Europe in the Modern Era

Rebuilding Eastern Europe
- Established Democratic style governments
  o Some faster than others
    ▪ Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Baltic Nations Fast
    ▪ Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia slow
  o Struggled to catch up to western economies
- Germany
  o Recovered fairly quick due to help of West Germany
  o Still divisions between Western and Eastern Germany
    ▪ Electrical systems
    ▪ Railroad gauges
    ▪ Road weight limits
    ▪ Architectural style
- Russia
  o Boris Yeltsin
    ▪ Adopted rapid liberalization
    ▪ Rapid economic reforms
    ▪ Rapid Privatization
      ● Mines
      ● Factories
  o Hurdles to Rebuilding
  o Rise of old KGB Bosses
    ▪ Often had plenty of money already
    ▪ Used money to buy up businesses once they became available
  o Inflation
    ▪ Without government control prices rose
      ● 250% increase on day 1
  o Lessening of Production
    ▪ By 1996 Russia only produced 1/3 -> ½ the goods of 1991
  o Tried to remain independent of West
    ▪ Relied on connections with Asia instead
    ▪ Financial crisis in 1998
  o Reasons for Economic Stagnation
    ▪ Reliance on Military goods
    ▪ Government controls had propped up businesses
    ▪ Monopolies developed
      ● Allowed companies to raise prices for max gains
  ▪ Oligarchies
    ● Rich owners forced government to provide subsidies for businesses
  o Chechnya
    ▪ Province in Southern Russia near Georgian border
    ▪ Predominantly Muslim
    ▪ Declared Independence in 1991
      ● Yeltsin Responded by deploying a number of military forces
      ● Fighting off and on since 1991
      ● War Crimes on both sides
    ▪ Chechnya granted status at Autonomous Region in 1996
- Chechen Rebels continue to target Russia
  - Bombings around Moscow

- **The Russian Misery**
  - **Corruption**
    - Government seen as handing favors to the rich
    - Lots of government money being ill-used
  - **No more welfare state**
    - People were no longer guaranteed basics
      - Food
      - Medicine
      - Work
      - Housing
  - **Russian Mafia**
    - Forced businesses to pay “Protection”
    - Intimidated competition
  - **Disease**
    - HIV/AIDS
      - Work no longer guaranteed many women turn to prostitution
      - Health clinics ill-prepared to deal with widespread outbreaks
    - Alcoholism
      - Alcoholism was bad during Soviet times but got worse
  - **Nostalgia**
    - Desire to return to Communism

- **Central Europe**
  - Poland, Czech Republic, and Hungary most successful revivals
    - Enthusiastic acceptance of capitalism
    - Good job creating new civic and social institutions
    - Media Outlets
      - National revival
      - Free Speech

- **Yugoslavia**
  - During Cold War had been held together by Josip Tito
    - Collection of Ethnic Republics
    - Similar to situation under Hapsburgs
  - **Slobodan Milosevic**
    - As Yugoslavia broke up Milosevic tried to unite Serbs into one country
      - Serbia
    - Wanted to unite all Serbs even in areas where they were minorities
      - Kosovo – Islamic Majority
      - Slovenia and Croatia
        - Declared Independence in June 1991
        - Serbia quickly moved in to try and take them over
        - Mostly repulsed
          - Still control 30% of Croatia

- **Bosnia – Herzegovinian**
  - 1992
  - Civil War
  - Serbs unhappy living under Islamic Bosnian Majority
Ethnic Cleansing
  - Trying to homogenize an Area
    - Forced deportations
    - Murders
    - Intimidations
  - Srebrenica
    - July 1995
    - Bosnians attacked UN Safe Zone
    - 7,400 dead
      - Mostly boys and older men
    - Prompted NATO involvement
      - US Led
    - Nov 1995
      - Pres Bill Clinton negotiates a ceasefire
  - Almost 300,000 Dead

Kosovo
  - Kosovo Liberation Army
    - Albanian Muslims hoping for self rule
  - 1998
    - Serbians attack and displace about 250,000
  - 1999
    - NATO again gets involved
    - UN sends peacekeepers to help Kosovo regain land
    - Milosevic kicked out of office and handed over for war crimes trial

Modern Origins of the European Union
  - 1950
    - European Coal and Steel Community
      - Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands
    - Based on the Schuman Plan
    - Placed heavy industry under common management
      - Made it so countries could not secretly make weapons
  - 1950s-1980s
    - Cold War
    - United Western Europe against Soviet Union
  - 1957
    - Treaty of Rome
      - European Economic Community (EEC)
        - Common Market Treaty
        - Allows for people and goods to move freely over borders for 12 year Period
        - Increased Economic Cooperation and Cultural Exchange
  - July 1962
    - Common Agricultural Policy
      - Opens up agriculture
      - Standardizes Agricultural prices
  - 1963
    - Beatles mania
      - Common pop cultural traits for “Baby Boomers”
  - 1968
    - Extend Treaty of Rome
- Remove all Tariffs on Trade within bloc
- Common Tariff for goods coming from 3rd parties

**The British Problem**
- British refuse to join EEC
  - Britain more concerned with dealings with commonwealth
  - Liked idea of Internal Tariff free trade, but wanted to continue being able to determine tariffs on 3rd party countries
  - Felt like it would be surrendering sovereignty
- Britain Spearheads EFTA
  - **European Free Trade Association**
    - Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Portugal, Norway, Austria
- August 1961
  - UK begins negotiations to join ECC
  - ECC booming, Britain still stagnant
  - France Blocks British
    - Charles De Gaulle suspicious of London’s ties with Washington
    - Wanted to create Continental superpower to contend with USSR and USA

**Europe of the Nine**
- De Gaulle resigns in 1969
- Jan 1973
  - Opens up UK to join ECC
  - Denmark and Ireland Join as well
- 1973 Recession
  - Arabs and Israel causes oil prices to go up
- 1979
  - EMS
    - European Monetary System
    - European Currency Unit
      - Locks European currencies together
      - Steps towards single currency
  - European Parliament
    - First free universal elections held

**Additions and Reforms of the 1980s**
- Greece
- Spain
- Portugal
  - All controlled by military dictatorships
    - Greece 1981
    - Spain and Portugal 1986
- 1986
  - Single European Act
    - Begins 6 years process of better unifying countries
    - Allows Parliament more controls on pollution
- 1987
  - ‘Erasmus’ Scheme
    - Allows European students to study in universities in other countries for one year
    - Sets framework for similar programs later
Formation of the European Union
- Treaty on European Union
  o Founded Feb 7, 1997
  o Aka Treaty of Maastricht
  o Established Rules of Union to be established
    ▪ Single Currency
    ▪ Foreign and Security Policy
    ▪ Justice and Home Affairs
  o Establishes name of European Union
- 1995
  o January 1
    ▪ Austria, Sweden, Finland Join
  o March 26
    ▪ Schengen Agreement
      ▪ Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal
      o Travelers can pass between these countries without having to go through passport control
  o June 17
    ▪ Treaty of Amsterdam
      ▪ Establishes Citizens Rights and employment protocols
- 1997
  o December 13
    ▪ EU begins processing membership applications of new countries
    ▪ Including former Soviet countries
      ▪ Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta
      o Most Granted Admission in 2004
      o Bulgaria and Romania 2007
- 1999
  o January
    ▪ Euro Introduced
      ▪ Digitally
      ▪ Financial and Commercial Transaction
      ▪ Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland
      o Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom stay out

The New Millennium
- Sept 11, 2001
  o Terrorist attack on New York
    ▪ European Union pledges support for US War on Terror
- January 1, 2002
  o Euro goes into circulation
- Sept 2008
  o Global recession strike
  o Started in United States but hits Europe hard
    ▪ Italy
    ▪ Spain
- Ireland
- Greece

- Questions for the future
  - Ethnic conflict/immigration
  - Financial security
  - Fate of the EU
  - The Russian paradox

Map of Modern Europe