EUROPE – Part 2

Regions
Europe's Regional Complexity

- Dynamic European map
  - New national names and territories reveal less stability in country borders.
  - Europe's microstates are tiny entities that do not have all the attributes of "complete" states.
- Long and tumultuous history
  - Culture and politics result from deeply rooted historical processes conditioned by geography.

Europe's Regional Complexity

Traditional Formal Regions, Modern Spatial Network

- More dominant core-periphery framework
  - Defined by relationship to the EU
- Today's core area
  - Legacy of the original Common Market of 1957
  - Does not correspond to national boundaries

Population Living in Urban Areas

Population of Urban Areas

Legend:
- Urban areas with a negative growth rate
- Urban areas with a population greater than 1 million
- Urban areas with a moderate population growth
The Mainland Core

- Eight states:
  - Germany
  - France
  - Benelux countries:
    - Belgium
    - Netherlands
    - Luxembourg
  - Switzerland
  - Austria
  - Czech Republic
The Mainland Core: Germany

- Legacy of war
  - Division: West and East
    - Two different economic and political systems
  - Reunification
    - Regional disparities
    - West subsidizing East
- Immigrant minorities
  - Culturally distinct
  - Economically worse off
- Europe’s “German question”
The Mainland Core: France

- France and Germany rivalry:
  - France is politically older.
  - France is territorially larger.
  - France’s urban network is defined by centrality.

- Paris a primate city:
  - Paris is disproportionately larger than all other cities in an urban system.

- Site: the physical attributes of the area occupied
- Situation: location relative to surrounding areas
Among the Realm's Great Cities: Paris

- Unparalleled heritage, cultural, and global influence:
  - Embody French culture and tradition.
  - Parisian atmosphere was exported throughout the global French empire.
- Old and New Paris:
  - Old Paris is well-maintained.
  - New Paris rings Old with contrasts of rich and poor.
The Mainland Core: France

- Early development of a highly centralized state.
- Today, France is decentralizing:
  - Régions added to départements.
  - Accommodates devolutionary pressures.
  - Creates opportunity for regional and local growth.
The Mainland Core: France

- Highly productive and diversified economy:
  - Hinged on cultural products and agricultural subsidies
- New industries:
  - High-tech transportation and communications
  - World leader in nuclear power
- Demography: rapidly aging population creating problems:
  - Growth through immigration facing difficult integration of culturally different immigrant.
  - Care for elderly growing burden to shrinking productive workforce

The Mainland Core

Map Analysis Activity:
Comparing Core Rivals

1. What are some of the development contrasts that exist between the subnational regions of Germany and France?
2. What differences are seen between Germany and France’s population distributions and urban networks?

The Mainland Core: Benelux

- Benelux: Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg
- Belgium and Netherlands:
  - Situated on an estuary, or mouth of a river, with direct access to the sea
- Highly productive trio:
  - Belgium and Netherlands in world’s top 20 economies
  - Luxembourg has world’s highest per capita GNI
The Mainland Core: Benelux

The Netherlands

- Oldest democracies and constitutional monarchy
- Highly urbanized
  - Randstad is a conurbation of two or more cities that merge spatially
- Economic geography dominated by service, finance and trade
  - Expands its territories by adding polders—land reclaimed from the sea using dikes and pumps

The Mainland Core: Benelux

Belgium

- Politically younger than the Netherlands
- Cultural fault line
  - Flemish-speaking Flanders in the Northwest
  - French-speaking Wallonia in the Southeast
  - Devolution pressures and separatist claims
- Brussels
  - Mostly French-speaking, but officially bilingual
  - Headquarters of the European Union
The Mainland Core: Benelux

Luxembourg
- Ministate lying between Belgium, France, and Germany of only 2600 sq km/1000 sq mi
- Haven for financial, service, and information-technology industries
- Unmatched per capita gross national income
  - Beneficiary of the European Union
  - Seat of several European Union institutions

The Mainland Core: The Alpine States

- Shared site and little else
  - Landlocked location with no coastal outlets and a mountainous terrain
  - Linguistic differences
  - Distinct urban networks
  - Uneven endowment of natural resources
The Mainland Core: The Alpine States

Switzerland
- Leading state of the Alpine subregion
- Overcomes the constraints of its landlocked location
- Turns opportunities of its site into prosperity
  - Optimized alpine farming productivity
  - Hydroelectric power
  - Stable and secure world banking giant
  - Neutrality and non-EU membership

Concept Caching: Mauvoisin Dam, Switzerland © Barbara Weightman

The Mainland Core: The Alpine States

Austria
- Historical and spatial links to Eastern Europe:
  - Austro-Hungarian Empire
  - Physiography leans eastward
- Vienna: primate city:
  - Mainland Core's easternmost city
  - Following EU enlargement, more centrally located in EU
- Enlargement disillusionment has led to falling public support for EU.

Concept Caching: Salzburg, Austria © Barbara Weightman

The Mainland Core: The Czech Republic
- "Velvet divorce" of Czechoslovakia
- Core area: mountainous Bohemia and centered on the primate city of Prague
- Cultural landscape of Czech traditions
- Important industrial center
- Historically cosmopolitan and Western
The Core Offshore: The British Isles

- Maritime portion of the European Core Area
  - United Kingdom, including England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland
  - Republic of Ireland occupying most of the island of Ireland or Eire
- Unified by British hegemony, or political dominance
The Core Offshore: The British Isles

The United Kingdom

Four subregions

1. England: anchored by the world city, London, as a center of globalization with global industries adding to growth and agglomeration

2. Wales: rugged territory of Celtic peoples and coal fields that was aided by a devolutionary step creating Welsh Assembly in 1997

The Core Offshore: The British Isles (cont.)


4. Northern Ireland: complex and violent struggle between two main religious groups, Protestants and Catholics indicate uncertain future
Among the Realm’s Great Cities: London

- Europe’s most civilized and cosmopolitan city:
  - Mix of historic and modern architecture
  - Efficient public transportation amid gridlocked streets
- Livable metropolis:
  - Farsighted urban planning
  - Preservation of open spaces
  - Managing suburban sprawl
  - 2012 Summer Olympics
    - Provides impetus for needed redevelopment

The Core Offshore: The British Isles

Republic of Ireland
- Once a booming, service-based economy:
  - EU participation and adoption of the euro
  - Business-friendly taxes and relatively low wages
  - Attracted Irish descendants and Eastern Europeans
- “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland
  - From boom to bust:
    - Declining business and rising unemployment
    - Failing banks and EU bailout in 2010
The Discontinuous South: Italy

- North Italy is part of the European Core:
  - Economically powerful and cultural hearth
- South Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia are the Periphery.
  - The Mezzogiorno is stagnant.
- Ancona Line separates Italy’s contrasting halves.
  - Rome binds each half as the capital and cultural focus.
Among the Realm’s Great Cities: Rome

- Founded 3000 years ago
- Capital of Ancient Rome
- Center of Global Catholicism
  - Vatican functions as an independent entity
- Capital of a unified Italy

Today’s Rome
- Service economy of finance, banking, insurance, retail and tourism
- New city sprawls beyond the ancient city

The Discontinuous South: Spain, Portugal, and Malta

Spain
- Madrid in a transition zone
  - Part of the European core
  - North more affluent than the South
- Decentralization into 17 Autonomous Communities
  - Each with its own degree of autonomy
- Declining growth and rising unemployment

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The Discontinuous South

Map Analysis Activity: Comparing Core-Periphery Transitions

1. What is similar about the dividing line between Core and Periphery in both Italy and Spain? What does it indicate about the relationship with the European Core area?

2. What can be inferred about the power of national governments and subnational regions in Italy and Spain?
The Discontinuous South: Spain, Portugal, and Malta

Portugal
- Slight benefit from EU agricultural and development aid
- EU bailout in 2011

Malta
- Ministate archipelago
- Booming tourist industry and high standard of living
- EU member as of 2004

The Discontinuous South: Greece and Cyprus

Greece
- Ancient civilization to EU membership
  - Turbulent political history
- 2007 EU expansion had disastrous consequences:
  - EU subsidies were split with new needier members
  - Inefficient government mired in debt, eventually required EU bailout
Among the Realm’s Great Cities: Athens

- Ancient and Modern Capital
  - Today a sprawling metropolis
  - Site of major industries, dense transportation network, and many service functions
- City on the cusp of the realm
  - More European than Turkey or Middle East
  - Less European than the cities of Europe’s core
The Discontinuous South: Greece and Cyprus

Cyprus
- Complex political geography
  - Greeks and Turks
  - Independence, civil war, and partition along the "green line"
  - International recognition to Greek side
  - Only Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus ministate
- EU membership only for Greek side

The Discontinuous South: The Balkans

- Violent dissolution of Yugoslavia in 1990
  - Shatter belt: a zone of splintering between cultural-political forces and fragmented by aggressive rivals
  - Balkanization: the recurrent division and fragmentation of a region
- Used to refer to experiences elsewhere in the world similar to Balkan history

The Discontinuous South: The Balkans

Serbia
- Largest and potentially most important
  - Historically dominant in the region and former Yugoslavia
- Contemporary territorial challenges
  - Serbs in neighboring Bosnia
  - Independent, Muslim Kosovo
  - Independent Montenegro
  - Hungarian minority in Vojvodina province
Croatia
- Crescent-shaped territory
  - Along Hungarian border and Adriatic Sea
- Contemporary challenges
  - Serb minority and discrimination
  - Croats in neighboring Bosnia
  - Improving human rights
The Discontinuous South: The Balkans

Bosnia
- Multicultural, landlocked territory
- No dominant ethnic group
- Post-Yugoslavia conflict between Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims)
  - Ethnic cleansing campaign waged by Bosnian Serbs
  - Truce called in 1995 and partition

Macedonia
- Small multicultural, landlocked state
  - Mostly Macedonian Slavs
  - Some Muslims, Turks, Serbs, and Roma
- One of Europe’s poorest
- Hopes for inclusion in EU

Montenegro
- Marginal ministate
  - Serb minority, only 630,000 in population
  - Scenic mountains, beautiful coastline
  - Driven by tourism and Russian investment
The Discontinuous South: The Balkans

Kosovo
- Mostly Albanian Muslims and small minority of Serbs
- Administered by NATO and the UN from 1999 to 2008

Albania
- Dominantly Muslim
- Europe's poorest state
  - High birth rates and natural population growth
  - High emigration rates into the EU through Italy

The Discontinuous South: The Balkans

Map Analysis Activity: Comparing the Balkans

1. What specific overlaps are observed between the physiography and cultural geography of the Balkans?
2. How might the combination of situation, physiography, and cultural geography account for political tensions in the Balkans?

The Discontinuous North

- Site and situation have engendered similarities:
  - Cultural likeness
  - Shared histories and Russian interaction
- Core-periphery transition:
  - Southern, coastal, and urban core
  - Prosperous with highly concentrated development
  - Northern areas peripheral
The Discontinuous North: Sweden

- Region's largest population and territory
- Most Swedes live south of 60°N:
  - Most moderate climate
  - Location of population, primate city, core area
  - Main industrial and agricultural areas
- Swedish industry: from raw materials to manufacturing
The Discontinuous North: Norway

- Maritime opportunities
  - Fishing, power, oil, and natural gas reserves
- Sub-arctic environment
  - Extensive forests, high relief and coastal fjords
  - Little agricultural or industrial development
  - Isolated cities and provinces
- Politically and economically independent

The Discontinuous North: Denmark

- Territorially small, yet second largest population
- Copenhagen
  - Entrepôt city where oceangoing vessels must transfer goods, or break-of-bulk, inland or further into the shallow Baltic
- Danish kingdom includes Greenland and the Faroe Islands, both of which are self-governed

The Discontinuous North: Finland

- Concentrated population
- Diversifying economy:
  - Wood mainstay, including more crops, shipbuilding
  - Increased manufacturing and tech equipment
- Cultural similarities with Scandinavia, yet historic links to Estonia and western Russia
The Discontinuous North

Map Analysis Activity: Core-Periphery Transitions

1. What connections exist between the region’s site or physiography and state’s core area?
2. What connections exist between the region’s situation or relative location and the European Core area?

The Discontinuous North: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

- All three were once under Soviet control
  - Each has a Russian minority; larger in Estonia and Latvia
- Diverging development
  - Estonia: busy free-trade zone and creative entrepreneurship
  - Latvia: focusing on economic improvement and expanding trading partners beyond Russia
  - Lithuania: trading dependence on Russia, yet tensions over Russia’s Kalingrad Baltic exclave

The Discontinuous North: Iceland

- North Atlantic island and archipelago
  - Part of the tectonic Mid-Atlantic Ridge
  - Land of geothermal and volcanic activity
- Iceland boom and bust
  - Highly urbanized and high standard of living
  - Economic liberalization brought rapid growth
  - Busted in global recession

Concept Caching:
Hydrothermal features in Iceland

© Gregory Bohr
The Eastern Periphery

- Complicated boundaries due to complex cultural patterns and political histories
  - Slavic lands
  - "Bloodlands": Hitler's and Stalin's territorial ambitions
- Post–Cold War rebirth of Mitteleuropa
  - End of the sharp political division with the Iron Curtain
  - Promising future with EU expansions

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The Eastern Periphery: East-Central Europe

**Poland**

- Largest and most populous of 2004 EU enlargement
- Turning Westward…
  - Soviet industrialization, environment degradation, and agricultural collectivization
  - EU membership

- Emigration of Polish workers to European Core
- Robust economy and secure geopolitical position
The Eastern Periphery: East-Central Europe

Slovakia
- Political concerns
  - Pro-Soviet and misgoverned
  - Hungarian minority
  - Roma minority mistreatment
- Reform readying for EU membership
  - Economic improvement, meeting EU terms of admission and adopting the euro

Europe’s Stateless Nation

The Roma
- No historical homeland or political entity:
  - Believed to have come from India through Iran and Turkey
  - Estimated 11 million across Central-Eastern Europe
  - Mobile, nomadic lifestyle, living in poverty
  - Unemployment, poor health and education
- Roma and the EU
  - Roma are entering the Core as asylum-seekers.
  - EU subsidies to corrupt Eastern European governments have not made it to help Roma people.
The Eastern Periphery: East-Central Europe

**Hungary**
- Ethnic Magyar
  - Neither Slavic nor Germanic
  - Built imperial power and a thriving nation-state
  - Part of Greater Hungary empire
- History of irredentism
  - Government's support of ethnic and cultural cohorts in other countries
  - Decreased with EU admittance in 2004

**Slovenia**
- Success story of the former Yugoslavia
  - Nearly homogeneous population
  - Productive economy
  - First of former Yugoslav countries to be invited to EU
  - Part of the euro zone
The Eastern Periphery: The Southeast

**Romania**
- Questionable admission to EU
  - Weak social indicators
  - Political infighting and corruption are rife
  - Emigration of capable Romanians
  - Economic prospects uncertain
- Strategic EU admission: significant site and situation
  - Heart of Eastern Europe and position on Black Sea

**Bulgaria**
- Historically loyal to Russia
  - Ill treatment of Turkish minority
- EU membership
  - Judicial and social reforms
  - Improved relations with Turks
- Future prospects
  - Tourism and foreign investment
  - Emigration creating tensions with European Core countries
The Eastern Periphery:
Europe’s Eastern Edge

Ukraine
- Largest territory in all of Europe
  - Crucial relative location linking Europe and Russia
  - Important for Europe’s future
- Internal divisions: West vs. East
  - West is agrarian, rural, and Catholic
  - East is industrial, urban, and Russified (Russian Orthodox and Russian minority)
- Political problems: divided electorate, mismanagement, corruption, and faltering economy

Moldova
- Small and Europe’s poorest
  - Plagued by separatist movements, declining economy and trafficking
- Seized by Soviets from Romania
- Gained independence when USSR disintegrated
  - Romanians remain majority, among Russians and Ukrainians
  - Plagued by separatist and economic problems

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Belarus
- Most peripheral
  - Few functional links to Europe
- “Mother Russia”: autocratic political, economic, and social system

Turkey
- Situation straddling Europe and Asia
  - Successor of the Islamic Ottoman Empire
  - 20th century secularization and Westernization
  - Key European military ally and NATO member
- EU membership?
  - Integration of its large and culturally disparate people
  - On hold: treatment of Kurds and inability to conform to EU economic standards
The Eastern Periphery

Map Analysis Activity: Europe’s Eastern Border
1. Consider the site and situation of Belarus and Ukraine; do they side more with Europe or Russia?
2. What is revealed about Turkey’s position in Europe by its representation on these maps?