Europe 1: Supranationalism and Devolution

Major geographic qualities/characteristics of Europe
A. the changing face of Europe
   1. progressing toward supranationalism
   2. devolution - internal separatist movements
   3. dissolution of the USSR and break-up of eastern European bloc
B. Europe’s aging population

Today: Europe is in a state of transition
I. Supranationalism/globalization: collections of individual states with a common economic and/or political goal that diminishes to some extent individual state sovereignty in favor of the collective group interests
   A. European Union – EU (http://europa.eu/)
      1. 28 current member nations:
         a. 4 giants: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom
         b. Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Austria, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Finland, Sweden
         c. Eastern European members: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia
         d. declined membership: Switzerland, Iceland, Norway
      2. history
         a. Treaty of Rome 1957
            1) Benelux, France, W. Germany, Italy
            2) established EEC (European Economic Community) - Common Market
         b. 1973 → 1995 EU = 15 Western European members
         c. Treaty of Nice → 10 new central European members May 1, 2004
         d. Jan 2007: Bulgaria and Romania
         e. Croatia 2013
      3. original goal: economic and social integration → “Four freedoms”
      4. current/future issues
         a. defining Europe -- new members
            1) economic issues
            2) free movement of people
            3) proposed members -- Turkey or not?
         b. common currency – Euro
            1) Jan 1, 2002 - euro entered circulation
            2) “eurozone” non-participants: UK, Sweden, Denmark + 9 of 12 new members
            3) new members adopted: Slovenia and Slovakia + Estonia (1/1/11)
            4) economic crisis and “euro bind”
         c. political union
            1) debate: global political counterforce to U.S. – “state united” v. “united states”
            2) “Brexit”: Britain and the future EU – “ever closer union”?
      5. future prospects
         a. power of successful EU – econ/political presence!
            1) ~508 million people in 28 member states (US pop = 322 million)
            2) largest economy in world
            3) euro challenge to dollar
         b. Euroskeptics fear Eurofication
1) Euroskeptic: person who is opposed to European integration or who is skeptical of the EU and its aims
2) fear Eurofication – loss of cultural identity
   c. historical antagonists
   d. recent tensions
      1) debt crisis: PIIGS
      2) influx of immigrants
   e. central tension: national priorities v. collective interests

6. Brexit
   a. Demands/concessions
   b. 6/16 referendum results: Leave: 52%; Remain: 48%
   c. What next? UK; EU

II. Devolution -- increased tribalism
A. regions within a state demand and gain political strength and growing autonomy at the expense of the central government
B. examples of devolution
   1. former Yugoslavia: Balkan Peninsula
      a. historical geographical context:
         1) physical geography
         2) relative location: zone of politico-geographical splintering and fracturing
         3) birth of Yugoslavia and Tito
         4) devolution of USSR
      b. ethnic and religious divisions: Serbs (Eastern Orthodox), Croats (Roman Catholic), Muslim Slavs
      c. Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro
   d. current issues:
      1) Kosovo independence
      2) further devolution
   e. balkanization: the fragmentation of a region into smaller, often hostile units
   2. Czechoslovakia - cordial 1993 separation
   3. other European areas experiencing devolutionary forces
      a. United Kingdom: Northern Ireland; Scotland; Wales
         1) Northern Ireland
         2) Scotland
      b. Spain
         1) Basque (Pyrenees)
         2) Catalonia
      c. Belgium
         3) south: French speaking Walloons
         4) north: Dutch speaking Flemish
   4. North America - could it happen here?

III. Europe’s future?? Supranationalism or Devolution??!

EU Role Playing: Brexit

Next Class: Europe Geography Bowl - Pulsipher Chapter 4