

## **Indisputably Indispensable Information #14 Europe After WWII**

### **Basic Outline (Post-WWII):**

- I. The Cold War
  - A. Tensions within the "Grand Alliance"
  - B. Emergence of the Cold War, 1945-53
- II. Towards the Collapse of Communism
  - A. Milovan Djilas and the "New Class"
  - B. The (Partial) Break with Stalinism (and Its Repercussions)
  - C. Prague Spring (1968) and the Postponement of Reform
  - D. Reform Comes Too Late
- III. Western Europe after WWII: The End of Ideology
- IV. European Integration & the European Union
  - A. Deepening
  - B. Widening

### **Terms and concepts and people and places:**

Iron Curtain	Winston Churchill
Marshall Plan	Truman Doctrine (1947)
NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)	Cominform
Warsaw Pact	GDR (East Germany)
FRG (West Germany)	Milovan Djilas
Nikita Khrushchev (1956-64)	The Prague Spring (1968)
Leonid Brezhnev (1964-1982)	Brezhnev doctrine
Solidarity (Poland, early 1980s)	Mikhail Gorbachev (1985-1991)
Perestroika (Restructuring)	"Revolutions" of 1989
European Union	The Euro (unit of currency)

### **Timeline on Cold War History (to End of USSR)**

1947	Initiation of the Marshall Plan (European Recovery Act) Articulation of "Truman Doctrine" in context of Greek civil war
1947-8	Communist seizures of power in Eastern Europe
1949	Formation of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Formation of FRG and GDR (West & East Germany)
1955	Formation of Warsaw Pact (military alliance of socialist countries)
1956	Soviet forces put down uprising in Hungary
1957	Soviets launch Sputnik (first man-made satellite)
1961	Construction of the Berlin Wall (separates East & West Berlin)
1962	Cuban missile crisis
1972	Nixon and Brezhnev sign Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)
1979	Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
1980	Carter boycotts 1980 Moscow Olympic Games in protest of Afghanistan invasion
1984	Socialist countries boycott 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles (except Romania).
1985	Mikhail Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party
1989	Gorbachev allows a non-communist government to take power in Poland Series of "revolutions" eliminates communist rule in East-Central Europe
1991	End of the Soviet Union

## Timeline on European Economic & Political Integration

1951	Creation of European Coal-Steel Community (ECSC) with "the Six." <sup>1</sup>
1953	Most west European countries have recovered from war economically
1958	Treaty of Rome creates European Economic Community (EEC) with "the Six"
1959	German Social Democrats definitively reject Marxist doctrine in party program
1967-8	Student and left-wing demonstrations in West Germany
1968	Student demonstrations and general strike in France
1972-3	Extensive strike activity in Britain, led by mineworkers' union
1973	The "Northern Enlargement": Britain, Ireland & Denmark join EC. <sup>2</sup>
1973	Oil crisis (embargo) pushes European economies into recession
1974	End of Greek military dictatorship (since 1967) "Carnation Revolution" in Portugal
1975	Franco dies in Spain, leading to democratic government there
1981	Greece joins EC in first step of EC's "Southern Enlargement"
1985	"Single European Act" sets goal of achieving "common market" by 1992. <sup>3</sup>
1986	Spain & Portugal join EC to complete "Southern Enlargement"
1990	Reunification of Germany; former GDR now becomes part of EC
1991	Members of EC conclude Treaty on European Union in Maastricht, Netherlands. <sup>4</sup>
1993	European Union (EU) comes formally into existence
1995	Sweden, Finland & Austria join the EU; eastern Euro states seek admission
2002	Euro replaces national currencies of EU countries <sup>5</sup>
2004	Ten new members – mostly former communist countries – join EU
2007/8	Possible acceptance of Bulgaria and Romania into EU

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<sup>1</sup> "The Six," constituting the core of the states of the European union, were Germany, France, Italy, and the Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg).

<sup>2</sup> The EEC (European Economic Community) had by this time become simply the EC (European Community).

<sup>3</sup> The "Single Act" was ratified in 1987.

<sup>4</sup> Called for creation of single currency, the euro, by 1999 and other elements of further integration.

<sup>5</sup> The Euro was not introduced into three EU member-states at the time (United Kingdom, Denmark, and Sweden); nor have any of the ten countries admitted to the EU in 2004 met conditions for the Euro's introduction.