

Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 4: The Geography and History of Europe

Quick Notes



Section 1: The Land and People of Europe

➤ Essential Question:

- What are the ways Europeans have adapted to their large number of languages?

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Section 1: The Land and People of Europe

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- Germanic language
- Romance language
- Slavic language
- monotheism
- Judaism
- Torah
- Christianity
- New Testament
- Islam
- Quran

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Location and Features of Europe

- Europe is located in the northern hemisphere and is the second-smallest continent in the world.
- It shares the same continent as Asia, is bordered by the Arctic Ocean in the north and Mediterranean Sea in the south, and has the Ural Mountains act as an eastern boundary.
- Europe has many features that identify it:
 - The Iberian Peninsula, Pyrenees Mountains, European Plain, Rhine River, Alps Mountains, Danube River, and the Scandinavian Peninsula are found in Europe.

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Location and Features of Europe



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Locating Countries in Europe

- Many countries make up the continent of Europe.
 - ❖ The United Kingdom contains the continent of Great Britain, northeastern part of Ireland, and other small islands.
 - ❖ France is south of the United Kingdom, with the Pyrenees Mountains, Alps, and English Channels as borders.
 - ❖ Spain is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and is located on the Iberian Peninsula.
 - ❖ Italy is also bordered by the Mediterranean and is on the Iberian Peninsula.
 - ❖ Germany is located north of Italy across the Alps and shares an international border with more countries than any other in Europe.
 - ❖ Ukraine is located mostly on plateaus and fertile plains, and to its northeast is Russia, the largest country in the world.

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Languages of Europe

- Most European languages fall into three categories:
 - The **Germanic language** group, which includes English or German, has the most European native-speakers.
 - The **Romance language** group, which includes French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish, comes from Latin, the language of the ancient Roman Empire.
 - The **Slavic languages**, which include Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian, generally use a different alphabet.
- To prevent communication issues in this close part of the world, many school children are taught one or two languages besides their native one.
 - Over half of Europeans speak English since it is considered the worldwide language of business.

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Religions in Europe

- Wars in Europe have raged in the past because of religious differences.
 - Now most Europeans have the legal freedom to choose their religion, and they respect the rights of others to choose as well.
- The three biggest religions in Europe are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
 - These three are Abrahamic religions, all starting with Abraham, and each has a belief in a single God, known as **monotheism**.
- **Judaism** began with Abraham around 2000 BC with the Jewish holy book called the **Torah**, which contains the history of the Jewish people and their laws they follow.
 - Jews have faced much prejudice throughout history and continue to today.

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Religions in Europe (cont.)

- **Christianity** has been historically the dominant religion of Europe.
 - While religious details are disputed, they all follow the teachings of Jesus in the **New Testament**.
 - There are three major groups of Christians: Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant, with Protestants consisting of many groups, such as Anglicans and Methodists.
- The followers of **Islam**, called Muslims, are believers in the teachings of Muhammad, with the holy book, called the **Quran**, containing revelations recorded by Muhammad.
 - Islam is the dominant religion in the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Asia.
 - With increased terrorism attacks, Muslims are facing increased prejudice across Europe.

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Section 2: Europe's Expanding Influence

- Essential Question:
 - Which empires grew rich and powerful because of exploration?

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Section 2: Europe's Expanding Influence

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Crusades
 - empire

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The Crusades

- Europe's history stretches back thousands of years.
- The **Crusades** (1096 to 1272) were military expeditions sent by popes to capture important religious lands from the Muslim Turks in modern-day Israel.
- Though the Crusades were unsuccessful, a result was that Western Europeans learned to draw better maps and build better ships which would later help with the expansions of Portugal, Spain, England, and France.
- Crusaders were exposed to goods of the East.
 - Trade routes began between Asia and Europe to supply European markets with goods.

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Age of Exploration

- By the 15th century, major trade routes to Asia went through Italy, where Italian merchants marked up prices before selling them to the rest of Europe.
 - Italian merchants gained wealth from this mark-up.
- Leaders from Portugal, Spain, France, and England became envious of their wealth and began looking for alternate trade routes to Asia they could use to maximize their own profit.
- Their efforts led these countries to become **empires**, or countries that rule a number of territories.

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The Empire of Portugal

- The Portuguese Empire was the earliest modern European colonial empire and lasted for centuries.
- Because it was located on the west side of the Iberian Peninsula, sailors had easy access to the Atlantic and Mediterranean.
- In the early 1400's, Prince Henry of Portugal sent ships down the African coast with hopes of finding a route to Asia while also pushing navigational studies at home.
- Because of its nautical prowess, Portugal had colonial claims in South America and many outposts stretching from Africa all the way to Japan by 1571.

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The Empire of Spain

- King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, also on the Iberian Peninsula, worked to increase their wealth and power like Portugal.
- They hired Christopher Columbus, an Italian, in the 1490s to find a passage to Asia across the Atlantic Ocean.
- First believing he found Asia, he instead found the Bahamas, islands close to an entirely unknown continent to Europeans.
- The Spanish gained enormous wealth from their exploration and colonization of this "New World", creating one of the largest empires in history.
- They held land claims in both North and South America all the way to Asia and ruled them for 300 years.

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The Empire of Great Britain

- Queen Elizabeth I of England reigned in the late 1500s and observed the growing wealth of Spain and Portugal.
- After the English dealt a severe blow to the Spanish navy, the English began exploration and colonization of the New World.
- By the 1700s, the United Kingdom ruled as the head of the British Empire, which was the largest empire in history, controlling lands that are now the United States, Canada, Australia, India, much of eastern Africa, and numerous islands across the world.
- By the 1920s, one-fourth of the world's population was under British control.

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The Empire of France

- From the 1600s to the 1900s, the French Empire was a major world power.
- The kings of France paid for explorations of their own and started colonies, including Quebec in Canada and islands in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, South Pacific, North Pacific, and North Atlantic.
- In the 1780s, France had Europe's largest population, and many citizens were wealthier and better educated than previous generations.
 - Despite that, there was still great poverty because of taxation.
- In 1789, the French Revolution, inspired by the American Revolution, began and the monarchy was officially abolished in 1792.

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Section 3: Modern Europe

- Essential Question:
 - What are some connections between the Great Depression and World War II?

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Section 3: Modern Europe

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- Scramble for Africa
- nationalism
- militarism
- Great War (World War I)
- depression
- Great Depression
- Nazi Party
- chancellor
- propaganda
- Holocaust
- Cold War
- Iron Curtain
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- euro (€)

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Times of Rivalry and Peace

- Economic rivalries fueled by colonization created a tense atmosphere in Europe.
- Small feuds set the stage for world wars, where millions would lose their lives.
- The Cold War in the late 20th century would introduce the constant threat of nuclear weapons, but by 1993, many countries in Europe had begun to promote peace and cooperation.

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Empire Building in Africa and Asia

- During the late 19th century, rival European countries wanted more colonies.
 - Asia and Africa held many valuable resources such as gold, diamonds, and oil, which could be used in European manufacturing.
- This resulted in the **Scramble for Africa** between 1885 and 1910, where European countries divided control of Africa among themselves.
 - Some Europeans saw this as a 'push for civilized life' in Africa.
- Due to competitive colonization, **nationalism** (love for one's country) and **militarism** (using strong armies and threats of war) became popular in Europe.
 - Because of this, many countries signed treaties to help one another if attacked.

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Empire Building in Africa and Asia (cont.)

- In 1914, a series of events caused Germany to declare war on Russia and France.
 - The British joined the French and Russians to form the Allied Powers, while Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria joined the Germans as the Central Powers.
 - The United States would join the Allied Powers and help fight until the war's end in 1918.
- The resulting war was called the **Great War** because it was meant to be "the war to end all wars", though it would later be called World War I.
- After the end of the war, leaders from involved countries met at Versailles Palace outside Paris to write a treaty.
 - The treaty explained what the winners would gain, what the losers would lose, and how punished Germany would be, since many blamed Germany for the war.

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Worldwide Depression

- The period after World War I saw economic growth, with Americans calling it the "Roaring Twenties".
- However, an economic **depression** (severe economic downturn) was coming, and by autumn of 1929, the United States experienced a stock market crash.
- Businesses found they could not sell their goods because consumers had less money to spend, so many businesses had to close, which meant workers lost their jobs.
- Many farmers who could not afford their loans anymore lost their farms.
- Panic caused a "run on the banks", where people tried to pull all their money out of the banks with little success.
- Businesses around the world who traded with the United States felt the effects of this economic downturn, eventually causing the worldwide **Great Depression**.

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Kristallnacht: An Example of Nazi Propaganda

- One way the Nazi Party in Germany was able to gain power was by using propaganda, which is when a group tries to convince others to believe their doctrine through the use of false or exaggerated statements.
- Adolf Hitler and the Nazis rose to power in Germany when there were food and job shortages and millions of men and women had been killed in World War I.
- Hitler began a campaign of teaching the German people they were the best people in the world, saying groups like Jews and Russian Bolsheviks were holding the country back.
- Violence against Jews grew with events and riots like Kristallnacht, or the "Night of Broken Glass".
- The Nazi government then blamed the Jewish people for starting the riots, which allowed them to push Jews out of government and business-owning.

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The Rise of Nazism

- With the loss of lands from the treaty and lives from the war, Germany was in distress after the war, with the addition of also having to pay back the Allies for damages.
- As the country fell into turmoil and citizens turned on the government, Adolf Hitler and his **Nazi Party** claimed they could fix the country's problems, blaming the Treaty of Versailles and money-controlling Jews.
- In 1933, Hitler became **chancellor** (head of government) of Germany and soon gained total control over the government.
 - He took away many civil liberties in exchange for economy-boosting projects.
- Hitler used a lot of **propaganda**, or exaggerated or false ideas and statements meant to convince an audience of something.

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The Holocaust and World War II

- Hitler soon began sending troops into former territories to regain them.
- His invasion of Poland in 1939 finally forced France and Great Britain to declare war on Germany, marking the start of World War II.
- Hitler's solution for the "Jewish problem" was the **Holocaust**, which was a systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews and other groups they considered inferior in the countries they controlled.
 - Romanis, disabled people, homosexuals, and those who opposed Hitler politically were all sent to concentration camps, where they were forced to do manual labor or were sent to gas chambers to be killed.

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The Holocaust and World War II (cont.)

- World War II waged on for 6 years, with the United States joining the Allies after being attacked by Japan, who were allied with the Germans.
- By 1945, the Allies were pushing the Germans back into their home territory, liberating concentration camps along the way.
- On May 7, 1945, the German armed forces surrendered completely to the Allies.

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End of World War II and the Cold War

- When World War II ended in Europe, much of Germany's buildings and populations were decimated, with the survivors dealing with massive food shortages.
- The Allies divided Germany into four zones controlled by the four main Allies in order to help it rebuild.
- The **Cold War** developed afterwards, in which the Soviet Union, who was an ally, began making aggressive actions with the threat of nuclear attack against the United States in the name of expanding communism.
- The line separating those siding with the Soviet Union and those siding with the United States was called the Iron Curtain.
- Countries formed new alliances to protect themselves, like the **North American Treaty Organization (NATO)** in 1949 between Western European countries and the United States and Canada, while the eastern countries signed the Warsaw Pact.

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Rise of the Superpowers

- As the Cold War continued, the United States' and Soviet Union's influence grew.
- Both countries influenced world events with their wide reach.
- Both countries also invested in military and spy programs, stockpiled nuclear weapons, and used their positions in organizations to assist their allies.

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The Collapse of the Soviet Union and German Reunification

- Luckily, this Cold War ended before it escalated into total war.
- The Soviets were facing economic and political problems in 1985.
- Shortly after 1989, the Soviet Union split into different countries, with the largest being Russia.

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Chapter 4: The Geography and History of Europe Quick Notes

The European Union

- During the Cold War, many European countries tried to live peacefully together.
- The European Coal and Steel Community, later called European Economic Community, was made to improve business and trade.
- The group worked to help create jobs in poorer parts of Europe and help protect the environment.
- In 1993, the group became the European Union (EU), with many perks for each country involved such as no trade barriers and passage into other countries without the need of a passport.
- The euro (€) is the currency used among those in the EU, making trade even simpler.
- The 21st Century has seen problems for the EU, such as terrorism after the 9/11 attacks in the United States, economic weakness of some members like Greece that draw on the group's wealth, and, more recently, the United Kingdom leaving the group, taking their economic boost along with them.

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