CHAPTER FOUR

Europe

Europe

Figure 4-1
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Figure 4-14
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I. THE GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

► Best example of indeterminacy of region boundaries

► Europe: peninsulas branching off of peninsulas; main peninsulas:

  ▪ Scandinavia

  ▪ Iberian

  ▪ Italian

  ▪ Balkan

A. Physical Patterns

► Landforms
- Mountains, uplands, and lowlands
  - ► Stretching in east-west bands
  - ► Alps: Collision between African and Eurasian plates
  - ► North European Plain: Stretches across northern Europe
- Other mountain ranges: Southern peninsulas, Scotland, and Norway

A. Physical Patterns

► Landforms

  ▪ Uplands to the north of the Alps: navigable rivers, mineral wealth, and industry

    ► Large rivers link interior Europe to the seas
    ► Rhine, Danube Rivers

► Vegetation

  ▪ Crops and pasture grasses replace former forest cover

    ► Except Scandinavia and selected areas of forest regrowth

Alpine Village Near

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A. Physical Patterns

► Climate

- Temperate midlatitude: North Atlantic Drift brings moderate temperatures and rain
  - ► Northwestern Europe
- Mediterranean: hot, dry summers/mild, rainy winters
  - ► Southern Europe
- Humid continental: temperatures not moderated by the sea
  - ► Eastern Europe
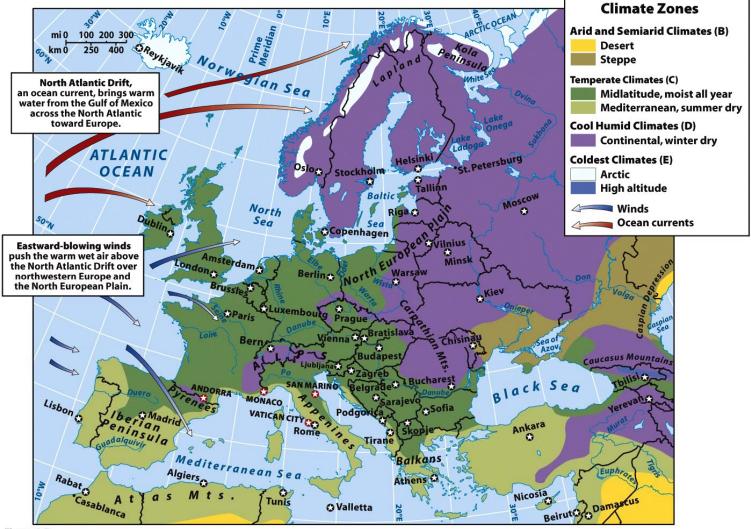
Climate Zones

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B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Many "European" ideas and technologies came from elsewhere
  ■ Cultural borrowing from Mesopotamia
    ► Greeks directly borrowed, Romans borrowed from Greeks and spread with their empire
  ■ Cultural borrowing from Islamic culture
    ► Moorish conquest of Spain, Ottoman influence in southeastern Europe
    ► Reintroduced ideas from Rome, Greece, Egypt, Persia after Dark Ages

B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Feudalism as a Social, Economic, and Political System

- Objective: to organize rural areas for defense
- Knights emerge as permanent aristocracy collecting revenues from serfs
- Serf: land cultivators, bound by law to land
- Monarch: Chief aristocrat who emerges dominant over others

Remnants of Feudalism in Slovenia

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B. Human Patterns Over Time

► The Rise of Towns
- Towns able to defend themselves, hence no feudalism
  - ► Starting point for capitalism
- Town charters: established rights of weak against the strong
  - ► Led to increased innovation
- Renaissance: cultural movement tied to humanism
  - ► Dignity and worth of individual
- Protestant Reformation
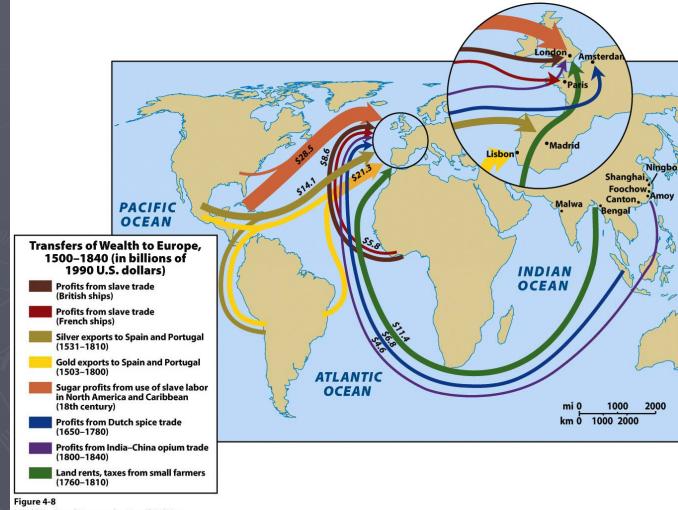 - ► Led to increased literacy, colloquial languages

B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Age of Exploration
- Technological innovation in navigation, shipbuilding, commerce
  - ► Establishment of colonies around the world
- Mercantilism
  - ► Colonization and management of production, transport, and trade for the colonizer's benefit

Transfers of Wealth from Colonialism

Transfers of Wealth to Europe, 1500–1840 (in billions of 1990 U.S. dollars)

- Profits from slave trade (British ships)
- Profits from slave trade (French ships)
- Silver exports to Spain and Portugal (1531–1810)
- Gold exports to Spain and Portugal (1503–1800)
- Sugar profits from use of slave labor in North America and Caribbean (18th century)
- Profits from Dutch spice trade (1650–1780)
- Profits from India–China opium trade (1800–1840)
- Land rents, taxes from small farmers (1760–1810)

$28.5
$8.6
$14.1
$21.3
$5.8
$11.4
$6.8
$4.6

PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
INDIAN OCEAN

London • Amsterdam
• Paris
Lisbon • • Madrid
Ningbo
Shanghai •
Foochow • • Amoy
Canton •
Malwa • • Bengal

mi 0   1000   2000
km 0   1000 2000

Figure 4-8
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B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Evolution of European Cities

- Medieval trading wealth (Venice, Genoa) shifted to mercantilist cities (NW Europe)
- Resources from colonies create wealth in manufacturing centers
  - ► England, Holland, Belgium, France, Germany
  - ► Paris, London: imperial status later results in "world city" status

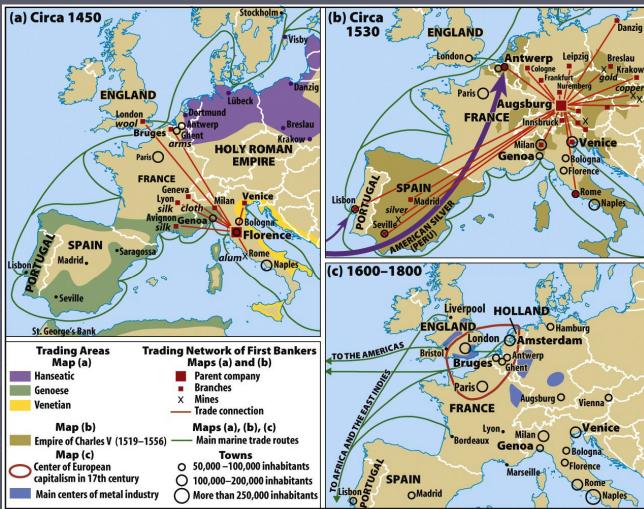# Shifts of Power Among Urban Areas, 1450-1800

Figure 4-9
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© 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company [This map was prepared for this text with the assistance of geographer John Agnew.]

B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Age of Revolutions: colonialism fueled two revolutions:

  ▪ The Industrial Revolution: mechanization of industry to meet demand in textiles and later coal and steel

    ► Led to global power of the United Kingdom, armed with the world's greatest navy to protect its trading networks

B. Human Patterns Over Time

►The Democratic Revolution

- ▪ Financial power and independence of urban merchants and industrialists led to compromise with nobility

- ▪ French Revolution: 1st inclusion of common workers in democratic institutions

- ▪ Nationalism: political structures aligned with loyalty to cultural group

  - ►However, numerous minority groups

- ▪ Marxism: lead to post-WWII welfare states

B. Human Patterns Over Time

► World War, Cold War, and Decolonization
  ▪ World Wars ended European hegemony
    ► Holocaust
  ▪ Germany, Europe split by Iron Curtain
    ► Ideological divide
    ► Demotion of geopolitical importance vis-à-vis USA and USSR
  ▪ End of colonialism (1950s-1960s)

B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Europe's Rebirth and Integration

  ▪ In 1950s, some Western European countries began economic integration

    ► Free movement of people, goods, money, and ideas

    ► Policy coordination in civil, judicial, economic, military, environmental, and foreign affairs

  ▪ Expansion of European Union to include most countries in the region

    ► Recent expansion into Cold War enemies in Eastern Europe

B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Ethnic Cleansing in Southeastern Europe

- ▪ Breakup of Yugoslavia
  - ► Led to ethnic cleansing in Bosnia in attempt to create ethnic majority
- ▪ Later, intervention by U.S. and EU peacekeepers
  - ► 5% of Bosnian population killed

C. Population Patterns

► 525 million people

► One of the most densely occupied regions

  ▪ Esp. NW Europe, Northern Italy

► Population Density and Access to Resources

  ▪ Europe has exceeded its own resource base and depends on global resources
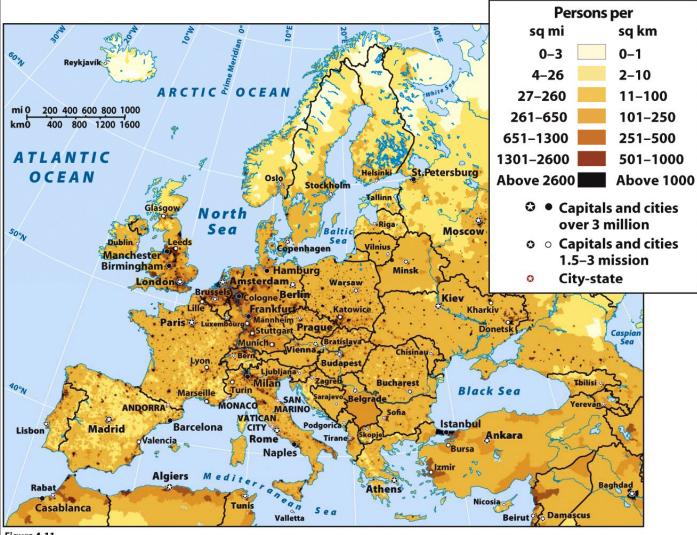
Population Distribution

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C. Population Patterns

► Modern Urbanization in Europe
- High urbanization: From 72% in North Europe to 62% in Central Europe
- Medieval central cities, with apartment blocks in concentric circles outside
- High density: excellent public transportation, few detached houses
- High quality of life in large cities; relatively few slums
  - ► Population: London: 12 million, Paris: 9.9 million, Madrid: 5.6 million, Berlin: 2.3 million

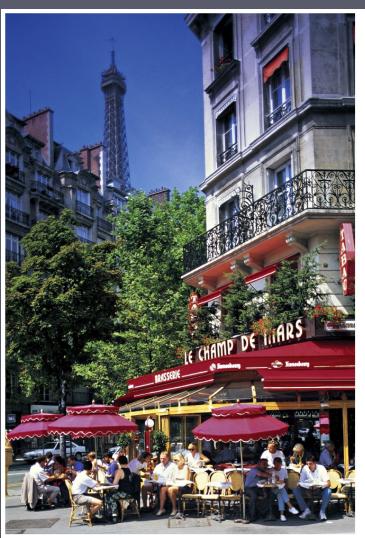# Cosmopolitan Urban Life

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►Peter Adams/Agency Jon Arnold Images/Agefotostock