

UNIT V
1.EUROPEAN UNION
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The European Union is a group of 28 countries that operate as a cohesive economic and political block.

19 of these countries use EURO as their official currency. 9 EU members (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) do not use the euro.

The EU grew out of a desire to form a single European political entity to end centuries of warfare among European countries that culminated with World War II and decimated much of the continent.

The EU has developed an internal single market through a standardised system of laws that apply in all member states in matters, where members have agreed to act as one.

Goals

- Promote peace, values and the well-being of all citizens of EU.
- Offer freedom, security and justice without internal borders
- Sustainable development based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive market economy with full employment and social progress, and environmental protection
- Combat social exclusion and discrimination
- Promote scientific and technological progress
- Enhance economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among EU countries
- Respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity
- Establish an economic and monetary union whose currency is euro.

History

- After World War II, European integration was seen as a cure to the excessive nationalism which had devastated the continent.
- In 1946 at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, Winston Churchill went further and advocated the emergence of a United States of Europe.
- In 1952, European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was founded under Treaty of Paris (1951) by 6 countries called Six (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) to renounce part of their sovereignty by placing their coal and steel production in a common market, under it.
 - European Court of Justice (called "Court of Justice of the European Communities" until 2009) was also established in 1952 under Paris Treaty.
- European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom) is an international organisation established by the Euratom Treaty (1957) with the original purpose of creating a specialist market for nuclear power in Europe, by developing nuclear energy

and distributing it to its member states while selling the surplus to non-member states.

- It has same members as the European Union and is governed by the European Commission (EC) and Council, operating under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice.
- European Economic Community (EEC) was created by the Treaty of Rome (1957). The Community's initial aim was to bring about economic integration, including a common market and customs union, among its founding members (Six).
 - It ceased to exist by Lisbon Treaty-2007 and its activities were incorporated in EU.
- Merger Treaty (1965, Brussels) in which an agreement was reached to merge the three communities (ECSC, EAEC, and EEC) under a single set of institutions, creating the European Communities (ECs).
 - The Commission and Council of the EEC were to take over the responsibilities of its counterparts (ECSC, EAEC) in other organisations.
- The ECs initially expanded in 1973 when Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom became members. Greece joined in 1981, Portugal and Spain following in 1986.
- Schengen Agreement (1985) paved the way for the creation of open borders without passport controls between most member states. It was effective in 1995.
- Single European Act (1986): enacted by the European Community that committed its member countries to a timetable for their economic merger and the establishment of a single European currency and common foreign and domestic policies.
- The Maastricht Treaty-1992 (also called the Treaty on European Union) was signed on 7 February 1992 by the members of the European Community in Maastricht, Netherlands to further European integration. It received a great push with the end of the Cold War.
 - European Communities (ECSC, EAEC, and EEC) incorporated as European Union.
 - European citizenship was created, allowing citizens to reside in and move freely between Member States.
 - A common foreign and security policy was established.
 - Closer cooperation between police and the judiciary in criminal matters was agreed.
 - It paved the way for the creation of a single European currency – the euro. It was the culmination of several decades of debate on increasing economic cooperation in Europe.
 - It established the European Central Bank (ECB).

- It enabled people to run for local office and for European Parliament elections in the EU country they lived in.
- A monetary union was established in 1999 and came into full force in 2002 and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. These are Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.
- In 2002, Treaty of Paris (1951) expired & ECSC ceased to exist and its activities fully absorbed by the European Community (EEC).
- The Treaty of Lisbon 2007:
 - European Community (now composed only of EEC, EAEC, as ECSC already ceased in 2002) was ceased and its activities incorporated in EU.
 - EAEC is only remaining community organization legally distinct from the European Union (EU), but has the same membership, and is governed by many of the EU's institutions.
- Euro Crisis: The EU and the European Central Bank (ECB) have struggled with high sovereign debt and collapsing growth in Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain since the global financial market collapse of 2008. Greece and Ireland received financial bailouts from the community in 2009, which were accompanied by fiscal austerity. Portugal followed in 2011, along with a second Greek bailout.
 - Multiple rounds of interest rate cuts and economic stimulus failed to resolve the problem.
 - Northern countries such as Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands increasingly resent the financial drain from the south.
- In 2012, the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize for having "contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy, and human rights in Europe.
- Brexit: In 2016, a referendum (called Brexit) was held by U.K. government, and the nation voted to leave the EU. Now the process is under UK Parliament for formal withdrawal from EU.

Governance

- European Council:
 - It is a collective body that defines the European Union's overall political direction and priorities.
 - It comprises of the heads of state or government of the EU member states, along with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.
 - The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy also takes part in its meetings.
 - Established as an informal summit in 1975, the European Council was formalised as an institution in 2009 upon the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

- The decisions of its summits are adopted by consensus.
- European Parliament: It is the only parliamentary institution of the European Union (EU) that is directly elected by EU citizens aged 18 years or older. Together with the Council of the European Union (also known as the 'Council'), it exercises the legislative function of the EU.
 - European Parliament does not possess as much legislative power as its member countries' parliaments do.
- Council of the European Union: It is part of the essentially bicameral EU legislature (the other legislative body being the European Parliament) and represents the executive governments (Minister) of the EU's member states.
 - In the Council, government ministers from each EU country meet to discuss, amend and adopt laws, and coordinate policies. The ministers have the authority to commit their governments to the actions agreed on in the meetings.
- European Commission (EC): It is an executive body of the European Union, responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties and managing the day-to-day business of the EU.
 - The Commission operates as a cabinet government, with 28 members of the Commission. There is one member per member state. These members are proposed by member countries and European Parliament gives final approval on them.
 - One of the 28 members is the Commission President proposed by the European Council and elected by the European Parliament.
 - The Commission is divided into departments known as Directorates-General (DGs) that can be likened to departments or ministries is headed by a director-general who is responsible to a commissioner.
 - High Representative (HR) of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is appointed by the European Council by voting and The President of the EC must be in agreement with the decision. HR is charged with shaping and carrying out the EU's foreign, security and defence policies.
- European Court of Auditors (ECA): It investigates the proper management of finances within both the EU entities and EU funding provided to its member states.
 - It can refer unresolved issues to the European Court of Justice to arbitrate on any alleged irregularities.
 - ECA members are appointed by the Council, after consulting the Parliament, for renewable 6-year terms.
- The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU): It interprets EU law to make sure it is applied in the same way in all EU countries, and settles legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions.

- It can also be approached by individuals, companies or organisations to take action against an EU institution, if they feel their rights are infringed under EU system.
- Each judge and advocate general is appointed jointly by national governments (member country).
- It is located in Luxembourg.
- The European Central Bank (ECB): It is the central bank for the euro and administers monetary policy within the Euro zone, which comprises 19 member states of the European Union.
 - Governing Council – It is the main decision-making body of ECB. It consists of the Executive Board plus the governors of the national central banks from euro zone countries.
 - Executive Board – It handles the day-to-day running of the ECB. It consists of the ECB President and Vice-President and 4 other members appointed by national governments of euro zone countries.
 - Sets the interest rates at which it lends to commercial banks in the euro zone, thus controlling money supply and inflation.
 - Authorises production of euro banknotes by euro zone countries.
 - Ensures the safety and soundness of the European banking system.
 - It is located in Frankfurt (Germany).
- The European system of financial supervision (ESFS): It was introduced in 2010. It consists of:
 - the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB)
 - 3 European supervisory authorities (ESAs):
 - the European Banking Authority (EBA)
 - the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)
 - the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA)

Functions

- EU's law and regulation is meant to create a cohesive economic entity of its countries, so that goods can flow freely across the borders of its member nations, without tariffs, with the ease of one currency, and the creation of one enlarged labour pool, which creates a more efficient distribution and use of labour.
- There is a pooling of financial resources, so that member nations can be "bailed out" or lent money for investment.
- Union's expectations in areas such as human rights and the environment have political implications for member countries. Union can exact a heavy political cost such as severe cutbacks and an austerity budget on its members as a condition of giving aid.

- This is a great experiment, really, in cooperation amongst nations, who wish to be economically unified, ceding as little political and national power as possible.
- **Trade**
 - Free trade among its members was one of the EU's founding principles. This is possible thanks to the single market. Beyond its borders, the EU is also committed to liberalising world trade.
 - The European Union is the largest trade block in the world. It is the world's biggest exporter of manufactured goods and services, and the biggest import market for over 100 countries.
- **Humanitarian aid**
 - The EU is committed to helping victims of man-made and natural disasters worldwide and supports over 120 million people each year.
 - EU and its constituent countries is the world's leading donor of humanitarian aid.
- **Diplomacy and security**
 - The EU plays an important role in diplomacy and works to foster stability, security and prosperity, democracy, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law at international level.

Challenges & Reforms

- It is no longer self-evident that all old member states will stay in the Union. The Treaty of Lisbon gave the members the right to leave the EU. The financial crisis has hit Greece so hard that many people have predicted for a long time that the country will exit from the Union.
- Layoffs, redundancies and migration of jobs to countries where labour is cheap affect the daily lives of European citizens. The EU is expected to find solutions to economic problems and employment.
- There is also demand for standard labour agreements on terms of employment and working conditions that would apply across Europe and even worldwide. As a member of the World Trade Organisation, the European Union is in a position to influence developments worldwide.
- EU is a global leader in the development of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs). However, EU's record in translating this knowledge advantage into marketable products and services doesn't match this. KETs-related manufacturing is decreasing in the EU and patents are increasingly being exploited outside the EU.
- Europe is experiencing a renaissance of national sovereignty supported by a nationalistic turn of public opinion and represented by parties on both ends of the political spectrum. Popular disaffection toward EU membership is fuelled by the contemporaneous occurrence of two shocks, the economic and the migration crises.

- USA, by withdrawing from the Paris climate change deal, by pulling out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear programme, and by attacking the integrity of the international trading system through the unilateral imposition of tariffs, has called into question Europeans' formerly unshakeable faith in diplomacy as a way to resolve disagreements and to protect Europe.
- European leaders now fear that the transatlantic security guarantee will centre not on alliances and common interests but purchases of American technology and materiel.
- Like the United States, the EU has been forced to reconsider its relationship with a more assertive Russia with implications for European security and stability. The EU has sought to support Ukraine's political transition, condemned Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014, and strongly urged Russia to stop backing separatist forces in eastern Ukraine.
 - Democratic regression in Ukraine combined with a hardening attitude in Moscow imposes constraints on the Ukrainian government's freedom of maneuver in pursuing its European Union membership.
- Brexit: EU has imposed too many rules on business and charged billions of pounds a year in membership fees for little in return.
 - The EU added eight eastern European countries in 2004, triggering a wave of immigration that strained public services. In England and Wales, the share of foreign-born residents had swelled to 13.4 percent of the population by 2011, roughly double the level in 1991.
 - Brexit supporters wanted Britain to take back full control of its borders and reduce the number of people coming here to live and/or work.
 - They argued that the EU is morphing into a super-state that increasingly impinges on national sovereignty. Britain has global clout without the bloc, they said, and can negotiate better trade treaties on its own.
 - Withdrawal from the EU is governed by Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.
 - A deal between UK & EU that gives it control over immigration and also preferential access to the EU's tariff-free single market of 500 million people (UK), the economic backbone of the world's largest trading bloc is rejected by Germany & other EU leaders.

II: REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY

Reunification of Germany

- Nazi Germany was defeated in the Second World War in 1945.
- After the defeat, Germany's territorial gains in the war were taken away and the country was divided into four military occupation zones (by the Four Powers). The country was occupied by France in the southwest, USA in the south, the Soviet Union in the east and Britain in the northwest.

- During this time, the Cold War between the superpowers USA and the Soviet Union ensured that Germans had no say in the government and the country was divided into eastern and western blocs with the Soviets controlling the east and the Allies controlling the west.
- In 1949, two states emerged out of this: West Germany, officially called the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and East Germany, officially known as the German Democratic Republic (GDR).
- FRG was a parliamentary democracy with a capitalist economy while GDR was a communist republic with a socialist economy.
- West Germany's capital was declared Bonn. East Germany had Berlin as its capital. Although Berlin was geographically within East Germany, the city itself was divided into West and East Berlin. West Berlin had a government that was allied with West Germany although it was 176 km inside East Germany territory.
- In 1952, the borders to West Germany were sealed by East German authorities. But still, people were continuously fleeing East Berlin to its western side. To counter its people from moving to West Berlin, East Germany started building a wall on 13 August 1961. This wall cut right through the heart of Berlin and came to be called the Berlin Wall.
- West Germany progressed rapidly through the decades but East Germany lagged in its development, primarily because its economy functioned to meet the needs of the Soviet Union. Both states joined the UN in September 1973.
- Relations between the two German states gradually improved in the 70s.
- Although plans for a German unification were made early after the establishment of the two states, nothing came out of it.
- In 1989, changes in East Germany led to the reunification of the country. People were suppressed under the communist regime in the East and they were steady migrations to the western side. Many East Germans immigrated to West Germany via Hungary after the Hungarian government decided not to stop the people by force.
- There were also allegations of a local election being rigged in East Germany in 1989.
- The mass exodus of people into the west led to growing demands of political change in the East. There were many demonstrations as well by hundreds of thousands of people in many cities.
- On 4 November 1989, there was a demonstration in East Berlin in which almost 1 million East Germans participated. Five days later, the Berlin Wall opened and people began to travel freely into West Berlin. On 12 November, East Germany started dismantling the Berlin Wall.
- The government in the East resigned and there was an emergence of numerous political parties there which led to the end of the communist regime. Free elections were decided to be held and a plan was drafted to rewrite the East German constitution.
- On 18 March, 1990, East Germany saw its first free elections. On 1 July, the two German states united economically and monetarily.

- The **Treaty on the Final Settlement With Respect to Germany** was signed on 12 September between the two German States, the Soviet Union, USA, France and Great Britain. As per this agreement, the Four Powers renounced all rights they had held in Germany since the War and allowed for a united Germany to be completely sovereign.
- East Germany acceded to West Germany and the two states were politically united on 3 October 1990. This new country had the same political and legal systems as the old West Germany.
- All-German elections were conducted in December 1990, in which Helmut Kohl was elected Chancellor. Kohl played a huge role in the reunification of Germany.

III: DISINTEGRATION OF U.S.S.R

The Origins of the Soviet Union

The Soviet Union (Alternatively known as the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics – USSR) was initially formed following the aftermath of the Russian Revolution in 1917. In 1922 it joined with its far-flung provinces to form a communist super-state. Vladimir Lenin was the first leader of the Soviet Union

The initial makeup of the Soviet Union was to resemble a society that practised ‘true democracy’. But as time went on, it proved to be no less repressive than the Tsarist regime it had toppled years before. Only one party was allowed to exist – the Communist Party – and it demanded complete allegiance of every Russian citizen.

Totalitarian control was exercised in its absolute form when Joseph Stalin in 1924. Many aspects of Russian society such as political and social life as well as economic, administration and industrial activity were controlled directly by the state. Anyone who opposed Stalin found himself on a one-way ticket to a labour camp (Gulags) or executed out of hand after a show trial

Only an invasion by Germany in 1941 during World War II prevented internal strife. The war gave the USSR an excellent opportunity to improve upon its military industry which had stagnated thanks to Stalin’s policies. By the end of World War II in 1945, the USSR had transformed into a major military power.

It was only after Stalin’s death in 1953 when Soviet leaders denounced his brutal policies. But the Communist Party maintained firm control over the country. The focus now shifted to fighting the ‘Cold War’ with Western Nations and costly engagements in the ‘arms race’ against the United States. It used its large military and resources to support communism across the world and suppress anticommunist forces while maintaining its influence in Eastern Europe.

Glasnost Era and Mikhail Gorbachev

When Mikhail Gorbachev became the premier of the Soviet Union in 1985, he had inherited a stagnated economy and a political structure which would make reforms impossible.

To mediate this situation, Gorbachev introduced two policies that would, as he hoped, would transform the soviet union into a productive state. The first of this was the ‘glasnost’ or political openness. He lifted the ban on books that were earlier prevented from publishing because they went against communist ideas and gave new freedoms to all the citizens of the Soviet Republics

In March 1985, a longtime Communist Party politician named Mikhail Gorbachev assumed the leadership of the USSR he inherited a stagnant economy and a political structure that made reform all but impossible. Newspapers could print criticism against the government and for the first time, other political parties that were not communist could participate in elections.

The second set of policies was 'perestroika' or economic restructuring. It abandoned the previous policy of command economy by allowing individual ownership of property and setting up businesses while encouraging foreign investment in Soviet enterprises.

But these reforms were too little and too late. Because the economy was far too gone for it to be saved. Rationing, food shortage and long queues for essential commodities seemed to be the only result of Gorbachev's new policies, furthering resentment against his government

Revolution of 1989

When it came to foreign policy, the USSR had maintained a tight grip in Eastern Europe by installing communist governments there and intervening in those countries through military means.

Gorbachev changed that policy to that of non-intervention and even promised to withdraw Soviet troops in Afghanistan stationed there since 1979 (Soviet forces would withdraw by February 15, 1989) and reduce military presence in Eastern Europe.

The first revolution of 1989 took place in Poland when non-Communist trade unionists bargained for freer elections with much success. This was followed by peaceful revolutions across Eastern Europe culminating into the fall of the Berlin Wall in November of 1989.

The Disintegration of USSR

Matters came to a head when the independence movements reached within the borders of the USSR. The Baltic States of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia were the first to declare their independence from Moscow

On August 18, 1991 members of the Communist Party placed Gorbachev under house arrest citing "poor health" as the reason for his imprisonment. The Russian public knew better. The leaders of the coup declared a state of emergency.

The military that moved to support the coup was met by a human chain of protestors in Moscow. Unwilling to fire on their own people the military withdrew and the coup collapsed

Upon his release, Gorbachev travelled to Minsk to broker a deal with the leaders of Belarus and Ukraine to break away from the USSR. Weeks later they were joined by other Soviet Republics in Central Asia after a meeting in Alma-Ata, modern-day Kazakhstan

But this was the end for Gorbachev as Boris Yeltsin had become the new star of the Russian state. Boris had earned fame when he rallied the population of Moscow to defeat the coup that imprisoned Gorbachev. On December 25, 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev tendered his resignation as the last premier of the Soviet Union. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had ceased to exist.

Yeltsin became the first President of Russia and served from 1991 to 1999.

IV: TERRORISM- A THREAT TO PEACE.

Indisputably, terrorism is a threat to global peace. As it thrives well in a world such as ours where violation of human rights, rising violence and conflicts, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, socio-economic marginalization and extreme ideology, dehumanization of victims are prominently in practice, it has succeeded in disregarding human lives and values, launching war on freedom and peace, multiplying violence and conflicts, and posing challenges of solving the problem of injustice, insecurity and declining economy.

Recommendations

- (1) All stakeholders-the leaders and the followers, individuals and institutions must dissuade people from resorting to terrorism or supporting it.
- (2) All stakeholders, in all ways and at all levels, must deny terrorists the means to carry out an attack by:
 - denying terrorists financial support.
 - denying terrorists access to deadly weapons, including weapons of mass destruction.
 - denying terrorists access to travel.
 - denying terrorists access to their targets and their desired impact.
- (3) All stakeholders, in all capacities, must deter States from supporting terrorists groups.
- (4) All stakeholders must develop State capacity to prevent terrorism by:
 - promoting the rule of law and effective criminal justice systems.
 - promoting quality education and religious and cultural tolerance.
 - countering the financing of terrorism.
 - ensuring transport security.
 - preventing terrorists from acquiring nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological materials, and ensuring better preparedness for an attack with such materials
 - improving the defense of soft targets and the response to their attack.
 - promoting United Nations system-wide coherence in countering terrorism.
- (5) All stakeholders, collectively, must defend human rights in the context of terrorism and counter- terrorism.

Even though my recommendations are fashioned out of United Nations recommendation for a global strategy, they represent a holistic and realistic approach to fighting or countering terrorism. However, if these recommendations are given the opportunity to operate or if implemented and executed properly and continuously, they are effective strategies of countering terrorism and, at the same time, ensuring a world free of violence and conflict, violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion,

and socio-economic marginalization Terrorism affects all of us; our approach to fighting or countering terrorism and ensuring a safe and peaceful world must be collective. However, it is worth noting that the world leaders, followers and stakeholders have vital roles to play in the fight against terrorism and in achieving our goals of global peace and security. For the world leaders and stakeholders, these roles transcend attending or organizing world summit, conferences, seminars, etc on the topic, and consenting to Global strategy to counter terrorism on papers. They need to commit more resources, at all levels, to the cause, be more sincere and objective in their judgments, more practical in their approach, and create enabling environments conducive for justice, conflict resolutions, human right protection, equality, stability, unity, prosperity, tolerance, peace and security. Above all, they need to promote and support ultimately because that have respect for human lives and values.

The global peace movement refers to a sense of common purpose among organizations that seek to end wars and minimize inter-human violence, usually through pacifism, non-violent resistance, diplomacy, boycott, moral purchasing and demonstrating. The movement includes several international organizations, but more often describes a loose affiliation of activists and political interests that rally around a shared purpose.

The movement often tends to be a loose, reactive and event-driven collaboration between groups with motivations as diverse as humanism, nationalism, environmentalism, anti-racism, anti-sexism, hospitality, ideology, theology, and fear.
