

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

##### A. American Protection and the Fate of Europe (NATO: 1949)

1. Following World War II, it became clear that the anti-German alliance of the United States and Russia would not hold. Russia was bent on dominating its neighbors and imposing its own form of government, communism, on them. (Communism is a form of socialism in which a small group of political leaders—the communist party—takes control of all aspects of the functioning of the government and of life in the country. Communism rejects the idea of *democratic* socialism, and instead imposes a totalitarian form of it by force on an unwilling populace, in the belief that this will accelerate a supposed beneficial outcome. History has clearly falsified this view.)
2. Germany was divided into East and West Germany, and the capital city of Berlin was also divided into east and west Berlin, with the eastern portions of each imprisoned behind what British leader Winston Churchill called the “Iron Curtain,” which in Berlin took the form of 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 performed an unprecedented feat of industrial prowess by keeping the city alive solely by flying supplies in during what was called *the Berlin airlift*.
5. The attempt by Russia to starve Berlin and America’s heroic effort to save the city made plain for all to see what was at stake in the newly divided Europe. Only under American protection could Europe possibly decide its own fate.
6. American protection of western Europe became a treaty obligation by means of the “North Atlantic Treaty Organization” (NATO) in 1949.



the flag of NATO

##### B. Preventing Future Wars

1. The core motivation of supranationalism is to prevent future European wars.
2. In the wake of World War II, French statesman Robert Schumann proposed that the industries most connected to the production of armaments — the coal & steel industries — should be placed under *supranational* control.
3. Schumann believed that supranationalism, as a belief, would allow Europeans to abandon the narrower, national, conceptions of their personal identity, and thus make war “*unthinkable*.”
4. In practical terms, the way to prevent war, he held, was to make war “*materially impossible*,” by placing the armaments industries under a supranational “high authority.”

5. In 1951, the European Coal & Steel Community (ECSC) was formed as the first supranational government authority in Europe. It became the prototype for further efforts to unite the nations.

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

1. While communism dominated eastern Europe, a full European Union was impossible. Thus the key event that led to the EU forming in 1993 is the re-unification of Germany with the collapse of communism.
2. In 1989, Russia began to loosen controls on its subordinate allies. 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.



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

#### D. The Supranational *Period* of European history

The Supranational period in European history is the period immediately following WWII (from 1945 onward) during which Europe, protected by the United States, implemented to an ever greater degree the new concept of supranational government.