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
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)