

7. Teaching the EU: Globalization and the European Union (EU)



Applicable course in new B.C. curriculum: Political Studies 11

(also has application for 20th Century World History 11 and Economics 12)

the process of European integration is contained specifically, if globalization generally refers to peoples, then is the EU more a form of globaliz

Big Idea

- The rapid development and proliferation of communication and transportation technologies in the 20th century led to profound changes in p x Assess how prevailing conditions and the affect events, decisions, and developments (cause and consequence)
 - Assess how historical conditions influenced the development of economic approaches and theories (cause and consequence)

Content

- Interdependence and international co-operation
- Issues in global politics, such as security, trade, conflict management, development, and sustainability

[What is the EU?](#)

[Globalization and the EU economy](#)

[Europe and Globalization: the dangers and the assets](#)

[Regional integration around the world](#)

[Canada in a globalized world](#)

Procedure:

Have students pre-read material above. In small groups, have them complete 'Globalization: Key Terms'.

Discussion of different understandings, and examples, of globalization. Also, discussion of the strengths and weaknesses inherent in international cooperation and interdependence.

In small groups, have students complete the scenario ('European integration as war avoidance'). Discuss and debrief.

Globalization Key Terms. In small groups, define the following terms:

Globalization: _____

Trade: _____

Sovereignty: _____

Globalism: _____

Regionalism: _____

Interdependence: _____

European Integration: _____

International Law: _____

Protectionism: _____

European Integration: War Avoidance, or Economic Profit?

In 1951, the Treaty of Paris bound the countries of Belgium, France, Germany (then West Germany), Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands together in the European Coal and Steel Community. The logic of the time, stemming from French officials Jean Monnet and Robert Schumann, was that countries that have to depend on each other for basic necessities are less likely to go to war with each other. Coal and steel were selected because not only were they major resources, but they also comprised two of the biggest resources necessary for weapon-building. In this manner, the seed of modern European integration was born.

Since then, the early European Coal and Steel Community has grown into a much larger European Union (EU). The EU is now a single legal entity representing 28 countries, and is responsible for numerous areas of economic and political interdependence. Some of the major achievements of the EU include, but are not limited to, the Single Market (where all goods are considered to be EU goods, rather than domestic products), the euro currency (a shared monetary currency adopted by 19 European countries), and a EU citizenship (where legal citizens of an EU country can move freely between other EU countries for work, study, or pleasure).

As the EU has grown, the EU institutions have continued to provide the logic of European integration being a necessary requirement for peace on the European continent. This idea is becoming frequently challenged; the vote on Brexit – or the UK voting to leave the EU – provides a key example. There is also a strong economic foundation to European integration, where the central purpose of the EU is to create a single, powerful economy. The logic to the economic foundations of the EU is that EU countries can together better compete with other major world economies than they could if they were not integrated into the EU. In this sense, the EU exists to protect European countries from global economic forces.

Which logic is stronger in explaining the EU today? Does it continue to exist more for reasons of peace-keeping, or more for reasons of economic power? Should it continue to exist – why or why not?

Things to keep in mind:

1. What is the Single Market? How does this benefit EU countries?
2. How might you imagine some EU countries do *not* benefit from European integration?
3. Is the EU just another example of regionalism – similar to NAFTA, or ASEAN?
4. Is the EU just another example of an international organization – similar to the UN, or the WTO?
5. What are the historical factors at work for the EU logic of peace-keeping in Europe?
6. Is the EU a small example of globalization at work because of its deep interdependence among member states? Or is it more an example of regional protectionism within a global economy?

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