Foundations of the European Union
Precursors to the European Union

• European Coal and Steel Community (1950)
  • 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 produce heavy weapons

• European Economic Community (EEC) (1957)
  • Common Market agreement established by the Treaty of Rome
  • Allows for people and goods to move freely over borders for 12 year Period
  • Increased Economic Cooperation and Cultural Exchange

• Common Agricultural Policy (1962)
  • Opens up agriculture
  • Standardizes Agricultural prices
Influence of the Cold War

- Following World War II the nations of Western Europe increasingly depended on each other against the impending threat of the Soviet Union
  - Formation of NATO in 1949
  - Military cooperation and mutual protection
Cultural Collaboration

• Beatle Mania (1963)
  • Common music for post-war children (‘baby boomers’)

• Erasmus Scheme (1987)
  • Allows European students to study in universities in other countries for one year
  • Sets framework for similar programs later

• Schengen Agreement (1995)
  • Travelers can pass between these countries without having to go through passport control
Economic Unification

• European Monetary System (EMS)
  • European Currency Unit (1979)
    • Locks European currencies together
    • Steps towards single currency

• The Euro
  • Digitally introduced Jan 1999
  • Financial and Commercial Transaction
  • Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland
    • Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom stay out
  • Paper money goes into circulation Jan 1, 2002
Treaty of Maastricht

• Established Rules of Union to be established
  • Allows for single currency
  • Foreign and Security Policy
  • Justice and Home Affairs

• Established name as European Union
  • Inner Six – France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Italy, Germany
The British Question

• Britain has questioned its role in Europe, and has faced opposition from within Europe
  • Initially refused to join EEC
    • Early attempts to join blocked by French
    • Britain forms European Free Trade Association (EFTA) with Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Portugal, Norway, and Austria
  • Early member – Voted to leave Eurozone in June 2016
    • BREXIT
    • Never adopted Euro