninsula, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary
 - later held by Byzantine Empire, then Ottoman Empire in 1300s, 1400s
- Slavs move in from 400s to 600s; Polish, Serbian kingdoms form
 - non-Slavic Magyars take Hungary in 800s; later conquered by Ottomans
- Austria becomes great power in 1400s, takes Hungary from Ottomans
 - in late 1700s, Austria, Prussia, Russia divide up Poland

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Turmoil in the 20th Century

War after War

- Balkan nations break from Ottoman Empire in 1908
 - Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia defeat Ottomans in 1912
 - **Balkanization**—a region breaks up into small, hostile units
- Slavic Serbia wants to free Austria-Hungarian Slavs

- Serb assassin kills Austrian noble, starts WWI

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Continued **Turmoil in the 20th Century**

War after War

- After war, Austria and Hungary split
 - Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia gain independence
- Germany takes Poland in 1939, starts WWII
 - Soviets capture, dominate Eastern European nations
 - they become Communist USSR's **satellite nations**

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Recent Changes

- In late 1980s, USSR has economic problems, Gorbachev makes reforms
 - Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania remove communism in 1989
- After communism comes instability, return to ethnic loyalties
 - Yugoslavia violently divides
 - Czechoslovakia splits: Czech Republic, Slovakia

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Developing the Economy

Industry

- Under communism, government owns and controls factories
 - inefficient system brings shortages, trade deficiencies, pollution
- After 1989, region tries **market economy**—making goods consumers want
 - factories are privately owned, but inflation, unemployment rise
- Cost cutting and improved production help some economies grow

Lingering Problems

- Albania has old equipment, lack of materials, few educated workers
- Romanians lack money to invest; government owns some industries

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A Patchwork Culture

Cultural Diversity

- Numerous languages make regional unification difficult
- Religions include Catholicism (Roman); Eastern Orthodox (Byzantine)
 - Protestant minority; Islam from Ottoman Empire

- Holocaust kills 6 million Jews, half of them from Poland

Folk Art

- **Folk art** is produced by rural people with traditional lifestyles
 - pottery, woodcarving, traditional costumes
- Folk music influences Frédéric Chopin (Polish), Anton Dvorák (Czech)

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Moving Toward Modern Life

Less Urban Development

- Large cities include 1,000-year-old Prague in Czech Republic
- Most of region has fewer urban residents than rest of Europe
 - only 40% in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 37% in Albania live in cities
- Cities will grow as industry develops
 - so will pollution, traffic, housing problems

Conflict

- Fierce loyalty to ethnic groups leads to violence
 - many Serbs hate Croats for WWII collaboration with Nazis

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Continued **Moving Toward Modern Life**

Conflict

- Discrimination against minority groups
 - **anti-Semitism**—discrimination against Jewish people
 - discrimination against nomadic Romany (Gypsy) people

Democracy

- Eastern Europeans must overcome old hatreds
- Unlike past dictators, officials must obey the rule of the law
 - in 2000, Yugoslavs force out a dictator who lost the election