

Supranationalism

Multinational Unions

- Venture involving 3 or more states
- First: Benelux (economic union)
 - Agreement of cooperation between Belgium, Denmark and Luxembourg to eliminate import quotas and tariffs
 - Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after WWII
 - Spurred cooperation among European states
- Other unions are created (EEC or Common Market)
 - European Community (EC) 12 members initiated a program of cooperation and unification that led to the formal establishment of a European Union in 1992

The European Union

- First 12 Member states (Germany, France, UK, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Ireland, Austria, Sweden and Finland)
http://europa.eu/abc/history/animated_map/index_en.htm
- Goals:
 - 1) strengthen democratic governing of participating nations
 - 2) Improve efficiency of the nations
 - 3) Establish economic unification
 - 4) Develop the “community social dimension”
 - 5) Establish a security policy for all involved nations.

The European Union

- 1990s, began to establish a single currency: The Euro
 - Met resistance
 - Not all countries are part of Euro-zone as of 2002
 - United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden



European Union

- Loss of local autonomy?
- General policies must be followed for EU to have meaning and power
- Balance of power in the union is a concern:
Germany is the most populous and economically powerful member
 - Able to exert great influence over fiscal matters
 - United Kingdom...many citizens not in favor of EU

EU Expansion

- EU expanding eastward to states under control of Soviet Union after WWII
- Under EU rules: Richer countries must subsidize the poorer ones
 - Entry of Eastern European states will be a financial burden on wealthier western and northern members.
 - Why the difference in economies??

EU Expansion



- Turkey (yum)
 - Turkey joins=widening of EU into Muslim world
 - Some in favor, some not
- Turkey has shown interest in joining the EU, 90% of the voters in Greece are against them joining
- Other members expressed concern over Turkey's human rights record (Armenians and Kurds)
- Turkey is not “European enough”?

EU Problems

- Enthusiasm not high in key countries like France
- European unification depends more on economics than anything else
 - Euro must hold strong

Other Supranational Organizations

- NAFTA: 1994 Canada, U.S. and Mexico
 - Increased trade among member nations
 - Led to outsourcing jobs to Mexico
 - May eventually include other LA countries
- CARIBCOM: Caribbean Community (Belize, Guyana, Caribbean island-states) has grown into ACS: Association of Caribbean States (all interested countries around the edge of the Caribbean)
- South America has two major Supranational groups:
 - MERCOSUR: Southern Cone Community Market (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay)
 - Andean Group: Goal is to achieve shared economic objectives through open markets: (Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia)

Other Supranational Organizations

- ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
 - Supports economic cooperation and integration, joint development efforts and reduction in tariffs and other trade barriers in W Africa.

Other Forms of Supranationalism

- Usually economically motivated, but not all
- Military Alliances
 - NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization was a military alliance formed after WWII
 - Warsaw Treaty: USSR and Eastern bloc states was opposing military alliance to NATO
- Both directly resulting from the COLD WAR
- Russia now a “partnering country” of NATO

Other Forms of Supranationalism

- Cultural Organizations
 - AU (African Union) cultural alliance to promote shared goals and resolve disputes (has political objectives as well such as ending Apartheid)
 - Arab League: multinational alliance of Muslim states in North Africa and Southwest Asia
 - Major force in regional affairs but rocked by divisions over Gulf War, Israel and cooperation with the U.S. (and allies) in the war on terror

Homework Assignment

- Read both the European Union and Law of the Seas link on the Unit 4 tab on my website. Then, using your country assigned to you for the semester, research and find out if your country belongs to a group such as the UN, EU or other multinational organizations we talked about. Research if they are involved in other sub-committees such as the UN Security council, Arab League etc...If your country has been involved in a dispute, did the organization help it? What are the general feelings within your country about being involved in the organization?
- Post a comment on the thread titled “multinational organization” on my website with your findings.
- This will require a substantial amount of time reading and researching tonight so make sure your answer reflects the quality and quantity of your research.