

POLITICAL EUROPE ©

Second Edition



Advancing Europe

The above title encompasses a number of disciplines and their intramural variants. Consequently, it may be prudent to initiate a basic yet broad approach that concentrates on a set of primary aspects. From a physical geography point of view Europe is one of the smaller continents, yet it maintains the third largest population globally — approximately eleven percent of the total — and remains the second most densely populated.

Realities, however, clearly reveal that, Europe's demography, within its intercontinental demarcations, cover a significantly greater expanse; as a result, inducing the reconstitution of the aforementioned parameters. In this respect, its entire geography encompassed by the European Civilisation — also referred to as the Western Civilisation — and delimited by the External European Cultural Frontiers have to be taken into account. Such factors demonstrate that certain continental divisions based upon physical geography, such as the Ural Mountains or the western Caucasus, have not been barriers as far as the European Civilisation is concerned.

External European Cultural Frontiers — intercontinental or maritime — with the outside world can be effectively demarcated as encompassing — with minor enclave type exceptions — nations belonging to the European Civilisation, thus consolidating a specific geography. That geography classified as Greater Europe, is a continuous landmass, plus its islands. From the Latitudinal point of view, it stretches from Gibraltar to Vladivostok, thus maintaining Atlantic and Pacific outlooks. From the Longitudinal point of view it stretches from Scandinavia to Armenia. The Latter's continental frontiers are the most southerly. [Frontiers of Europe: Union of cultures within a Civilisation.](#)



Greater Europe: The Overall Geography
European Union: Integral Frontiers

The importance of the aforementioned Cultural Frontiers can be reasonably highlighted by the new global currents that have emerged since the last decade of the Twentieth Century. Civilisations — or their certain aspects — have begun to emerge as influential global factors. Consequently, the emphasis has proceeded to depart from the longstanding and rigid physical geographic outlines, to ones based on cultural geography, with defined demarcations that separate civilisations demographically.



Population Density at the End of the Twentieth Century

Internal Cultural Frontiers of Greater Europe encompass numerous cultures as nations, inclusive of their languages and traditions. Some aspects can even highlight broader regions with certain common characteristics. Usually Europe is divided into its Western and Eastern sectors, yet one can also consider a southerly approach by geographically extending eastwards from Iberia to Armenia. Additionally, it is appropriate to note that the latter mentioned state was the first country to acknowledge Christianity as a state religion; closely

followed by the Byzantine World / Rome in the East. This southern geography also includes the lands of Classical Greece, the Roman Empire in the West and the Renaissance. Thus, encompassing routes of the historic yet formative [Grand Tour](#). As far as the European Civilisation is concerned, the aforementioned formative approach may have to be regenerated as a broadly proffered scholastic instrument. The West European expanse can also be delimited through France, extending eastwards via Germany, embracing northern regions such as the British Isles, Scandinavia and the Baltic states. The East European projection can be classified to extend from Belarus and Ukraine, through western Russia and a sparsely populated Russian Siberia; thus, finally reaching the Pacific Ocean outlook. European integration has only advanced strictly within the European Cultural Frontiers.

The European Union — EU — currently possesses twenty eight members. That is a major achievement¹. Despite boasting an internal market of some magnitude, however, it has maintained a pampered deindustrialization policy causing social and financial detriment. Moreover, preferences and large funds have been lavished upon its long-standing foes and competitors. [Strategic Europe](#).

Its rivals have advanced economically and with their newly acquired funds have strengthened their geopolitical strategies militarily. On the other hand, due to their detrimental economic policies the EU states have failed to allocate the necessary funds for the enhancement of their own armed forces. Hence, the detriment suffered by the West European subsumes finance as well as defence.



Greater Europe: The West

Currently, there are also contested territorial issues that require consideration. These are frozen conflicts mostly situated in Eastern Europe relating to inter-state territorial claims as well as developments relevant to self-determination or varying levels of autonomy. In the past such matters among European nations were often settled with major military upheavals, at times practically continent-wide. Due to the unifying psychology of the EU, one now expects such developments to be solved within the bounds of reasonability.

¹ Nevertheless, Brexit remains a disorienting asymmetry, however, it will not alter the progressive path established by the European Project.

Within the European Cultural Frontiers, or the EU, it may be prudent to establish a juridical infrastructure whereby such contentious internal issues may be solved without involving external powers or the United Nations – UN, thus, solving issues upon their own localised merits. Nevertheless, in this respect norms of international law -- as established by the UN -- must also be integrated. Principles stipulated within the UN's Charter include territorial integrity, involving the inviolability of frontiers, and advancing in parallel the Charter's well known principle of self-determination, which was first included in Woodrow Wilson's internationally projected, Fourteen Points and his self-determination speech of 11th February 1918. Subsequently broadly disseminated during the [Paris Peace Conference](#). Although the two principles possess contradictory characteristics, the latter, if implemented reasonably, overrides the former. Numerous centuries of history clearly prove that frontiers have always altered; without any doubt, they will continue to do so in the future. Dogmatic contrarian views can eventually lead to broad violence. The key point, of course, is to prevent smaller nations from being overrun by their domineering neighbours. Peaceful settlement of disputes remains an important endeavour. Such avenues as the mediation process, the binding international arbitration procedure, sanctions, specific merits of a case, territorial plebiscite and Human Rights aspects can be taken into account [Rights and Values](#).



United Nations, New York, Gift of Luxemburg, 1988

On behalf of the International Community, the Humanitarian Intervention procedure is a further UN established factor. It is based on the *responsibility to protect* doctrine, also referred to as R2P. It involves the use of military force – as a last resort – for halting gross and persistent Human Rights abuses or outright exterminations suffered by a small nation in an offending sovereign state. As expected, however, a request for such assistance may not be forthcoming from the offending state, as a result R2P can be applied. Nevertheless, if there is a lack of consensus in the UN Security Council, a broad union of member states led by a number of permanent members of the Security Council may be able to circumvent the aforementioned influential Council's veto and act independently; thus upholding their Humanitarian resolution in good faith. However, if a veto had been applied, the legitimacy of the response may be diminished; accordingly, they can be held legally liable for the unexpected consequences – if any – brought about due to their military measures. Additionally, of course, level of the intervention may also depend upon the political and strategic interests of the responding states; accordingly, the elimination of state sponsored terrorism and aggression emanating from the offending state(s) may also be considered. An additional key aspect of R2P is to provide “remedial sovereignty” to small nations in danger; consequently providing them with the necessary shield established by international law. The

procedure further emphasises the priority of UN Charter's self-determination principle. Without any doubt, R2P should be enforced and not dismissed due to bad faith.

A number of states possess intermixture of populations with diverging European Cultures. Consequently, relevant constitutions — with federal characteristics — providing specific national rights and liberties may be required for the security and harmony of the entire population. Smaller nations with particular national regions, yet lacking nation-state formations, may require reasonable levels of autonomy to protect their homelands from undue external influences. [Human Rights and Humanitarian Action](#).

Despite its federal oriented infrastructure, the EU has made no serious attempt to incorporate the enclave type exceptions that do not belong to the European Civilisation, yet remain within the External European Cultural Frontiers, and are mostly situated in the south. A number of states in the Balkans fall into this category. In Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation has incorporated all internal national regions with reasonable levels of autonomy.

Presently, there are a number of abrasive developments confronting all Europeans. Two issues stand out significantly. The first being the failure of the EU to establish an all-European military that can raise Europe to its merited global position. [European Defence Community](#). In this respect the current state of affairs reveals that [Greater Europe](#) is mainly divided between its fragmented Western sector, as the EU, and a militarily unified Russian Federation in the East. Presently there is no serious project that can close the gap. Russian Federation is obliged to defend its massive land and maritime frontiers with its own resources and pursue a separate defence policy involving strategic connotations. This perennial disparity continues to create a major political chasm within the European continent that runs significantly contrary to the EU's unifying objectives. [European Security Integration](#). At times even economic links are adversely affected. One can also add that it is unwise for the EU to remain thoroughly attached to the 'apron strings' of any major power. Undoubtedly, this paradoxical political atmosphere can ignite at any time.



Greater Europe: The East

The second abrasive development involves Russia's stance regarding European ideals and the European Civilisation. An influential section of its ruling elite has diverted Russia from its rightful European heritage. Majority of Russians traditionally do not identify themselves as Europeans, and possess the conception that their culture does not belong to the European group of nations. In the past, of course, other European nations were also inflicted similarly; especially those that had suffered long periods of non-European occupations. Up to the early years of this decade, a number of inept Russian ideologists had continued to claim that their nation belongs to a different civilisation, consequently there has been an attempt to fabricate a 'Russian Civilisation' ideologically. This unrealistic attitude, in conjunction with other factors, has brought about a frosty reaction from the EU. During the second half of this decade, however, Russia's elite and ideologists have altered their position, and now acknowledge the European principles and most realities.

Nevertheless, in the future, Russia can, of course, cocoon itself irrationally as it has done in the past, however, it has to return to realities eventually. For example, in centuries past it had failed to progress much beyond the Medieval stage of the European Civilisation. It was Peter the Great's leadership that brought in an advanced format of the Civilisation from Western Europe that had progressed significantly beyond the Medieval stage, by incorporating the Renaissance as a supplementary stratum and the subsequently established Age of Reason – the Enlightenment – as an additional stratum in motion. It is best to remain within the advancing flow collectively.

Currently, Russia is the most populous European nation. Furthermore, it is Europe's largest country by land area. Its projection of the Russian national identity also requires a broadly parallel dissemination within the European credo, similar to the twenty eight nation-states of the EU. If such a policy is adopted, the Russian Federation will also progress as a European Federation, possibly in an alliance with a number of smaller East European countries. Accordingly, establishing a reasonable level of compatibility with the EU, hence, helping to form the much required foundations of a long term peace. The final act of forging an all-European union may be more in line with an amalgamation process rather than one based entirely on integration.

Future of Europe's internal and global prospects, as well as its security, will mostly depend on the eradication of the aforementioned problems. Its long-term safety will largely depend on the successful defence of its External Cultural Frontiers geographically and strategically situated in the south and in the east, maritime or continental. [Future of European Integration](#). The inter-state European identity has progressed markedly from merely being a fragmented geographic one — as it was during the pre-WW.II period — to one now based primarily on a wider European credo. The advancing European coalescence can continue to project cultural diversities predominantly, rightly so; European Civilisation, however, projects unity within the entire European demography. [Shields of Europe: A Past and a Future](#). The enemy within will persistently fail to undermine Europe's all-encompassing Providence. [Europe In Danger](#)

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