

Introduction to European Geography

Central Question: How has the map of Europe changed over time?

Objective:

- Begin to understand how the map of Europe has changed over time; recognize European country names, where those countries are (or were) located, and roughly when they came into existence.

Directions: Examine the 10 maps of Europe and answer the following questions.

1. Central Europe

- a. Which large entity occupied Central Europe in Maps 1-4?
- b. Compare Maps 2 and 10. Which contemporary countries were once either entirely or partly within the boundaries of the Holy Roman Empire? Which contemporary country occupied the largest share of the Holy Roman Empire?
- c. By which date, at the very least, can you be sure that the Holy Roman Empire no longer existed? What entity took the place of the Holy Roman Empire? How did it compare in size to the Holy Roman Empire?
- d. Which entity replaced the one you identified in (c)? Which two Germanic states held the largest share of territory within it?
- e. What major changes took place from Map 6 to Map 7?
- f. In which map, and in which year noted on the map, do you first see a country specifically labeled “Germany”?
- g. What happened to Germany after World War II?
- h. What is the state of Germany today (i.e. what happened after the Cold War)?

2. Central Eastern Europe

- a. Vienna is the capital of which country today?
- b. In which large state entity was Vienna located during the medieval period (Map 1)?
- c. Look at Maps 2-4. Which dynasty governed the territory occupied by Vienna? How did the size of that territory change over time?
- d. Compare Maps 6 and 10. Which contemporary countries were part of the Austrian Empire in 1815?
- e. Look at Map 7. What is the empire called in this map? Why do you think it had this name?
- f. Examine Map 8. Which countries formed out of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War I?

3. Southeastern Europe

- a. Which empire controlled this region during the medieval period (c. 950-1300)?
- b. Which empire controlled this region by 1494? How far into Europe did this empire’s territory extend in 1560 (describe using country and city names that appear on the map)?
- c. When did the empire that you identified in part (b) disappear from the map of Europe? Which countries took its place?
- d. Compare Maps 9 and 10. Which contemporary countries were once part of Yugoslavia?

4. Hodge Podge
 - a. By which date can you be sure that Spain had united? Identify the date indicated on the map where you first see a united Spain.
 - b. During which window of time must Italian unification have taken place? German unification (the first one)?
 - c. When does independent Poland disappear from the European map? When does it reappear? Identify dates for each question.

5. Examining the entire collection of European maps, and considering especially the differences that exist between Maps 1 and 10, what has(have) been the geographic trend(s) in modern European history?

6. What questions do you have regarding European geography? Please come up with at least 2 good questions.