

#### **IV. Supranationalism as a Chapter (1945- )**

##### A. American Protection of Europe (1949)

1. Following World War II, Russia began imposing communism on eastern Europe. (Communism is a form of socialism in which a small group of political leaders—the communist party—takes control of the government and of life in the country and forces the people to accept it.)
2. Germany was divided into East and West Germany, by the “Iron Curtain,” and the city of Berlin in particular was divided by the Berlin wall.
3. This wall was unique in history in that it was not designed to keep “barbarians” out, but rather was designed to keep the people behind the wall *in*.
4. When Russia tried to starve the city of Berlin by refusing access to it by land, the United States saved the city by flying supplies in during *the Berlin airlift*.
5. America then committed to protecting western Europe by forming the “North Atlantic Treaty Organization” (NATO) in 1949.



the flag of NATO

##### B. Preventing Future Wars

1. The main idea of supranationalism is to prevent future European wars.
2. French leader Robert Schumann proposed that the coal & steel industries that make weapons should be placed under *supranational* control.
3. Schumann hoped that supranationalism would help Europeans stop thinking of themselves as different and thus make war “*unthinkable*.”
4. But creating by creating the European Coal & Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951 he hoped to make war “*materially impossible*,” by placing the armaments industries under supranational government control.

##### C. A United Germany at the Core of a United Europe (1989/90...and 1993)

1. While communism dominated eastern Europe, a full European Union was impossible. Thus the key event that led to the EU forming is the re-unification of Germany with the collapse of communism.
2. In 1989, Russia began to loosen controls on Germany. Germans were allowed to dismantle the Berlin Wall.
3. In quick succession, Germany was formally re-united as a country in 1990.
4. Soon even Russian communism was no more, and Europe could join itself in the EU in 1993.



Germans stand on top of the Berlin Wall as it is dismantled in 1989.