

# EUROPE: THE COUNTRIES

CM: (1) You will probably have to use some colors, more than once, so color a country first, then its name below. This will avoid having the same color on adjacent countries. (2) Color Europe gray on the two lower maps.

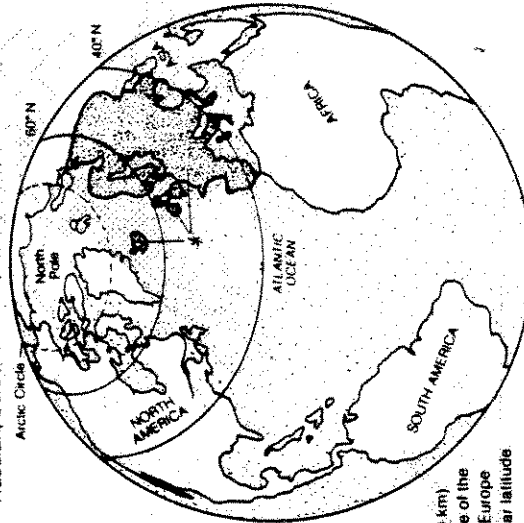
- ALBANIA<sup>A</sup> / TIRANA
- AUSTRIA<sup>B</sup> / VIENNA
- BELGIUM<sup>C</sup> / BRUSSELS
- BULGARIA<sup>D</sup> / SOFIA
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA<sup>E</sup> / PRAGUE
- DENMARK<sup>F</sup> / COPENHAGEN
- FINLAND<sup>G</sup> / HELSINKI
- FRANCE<sup>H</sup> / PARIS
- GERMANY<sup>I</sup> / BERLIN
- GREAT BRITAIN<sup>J</sup> / LONDON
- GREECE<sup>K</sup> / ATHENS
- HUNGARY<sup>L</sup> / BUDAPEST
- ICELAND<sup>M</sup> / REYKJAVIK
- IRELAND<sup>N</sup> / DUBLIN
- ITALY<sup>O</sup> / ROME
- LUXEMBOURG<sup>P</sup> / LUXEMBOURG
- NETHERLANDS<sup>Q</sup> / AMSTERDAM
- NORWAY<sup>R</sup> / OSLO
- POLAND<sup>S</sup> / WARSAW
- PORTUGAL<sup>T</sup> / LISBON
- ROMANIA<sup>U</sup> / BUCHAREST
- SPAIN<sup>V</sup> / MADRID
- SWEDEN<sup>W</sup> / STOCKHOLM
- SWITZERLAND<sup>X</sup> / BERN
- USSR<sup>Y</sup> / MOSCOW
- YUGOSLAVIA<sup>Z</sup> / BELGRADE

Europe is as far north as Canada, and London is 650 mi. (1,040 km) further north than New York City. But with the warming influence of the Gulf Stream (called the North Atlantic Drift in Europe), western Europe enjoys a milder climate than Canada and other regions of similar latitude.

Europe is the most densely populated continent. Its 700 million people make up the second largest population (after Asia), but Europe is the second smallest continent (after Australia). Nine cities have over 2 million residents. Most of the population lives in the industrial regions of Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, northern France, Germany, southern Poland, western Czechoslovakia, and northern Italy. The least populous region lies across northern Norway, Sweden, and Finland.

Only the largest 26 of Europe's 34 countries are included on this plate. (Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, and Vatican City—shown on the following plates—are small enough to fit within the borders of any large city.) The European part of the USSR (Soviet Union) is nearly as large as the rest of Europe; the Asian part is three times as large. The USSR is considered European because most Soviets live in the European part and practice a European culture. Turkey is considered Asian because it has an eastern culture and only 3% of its area is in Europe.

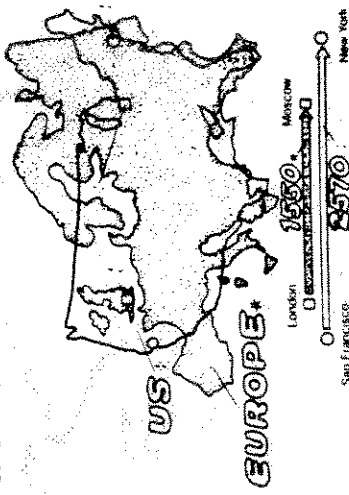
Territorial barriers, in the form of mountains, rivers, lakes, gulfs, channels, and peninsulas, have enabled most European nations to preserve their individual cultures. Almost all Europeans speak some form of four Indo-European languages: (1) Celtic (Breton, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, and Welsh); (2) Latin-Romance (French, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, and Spanish); (3) Germanic (Dutch, English, German, and the Scandinavian languages—Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish); (4) Slavic (Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and Slovak).



Centuries of exploration, colonization, trade, and emigration have spread European culture across the globe. Beginning with ancient Greece, the birthplace of western civilization, Europe has been the source of great political ideas (democracy, capitalism, and communism); scientific and medical advances; technological achievements (the industrial revolution), and great art, music, and literature.

Christianity has been the principal religion, with Roman Catholicism the form most widely practiced (particularly in southwestern Europe). Protestant branches dominate Great Britain, Scandinavia, and northern Europe. The Eastern Orthodox branch of Christianity is the religion of the USSR and southeastern Europe. Judaism once flourished in Europe, but during World War II, Germany exterminated three-fourths of the Jewish population—6 million people.

The 40 years following World War II saw Europe divided into two armed camps: an Eastern Bloc of communist nations under Soviet domination and a western group of free, independent countries. Today, the continent is in a remarkable state of transition. Twelve of the western nations are members of the European Community, an organization that will tear down all trade barriers in 1992, creating one economic society. Future political unification (a "United States of Europe") has become a distinct possibility. In 1989, an even greater change occurred in Eastern Europe, when, with the acquiescence of the USSR, members of the Eastern Bloc asserted their independence by holding free elections and removing the communist party from power. The USSR, too, was opening up its society, adopting free-market incentives, and seeking economic ties with the West. The following year witnessed the reunification of the divided Germany and a general consensus that the "cold war" was indeed over.



Europe, with 3,810,000 sq. mi. (9,867,900 km<sup>2</sup>), is about 10% larger than the United States (Alaska and Hawaii included).