

## ***Chapter 14***

# **EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION, 1871–1914: ECONOMY AND POLITICS**

### 14.68 THE MODERN “CIVILIZED WORLD”

#### *Study Questions*

1. Describe the materialistic achievements and nonmaterialistic values that led Europeans to think of themselves as the “civilized world.”
2. Explain how the intangibles or nonmaterialistic values are always essential for a civilized living.
3. What were the inner and outer zones of Europe? Which areas outside Europe belonged to each? What third zone lay beyond the European world?
4. How do the illustrations on p. 595 and 597 contribute to an understanding of late nineteenth-century European civilization?

#### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. In the half-century from 1871 to 1914, Europe in many ways reached the climax of the modern phase of its civilization and also exerted its maximum influence upon peoples outside Europe.
2. The unity of Europe lay in the fact that Europeans (including inhabitants of countries that were European offshoots) shared a similar way of life and outlook.
3. Believing themselves to be the most advanced branch of mankind in the most important areas of human endeavor, Europeans and other Westerners they assumed that all peoples should respect the same social ideals—that insofar as other peoples were unwilling or unable to adopt them, they were “backward,” and that insofar as they did adopt European ways, they became “civilized” in their turn.
4. Although the ideals of European civilization were in part materialistic, they were by no

means exclusively so.

5. There were really two Europes, an inner zone and an outer one.

### *Identifications*

Isaac Taylor

Life expectancy

Death rate

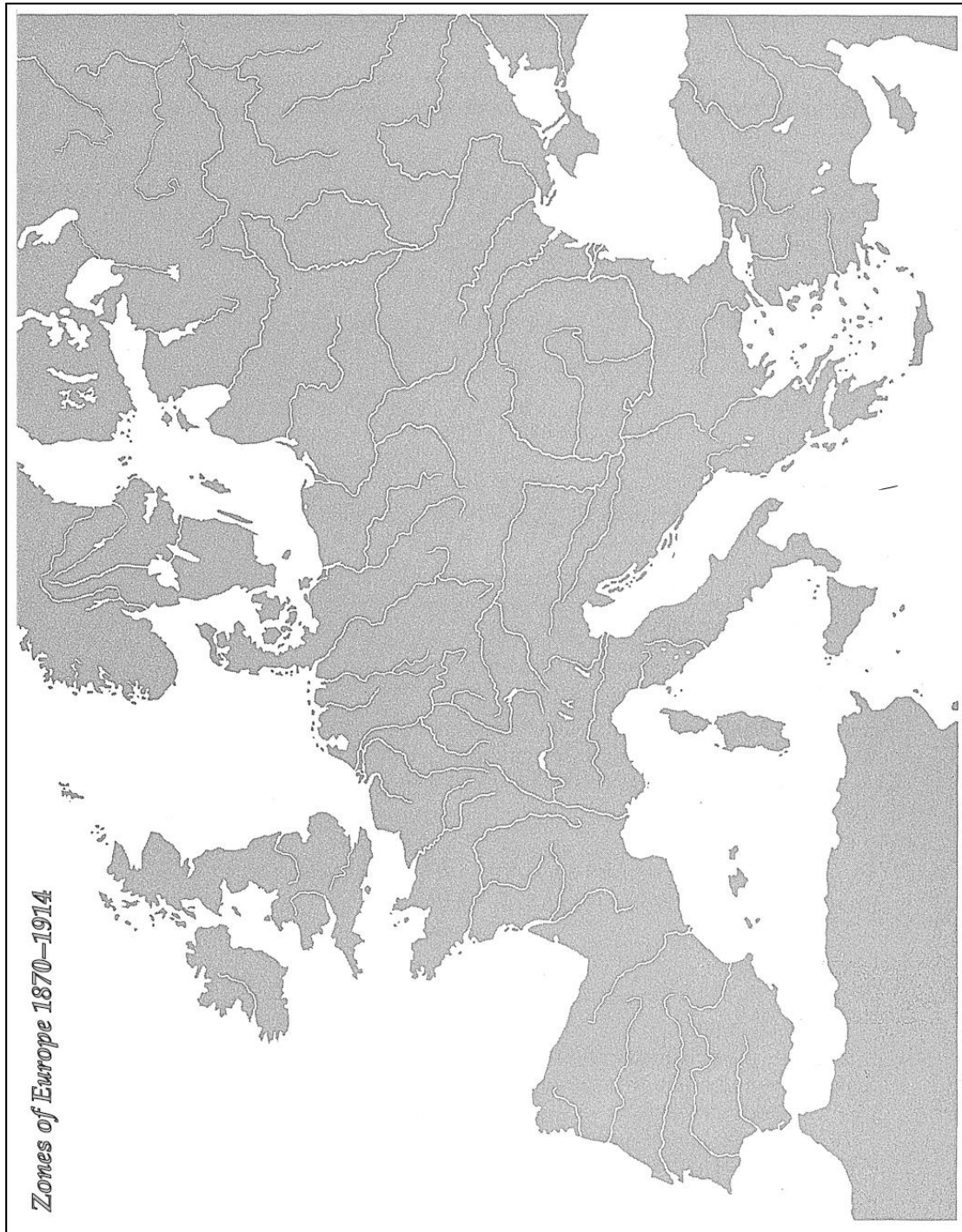
Civilized

Backward

Europe of steam

### *Map Exercise*

1. On the outline map, Zones of Europe, 1870–1914, draw the boundary lines dividing the inner and outer zones of Europe as they are described in the text.



## 14.69 BASIC DEMOGRAPHY: THE INCREASE OF EUROPE'S POPULATION

### *Study Questions*

1. Describe the major trends in world population growth since 1650 (a) in Europe and (b) in

- the world as a whole. What conclusions may be drawn from the table on p. 574?
2. Explain the development of improved living conditions in England. How did the localized famine become a thing of the past?
  3. Why did European birth rates begin to fall about 1880? In what sense was France a pioneer in that respect? What was the European family pattern?
  4. How do you explain the fact that despite rapid European population growth there was no serious problem of overpopulation as there is in many parts of the world today?
  5. Describe the growth of city life between 1850 and 1914. How has urban life shaped the character of modern society?
  6. What caused the migration from Europe that took place in the century after 1840? What conclusions may be drawn from the map on p. 581 and the tables on p. 579 and 580?

*Key Discussion Sentences*

1. All continents except Africa gained enormously in population in the three centuries following 1650, but it was Europe that grew the most.
2. The reduced birth rate is one of the indices of a more modern civilization, first appearing in that inner European zone in which the other indices were also highest, and thence spreading outward in a kind of wave.
3. The growth of cities between 1850 and 1914 was phenomenal.
4. The Atlantic Migration towers above all other European migrations in magnitude, and possibly also in significance.
5. The exodus from Europe was due to a remarkable and temporary juxtaposition of causes.

*Identifications*

Birth rate	European family pattern	Contraception
Public opinion	Yellow press	Great potato famine
Pogrom		

14.70 THE WORLD ECONOMY OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

### *Study Questions*

1. What technological advances contributed to the new Industrial Revolution after 1870? What does the illustration on p. 585 tell us about these technological changes? How did these changes affect the major European countries and the United States?
2. What was the status of free trade in the years 1846 to 1914? Explain the relationship between imports and exports (a) in the British economy and (b) in the economy of industrial Europe as a whole.
3. How did the “invisible exports” play an important role in the payment of European imports?
4. Of what significance was the export of capital from Europe? What role did each of the major European countries play?
5. How did the gold standard facilitate international trade in this age? Describe London’s financial role.
6. Discuss the relationship between western Europe and other parts of the world in the nineteenth-century economy. In what sense had a true global market been created? How does the illustration on p. 592 demonstrate the nature of the global economy?
7. What kinds of insecurity resulted from the capitalist economy? What devices were resorted to in order to combat insecurity?
8. Explain the important changes in capitalism about 1880. What were some of the political and social effects of these changes?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. The Industrial Revolution entered a new phase after the 1870s.
2. Britain, the pioneer in mechanization, was being outstripped in both the Old World and the New in the years 1870 to 1914.
3. The gap between rich and poor was one cause of the rapid accumulation of capital, though the accumulation of capital, in the nineteenth century, produced in turn a steady rise of living standards for the working classes.

4. The great economic triumphs of the nineteenth century were the creation of an integrated world market and the financing and building up of countries outside Europe.
5. The nineteenth-century system of unregulated capitalism was extremely precarious, and the position of most people in this system was exceedingly vulnerable.

### *Identifications*

New Industrial Revolution  
Balance of payments  
Invisible exports

The corporation  
Trusts and cartels

Vertical integration  
Horizontal integration

## 14.71 THE ADVANCE OF DEMOCRACY: THIRD FRENCH REPUBLIC, UNITED KINGDOM, GERMAN EMPIRE

### *Study Questions*

1. What role did the Paris Commune play in the formation of the Third French Republic? How is the event depicted in the photograph on p. 597?
2. Describe the machinery of government set up by the laws of 1875 in France. How was the role of the executive further clarified?
3. What were the major problems faced by the Third Republic in the years 1871 to 1914? How successfully did it cope with them?
4. How does the drawing on p. 603 illustrate the quality of life that could be enjoyed in France and Western Europe in the late nineteenth century?
5. What kind of government did Great Britain possess in the half-century before 1914? Explain the steps by which the suffrage was extended in the years 1832 to 1918. What was the significance of the reforms of the Liberal government after 1906?
6. How successfully did Britain deal with the Irish problem by 1914?
7. What was the political nature of the German Empire? Discuss the nature and results of Bismarck's conflict with (a) the Catholic church and (b) the Social Democrats. What was the motive behind his social insurance program?

8. In what direction did Germany move under William II in the years before 1914?
9. Summarize briefly major political developments in Italy, Austria-Hungary, and other European countries from 1871 to 1914. How much had democracy advanced in Europe? What kinds of dissatisfactions with existing institutions persisted? Where did women first gain the right to vote?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. In the years 1871 to 1914, democratization often took place within a continuing monarchical and aristocratic framework.
2. The true executive in republican France for a long time was not the president, who became a ceremonial figure, but the premier and the cabinet, themselves held strictly to account by a majority of the legislature.
3. In France, the fundamental questions were ones of “regime”—monarchy versus republic.
4. The political energies of the French republican statesmen went into liquidating the past.
5. The rise of labor in Britain and the Liberal party reforms after 1906 had a deep impact upon the Liberal party and upon liberalism itself.
6. The German Empire developed neither the strong constitutionalism of England nor the democratic equality of France.

### *Identifications*

Marshal MacMahon	The Reform Bills of 1832 and 1867
<i>Kulturkampf</i>	General Boulanger
Antisocialist laws	William E. Gladstone
Dreyfus affair	Home rule
William II	Laic laws of 1905
David Lloyd George	Radical Socialists
Parliament Act of 1911	

### GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 14

1. Why, in the years 1871–1914, was Europe at the center of the modern civilization that was expanding around the world? What major political, economic, and intellectual trends stand

out in those years?

2. Who were the recipients of European capital? Explain.
3. Discuss (a) the continuing triumphs of liberalism and (b) the transformation of liberalism in this age.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 14

1. The ideal of European civilization was profoundly moral, derived from Christianity but now secularized and detached from religion. (p. 570)
2. The small family system, together with the decline of infant mortality, because they combined to free women from the interminable bearing and tending of infants, probably did more than anything else to improve the position of women in modern societies. (p. 576)
3. The great city set the tone of modern society. (p. 578)
4. The attractions of the “limited liability” corporation as a form of business organization and as a means of encouraging investment arose from laws enacted by most countries in the nineteenth century that limited the individual investor’s personal loss in the event of a bankruptcy to the amount of his or her shares of stock in the enterprise. The corporation, in its modern form appearing first with the railroads, became the usual form of organization for industry and commerce. (p. 591)
5. A new kind of private power had arisen, which its critics liked to call “feudal.” Because no economic system had ever been so centralized up to that time, never in fact had so few people exercised so much economic power over so many. (p. 593)
6. In the years from 1815 to 1870 European political life had been marked by rise of nationalism and by liberal agitation for constitutional government, representative assemblies, responsible ministries, and guarantees of individual liberties. (p. 593)
7. Europe’s dominant role in the global economy, the massive migration of European people, and the military power of European nation-states gave European civilization its extraordinary world influence in the decades after 1870. (p. 609)