Modern European History

Connecting to Your World

How would you feel if you learned that what you knew about the world was wrong? Today, students aren’t likely to disagree when a teacher describes how planets revolve around the sun. In the 1600s, when the Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei observed the sky through his telescope, he was looking for proof of this theory. Some things that seem obvious to us now weren’t accepted as fact until a few hundred years ago. In this section, you will learn how new ideas changed Europeans’ views of the world.

New Ideas Produce Change

KEY QUESTION How did Enlightenment ideas affect the struggle for independence in many European countries?

In the 1500s and 1600s, scientists such as Galileo examined accepted scientific ideas using reason and careful observation. Knowledge grew rapidly in astronomy, anatomy, and other fields. These discoveries were part of the Scientific Revolution, which caused scientists to re-examine old theories.

In the 1600s, European philosophers began to question traditional beliefs and accepted ideas. They argued that reason could be used to study both human behavior and the natural world. Because of the influence of these ideas, this era is known as the Enlightenment, or the Age of Reason.

Telescope Galileo built his first telescope in 1609.

Accademia del Cimento This scientific academy was founded by students of Galileo in 1657.
**Enlightenment and Revolution** The Enlightenment thinker John Locke argued that people had the rights to life, liberty, and property. The government’s job was to protect these rights. When it failed to do so, people had the right to rebel. In 1789, Enlightenment ideas inspired French citizens to challenge the monarchy and the privileges of the wealthiest classes. Their protests led to the **French Revolution**. Radical revolutionary leaders took control of the government. They beheaded the king and abolished the monarchy.

**Napoleon Seizes Power** During the French Revolution, Napoleon Bonaparte distinguished himself as a brilliant leader of the French army. In 1799, Napoleon seized control of France. His goal was to create and rule a great empire. His army rapidly conquered most of Europe.

However, his hopes of a long-lasting empire ended after a poorly planned attack on Russia killed many of his soldiers. In 1815, Napoleon faced his final defeat against allied European troops at the Battle of Waterloo.

**Nationalism Sweeps Europe** The French Revolution helped spread **nationalism**, pride and loyalty to one’s nation. Many Europeans began to see themselves as citizens of a nation, not subjects of a king. Alarmed by the French Revolution, Europe’s leaders sought to stop the spread of democracy. They put kings back on their thrones, but ideas of democracy and nationalism were too powerful to fade quickly. Many European countries revolted against their rulers. By the 1870s, the smaller states that made up Italy and Germany had become unified nations. Much of western Europe had achieved self-government, inspired by the spirit of nationalism.

**SUMMARIZE** Explain how Enlightenment ideals contributed to European revolutions.
Europe’s Expanding Power

**KEY QUESTION** How did the Industrial Revolution change Europe?

In the 1700s, new methods of making goods started a peaceful revolution. Industrialization led European nations to build empires.

**Industrial Revolution** Many of the inventions of the Scientific Revolution changed the way Europeans worked. New machines produced goods more quickly with fewer workers. The change became known as the **Industrial Revolution**. Factories were built near rivers, so that they could be powered by water. By the 1760s, steam powered the machines, and factories appeared in cities. People moved to cities from the countryside, in search of work. The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain and spread to other European countries.

**Imperialism** The newly industrial nations of Europe needed raw materials and new markets for their products. Major European nations looked to Asia and Africa for valuable natural resources. Many nations made **imperialism** their foreign policy, seeking to control smaller, weaker countries politically and economically. European nations claimed overseas colonies without considering how their policies might affect the lives of the people living in these places.

**UNDERSTAND EFFECTS** Explain how the Industrial Revolution changed Europe.

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**European Colonial Possessions c. 1900**

**CONNECT Geography & History**

1. **Region** Where did Portugal have colonies?
2. **Movement** How many continents had British colonies?
Europe in Conflict  During the 20th century, tensions between European nations led to two devastating wars, World War I (1914–1918) and World War II (1939–1945). These wars left much of Europe in ruins.

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<tr>
<th>WORLD WAR I</th>
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<tr>
<td>1914–1918</td>
<td>1939–1945</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Why</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A rise in nationalism, imperialism, and military buildup increases tensions.</td>
<td>A global economic depression worsens conditions in Europe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>European nations form mutual protection alliances.</td>
<td>Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi Party, at right, gains control of Germany in 1933 and promises to expand German territory.</td>
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<td>The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, shown at left, forces allied nations into war.</td>
<td>Under Hitler’s leadership, Germany invades Poland in 1939.</td>
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<th><strong>Central Powers vs. Allies</strong></th>
<th><strong>Axis Powers vs. Allies</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey</td>
<td>Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, and Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allies: Russia, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States (in 1917)</td>
<td>Allies: The United Kingdom, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States (in 1941)</td>
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<th><strong>How</strong></th>
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<td>Machine guns make it difficult for forces to advance.</td>
<td>The German strategy of blitzkrieg uses fast-moving tanks and airplanes followed by ground troops to overwhelm enemies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soldiers on both sides fight from defensive trenches.</td>
<td>Airplanes like this one allow the war to be fought over great distances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trench warfare leads to development of new weapons, including poison gas and tanks, shown at left.</td>
<td>Nazi labor and death camps carry out the Holocaust, the mass murder of Jews and others.</td>
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<th><strong>Outcomes</strong></th>
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<td>About 8.5 million soldiers and 13 million civilians die.</td>
<td>Historians estimate total deaths between 35 and 60 million. The Holocaust claims the lives of 6 million Jews. (right: concentration camp survivors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting the war costs Europe over $330 billion and causes mass physical destruction, as seen in France at left.</td>
<td>The war costs over $1 trillion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The peace treaty blames and punishes Germany for the war, causing German resentment.</td>
<td>Two superpowers emerge after the war, the United States and the Soviet Union, leading to the Cold War.</td>
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**CRITICAL THINKING**

**Sequence Events**  What led to the start of Europe’s two world wars?
Uniting After War

**KEY QUESTION** How did the two world wars encourage European nations to work together?

After World War II, Europe was devastated. European nations had been at war with each other for several years. Two goals emerged in the war’s aftermath: to rebuild Europe’s shattered nations and their economies and to work together to prevent future wars.

**Creating a European Union** In 1952, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany formed the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). Its six members agreed to combine their iron, steel, and coal industries. Their success with these commodities led them to drop trade barriers on others.

In 1967, they created the European Community (EC). Members worked to find ways to move goods, workers, and money more easily across their borders. Trade increased, and more countries wanted to join. In 1973, the EC began to admit other nations, paving the way for the European Union.

By 1992, 12 Western European nations belonged to the EC. That year, all of them signed the Maastricht (MAH-strik) Treaty. The treaty formed the European Union (EU), an organization of European nations whose members cooperate on economic, social, and political issues. By 2004, the EU had expanded to include Eastern European nations, bringing the total number of members to 25 countries. Candidate nations continue to apply.

**How Does the EU Work?** The goal of the European Union is to bring the people and countries of Europe closer together. Citizens of EU nations have European citizenship. They can travel freely throughout the EU. They can live and work anywhere in the union. They can vote in elections in the country they live in, even if they are citizens elsewhere.

The European Union member nations also work together on political and social matters such as immigration, law enforcement, and the environment. For instance, the EU sponsors many of Europe’s efforts toward finding cleaner, sustainable sources of energy, which you read about earlier in the chapter. The EU also tries to protect the diverse cultures and traditions of its member nations. It funds cultural programs, including education in the languages of other EU nations.
Economic Unity

One major area of EU cooperation is its economic policy. The EU is a single market, which means that its members can trade goods freely, without paying taxes on those goods. Many EU members also use the same currency, called the euro. In 1999, 11 EU nations adopted the euro. This decision made it easier for members to trade with each other.

As a single economic unit, the EU is powerful, more than any member nation on its own. However, the EU is weak in other ways. The countries that belong to the union remain independent. The EU does not yet have a constitution. Its leaders make decisions but have little authority to enforce them. So far, the member nations have cooperated on most issues, and the EU has been successful. However, keeping such a large organization unified could be challenging, especially as new countries join.

**SUMMARIZE** Explain how two wars encouraged European nations to work together.

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**TERMS & NAMES**

1. Explain the importance of
   - Enlightenment
   - nationalism
   - imperialism
   - European Union

2. Sequence Events Use your completed time line to answer the following question:
   Which event occurred between the Scientific Revolution and the French Revolution?

**USE YOUR READING NOTES**

**KEY IDEAS**

3. How did Enlightenment ideas influence the French Revolution?

4. How did the Industrial Revolution affect imperialism?

5. What steps did the EU and its predecessors take to bring the nations of Europe closer together?

**CRITICAL THINKING**

6. Analyze Cause and Effect How did the Industrial Revolution change where people lived?

7. Compare and Contrast In what ways were World War I and World War II similar?

8. CONNECT to Today Why might Eastern European nations want to join the European Union?

9. WRITING Write a Speech Imagine that you have been asked to speak to EU members about why you think the nations of Europe should or should not form a "United States of Europe." Write a brief speech expressing your opinion.
CHAPTER SUMMARY

Key Idea 1
Europe has diverse landforms ranging from mountains to plains. Its climate is influenced by its nearness to the ocean.

Key Idea 2
The achievements of the ancient Greeks and Romans continue to influence our modern world.

Key Idea 3
Feudalism provided stability after the fall of the Roman Empire. The Renaissance marked a rebirth of creativity.

Key Idea 4
Revolutions in science, politics, and industry transformed Europe. After two world wars, European nations found new ways to cooperate.

NAME GAME

Use the Terms & Names list to complete each sentence on paper or online.

1. I am Europe’s tallest mountain range. __Alps__
2. I am the vast area of flat or gently rolling land from France to Russia. __Plain__
3. I make the climate in much of Europe warmer than it would be otherwise. __Atlantic Drift__
4. I am the form of government that originated in the Greek city-state of Athens. __Monarchy__
5. I am the form of government that Rome had before it became an empire. __Republic__
6. I am the medieval political system that gave nobles, peasants, and serfs protection in exchange for service. __Feudalism__
7. I am a time of rebirth in creativity and the arts in Europe. __Renaissance__
8. I am the religious protest and reform movement that split the Church in the 1500s. __Reformation__
9. I am a time of great interest in using reason to understand and improve society. __Enlightenment__
10. I am an organization made up of European nations that works together to solve common problems. __European Union__

Activities

GeoGame

Use this online map to reinforce your understanding of Europe’s physical geography. Drag and drop each place name in the list to its location on the map.

Crossword Puzzle

Complete an online crossword puzzle to test your knowledge of Europe’s geography and history.

ACROSS
1. vassal trained in combat who fought on behalf of lords
VOCABULARY

Explain the significance of each of the following.
1. fossil fuels
2. republic
3. manor
4. Renaissance
5. Holocaust
6. European Union

Choose the best answer from each pair.
7. This influences Europe's mild climate. (Northern European Plain/North Atlantic Drift)
8. This group of people could hold government office in ancient Rome. (patrician/plebeian)
9. This group of people pledged service to wealthy landowners in exchange for land under the feudal structure. (lords/vassals)
10. This is a feeling of pride for and loyalty to one's nation. (nationalism/imperialism)

KEY IDEAS

1. Europe's Dramatic Landscape
   11. How does the North Atlantic Drift affect the climate of Europe?
   12. How do Europe's waterways affect its economy?
   13. Why is the Northern European Plain a valuable resource?

2. Classical Greece and Rome
   14. Why is Athens considered the birthplace of modern democracy?
   15. What did the Romans give conquered peoples?

3. The Middle Ages and Renaissance
   16. How did feudalism benefit lords?
   17. What contributed to the growth of towns before the Renaissance?
   18. Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?

4. Modern European History
   19. How did the Industrial Revolution change the way goods were made?
   20. Why were many European leaders upset by the French Revolution?

CRITICAL THINKING

21. Form and Support Opinions Create a graphic organizer like the one below. Include three factors that influence the mild climate of Europe.

22. Connect Geography & History What effect have Europe's peninsulas had on its development?

23. Five Themes: Place How did Athens and Sparta differ in their views of citizens?

24. Connect Geography & Culture How did feudalism affect trade and daily life in medieval Europe?

25. Analyze Causes and Effects How are the Renaissance and the Reformation related to each other?

26. Make Inferences How did the World War I peace agreement contribute to the start of World War II?

Answer the ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What changes have taken place in Europe since ancient times?

Written Response Write a two- or three-paragraph response to the Essential Question. Consider the key ideas of each section as well as specific ideas about how Europe has changed. Use the rubric below to guide you.

Response Rubric
A strong response will:
- identify elements of ancient society and politics
- discuss three major historical events that occurred after the fall of the Roman Empire
- explain how each of those events changed European society and politics
PHYSICAL MAP
Use the map to provide short answers to questions 1 and 2 on your paper.

1. Which of the peninsulas is located farthest north?
2. Which of the peninsulas has a coastline on the Black Sea?

PRIMARY SOURCE
The following excerpt is from Pericles's "Funeral Oration." Use context clues within the quotation to answer questions 3 and 4 on your paper.

Our constitution is named a democracy, because it is in the hands not of the few but of the many. But our laws secure equal justice for all in their private disputes, and our public opinion welcomes and honors talent in every branch of achievement, not as a matter of privilege but on grounds of excellence alone.

Source: Thucydides, from The Peloponnesian War

3. According to Pericles, what made Athens a democracy?
   A. It had laws that protect only the elite.
   B. It granted privileges to the rich.
   C. It was governed by a small group of leaders.
   D. It was governed by the many.

4. Whom did the laws of Athens protect?
   A. everyone
   B. government officials
   C. privileged citizens
   D. peasants

GeoActivity
1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY-HISTORY
   With a small group, learn more about the events of the French Revolution. Create a political cartoon about one of these events such as the rioting by the poor, or Napoleon's takeover of government. Your cartoon should show a clear point of view.

2. WRITING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES
   Reread the part of Section 4 on the growth of nationalism in Western Europe. Imagine that you live in a European monarchy in the mid-1800s. Write a letter to a friend telling why you believe in independence for your country.

3. MENTAL MAPPING
   Create an outline map of France and label the following:
   - Rhone River
   - Pyrenees
   - Massif Central
   - Seine River
   - English Channel
   - Atlantic Ocean