

# Key Post Cold War Topics

## **Main Topics**

- The Creation of the European Union
- The Wars in Yugoslavia
- Terrorism

## The European Union

- Starting Post World War II various western European states began to cooperate economically via a variety of treaties and agreements
- Goal: to help facilitate trade and reduce trade barriers
- The MAASTRICHT TREATY in 1992 (went into effect in 1993) formally creates the EUROPEAN UNION
  - Established the terms for the union (amended along the way)
  - Created terms for admission of new members (a number have joined along the way)

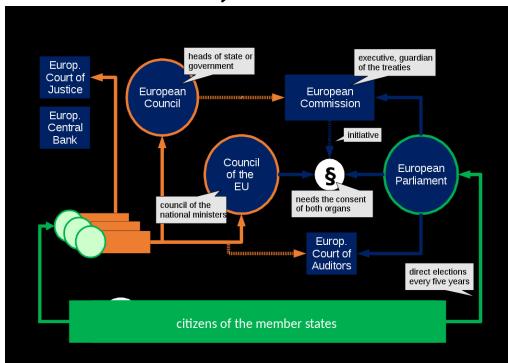
#### Members

- There are currently28 members of the EU
- Total population exceeds that of the US
- The economy of the EU is also slightly larger than the US



#### Institutions

- There are many pieces to the European Union including:
  - A European Parliament
  - A Central Bank to coordinate the use of the Euro currency (\*note: not all EU members use the Euro)
  - Here is a confusing diagram:



## The Wars in Yugoslavia 1991 - 2001

- Began in 1991 a short time after the death of longtime communist dictator Josip Broz Tito
- Different states, with largely different ethnic/religious groups began to secede from the Federation this was largely opposed by the dominant Serbs
- Civil War ensued largely Serbs vs. other various ethnic groups, but there was other fighting between other groups as well

## Major Groups and Regions



## **Areas Dominated by Serbs**



### The Conflicts

- The events involve a series of wars effecting different regions at different times over the decade
- Began in the North in Slovenia and Croatia they both moved to secede and brief conflicts broke out in 1991; they ended in Slovenia rather quickly, but in Croatia they went on until 1995. There were significant war crimes committed during this portion of the conflict
- Starting in 1992 the conflict also grew to involve Bosnia as largely Muslim Bosnians and Serbian Bosnians both fought for an ethnic state of their own. The Serbs in Bosnia began a systemic "ethnic cleansing" of non-Serb Bosnians — about 8,373 non-Serbs were massacred in the town of Srebrenica — thousands more were killed across the region; many more were raped in "rape camps" set up by Bosnian Serbs; several 100,000+ more were forcibly expelled from the region

### **Aftermath**

- New Nations
- War Crimes and trials
- A number of former Serb leaders have been jailed



#### **Terrorism**

- Terrorism (for a variety of reasons and carried out by a variety of different actors) has impacted Europe
- The war in Syria and various revolutions/uprisings across North Africa has also had an impact

#### Main attacks in Europe and Turkey

