

## **What is Europe & Emergence of Modern Europe – Sample Notes- Week 2**

### **Lecture 3**

What is the Europe in the European Studies?

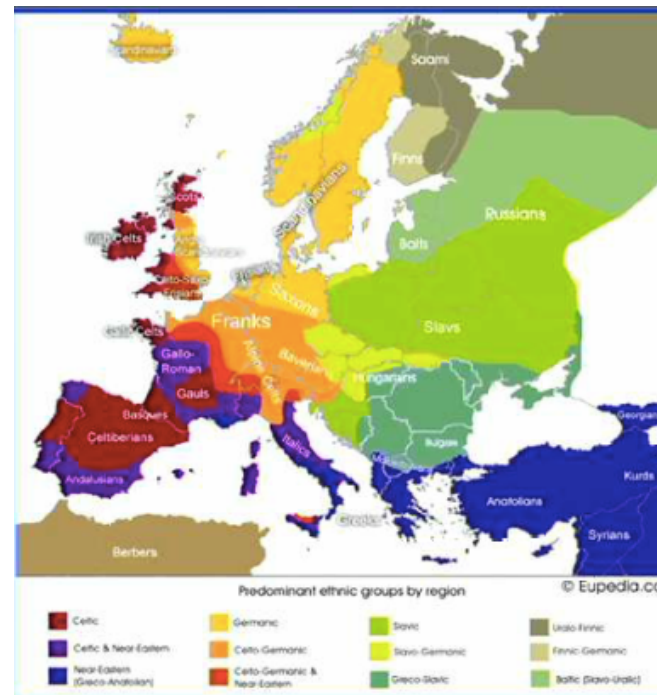
- Myth of Europa= princess of Phoenician (Lebanon)
- A large geographically & culturally based socio-historical entity with an intellectual history reaching back to 600BC when the word was first used by Ancient Greeks

Problems of Definition

- As a continent: Europe is really only half of a continent – Western part of Eurasian landmass
- As a group of nation state Europe is also problematic: Where does Catalonia fit or Scotland or Bosnia?
- Or as a supranational political federation? Much more integrated policy than UN or ASEAN, how does it compare with other world bodies?

So where do we begin?

- Europe= ideals, culture, politics, society, economics, language, demographics, geography = unified Europe → a plurality of identity-giving factors
- Geography= mountains: east-west, climatic differences, effects on settlement, invasions & migrations (Alps, Ural), plains: north & east + agricultural areas to feed armies + rivers
- People & Demography:
  - Hypothetical prototype: the Indo-Europeans coming from Caucasian mountains near Turkey/Russia → some people (the Celts) pushed further into Europe
- Early Migrations:
  - Germans: southern Scandi spread from east & south to Italy & France & north Africa → from 800 to 1300AD
  - Magyars/Huns= 4<sup>th</sup> century from Central Asia – Finn Ugric languages (Hungary)
  - Slavs= far western Russia & Poland – mixed with Germans, Magyars, Romanians (Romantic language), linguistic break north (Russia, Ukraine)/south Slav (Balkans)
- Languages
  - Indo-European languages = shared deep structures, very different development into modern forms, 3 main families: Slavic, Germanic, Romance, language patterns follow migrations
  - Other language groups
    - Finnic: Finnish, Estonians, Lapp
    - Ugric= Hungarian
    - Basque = Spain & France
    - Turkic= Turkey, Bulgaria, part of Balkans
- Religions
  - Indo-Europeans – late Neolithic traditions, animist religions
  - Greece
  - Roman Empire
  - Christianity: Middle-East through Greece, Rome



- Northern Europe from late Roman era – a universalising religion = ‘catholic’= universal in Greek
- Roman Catholic Church → break in church after Reformation due to Protestantism
- Orthodox Church= Russia, Serbs etc. → Cyrillic alphabet, collapse of Byzantine Empire from c 1200 AD (central power lost, national churches & no head of church vs. head of Church aligned with no nation)
- Judaism: Early Jewish communities, had been there since Roman Empire & before, spread throughout empire following colonisation
- Islam: old & modern EU Islam, migration etc.

#### Europe as a geo-cultural concept

- Changing over time, reflecting on your interest (political, social etc.), depending on vantage point (Aus, US etc.)
- 1. Peripheries: is UK part of EU? Is Turkey part of EU (Ottomans, can it become?)? Russia: where does it end?
- 2. Central or Eastern Europe: central identity suppressed during post-war period & resurfaced after 1989
- 3. Germany as Eastern & Western after 1989: unified in 1990

### **Lecture 4: The Emergence of Modern Europe**

#### Emergence of Nation- States

- These identity-giving factors represent basis on which political structures developed over millennia
- We can conceptualizes European identity in terms of:
  - Developments from Roman Empire to modern nation state → tribes & ethno cultural groups of Europe, nations of Europe, sub-national regions of Europe, supra-national regions of Europe
  - Sometimes failures of emerging national identities → loss of ethnic diversity & uniqueness & languages
  - Smaller states might be better to band together to present united front
  - We can't understand Russia & Ukraine in a synchronic way → nothing is happening to resolve war that has been ongoing / Brexit / Catalonia & Spain
- Why? Because these enable us to understand the main points of contention & conflict in Europe now

#### Europe is not just a group of nations

- As we have seen above, Europe is not just a group of nation, if that were the case how would we understand situation in Catalonia or Brexit or Bosnia-Herzegovina?

#### Europe= Multiple Overlapping Identities

- Sub-national regions = ethnic, regional identities within the nation-state structures eg Catalonia & sometimes overlapping nation-state boundaries: Albania, Serbia, Russia
- Nation state = Spain & Great Britain
- Supra-national regions= Balkans, EU, WE and EE
- Global regions= Europe Asia etc.

#### Sub-National Regions

- People stake their identity on changing national identity – eg: was Alexander the Great Greek or Macedonian or Illyrian
- Italy: Sicilian, Calabria etc. + Germany: low German (geographical) & high German

- Based on group identities: '*core values*' eg: language & religion + food or being Greek Orthodox
- *Shared ethnicity*: culture & language
  - Ethnicity= *ethnos* (Greek) = nation /people → 'community feeling & identification with the group'
  - More emotional side of feeling of belonging
- This raises the question of contested regions by competing ethnic groups – eg: Balkan states

#### Criteria of Ethnicity

1. Common proper name
2. Myth of common ancestry → eg: German battle against Romans in 9<sup>th</sup> C, this is essential to origins of Germany
3. Shared historical memories → sense of who you are eg: Gallipoli in Australia
4. Elements of common culture → eg: food in Australia
5. Linked with a homeland → core event of Serbian identity took place in Kosovo (which has become Albania in), if a group sees a core place of where they belong to is lost & their ethnicity/identity is lost
6. Sense of solidarity → regional breakaway identities: Serbia, Montenegro etc.

#### Ethnic group vs. nation

- Ethnicity= often basis of national identity—Serbs, Greeks, Italians, Australians, Americans, Canadians – eg: 'I am French and European'
- Ethnic group = a potential nation – ethnic group may be other-defined, nation must be self-defined & invested with emotion eg: Croats & Slovenes in early 19<sup>th</sup> C
- But every nation is not a single ethnic group

#### Core Values

- =Elements of a group's culture which members of the group believe are the most crucial & identify & distinguish them eg: language & religion
- Not simply national – may be sub-national (Hungarians in Romania) or supra-national (Western EU, Islam)
  - State= concrete political institutions, territorial boundaries
  - Nation= can be people not necessarily in state formation
  - Nation state= boundaries of nation & state coincide eg Australia

#### Unification of nations

- Very different histories of nation-building over centuries since beginning of Middle Ages → their stronger sense of identity has led to building of supra-national identities
- Nation states came about from tribes to kingdoms to nations – building over millennia, after fall of Romans
- Differing identities & diversity is an obstacle to pan-European identity but also is sense of Europeaness