

WESTERN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES

I. Britain Government and the Economy

- a. Post WWII
 - i. Increased role of labor and nationalized businesses
 - ii. Government build housing, health care, pensions – paid with taxes
- b. Welfare Rollback
 - i. Margaret Thatcher
 - 1. Conservative leader of British Government in 1980's
 - 2. reduced size of government and programs
 - 3. tried to encourage individual initiative and private enterprise
- c. New World Role
 - i. Commonwealth of Nations
 - 1. International organization between Britain and her former colonies
 - 2. Created economic and military ties between the nations
 - ii. Reduced to a lesser power behind the US
- d. Northern Ireland
 - i. 1922 – Ireland gets independence, Britain keeps 6 northern counties
 - 1. split on religious lines – Catholic vs Protestant
 - ii. Terrorism – both sides bomb civilians to get their way
 - iii. British maintain regular army troops in Northern Ireland

II. France: Revival and Prosperity

- a. De Gaulle
 - i. Algeria
 - 1. French colony in North Africa
 - 2. very close ties to French, some saw as part of French
 - 3. revolted and wanted independence
 - ii. 1958 De Gaulle establish Fifth Republic
 - 1. grant independence to Algeria without a fight
 - iii. Tried to establish France as power – resisted American leadership
- b. Economic Revival
 - i. Nationalized businesses and increased social welfare
 - ii. Socialists led by Francois Mitterand ran France in 1980's
 - iii. Jacques Chirac takes power and tries to increase influence of private business

III. Germany Reunited At Last

- a. West German economic miracle
 - i. US try to strengthen West Germany
 - ii. Germany rebuilt factories, cities, with high taxes
 - iii. Capitalist but reform socialist state
 - iv. US build West Germany

- 1. buffer against Soviets
 - 2. Germany build it's factories and cities with high taxes
 - v. Remain capitalist
 - 1. seen as potential threat
- b. East Germany
 - i. Soviets exploit cheap labor in East Germany
 - 1. basics of health, housing, education provided
 - ii. Many attempted to flee to west
- c. Ostpolitik
 - i. 1969 – West German Chancellor Willy Brandt try to ease tension with East
 - ii. signed treaties with USSR, East Germany and East Europe
- d. Reunification
 - i. Soviets fall, communists forced out of East Germany
 - ii. 1990 Germany reunited
 - 1. West German chancellor Kohl led united Germany
- e. New Challenges
 - i. need to balance poor east and wealthy west
 - ii. East Germans needed to learn market economy
 - iii. Racism rise in response to social threats

IV. Other Democratic Nations

- a. Scandinavia
 - i. adopt mainly socialist plans
- b. Italy
 - i. North was urban and prospered
 - ii. South was rural and struggled
 - iii. multiparty system led to divisions
 - iv. corruption, mafia, scandal prevent progress

V. Democratic Gains

- a. Spain, Portugal Greece don't get civilian rule until 1970's