

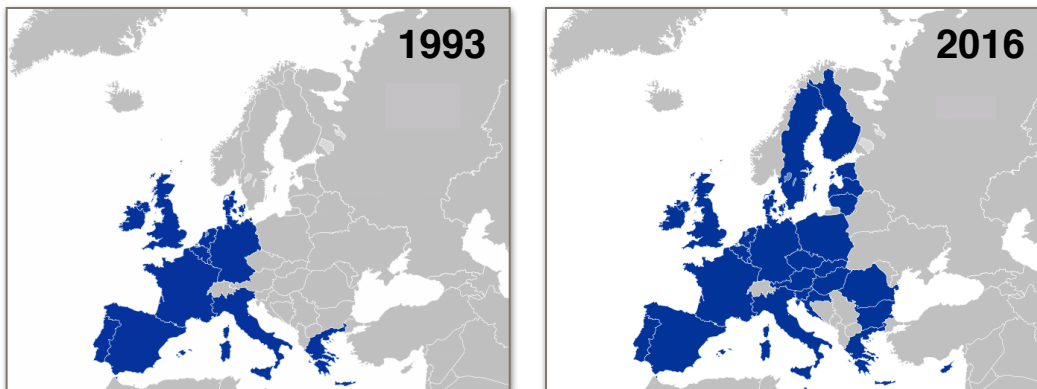
## **II. Preparing to Study Europe as a *Part of the World***

### A. Europe as a Cardinal Culture

1. Taking the world's nearly two hundred countries and organizing them into *ten* major cultural blocks is a useful way to prepare for the study of history. It makes the world a much more manageable sum.
2. We can take it one step further, and say that some of the major cultures matter most of all. They can be called "cardinal" cultures.
3. The word "cardinal" means "of prime importance." It comes from the Latin root word "cardo," meaning "hinge."
4. Without a doubt, the *United States* is the country with the most military power, the largest economy, and the greatest cultural influence on others. It is the most important cardinal culture.
5. Europe is another one. People speak European languages around the world because of Europe's cultural influence.
6. Today, Europe is especially important as the champion of "supranationalism."

### B. Supranationalism

1. In **1993**, a group of nations in Europe, including France, Germany, and the United Kingdom formed into the "European Union" (EU).
2. The goal of this "union" is to create a single government that will replace and cancel out their national governments.
3. Since the formation of the European Union in 1993, its membership has expanded from an original 12 members to 28 today.
4. What is the European Union exactly? And why are Europeans obviously split on whether or not continue with this experiment in government?



The European Union has expanded from 12 to 28 members since 1993.

7. The main idea of the European Union is “supranationalism.”
8. The core concept of “supranationalism” is “nation.” Nations are countries whose people were almost all born there and feel strongly about their own special culture, including food & drink, arts & crafts, religious beliefs, traditions and history.
9. From the concept “nation,” one builds the concept “nationalism,” which is the idea of belonging to a nation.
10. European history has brought the people of the separate and distinct nations of Europe to the point of modifying the concept “nationalism” by adding the unusual prefix “*supra-*”.
11. The key to use of “supra” in the word “supranationalism” is that “supra” is similar to “super,” but very importantly different. *Supernationalism* would be an extra strong form of nationalism. *Supranationalism*, on the other hand, means nearly the opposite. It involves the cancelation of nationalism by placing something *over and above it*. Why would anyone invent such an idea?



The goal of the European Union is to replace the national flags (and national sentiment that these flags represent) with a single identity over and above them, symbolized by the European flag. The goal is to create a “*United States of Europe*” like the United States of America. Only Europe’s parts are not states—they are *nations*.