Europe

After WWII
Europe after WWII

• Must knows for the unit Europe after WWII
• Truman doctrine
• Marshall Plan
• Cold War
• NATO
• European Union
Europe after WWII

• Germany defeated-rebuild or punish?
• Victory declared in Europe (V-Day) May 8, ‘45
• Only thirty years had passed between the start of the First World War and the end of the Second World War. Both wars were triggered by conflicts between European states and had plunged the nations of the world into war.
Europe after WWII

• WW II brutal and bloody!
• 60 million soldiers and civilians killed
• First war that claimed the lives of more civilians than soldiers
• First systematic genocide in modern history with the Holocaust (Jews, Poles, undesireables)
• In addition, many cities, towns and villages across Europe were completely destroyed by aerial bombing and heavy artillery
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• “Never Again”
• Europeans commit to this ideal
• **But how** could peace in Europe be guaranteed?
• Responsibility for the wars lay with nationalism in Europe.
• The great powers in Europe, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Russia competed fiercely with each other even in peacetime for economic and military dominance.
• For many the answer became clear: Europe must be integrated.
Europe after WWII

source: CarletonUniversity http://www1.carleton.ca/ces/eulearning/eu-learning/history/europe-after-wwii

• Big Question: **Why did European states, after centuries of conflict decide to start a process of integration?**

• **First off, what’s integration?** (define and use in a sentence)

• Integration: an act or process of combining into a whole. In this case the emphasis was on European integration.
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• So...after centuries of conflict European states decided to start the process of integration.

• **Instead of competition** between European states, there was a need for **cooperation**!
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- Challenges to European integration?
- Rebuild war devastated region
- Modernize industry
- Make Europe prosperous again
- Deal with Soviet Union and its Satellite communist states
- The “Cold War” begins
Europe after WWII

• Marshall Plan: A European Recovery Program
• U.S. Secretary of State, George C. Marshall, created plan, called for American assistance in restoring the economic infrastructure of Europe.
• U.S. provided economic aid of $13 billion
• Gave monetary support to help rebuild European economies after WWII
• Result? Restored European agricultural & industrial productivity!
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• U.S. offered the aid package to all, including the Soviet Union and its allies, but they did not accept.
• Marshall Plan helped Western European nations with rapid economic growth!
• 1948-52 fastest industrial growth in European history (35%) plan helped free world build stable democracies.

Video: Europe in Ruins and the Marshall Plan

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUt7Lr3lubc&feature=related
After WWII...Europe Divided again?

- Once Germany was defeated, a fault-line was created that split the European continent in half.
- In the East was the Soviet sphere of influence, comprising states such as Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany,
- Western Europe was in the American sphere of influence.
“Iron Curtain”

• Shortly after the war, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave a speech
• Outlining the conflicts between liberal democracies and authoritarian communists

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2PUlQpAECQ
After WWII, Germany was divided. The Allies divided Germany into four zones: British, French, American, and Soviet Union. Germany’s capital city of Berlin (which was inside the Soviet zone) was also divided into four sectors.
Two Germanys

- **West Germany**
  - Established in 1949
  - Federal Republic of Germany
  - New nation with democratic government
  - Multi-party system
  - Western Allies: Rebuilding Germany necessary for recovery of Europe’s economy

- **East Germany**
  - Est. five months after WG
  - German Democratic Republic is proclaimed within the Soviet zone.
  - Stalin feared a rebirth of Nazism, and unified Germany would invade Soviet Union.
  - Dictatorship gov’t led by German communists
Berlin Crisis

• 1948: Stalin set up blockade to prevent western Allies from uniting the city
• Crisis: U.S. sends planes with food and fuel into West Berlin
• Crisis ends 11 months later, Soviet lift blockade

Video: Berlin Blockade
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZidBq8QS-g&feature=related
Berlin Wall (1961-1989)

- In 1961, East Germans begin to flee to freedom in West Berlin.
- East German government to stop them builds a huge concrete wall to SEAL off East Berlin.
- The Berlin Wall was a symbol of divided Germany and the difference between Democracy and Communism.
Truman Doctrine (1947)

• US foreign policy, designed by President Truman

• Purpose: Provide economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey because they were threatened by communism.

• U.S. sent $400 million, to the region

• Both countries joined NATO, a military alliance that guaranteed their protection

• Truman Doctrine shifted American foreign policy toward the Soviet Union from détente (a relaxation of tension) to a policy of containment (prevent the spread of Soviet expansion).
Cold War

• A relationship between two people or groups that is unfriendly or hostile but does not involve actual fighting or military combat

• The Cold War between the US and USSR was an ideological difference between the two superpowers. The difference being HOW TO GOVERN. US=democracy USSR=communism

• Video: Youtube: The Cold War Part1: From World War to Cold War
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpYCplyBknI
NATO

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- United States, Canada, eight Western nations, Turkey and Greece form NATO in 1949
- Purpose: Protect one another from Communist attack
- Soviet Response? Soviet Union and its Satellite nations formed the Warsaw Pact in 1955 to defend themselves from invasion
Coming Together

• 1951 France, West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Italy form European Coal and Steel Community.
• Pooled resources and abolish tariffs=$$$
• Tariff: a duty (fee) collected by a government on imported or exported goods
• 1957, members set up the European Economic Community EEC
• Goal? Reduce trade barriers, abolish tariffs
European Union

- In 1993 the EEC changed to the European Union
- The EU has delivered half a century of peace, stability, and prosperity, helped raise living standards, and launched a single European currency.
- Why? Eliminated boarder controls between EU countries, people can travel freely throughout most of the continent. And it's also become much easier to live and work abroad in Europe.
Review Big Ideas

• Marshall Plan: provided economic support to rebuild Europe ($13 billion in aid)
• Truman Doctrine: US foreign policy aimed at containment (pledge to stop Soviet expansion)
• Cold War: ideological conflict between US & USSR
• NATO: members protection vs. communism
• European Union: no barriers between nations means economic success for all. Cooperation!