Chapter 26
Europe and the Changing Modern World

Chapter Summary

With the end of communism in Europe in the late twentieth century, some observers suggested that the entire world would now move in the direction of democratic governments and capitalist economies. However, new conflicts and social movements soon made apparent the error of that assumption. In the western democracies, long-term economic crises prompted moderate political leaders to pursue a “third way” between the conservative and progressive agendas. The European Union broadened its membership and implemented economic unification, but political integration remained problematic. The computer technology revolution transformed the world with the rise of the Internet, but the gains of the new economy were not shared equally. Scientific advances in medicine, nuclear physics, and the life sciences brought dramatic transformations in not only people’s daily lives but in their understandings of the world. Social movements pressed for greater inclusion and equality, leading in particular to dramatic advances for women in certain parts of the world. In response to the pressures of modern life, some religious groups reconciled their views with the changing world, while others reacted violently to change. New conflicts, often driven by ethnic or religious differences, threatened the stability of the world. The UN and the international community struggled to define human rights and the role of the organization in international affairs. The war on terror, initiated in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, has had ambiguous outcomes at best and thus far, has not come to a conclusion. Finally, the population explosion and the environment gave further cause for concern as the new millennium began.

Chapter Outline

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      ii. Persistent unemployment
   b. Western Europe: Political Crises and Discontents
      i. Italy’s Christian Democrats
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      i. Shifts in Europe’s ethnic composition
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26.120 Nation-States and Economies in the Age of Globalization

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   ii. The settlement in Northern Ireland
   iii. Cameron and the Conservative coalition
   iv. British economic policies
   v. Schröder
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   vii. Jospin
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b. The European Union: Economic Cooperation, the Euro, and the Debt Crisis
   i. A common currency
   ii. Greek debts
   iii. Austerity measures
   iv. European Stability Mechanism
   v. Commitment to European Union

c. The European Union: Politics and Transnational Collaborations
   i. Common foreign and defense policies
   ii. Cooperation or supranationalism?
   iii. Opposition to EU Constitution
   iv. Uneasiness over American-led globalization

d. The “New Economy”: The 1990s and Beyond
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   ii. Multinational corporations
   iii. The computer technology revolution
   iv. The Internet
   v. The founding of the WTO
   vi. Critics of globalization

26.121 Intellectual and Social Transitions in Modern Cultures

a. The Advance of Science and Technology
   i. Medicine and public health

b. Nuclear Physics
   i. The first atomic bomb
   ii. The nuclear danger

c. Social Implications of Science and Technology
   i. Questioning scientific advances
   ii. Impact of Freud

d. Space Exploration
   i. U.S.-Soviet competition
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e. Philosophy: Existentialism in the Postwar Years
   i. Jean-Paul Sartre

f. Philosophy: Logic and Language; Literary Criticism; History
   i. Deconstruction
   ii. New interests among historians

g. The Creative Arts
   i. Seeing the world in new ways
   ii. Subjectivism and the unconscious in literature
   iii. Postmodernism

h. Religion in the Modern World
   i. The ecumenical movement
   ii. Religious tensions
   iii. Vatican II
   iv. John Paul II
   v. Objections to Vatican centralism
   vi. Judaism
   vii. Islam
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   ix. New laws affecting Muslims

i. Activism: The Youth Culture and Rebellion of the 1960s
   i. Youth activism
   ii. 1968
   iii. Emergence of the New Left

j. The Women’s Liberation Movement
   i. Inspirations and demands
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26.122 Europe and International Conflicts in the Early Twenty-First Century
   i. Religious divisions could shape conflicts
   ii. Recognizing global diversity

a. The United Nations
   i. UN membership expands
   ii. Defining human rights
   iii. U.S. leadership in international affairs
   iv. Multinational humanitarian intervention

b. NATO, Russia and the New International Cooperation
   i. Russia’s role undefined

c. Terrorism and Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq after September 11, 2001
   i. September 11, 2001
   ii. European support for United States
iii. NATO role in Afghanistan
iv. European troop deployments
v. U.S.-British view of Iraq
vi. Iraq War
vii. U.S.-British withdrawal from Iraq
viii. Intervention in Libya
ix. European views of war

26.123 Social and Environmental Challenges in the Twenty-First Century
a. The Population Explosion
   i. Growth in the late twentieth century
b. The Environment
   i. Climate change
   ii. Economic effects of climate change
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   iv. Change across time