



Understanding the EU

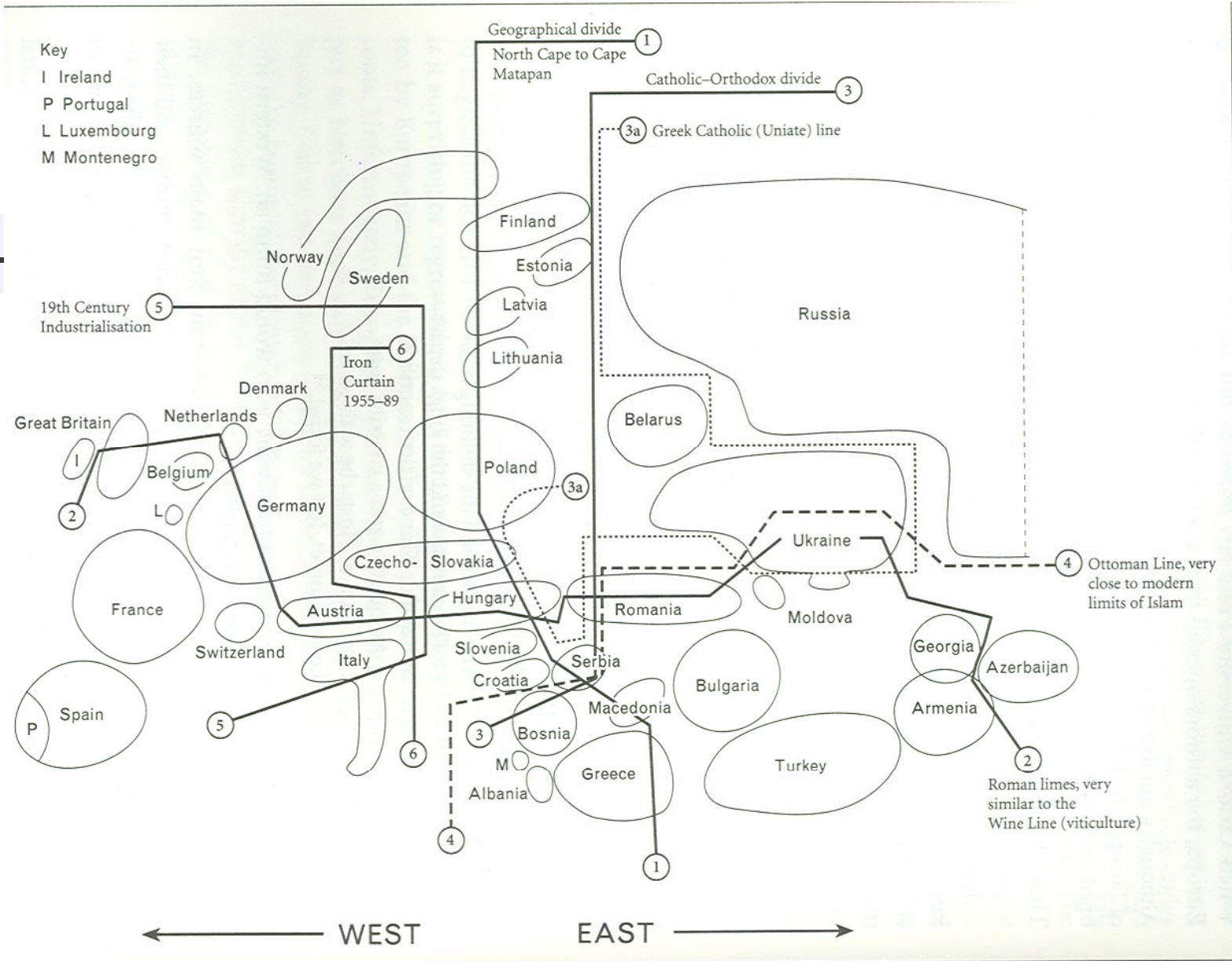
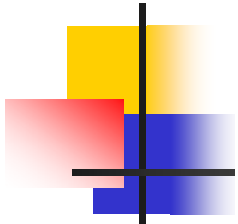
- I. What is Europe?
- II. What is the European Union?
 - A. States and Nations
 - B. International Organizations
 - C. Intergovernmentalism or
Supranationalism?
 - D. Federal or Confederal?

Europe 2008

Commonalities:

Geography
Economics
Culture
Politics





Divisions in Europe



UK OFFICE
OF THE
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PARLIAMENT

to find out more www.europarl.org.uk

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27 Member States

Joined in 1957

	Belgium 10.5 million 24 MEPs
	France 62.8 million 78 MEPs
	Germany 82.4 million 99 MEPs
	Italy 58.7 million 78 MEPs
	Luxembourg 0.4 million 6 MEPs
	Netherlands 16.3 million 27 MEPs

Joined in 1973

	Denmark 5.4 million 14 MEPs
	Ireland 4.2 million 13 MEPs
	United Kingdom 60.3 million 78 MEPs

Joined in 1981

	Greece 11.1 million 24 MEPs
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Joined in 1986

	Portugal 10.5 million 24 MEPs
	Spain 43.7 million 54 MEPs

Joined in 1995

	Austria 8.2 million 18 MEPs
	Finland 5.2 million 14 MEPs
	Sweden 9.0 million 19 MEPs



THE EUROPEAN UNION



Joined in 2004

	Cyprus 0.7 million 6 MEPs
	Czech Republic 10.2 million 24 MEPs
	Estonia 1.3 million 6 MEPs
	Hungary 10.0 million 24 MEPs
	Latvia 2.2 million 9 MEPs
	Lithuania 3.4 million 13 MEPs
	Malta 0.4 million 5 MEPs
	Poland 38.1 million 54 MEPs
	Slovak Republic 5.3 million 14 MEPs
	Slovenia 2.0 million 7 MEPs

Joined in 2007

	Bulgaria 7.7 million 18 MEPs
	Romania 21.6 million 35 MEPs

3 Candidate Countries

	Croatia 4.4 million
	FYR Macedonia 2.0 million
	Turkey 72.6 million

Scale 1 : 7 000 000 1 cm = 70.2 km
0 100 200 300 400 500
Lambert conformal equal area projection



II. What is the EU?

- **STATE:** A political actor with four traits
 - (1) territory
 - (2) population
 - (3) government
 - (4) sovereignty
- **Nation:** A group of people who feel a common bond because of shared history, language, culture, religion, ethnicity or race, etc.
- **Nationalism:** General sentiment or political ideology linking nation to state
- **Nation-State:** Idea that geographic area of state and nation should correspond.



International Organizations

- **Intergovernmental Organization (IGO):** a transnational organization to which STATES are members
- **International Nongovernmental Organization (INGO):** a transnational organization to which private individuals and/or groups are members
- **Regional Integration Organizations (RIO):** A more extensive form of cooperation in which states surrender or pool authority in certain areas in the hands of joint institutions.



Gradations of Integration

- **Free Trade Area:** eliminating the tariff and border restriction barriers to trade between the states within the region. (EX: NAFTA)
- **Customs Union:** Above **PLUS** a common external tariff (EX: EEC in 1968)
- **Single Market:** Above **PLUS** elimination of non-tariff barriers and barriers to capital and labor. (EX: EC in 1992)
- **Economic Union:** Above **PLUS** coordination on policies on interest rates, exchange rates, inflation and, ultimately, a single currency (EX: EU 12 in 2002)
- **Political Union:** Above **PLUS** common policies and institutions across other areas of governmental concern, i.e., foreign and security. (EX: NONE)



Intergovernmentalism or Supranationalism?

- **Intergovernmentalism:** Idea that the key decisions of the EU are still made as a result of negotiations among the leaders of national governments.
- **Supranationalism:** Idea that autonomous governing bodies have the power and authority to make decisions above the level of member states, and in the interests of the EU as a whole.



Federalism or Confederalism?

- **Federalism:** One in which national and local governments coexist with a system of shared and independent powers
(EX: US, Germany, Canada)
- **Confederalism:** a system in which states pool limited amounts of authority in a common national government
(EX: US under Articles of Confederation, 1776-1787)