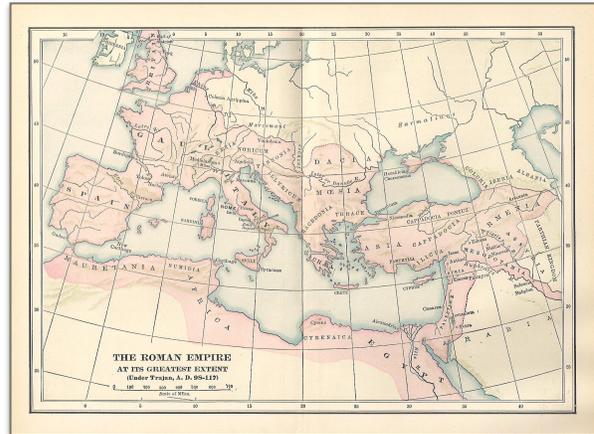


III. The Historical Anchor Facts of the Modern European Union

A. 476 AD: The Beginning of the Europe of Nations

1. The creation of the modern European Union is the outcome of a long story that begins with the break-up of a previous union: the Roman Empire.
2. The Roman Empire occupied the entire Mediterranean world, and much of Europe. The primitive European people who were never a part of it destroyed it and began to build a civilization of their own.
3. The final end of Rome, and thus the beginning of Europe came in 476 AD, when the last Roman emperor, Romulus Augustus, was deposed by a Germanic leader named Odovacar. Never again would there be an emperor in Rome claiming to control a Roman Empire.



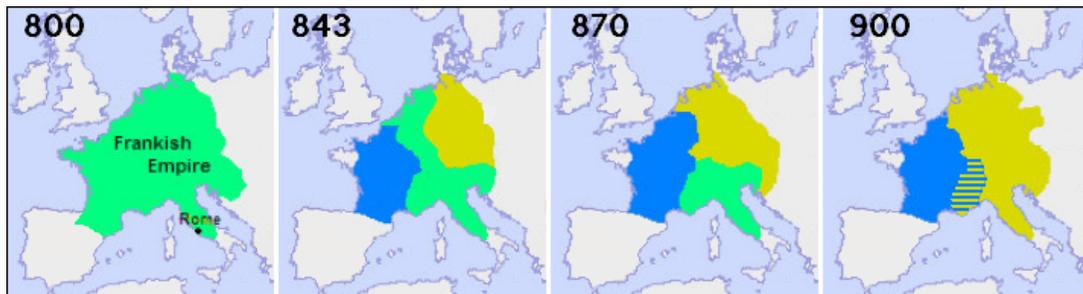
The Roman Empire at its maximum extent, c.117 AD.

B. 800-843 AD: A Europe of Separate Nations

1. When the Roman empire fell, various tribes fought the each other to control some corner of Europe.
2. At the end of this torturous phase of history, called the “Dark Ages,” one tribe—the Franks—had become dominant. They made the first European union in 800 AD under the leadership of the Frankish king, Charlemagne.
3. Charlemagne’s three grandsons fought each other for control of this empire and their contest caused the permanent division of East Francia (Germany) from West Francia (France).



Charlemagne - the first emperor of a European union, c.800 AD.



The evolution of the Frankish empire from its peak, under the rule of Charlemagne—through to its disintegration under his heirs into separate French and German domains.

C. The Rise of Nations

1. In the time of Charlemagne, Europe was still controlled by *tribes*. The Franks and other tribes had not yet become *nations*. This would take centuries, as the borders between them became permanent, and their people lived separately from each other.
2. The evolution of each separate nation, such as France, Germany, Italy, Spain, etc. is a long and winding story that will learn over the course of the year. For now, it is perhaps useful think simply about how each nation has a different language today.

D. 1517-1648: The Reformation and Religious Wars

1. There was one thing in Europe that made people feel closer to one another. They all accepted the leadership of the bishop of Rome, also known as the “pope.” This version of Christianity is known as “Roman Catholic” Christianity, because it was based in Rome, and “Catholic” means “universal.”
2. In the time of the *Reformation and Religious War (1517-1648)*, various groups stopped following the pope. People in countries such as Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, adopted the views of Martin Luther (*Lutheranism*) instead. The people of England embraced the idea of a “Church of England” (a.k.a. “*Anglicanism*”). People in new countries like Switzerland and Netherlands accepted *Calvinism* (the teachings of John Calvin) as the only correct interpretation of Christianity.
3. This added religious differences to the already long list of differences between nations. Also, because European Christians were intolerant of religious differences, it contributed to a long series of wars between those nations, which made the people of different nations feel more negatively about the people of other nations.

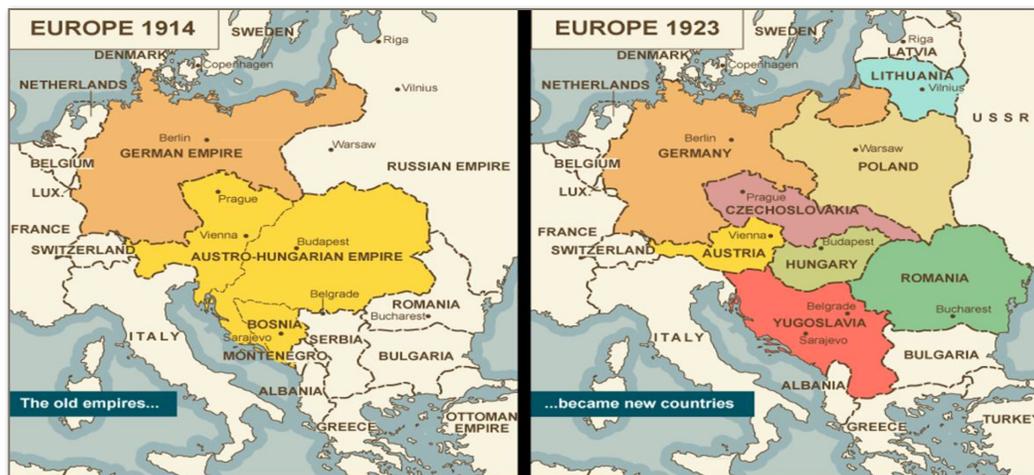
E. 1789-99: The Rise of the *Modern* Europe of Nations

1. Apart from the breakup of Christianity, the largest transformation of European culture from its origin to today was the overthrow of monarchy and its replacement by “democratic socialism.” This transformation was triggered by the French Revolution (1789-99).
2. The various nations of Europe were ruled by kings, until the people of France were inspired by the American Revolution to rebel against their king, Louis XVI, and create a government of the people.
3. What they created is called “democratic socialism,” because a famous French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote a book called the “*The Social Contract*.” He believed that people agree to make a *social* arrangement to order their society. How do they agree or decide? By voting; in other words, democratically. Put them together, and you get: “democratic socialism.”
4. Democratic socialism is now as natural to Europeans and monarchy once was. It also contributed to European history, because France’s neighboring monarchies refused to

tolerate a revolution right next door, and they attacked France. The wars of the French Revolution made the people of Europe's nations hate each other even more.

F. 1914-19: World War I and Hope for Nationalism

1. *Nationalism*, as we have already noted, is a set of ideas about nations. Nationalists believe that human life is best when people live in separate *nations*.
2. When World War I (1914-19) happened, nationalists said that the two countries most responsible for the war were two *empires* (Germany and Austria-Hungary — see the map below). And they were both *monarchies*. If all Europeans were allowed to live in nations and have democratic governments, they believed Europe would have peace.



The response to the crisis of World War I (1914-19) was driven largely by *nationalism*. Europeans sought to re-arrange their borders and governments to allow each *nation's* people (such as those of Poland, Lithuania, and others) to direct their own affairs.

G. World War II (1939-45) and the Failure of National Socialism

1. After World War I, Germany became a democracy.
2. The German people voted for Adolf Hitler, who told them they could make a “*grossDeutschland*” (a greater Germany). His ideas are called “*Nazionalsozialismus*” (“National socialism,” or *Nazism*).
3. The rest of Europe was paralyzed by the rise of Hitler. In theory, every nation was supposed to be able to generate its own social contract. Who were the people of France or England to complain, if a nation like Germany democratically chose Hitler as their leader. They let Germany become powerful, and then it attacked them all.
4. After the disaster of World War II, people began to reject *national* socialism, and instead began to think about creating a *supranational government* for all of Europe.