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Chapter 14 Today's Issues: Europe

As Europe moves toward economic and political unity, it's facing lingering ethnic tensions, nationalism, and environmental crises.

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Section 1: Turmoil in the Balkans
Section 2: Cleaning up Europe
Case Study: Unification: The European Union

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Section 1: Turmoil in the Balkans

- Yugoslavia was a nation of many ethnic groups distributed among six republics.
- When Serbia tried to dominate Yugoslavia, other republics broke away. This sparked conflict.

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Section 1: Turmoil in the Balkans

Roots of the Balkan Conflict

The Milosevic Problem

- **Slobodan Milosevic**—Serbian who sought to control Yugoslavia in 1990s:
 - goes to war against four former Yugoslavian republics in '91-'92
 - is accused of war crimes in 1999, voted out of office in 2000

The South Slavs

- Balkan conflict stems from different groups wanting the same land
 - in 500s, Slavs migrate to region from Poland, Russia
 - each of **South Slavs**—Croats, Slovenes, Serbs—form own kingdom

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Roots of the Balkan Conflict

Foreign Rulers

- Muslim Ottoman Empire tries to conquer Balkan Peninsula in 1300s
 - defeats Serbian Empire at 1389 Battle of Kosovo Polje

- also rules Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Austria rules Slovenia; Hungary rules Croatia
- Under Ottomans, Serbs remain Christian, Bosnians convert to Islam
- Both Serbs and Albanians live in Kosovo, but Serbs flee Muslims
 - Kosovo region becomes Albanian in culture

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Continued **Roots of the Balkan Conflict**

Yugoslavia Is Formed

- Serbia breaks free of Ottoman Empire in 1878
 - Serbs want all South Slavs free from foreign rule
 - their efforts spark WWI
- Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is formed in 1918
 - renamed Yugoslavia (“Land of the South Slavs”) in 1929

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Continued **Roots of the Balkan Conflict**

Communist Rule

- Germany and Italy invade Balkans during WWII
 - Croats help Nazis massacre Jews and Serbs
 - other Yugoslavs help Chetniks and Partisans fight Nazis
- After war, Partisan leader Josip Broz Tito rules Yugoslavia
 - Tito encourages all groups to see themselves as Yugoslavs
- 1946 Yugoslav constitution creates six republics
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia
 - Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia
 - Serbia has two self-governing provinces: Kosovo, Vojvodina
 - Croatia and Bosnia are ethnically mixed, contain many Serbs

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Ethnic Tension Boils Over

Fear of Serbia

- Tito dies in 1980 and Yugoslavia has no single, central ruler
 - presidency rotates between republics and provinces
- Milosevic proposes creation of Greater Serbia
 - wants to expand borders to include all areas with Serbian populations
- Serbia blocks Croatian from becoming Yugoslav president in 1991
 - Slovenia and Croatia declare independence
 - Serbian-led Yugoslav army invades Slovenia and Croatia

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Continued **Ethnic Tension Boils Over**

Fear of Serbia

- Slovenia quickly gains freedom in 1991
- Croatia has large Serbian minority
 - Serb-Croat hatred fuels violent war; UN brokers peace, 1992

War in Bosnia

- Bosnia and Herzegovina declares independence in 1992
 - Serbs want to get rid of Bosnian Muslims, Croats
 - Serbs use **ethnic cleansing**—violent elimination of an ethnic group
 - over 200,000 people die, over 2 million flee area

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Continued **Ethnic Tension Boils Over**

War in Kosovo

- Serbs, led by Milosevic, seek revenge for Battle of Kosovo Polje
 - Kosovo is inhabited by Muslim Albanians
- Kosovo seeks independence
 - Kosovo Liberation Army (**KLA**) attacks Serbian officials
 - Serbian government bombs Albanians, launches ethnic cleansing
- In 1999, NATO bombs Serbia to stop Serbian violence
 - Milosevic soon withdraws troops from Kosovo

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Continued **Ethnic Tension Boils Over**

An Uncertain Future

- In 2000, Yugoslavs elect reform leader **Vojislav Kostunica** president
- Ethnic tensions remain; wars created millions of refugees, poverty
- Kosovo and Montenegro seek independence
 - in 2002, leaders of Serbia and Montenegro sign cooperation agreement
 - form new unit called Serbia-Montenegro

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Section 2: Cleaning up Europe

- Pollution has many complex causes and results. It often spreads across borders, contaminating a region.
- The nations of Europe are cooperating to try to clean up their environment.

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Section 2: Cleaning up Europe

Saving Europe's Water

Golden Poison

- In 2000, a Romanian gold mine leaks **cyanide** into streams
 - the deadly poison flows into Hungary's Tisza River
 - kills 80% of river's fish, fishing jobs are lost

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Continued Saving Europe's Water

Causes of Water Pollution

- Mines and factories create much of Europe's water pollution
 - chemicals are released into streams
 - solid waste seeps into groundwater
 - burning coal, other fuels causes acid rain
- Countries want to develop industry
 - see environmental damage as cost of progress
 - pollution controls are expensive

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Continued Saving Europe's Water

Causes of Water Pollution

- Not all cities have sewage treatment plants
 - harmful substances contaminate rivers, soil, crops
- Rain washes chemical fertilizers off fields and into water
 - cause algae and plants to grow faster than fish can eat them
 - algae and plants die, decay; decay uses up oxygen, kills fish
 - fish die, decay, use up more oxygen
- Oil spills, such as 1999 tanker spill off coast of France
 - spilled 10,000 tons of oil, spread along 250 miles of coastline

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Continued **Saving Europe's Water**

Cleaning up the Water

- Requires cooperation between nations
- International Commission for Protection of the Rhine
 - France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland
 - forms in 1950 to clean up Rhine River pollution
 - pollution of Rhine has decreased
- EU passes environmental laws that members must obey
 - **European Environmental Agency** provides information on environment

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Improving Europe's Air Quality

Causes of Air Pollution

- Human activities expel gases and particulates into air
 - **particulates**—very small particles of liquid or solid matter
- Burning fossil fuels like petroleum, gas, and coal creates pollution
 - **smog**—brown haze from gases interacting with sunlight
 - smog includes **ozone**—health-threatening form of oxygen
- Carelessly caused forest fires release smoke, particulates
- Dry cleaning, refrigeration, air conditioning, also pollute

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Continued **Improving Europe's Air Quality**

Causes of Air Pollution

- Industrial factories put chemicals like sulfur in air
 - former Communist countries are heavy polluters

Resulting Problems

- Breathing polluted air contributes to respiratory diseases:
 - asthma, bronchitis, emphysema
- Air pollution harms livestock, stunts plant growth, causes acid rain

Cleaning Up the Air

- Individual countries pass laws to make air safer to breathe
- In 1998 the EU nations agree to reduce car emissions in 2000

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Case Study: Unification: The European Union

Will there be a United States of Europe?

Background

- Europe has a long history of conflict and crisis
- After World War II (1939–1945) European nations hope to:
 - rebuild their economies
 - prevent new conflicts
- Unifying Europe is one way to achieve these goals

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Case Study: Unification: The European Union

Steps Toward Unity

Seeking an End to Conflict

- After WWII, Europeans seek to rebuild economies, prevent conflict
 - some believe best way to do both is to unify Europe
- In 1951, France and Germany move toward unification
 - sign treaty giving control of coal and steel to multinational group
 - European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)
 - Italy and Benelux countries also join ECSC

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Continued **Steps Toward Unity**

Seeking an End to Conflict

- Nations depend on each other, monitor manufacturing
 - less likely to fight or secretly build arms
- European Economic Community (EEC) or Common Market forms in 1957
 - removes trade barriers, sets common economic goals
 - people can live and work in any member countries
- EEC merges with ECSC in 1967 to form European Community (EC)
 - admits other countries in 1973

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The European Union Today

Economics and Politics

- 1993 Maastricht Treaty replaces EC with European Union (EU)
 - 15 member nations

- EU member nations' concerns about union, use of common euro currency
 - shifting populations as workers move to areas with higher wages
 - loss of control of economic factors such as interest rates
 - loss of national identity associated with own currencies

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Continued **The European Union Today**

Economics and Politics

- Others feel euro increases business efficiency, international trade
 - financial institutions begin calculating transactions in euros in 1999
 - euros used in everyday life beginning in 2002

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Continued **The European Union Today**

Economics and Politics

- EU must deal with political issues
- Case of Austria's Joerg Haider and Freedom Party
 - Haider made sympathetic comments about Nazis
 - become part of coalition government in 2000
 - coalition government—several parties share power
 - EU nations criticize Austria, Haider steps down
 - some fear leader like Haider could tear apart EU

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Continued **The European Union Today**

Expanding the EU

- EU could expand to 28 countries, 475 million people
 - hard to manage huge alliance
 - some possible members are former Communist nations
 - variations in prosperity, democracy could create tensions