

Chapter 26

EUROPE AND THE CHANGING MODERN WORLD

26.119 WESTERN EUROPE AFTER THE COLD WAR

Study Questions

1. Discuss the economic, social, and political challenges confronting Western Europe in recent decades. How successfully have the major West European countries met these challenges?
2. Why did the Italian Christian Democrats come under fire in the 1990s?
3. Discuss the impact that the contemporary waves of immigration have had on West European societies. How does the illustration on p. 1022 convey the diversity of multicultural European nations?
4. Discuss the postwar gloom that had settled on Western Europe during the 1990s.

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Western Europe faced a heavy burden of economic, social, and political troubles in the 1990s.
2. The xenophobic hostility that had manifested itself earlier in western Europe again flared up in the 1990s.
3. The problem of unemployment in western Europe was not temporary but rather deep-seated and structural.
4. There was widespread dissatisfaction with the governing political parties of the center and the center-left, which were judged to have held office too long and seemed incapable of providing innovative new plans for the future.
5. The influx of millions of immigrants and refugees since the 1960s was altering the nature of European societies and in some quarters met with resistance.

Identifications

Structural unemployment
Massimo d'Alema

Christian Democrats
Silvio Berlusconi

Democratic Party of the Left
Forza Italia

26.120 NATION-STATES AND ECONOMICS IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION

Study Questions

1. Of what importance has the American economy been for the global economy in the 1990s and since?
2. Explain the constitutional changes introduced in Britain at the close of the 1990s. What political pressures led to these changes?
3. What is the “third-way” advocated by the political leaders?
4. Discuss the evolution of the European Union in the 1990s and the debt crisis.
5. What is the European Stability Mechanism? How does it offer financial assistance to its member states?
6. In what ways had a “new economy” emerged by the end of the twentieth century? What do the illustrations on pp. 1033 and 1035 tell you about the global economy?
7. What is “globalization”? Why does it find both champions and opponents? How does it affect the nations of the developing world?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Pragmatism and moderation seemed to be triumphant over older socialist views and the welfare-state ideology that had prevailed in the years after the Second World War.
2. By the opening of the twenty-first century the movement toward European unification had made remarkable progress.
3. The European Union was an economic superpower, closely bound together in noneconomic ways as well.

4. The global economy that had reemerged after the Second World War seemed to enter a new phase in the 1990s.
5. The new economy was an information economy.
6. Critics of the new international trade system rejected arguments for free trade as a means of enhancing living standards for all, which led to new sensitivities to social issues worldwide.

Identifications

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Bill Clinton | Tony Blair | Jean-Marie Le Pen |
| New Labour | House of Lords | Maastricht Treaty |
| Devolution | Euro | Helmut Kohl |
| Multinationals | Gerhard Schröder | WTO |
| Jacques Chirac | Digital divide | Third way |
| Daniel Jospin | | |

26.121 INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL TRANSITIONS IN MODERN CULTURES

Study Questions

1. What were the major advances made in science, medicine, and public health in the contemporary era?
2. Why were twentieth-century advances in nuclear physics and the biological sciences significant?
3. Describe the ethical problems for contemporary society created by science and technology. What major problems remain unresolved?
4. Assess the accomplishments and controversies relating to space exploration.
5. Describe the postwar inception and core beliefs of existentialism.
6. Discuss contemporary developments in (a) professional philosophy, (b) literary criticism, and (c) the writing of history. What was the impact of Freudian psychology on contemporary culture?

7. In what sense did modern and contemporary art since the late nineteenth century reflect a revolution against older artistic traditions? How is this revolution exemplified by illustrations on pp. 1045, 1046, and 1047 in your text?
8. What is meant by postmodernism? How does it differ from modernism?
9. What important developments in the major Western religions emerged? Why does Roman Catholicism merit special attention?
10. What has been the role of religious fundamentalism in the contemporary world? How has it manifested itself in Islam and other religions?
11. Discuss the goals and accomplishments of the women's movement since the mid-nineteenth century. What has been its contemporary agenda? Why do women in the developing world have different priorities than women in the industrialized countries?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Although much of contemporary culture had its origins in the years 1871–1914, it crossed new frontiers and took new directions in the course of the twentieth century.
2. Scientific discovery advanced more rapidly in the twentieth century than in all previous human history.
3. The transformation of physics could be compared only to the scientific revolution of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.
4. Some thoughtful persons questioned scientific and technological advances and asked whether modern technology had grown beyond human control.
5. The implications of genetic engineering were staggering.
6. Among the dramatic technological achievements in the second half of the twentieth century was space exploration.
7. The existentialists grappled with the human predicament and reflected a troubled civilization.

8. Philosophers challenged many of the dualisms taken for granted in traditional European thought.
9. Much of modern or contemporary art prided itself on being nonobjective.
10. Postmodernism did not reject the commercialization and materialism of contemporary culture but embraced and projected it in new ways.
11. The Roman Catholic Church passed through one of its important historic phases in the second half of the twentieth century.
12. Fundamentalism, especially in Islam, was on the rise.
13. The youth rebellion of the 1960s extended beyond the traditional generation gap.
14. The feminist, or women's liberation, movement was another manifestation of contemporary social ferment.

Identifications

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|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Max Planck | Ludwig Wittgenstein | <i>Pacem in Terris</i> |
| Quantum physics | Logical positivism | Vatican II |
| Cyclotron | Jacques Derrida | Paul VI |
| Niels Bohr | Deconstruction | John Paul II |
| Enrico Fermi | <i>Annales</i> school | New Left |
| Genetic code | <i>Learning from Las Vegas</i> | Simone de Beauvoir |
| Yuri A. Gagarin | Social gospel | <i>The Feminine Mystique</i> |
| Neil Armstrong | Ecumenical movement | <i>The Second Sex</i> |
| Existentialism | The Assumption | Fundamentalism |
| Jean-Paul Sartre | John XXIII | Post-Auschwitz theology |

26.122 EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT IN THE EARLY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Study Questions

1. What dilemmas confronted American foreign policy makers in the years after the Cold War? What role was the United States expected to play? How effective was the United Nations in these years?

2. Discuss the dangers that nuclear arms continued to present. What progress was made on nuclear arms control and on non-proliferation? What setbacks were there?
3. Describe how the United States exercised a leading role in international affairs in the 1990s.
4. Describe the configuration of world politics that emerged in the 1990s. What role did Russia seem intent on playing?
5. Discuss the definition and interpretation of human rights in the contemporary world. What human rights issues were raised by the events in (a) Yugoslavia and (b) Rwanda? What role did the United Nations play in dealing with human rights?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Two new challenges appeared in the twenty-first century: the eruption of conflicts more frequently within nations than between nations, and the danger of terrorism, which spread into almost every region of the world.
2. The two great wars of the twentieth century had originated in conflicts between nations in Christian Europe itself.
3. There were debates about the interpretation of human rights in different cultures.
4. The demise of the U.S.S.R. in 1991 transformed the foundations on which international relations had rested since 1945.
5. The United States took initiatives that made it difficult to distinguish between American unilateralism and international action.
6. The threat of nuclear non-proliferation remained an issue high on the international agenda.

Identifications

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Iraq | Nuclear proliferation |
| Kuwait | Universal Declaration on Human Rights |
| Humanitarian intervention | NATO |
| Kurds | Al-Qaeda |
| Insurgency | |

26.123 SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Study Questions

1. Why did demographers speak of a population explosion after 1950? What numbers were projected for the future? What was the relationship between demography and economic advances? How does the graph on p. 1070 demonstrate the global population explosion since about 1930?
2. What kinds of environmental problems surfaced in the twentieth century? How successfully was the contemporary world in coping with environmental problems?
3. Describe the economic impact of global climate change.
4. Describe the range of problems facing the world at the beginning of the twenty-first century. How could these problems contribute to new conflicts, violence, and international terrorism?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The time required to add a billion people to the world's population and for the population to double in size had grown shorter than ever before in history.
2. A debate continued over the "carrying capacity" of the earth, the maximum number of humans the earth's resources could sustain.
3. From the 1970s on a newly sensitized world began to speak of sustainable growth, growth that could be maintained without the destruction of humanity's natural habitat.
4. Resurgent nationalism feeds on intolerance and hatred.
5. International cooperation and intervention are needed to protect human rights, end or prevent wars, and sustain the earth's billions.

Identifications

Sustainable growth
Green parties

Earth Summit

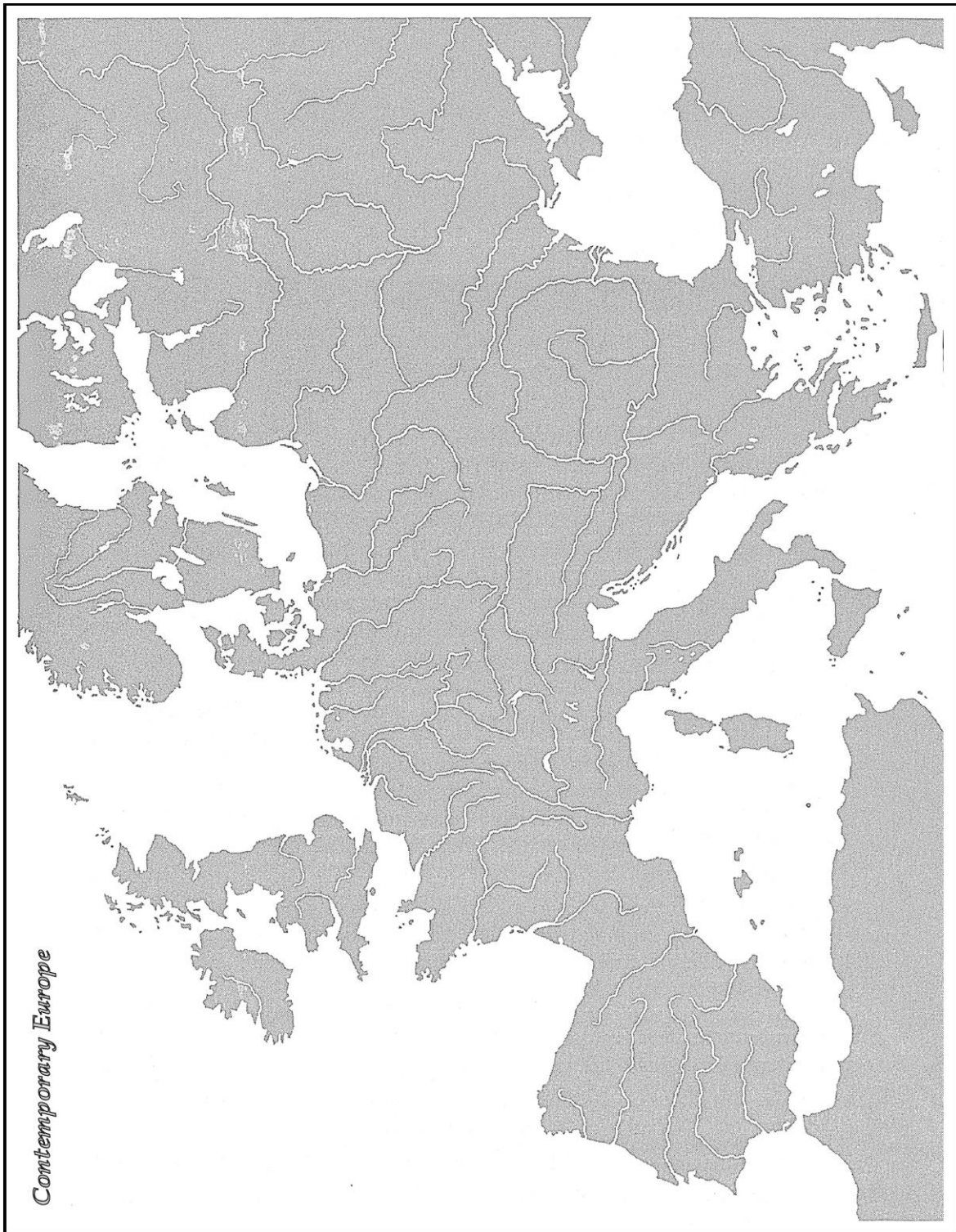
Kyoto agreement

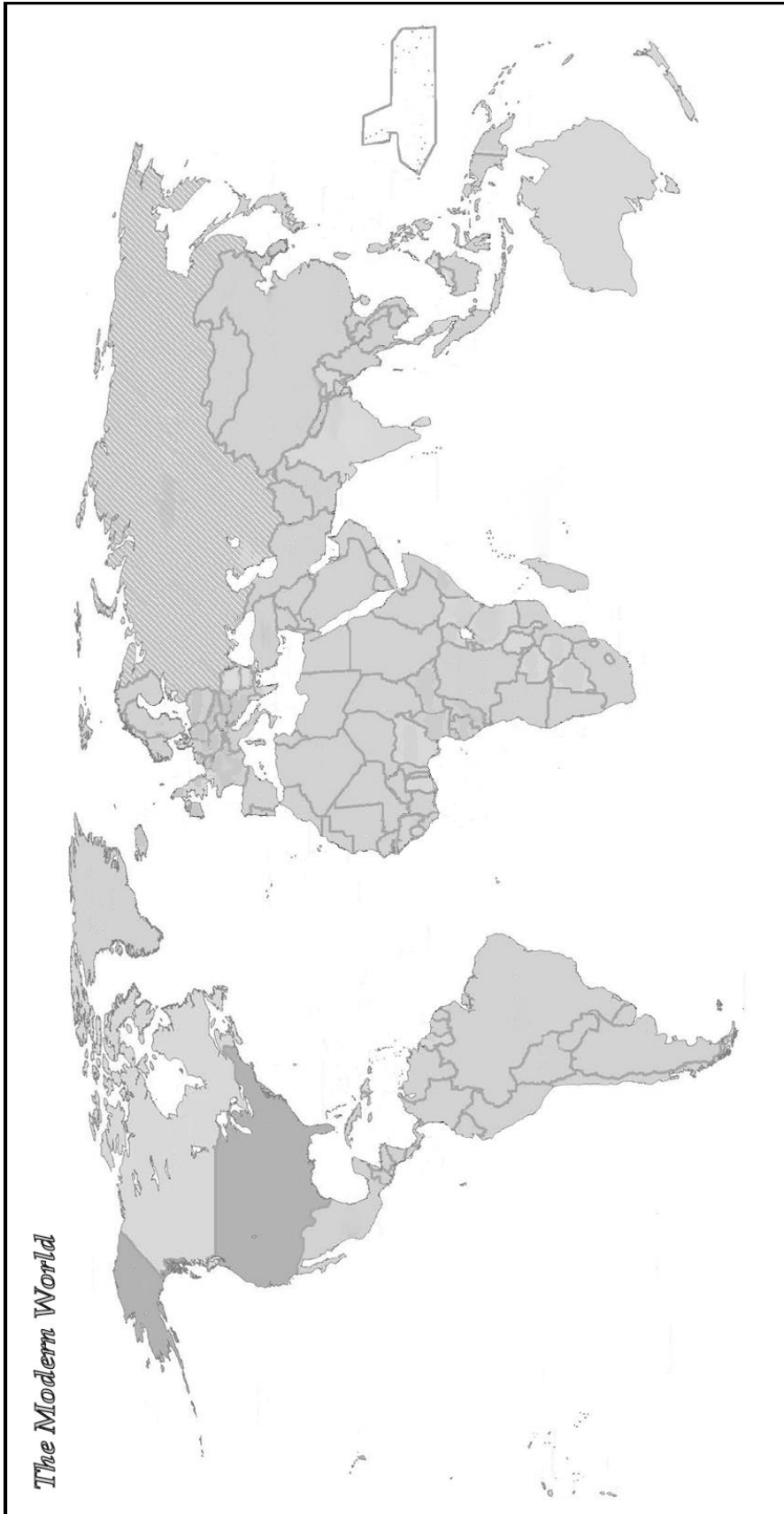
Map Questions

1. On the outline map, Contemporary Europe, sketch the approximate boundaries of the new states that emerged after 1989.
2. On the outline map, The Modern World, point out the potential areas of friction, conflict, and crisis in the contemporary world. Where have tensions between religious fundamentalism and modernization appeared? Where do ethnic tensions continue to create problems?
3. On the outline map, indicate where the most explosive population growth has occurred in recent decades.

GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 26

1. How would you compare the economic experiences of Western Europe in the years 1950 to 1974 and in the years since 1974? How successful has the effort been at economic and political integration?





2. What was globalization? How has the breakthrough in communications contributed to it? What has been its impact on the developing world?
3. How have contemporary movements in (a) science, (b) philosophy, (c) religion, and (d) the arts built upon the cultural and intellectual developments of the years 1871–1914? What new directions have emerged?
4. Describe the evolution of the United Nations since its inception. What have been its accomplishments and its weaknesses? What obstacles persist to the creation of a stronger UN?
5. What major challenges are likely to confront the world in the twenty-first century? How would you define the challenges of political, economic, and cultural relations? What are the key environmental challenges? On what theme would you conclude a history of the modern world?

GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 26

1. To Europeans, even among admirers of American accomplishments, the EU provided an essential balance to American hegemony in world affairs. (p. 1032)
2. Globalization, already visible in earlier periods of the world's history, and especially so in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, seemed to be the defining social and economic theme for Europeans in the twenty-first century. National boundaries, though not disappearing, were increasingly transcended by cross-boundary transactions and global exchanges in the world of communications, industry, culture, travel, food, popular entertainment, even apparel. (p. 1036)
3. Science has always affected the way people have thought about themselves and their universe. The Copernican revolution had removed the earth from its central position in the scheme of things; Darwinian evolution had demonstrated that *Homo sapiens* was biologically a species that had evolved and survived. (p. 1039)
4. Some thoughtful persons questioned scientific and technological advance and asked whether modern technology had grown beyond human control. (p. 1039)
5. In an age of destructive weaponry and threats to the environment, the advance of science and technology was no longer unequivocally equated with the idea of progress. (p. 1039)

6. The techniques developed to save or prolong human life raised ethical and legal issues, including new definitions of life and death, and the rights in such matters of patients, families, hospitals, and physicians. (p. 1039)
7. The twentieth century may ultimately be remembered, apart from the destructiveness of its terrible wars, as the century in which humans first set foot on the moon, and with robot spaceships devised and guided by human intelligence, began to explore the universe. (p. 1042)
8. The artistic revolution inaugurated in France before 1914 accelerated in the interwar years and after 1945. It seemed to mirror the political turbulence of the times and the disillusionment with rationalism and optimism. (p. 1044)
9. Although they rarely became violent, fundamentalist movements easily bred intolerance and separatism, and they ran counter to the secularism and blending of cultures in modern European nations. (p. 1052)
10. Although there were disagreements within and outside the women's liberation movement on the methods and tempo of change, wide agreement existed on the need to utilize fully all human resources in the economy and in all the institutions of public and private life. If that could be accomplished, the changing social position of women would count among the most significant changes in contemporary European history. (p. 1058)
11. The twentieth century, heralded in its opening years for its promise of peace and progress, had seen more than 200 million people perish as victims of wars and brutal regimes. (p. 1058)
12. Many across the globe maintained that human rights, no matter how difficult to define, of European origin or not, represented a common core of values that should protect every individual human being against enslavement, violation, or discrimination. (p. 1059-1060)
13. Of all the social developments in the late twentieth century one of the most spectacular was the growth of the world's population. (p. 1067)
14. A cataclysm is not a time of downfall only. Mountains crumble, but others are thrust up. So it is with the political and social cataclysms of our times. (p. 1072)
15. To close this long history on a note of placidity would indeed be inappropriate, but it would also be wrong to close it on a note of doom. The history of Europe and the modern world shows the astonishing range of human imagination and ingenuity, and there are good

historical reasons to believe that people will continue to confront future problems and challenges with the determination, creativity, and new ideas that lead to social progress. (p. 1072)