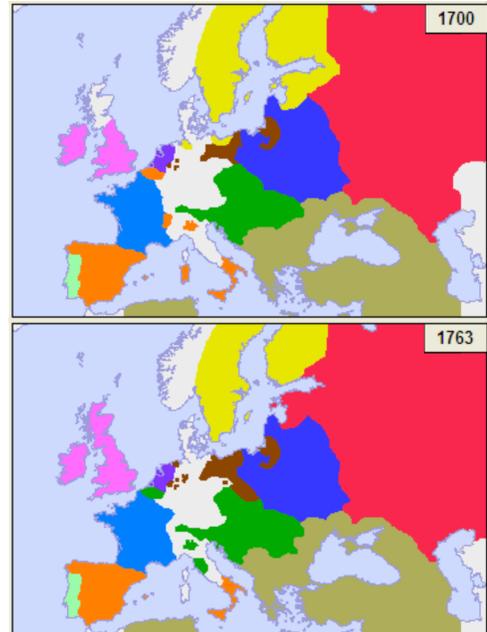


## D. The Great Northern War (1700-22): Russia Joins the Europe of Nations

1. Like Spain and Portugal, and Britain, Russia is on the edge of Europe. Unlike them, however, it is *not* a part of the European Union.
2. As the tribes of eastern Europe became nations, Russia found itself cut off from Europe by Sweden to the north, Poland in the middle, and the Muslim Ottoman Empire to the south. (See the yellow, blue, and brown areas on the map below.)
3. A young prince named Peter, who realized that Russia was far behind Europe in terms of technology and military power wanted to break through this barrier.
4. As Tsar (a Russian word meaning “Caesar” or *king*) Peter traveled to Europe and not only visited with royalty, but also worked in shipyards and met with commoners in order to obtain any practical information he could and to hire experts to return to Russia with him. Upon his return to Russia, he improved the Russian military and made preparations to establish a better sea route to Europe.
5. He then attacked Sweden in the *Great Northern War (1700-22)*. This war determined the fate of north-eastern Europe. Sweden became a minor power. Russia won access to the Baltic and joined the Europe of Nations.
6. To symbolize that Russia had joined Europe, Peter (known as “the Great”) had a new capital city, St. Petersburg, constructed at the western-most extremity of Russia, on the Baltic Sea.



Europe, before and after the major wars of the early eighteenth century, including the *Great Northern War (1700-22)*. Russia in red, took over control of the eastern Baltic Sea from Sweden and thereby obtained a sea route to the rest of Europe that was navigable year-round. Peter “the Great” thus achieved his goal of injecting Russia into the Europe of Nations.