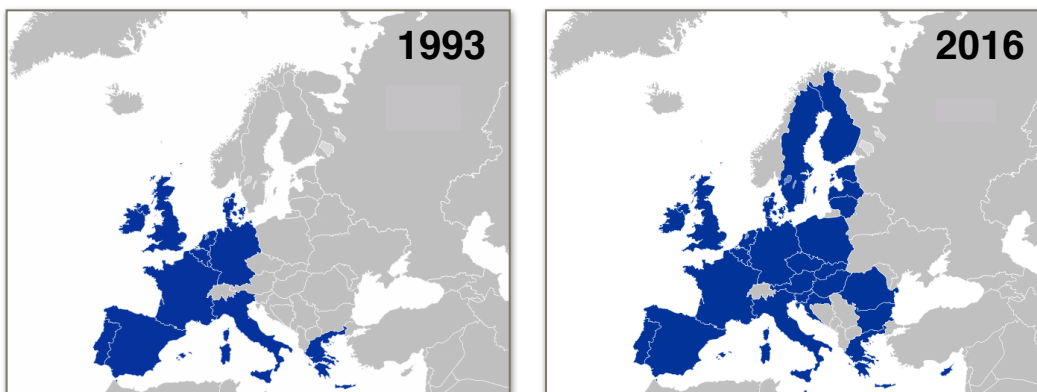


## **II. Preparing to Study Europe as a Part of the World**

### A. The European Union

1. In **1993**, a group of nations in Europe, including the largest and most important countries such as France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom, and various smaller ones, formed into the “European Union” (EU).
2. Since the formation of the European Union in 1993, its membership expanded from an original 12 members to 28.
3. However, the people of Great Britain voted to leave the EU in 2016, and finalized their exit in 2020.
4. In the past two French elections, French voters decided to stick with the European Union even though many people feel that France is better off being independent.
5. What is at stake? What is the European Union exactly? And why are Europeans obviously split on whether or not continue with this kind union?



The European Union expanded from 12 to 28 members since 1993, and then lost one member (Great Britain).

7. The key to understanding the European Union is the word “supranationalism.”
8. The main part of the word is “nation,” which means a country whose people have lived there for a long time, and who feel like they are members of a unique group in the world, with its own language and way of life.
9. Starting with the word “nation,” one builds the concept “national” and then “nationalism.” An “ism” is a way of thinking. *Nationalism* is a way of thinking about life that says that what matters about people is what *nation* they belong to.
10. We have just a little more to go! “Supra” is similar to “super,” but very different. *Supernationalism* would be an extra strong kind of nationalism. *Supranationalism*, on the other hand, means nearly the opposite. “Supra-“ means “over and above,” so supranationalism means canceling nationalism by placing something *over and above it*.

Why would anyone invent such an idea? Why have Europeans felt it was necessary? And why are many of them now rejecting it? The answers will be part of the shape of the world we live in.



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*.