



CHAPTER

12

Western Europe

1

FOCUS ON

Greece and Italy

2

FOCUS ON

Spain and Portugal

3

FOCUS ON

France and the Benelux Countries

4

FOCUS ON

Germany and the Alpine Countries

5

FOCUS ON

The Nordic Countries



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What geographic and cultural characteristics define the subregions of Western Europe?

CONNECT

Geography & History



Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. How many Western European nations have territory that extends east of 20° E longitude?
2. What country is Berlin the capital of, and when did the city reunite?



476

History

▲ **476** Beginning of the Byzantine Empire (Empress Theodora)

Geography

1418 Prince Henry of Portugal begins sponsoring expeditions of exploration.

Culture

1880 Bastille Day is set aside as a French national holiday. ▶



Present-Day Western Europe

 Click here to explore Western Europe @ClassZone.com



Geography

1989 Berlin reunites after the opening of the Berlin Wall. ▶



Government

1920 The Nazi Party forms in Germany.

Government

2006 Finland's first female president, Tarja Halonen, is elected to a second term. ▶



Today

SECTION
1

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Ancient Greece began as many independent city-states with different ways of life. Ancient Rome began as a republic and expanded into a vast empire.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

For many centuries, Greece and Italy were collections of small states. Fueled by nationalism, each struggled to gain independence and unite as a nation.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Byzantine Empire the eastern half of the Roman Empire that survived for a thousand years after the fall of Rome

fascism (FASH•HZ•uhm) a political philosophy that promotes blind loyalty to the state and a strong central government controlled by a powerful dictator

Romance language any of the languages that developed from the Roman language, Latin, such as Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, and Romanian

Vatican the official residence of the pope in Vatican City, and the political and religious center of the Roman Catholic Church

coalition an alliance or partnership, often a temporary one

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

compulsory required

REVIEW

nationalism pride in and loyalty to one's nation

European Union (EU) an organization of European nations whose members cooperate on economic, social, and political issues

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to help you summarize what you learn about Greece and Italy.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R5

SUMMARIZE

	GREECE	ITALY
History		
Language		
Government		
Economy		



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com

Greece and Italy

Connecting to Your World

It's not surprising that Greece and Italy are popular tourist destinations. Stretching across southern peninsulas in the Mediterranean Sea, both countries have mild climates and warm, sunny weather much of the year. In both places, visitors can see the magnificent treasures of the distant past. While both countries were once part of the Roman Empire, after it divided, these nations developed different cultures. In the 1800s, both Greece and Italy fought for independence and tried to preserve their ancient heritage as they became modern nations.

Greece

KEY QUESTION How has Greece's government changed since the Byzantine Empire?

As you learned in Chapter 11, ancient Greece began as a series of independent city-states. Eventually, it became part of the Roman Empire. When the Roman Empire divided, Greece was in the eastern half, called the **Byzantine Empire**. Most of the Byzantine Empire's inhabitants spoke Greek, not Latin, and followed the eastern traditions of Christianity. By 1453, the Byzantines had been conquered by the Islamic Ottoman Turks. Before declaring their independence in 1829, Greeks had lived under foreign rule for over 2,000 years.



Greek Pottery

Tourists come to Greece to see artifacts like this fifth century B.C. pot.

Byzantine Ruins in Greece



History When the Byzantine Empire fell, Greece became part of the Ottoman Empire for approximately 400 years. By the late 1700s, desire for independence was growing. **Nationalism** increased as more Greeks learned about their past. Interest and pride in Greece's history as a center of culture and democracy grew.

In 1829, after a long struggle, Greece broke free from Ottoman rule. Its leaders made the nation a monarchy. Then, in 1967, Greek military officers seized control of the government. When the military government collapsed, voters decided not to return to a monarchy. Since 1975, Greece has been a parliamentary democracy.


Culture Most Greeks share the same ethnic background, language, and religion. They speak Greek and belong to the Greek Orthodox Church, a form of Christianity. Every major town has a patron saint, and townspeople celebrate their saint with an annual festival. Easter is also an important religious holiday in Greece.

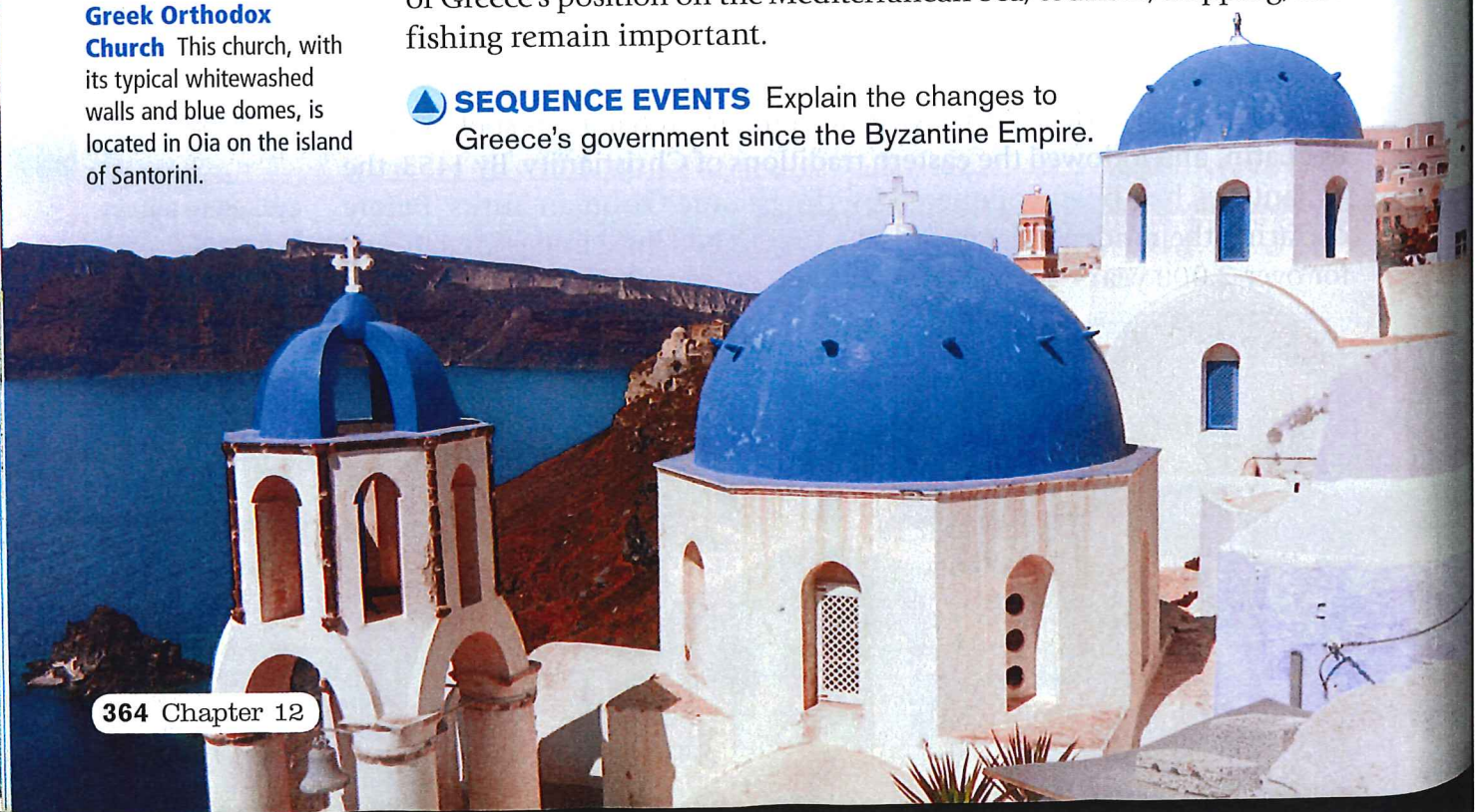
About two-thirds of Greeks live in cities. Many live in Athens, Greece's capital. Cities have both older sections with narrow streets and newer areas with high-rise apartments and shopping centers. Many cities have a coffee house, or *kafeneio*, where friends meet.

Government and Economics Greece is a parliamentary democracy. The president's job is mostly ceremonial. The country is governed by the prime minister, the cabinet, and the parliament. Voting in Greece is **compulsory**, or required. Failing to vote is against the law.

Greece has fewer high-tech industries and service jobs than many countries in Western Europe. Although it is a member of the **European Union (EU)**, its economy lags behind other nations. Agriculture makes up a greater percentage of its economy than wealthier nations. Because of Greece's position on the Mediterranean Sea, tourism, shipping, and fishing remain important.

Greek Orthodox Church This church, with its typical whitewashed walls and blue domes, is located in Oia on the island of Santorini.

 **SEQUENCE EVENTS** Explain the changes to Greece's government since the Byzantine Empire.



COMPARING Western European Economies

The percentage of a nation's labor force employed in agriculture is a good indication of that country's economic development. Take a look at how Greece compares to these other Western European countries.

	GDP (Per Capita*)	Agriculture	Industry	Services
		(Percentage Employed in Selected Sectors)		
Denmark	\$34,600	3	21	76
France	\$29,900	4	24	72
Spain	\$25,500	5	30	65
Greece	\$22,200	12	20	68
Portugal	\$19,300	10	30	60

*GDP: Gross Domestic Product
Source: CIA World Factbook, 2006

CRITICAL THINKING

Compare and Contrast How do Greece's GDP per capita and agricultural employment compare to the other countries listed in the chart?



Italy

KEY QUESTION What changes has Italian society experienced in recent years?

After the Western Roman Empire fell in the late 400s, the Italian peninsula split into many small kingdoms and city-states. Sometimes they were independent. At other times, France, Austria, and Spain ruled over them.

History In 1796, France conquered much of the Italian Peninsula. French rule led to new laws, better roads, and a common currency. Italians saw the benefits of unity and began to work toward independence. In 1861, Italian patriots such as Giuseppe Garibaldi and Camillo Cavour succeeded in unifying Italy.

In the early 1920s, Benito Mussolini took control of the Italian government. He promoted **fascism** (FASH•IHZ•uhm), a political system based on fierce nationalism and a strong central government led by a dictator. Mussolini gained support by promising a return to a powerful Roman Empire. During World War II, Italy fought with Germany against the Allies. After Italian forces suffered major defeats, Mussolini was forced out and killed as he tried to escape Italy. In 1946, Italians replaced the monarchy with democracy.

Benito Mussolini

Fascist dictator Mussolini took control of Italy in the early 1920s.



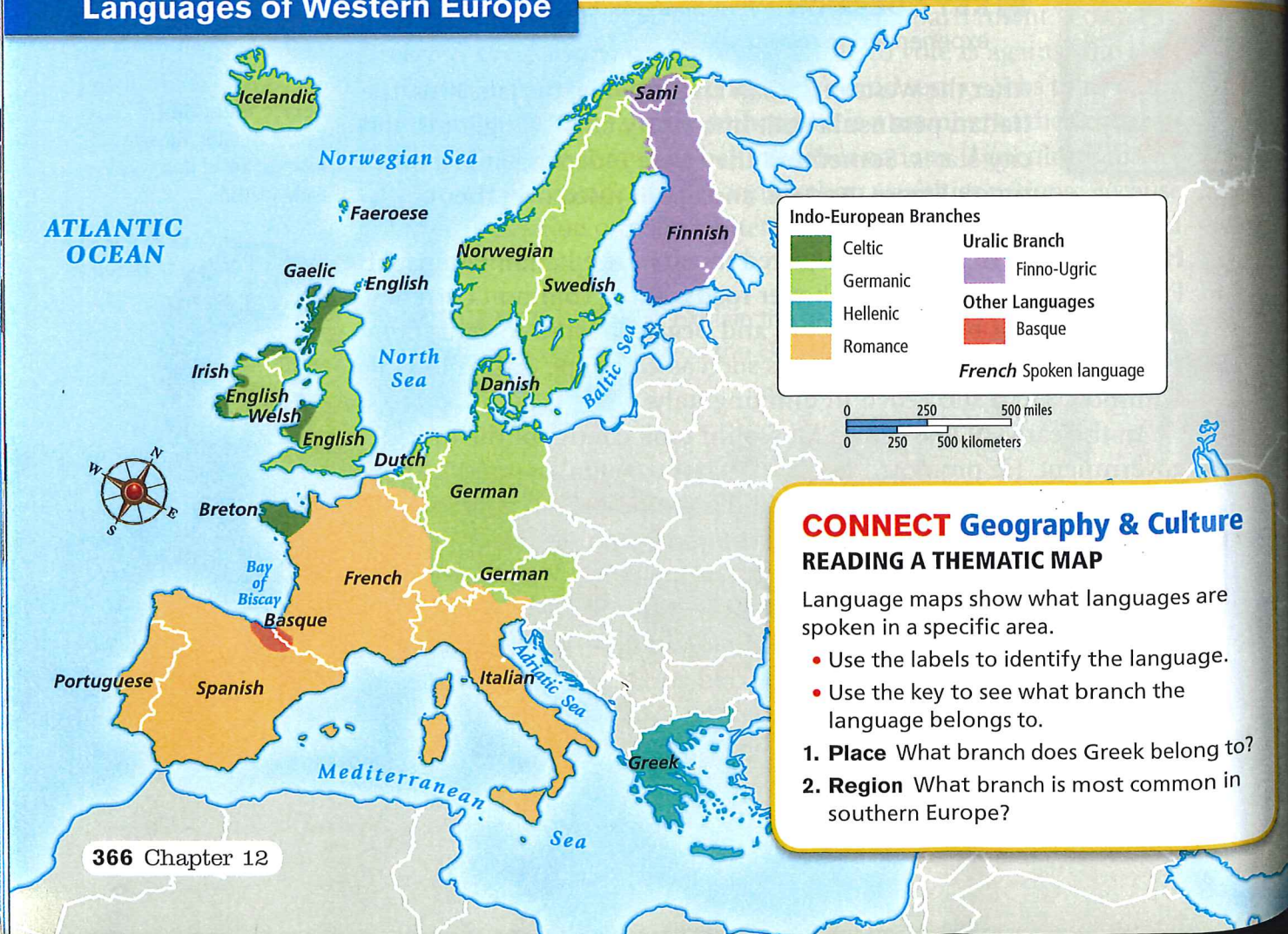
Culture Like Greece, modern Italy has been influenced by traditions. The official language is Italian, a Romance language. **Romance languages** come from Latin and are spoken in places that used to be part of the Roman Empire. Take a look at the map below to see where other Romance languages are spoken.

Most Italians are Roman Catholics. For many centuries, Catholic Church leaders and the Italian government were closely allied. The political and religious center of the Church, the **Vatican**, is located in Italy. Although it lies within the city of Rome, it is an independent country, the smallest such country in the world.

In recent years, Italy has become more diverse as immigrants have come from nearby Morocco and Tunisia in North Africa and Albania on the Balkan Peninsula. Much of Italy has changed from a rural, agricultural nation to a modern, urban society. However, life differs between northern and southern Italy. Northern Italy is richer, with more people employed in manufacturing than in the south, where more people work in agriculture.

Italian food changes depending on the region of the country, from pasta with tomato sauce in the south to a dish made of rice called *risotto* in the north. Sports are also important to Italian culture. Many Italians enjoy watching race car driving, cycling, and soccer.

Languages of Western Europe



CONNECT Geography & Culture READING A THEMATIC MAP

Language maps show what languages are spoken in a specific area.

- Use the labels to identify the language.
- Use the key to see what branch the language belongs to.

- Place** What branch does Greek belong to?
- Region** What branch is most common in southern Europe?

Government and Economics Italy is a parliamentary democracy. Voters elect three-fourths of parliament members. The rest are assigned by a complex system designed to make sure each of Italy's many political parties is represented in the government. A prime minister heads the government. Usually this leader comes from the party that wins the most votes in the election. Because Italy has so many parties, leaders often have to form coalition governments. A **coalition** is an alliance or partnership, which is often temporary. Members of several parties agree to work together. If parties withdraw from a coalition, leaders have to form a new one. As a result, Italy has had many changes in government.

Once a mainly agricultural country, Italy is now a prosperous industrial nation. Only five percent of the population has a farm-related job. European Union membership has helped Italy grow, opening new markets for its products, which include fashionable clothing, shoes, and cars. Milan, in northern Italy, is world-famous for its fashion shows. However, economic growth for the country has been uneven. The north has many of Italy's factories, while the south remains largely farmland. Italy continues to look for ways to bring greater prosperity to the southern region.



Runway Model
A model walks the runway at a Milan fashion show.

SUMMARIZE Describe the changes that Italian society has experienced in recent years.

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to
Interactive Review
@ ClassZone.com

Section 1 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- Byzantine Empire
- fascism
- Vatican
- coalition

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Summarize

Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

How is Greece's economy different from Italy's economy?

	GREECE	ITALY
History		
Language		
Government		
Economy		

KEY IDEAS

3. In what ways did Greek culture develop differently from Italian culture after the division of the Roman Empire?
4. Why are so many Italians members of the Catholic Church?
5. How has Italy's economy changed over time?

CRITICAL THINKING

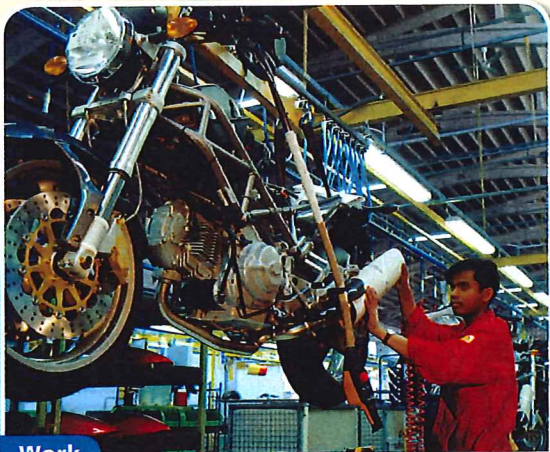
6. **Analyze Cause and Effect** How did the Byzantine Empire influence Greek culture?
7. **Make Inferences** What are the disadvantages for Italy of having had so many coalition governments?
8. **CONNECT to Today** Why would it be an advantage for Italy to make sure that southern Italy is as prosperous as northern Italy?
9. **MATH** **Create a Bar Graph** Look at the chart on Western European economies in this section. Create a bar graph showing the percentage of workers employed in agriculture in each country.

COMPARING Regions of Italy

Italy can be roughly divided into three regions: northern, central, and southern. While northern and southern Italy share aspects of Italian culture, they are also different.

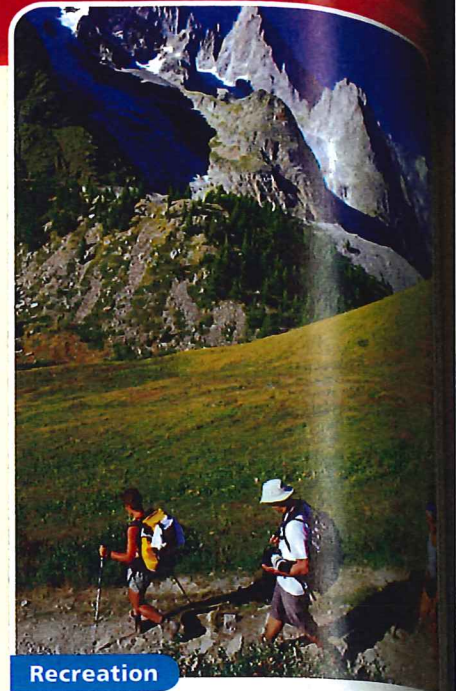
Northern Italy

The craggy Alps of northern Italy are dotted with villages, such as St. Magdalena, shown below. Tourists often come to hike or ski in the mountains. The northern region is also highly industrialized, however, with major metropolitan areas such as Milan and Turin. Many of Italy's cities with populations of 100,000 or greater are in the north.



Work

Northern Italy has more factories than farms defining the region's major cities. Workers at this factory in Bologna manufacture Ducati motorcycles.



Recreation

Like these hikers, many people enjoy the rugged trails winding through the Italian Alps.



Recreation

Sunbathers lounge on the beach in Sorrento, enjoying its warm Mediterranean climate.

Southern Italy

Southern Italy also has mountains, but it benefits more from the coastline along the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas than does northern Italy. Many of the tourists visiting southern Italy come to relax on sandy beaches in towns such as Minori, shown below.

The south is also much less industrialized than the north. Southern Italy has fewer big cities and more people are employed in agriculture, such as growing and harvesting grapes and olives.



Work

These men are gathering olives to make olive oil in an orchard in Bisceglie. It is located in the southern region of Puglia, where the arid climate is particularly suited to growing olives.

CRITICAL THINKING

- 1. Compare and Contrast** What geographic features are characteristic of each region?
- 2. Make Inferences** Which region do you think is wealthier and why?