

# 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 -> 1/2 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 united 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

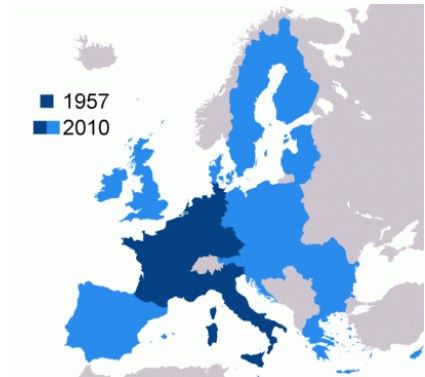


- **Kosovo**

- 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
  - **Beatle 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

