

Frontiers of Europe ©



Union of Cultures within a Civilisation

The above mentioned title encompasses a number of major subjects. A minimalist approach can highlight primarily a number of well known fundamentals and commence with the statement that the Cultural frontiers of Europe embrace the European Civilisation, which can briefly, yet effectively, be defined by the following strata: the **GRECO-ROMAN** stratum; **CHRISTIANITY**; the **MEDIEVAL** period, which embraces and consolidates the past, and establishes new standards, cultures and nations; the **RENAISSANCE** polishes and enhances most of its aspects; the **AGE OF REASON** examines the past and incorporates extensive new ideas and innovations with rational thought; the **CONSUMER AGE** – origin primarily rooted within the Industrial Revolution – has brought sweeping economic and sociological changes subsuming widespread industrialisation and urbanisation; universally advancing Consumer Society has become a noted aspect of Globalization; and finally, the Civilisation is furthered significantly by its spectrum of **VALUES** fought for across the ages. The various aspects of the aforementioned strata have spread at diverse periods and velocities throughout history. [Rights and Values](#)

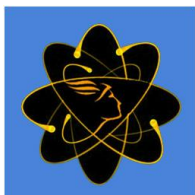
The aforementioned Civilisation is often referred to as the 'Western Civilisation'. That term, of course, has a long history, but now it has become inflicted with politicized aspects with unreasonable additions and subtractions. Moreover, no civilisation should be classified according to the needle of the compass. That point has been repeated numerous times. It is best to maintain the term 'European Civilisation', as it reflects the origin of long standing fundamentals realistically. The said Civilisation possesses, of course, an intercontinental global geography that stretches, by maritime aspects, well beyond the Cultural Frontiers of Europe. North America, remains the most outstanding example.

Presently, it is apt to take into account the new Global currents that have emerged since the last decade of the Twentieth century. Civilisations – or their certain aspects – are now surfacing as influential geopolitical factors. Consequently, the emphasis has begun to depart from the long standing and rigid physical geographic outlines, to ones based on cultural demarcations that separate civilisations geographically. European Cultural Frontiers embrace such defining outlines with the outside World – intercontinental and maritime – and jointly possess an outstanding primacy. They can be effectively classified as encompassing - with minor enclave type exceptions - nations belonging to the European Civilisation, thus consolidating a specific geography. That geography appropriately classified as Greater Europe, is a continuous landmass, plus its islands. Longitude point of view, it stretches from Gibraltar to Vladivostok, thus maintaining impressive Atlantic and Pacific outlooks. Latitude point of view it stretches from Scandinavia to Armenia. Latter's continental frontiers form the southernmost point.

The deep rooted past reveals that significant external dangers effecting Europe have emanated geographically from the south and the east. As vast oceans and maritime regions - some most inhospitable - situated at its western and northern regions, have effectively served as protection barriers. This state of affairs remains practically unaltered. Consequently, the geopolitical and strategic aspects in the south and east hold significantly different characteristics. Failure of their outlying zones can have severe consequences. As only a small number of European nations possess such strategic external boundaries with other civilisations. Numerous aspects, inclusive of values, can be undermined or eliminated not only in the said demarcation zones, but similarly impact interior regions as well. Although the southernmost continental region remains the most exposed, yet the vast eastern frontiers stretching from the northern Caspian Sea towards the Pacific Ocean remain by far the most perilous. Their failure can be catastrophic for regions extending up to central Europe. There is no room for error on either front.

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