

World war who?

25 Nov 2005



British war veterans on Remembrance Sunday on November 13 2005, when those who died fighting for Britain and its allies in conflict are remembered. © Reuters

The Queen has led tributes to service personnel who have died while serving their country, at the annual service of remembrance at the Cenotaph in London on 13 November 2005.

The commemorative event took place as services were held across the UK to remember those killed in recent and past conflicts.

This year marked the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II with myriad celebrations and events. It was also the first anniversary of the enlargement of the European Union to include the nations of Eastern Europe.

But the European Constitution that was signed on 29 October 2004 at a ceremony in Rome, and was meant to have been ratified by all 25 member states within

two years, was rejected by voters in France and the Netherlands causing some countries to postpone moves towards ratification.

In our first item, 'What has World War II got to do with me, geography and citizenship?', guest writer Al Murray argues that remembering the War – and what happened after it ended – aids our understanding of current debates over Europe and migration. He also asks what the word 'citizenship' would have meant to the people who fought during the 1939-1945 conflict.

Additional items, written by a senior A-level examiner, look at migration trends and the new economic geography of the EU.

This case study will have particular appeal for students of all ages who are studying **migration** or **economic activity** (all boards); as well as A-level candidates studying Trade Blocs (Edexcel A) or **geographical aspects of the European Union** (OCR A).

ITV comedian Al Murray originally studied history at Oxford and recently presented the series "Road to Berlin" for The Discovery Channel. Best known for his character "The Pub Landlord", Al still builds his act upon things first learned in history and geography lessons. The Pub Landlord is particularly well known for being more than a little "challenged" by globalisation. He currently hosts 'Fact Hunt' on ITV1, Fridays at 11pm



Al Murray 'The Pub Landlord' still builds his act upon things first learned in history and geography lessons.

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What has World War II got to do with me, geography and citizenship? 25 Nov 2005



President Chirac of France walks between grave stones during a ceremony of commemoration at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Bayeux, Normandy, northern France. World leaders and thousands of veterans gathered to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. © Reuters

It is 60 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe and although we celebrated VE (*Victory in Europe*) Day only as far back as May, for lots of people it really could not be more ancient history (*or geography! – ed.*).

It is easy to look at the old veterans as heroes from a bygone age, admirable, but in the end what has it got to do with today? After all, wars are things in distant lands, usually for dodgy causes, with arrows on maps and endless jargon.

But this war – and how it ended – is the root of pretty much everything we take for granted in modern Britain. Most of the modern politics we endure today is a result of, or a reaction to, the fallout of this massive, incredible, all-too-real and recent event - especially this country's relationship with Europe and the European Union.

And the problem with the whole question of Europe is that it is something we have all become disengaged from; it somehow seems to have nothing to do with us.

You might ask: what has being British got to do with being European?

But if you visit the Commonwealth cemetery in Normandy, where the D-day landings took place, you will soon find out that this has *everything* to do with you and me.

The Second World War was a war of conscription; the British Army largely consisted of citizen soldiers. And looking at the headstones, you realise that Europe (what it means to be a British citizen, and what it can cost) were *very* real questions back then – questions we are lucky not to be asked the way people were sixty years ago.

The youngest soldier in the Commonwealth cemetery in Normandy is a paratrooper who was 15 – he was so keen to serve he had lied about his age. The oldest is in his fifties, the men are from all over the British Isles. These are not old men with grey hair reminiscing, they were the age of someone taking his GCSEs or A-levels. Some are *your* Dad, *your* uncle, *your* brother.

In all, the UK lost just more than 250,000 soldiers and 92,000 civilians in the War, yet by European standards we got off lightly. The Germans lost something like seven million people. The Soviet Union – incorporating Russia – well, no one really knows, 20, maybe 30 million? Maybe even more.

So you can see why, when the War ended - with Germany a smoking ruin and France torn apart by collaboration and denial - an entire generation of politicians set their minds to making sure it never happened in Europe again. And this was how the EU was born; it was a conscious effort to put bitterness and rancour to one side and try to face the future peacefully *by creating trading relationships too valuable to squander with another war.*

This all sounds pretty sensible to me, but as the core event that triggered it was generations ago, how is it relevant to today? After all, isn't the EU all about "straight bananas", silly Human Rights legislation and subsidising those less fortunate than ourselves?

When the UK went into the EU (or EEC, European Economic Community as it was back then) back in 1973 (when Doctor Who was acted by a white haired, posh bloke), it was our second attempt, having been blocked by the French in the 'Sixties. The Prime Minister – Edward Heath, a Conservative – was determined that the UK's future lay in Europe. Heath had served with the Royal Artillery in the War, and had seen the result of a discordant Europe first hand.

But the question of whether Britain's future lies in Europe is in itself extraordinary – after all, where is Britain if not in Europe? Such is our culture's "island mentality" – further reinforced by the events of the War, where we had to stand alone and then invade Europe – that we have come to see ourselves as somehow "semi-detached".

The War forced us to do something we'd never done before – *define our relationship with Europe formally*. Ironically, the impetus and understanding of how that relationship came to be defined, the War itself, has faded from memory and experience. And so we've become more sceptical – resentful even – of this new definition of our relationship with our next door neighbours.

At the heart of all this, though, is a grander irony still. The political world we inhabit now is one born of the War, yet one that would simply not be recognised by the man who set the War in motion: Adolf Hitler.

Hitler and Nazism's shopping list was explicit – cultural and economic hegemony for Germany, paid for in blood, ongoing conflict and genocide, debate and progress crushed intolerance, racism and hatred.

This shopping list was the cornerstone of the new society he was building.

Nazism's defeat meant that from then on European society would have to found itself in opposition to these perverted ideals: something that has led to the multi-cultural, rights-based, democratic model we've pretty much evolved into over the last sixty years.

So, when you read about people being frustrated with migrating asylum seekers, or political correctness, or the Welfare State – or just how we, as citizens, are supposed to exercise our responsibilities towards others – maybe it's worth thinking of the fifteen-year-old lad in Normandy. Although he's from another age in Britain and Europe's past, what he did with *his* citizenship shaped *our* present. Perhaps as we try to shape our own future geographies we should measure our idea of being a citizen against his.



The biggest hotel the world never saw - a forbidden hulk of 10,000 rooms built by German Nazi leader Adolf Hitler as a holiday camp to ready the masses for war. Stretched along three miles of one of Germany's best beaches in Prora on the Baltic Sea island of Ruegen, locals call the crumbling concrete complex the Colossus of Prora. World War II started before he could finish the resort but the scale of what was completed illustrates Hitler's megalomania more forcefully than other famous surviving Nazi structures such as Berlin's Olympic stadium or the derelict site of the Nuremberg rallies. © Reuters

This section was written by Al Murray, comedian and

Did Europe just get bigger? 25 Nov 2005



Map of the European Union showing member states, countries due to join in 2007 and candidate states.

Last year, the European Union (EU) experienced the greatest single enlargement in its history, when ten new states were accepted as members. Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia were officially welcomed at a ceremony held in Dublin on 1 May 2004.

Although the total number of nations increased from 15 to 25, the population of the EU Trade Bloc only increased from 380 million to 455 million (growth of around 16%). This comparatively low increase in numbers reflects the fact that three existing member countries - the UK, France and Germany - are very heavily populated and are home to nearly 200 million EU residents. In comparison, some of the new countries have tiny populations. Cyprus and Malta both number less than one million, for instance. Amongst the other

eight nations, all of whom were previously part of the Communist Soviet Union until 1989, only Poland is heavily populated, with 38 million citizens. There are substantial economic differences between the old and new member states. The combined annual GDP of the original fifteen members is around £6,000 billion. In comparison, the ten new states bring just an additional £750 billion (*The Guardian*, 29 April 2004).

Commonly asked questions about Europe

Q *Are Europe and the EU the same thing?*

A No. Europe is a continental land mass, bounded by Russia in the east and the Mediterranean in the south. The EU is a political grouping of *most* of the nations within Europe. Not all European states belong to the EU: Iceland, Switzerland and Norway are not members, for instance.

Q *What advantages derive from belonging to the EU?*

A Economically, membership brings advantages. Tariffs fall, allowing free trade and movement of goods. Within a Trading Bloc like the EU, increased economies of scale are achieved by industries with a now-enlarged market; specialisation occurs in areas of comparative advantage; greater protection also exists from imports outside the bloc. Free movement is also good for tourism and foreign work experience. But beyond all of this, membership can also help bring a greater sense of peace and safety than in the past.

Q *Why, then, are so many British people opposed to membership of the EU?*

A The EU is becoming a highly integrated Trading Bloc. Whereas others, such as NAFTA (North America, Mexico & Canada), have simply adopted common tariffs, the European Union has gone much further in beginning to adopt a shared legal framework and common currency. One of the problems of the failed new EU constitution was that it could have affected our future ability to act independently in terms of defence, spending and criminal law. This worried many people, who equate EU membership with a loss of freedoms.

Who benefits from the new economic geography of the EU?

25 Nov 2005



Tesco has already installed 170 stores in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, with many more sure to follow. Goods can now be shifted even more easily and cheaply into these nations following accession in the EU. For firms like Tesco, an additional 75 million new customers is clearly great for business.

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Since the end of the Second World War, European nations have been attempting to break down barriers to the movement of goods, capital and people; and in economic theory, free trade brings benefits to all. By removing barriers to intra-community trade, while also adopting a **common external customs tariff**, European governments have helped their native firms to thrive. Markets have grown, while production and transport costs have fallen, following the abolition of restrictive customs barriers between member states.

Smaller national firms have often merged, making their operations more cost-effective, while large firms have extended their **supply and sales networks**. Following the principle of **economies of scale**, the greater the scale of production, the lower the production cost per unit, thereby bringing benefit to both consumers and producers. For instance, Tesco has already installed 170

stores in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, with many more sure to follow. Goods can now be shifted even more easily and cheaply into these nations following accession. For firms like Tesco, an additional 75 million new customers is clearly great for business, well, every little helps.

The enlargement of the EU is already bringing about many location changes for existing manufacturing industries. The economic geography of the enlarged EU will bear many similarities to NAFTA (North America's Trading Bloc), where US firms employ cheap labour close to the Mexican border in **branch plants** known as *maquiladoras*. Situated in Mexico, they produce cheap goods for US markets that can be transported across the border with **minimum tariffs** imposed. Similarly, while the headquarters of the most powerful European **Transnational Corporations (TNCs)** will remain in cities such as London, Paris, Milan, Stockholm and Berlin, lower-paid work in branch plants will increasingly be **outsourced** to the new member states, where wages are lower. Average annual wages in most of the new members are under £3,000 and unemployment rates are much higher than in western Europe (currently 18% in Slovakia).

For instance, the huge German electric firm Siemens recently announced the migration of 10,000 jobs to eastern Europe. Siemens employs almost 50,000 people globally in its research and development activities. A spokesperson for Siemens was quoted as saying that the low cost locations coupled with the high level of skills available in these markets was a deciding factor in the move. Swedish giant Electrolux is shifting its production wing to Hungary. German air firm Lufthansa is taking most of its clerical work to Poland. The new members look set to serve as a cheap location for many more **footloose** branch plants – becoming part of what geographers call a **spatial division of labour**. Similarly, foreign firms looking for a springboard into Europe will be tempted to place their branch plants in the new countries. South Korea's Samsung is already shifting its EU base of operations from Spain to Slovakia, while French car firm Peugeot is transferring from Coventry to Slovakia (*The Guardian, Jobs & Money*, 01 May 2004). Along with Terry's of York, these are among the first of many UK jobs that look set to leave Britain.



The whole world of pleasure in your hand: Interactive television, information, gaming - DVB-H, the Digital Video Broadcast for Handheld devices, makes the future of entertainment mobile. Siemens has moved 10,000 software development to Eastern Europe - a spokesperson for Siemens was quoted as saying that the low cost locations but high level of skills available in these markets was a deciding factor in the move.

© DVBH Siemens

For companies beginning to draw the new member states into their production networks, EU membership brings other benefits. Countries such as Poland are now eligible for **EU Structural Funds** to improve their infrastructure. Better road and rail links will make eastern Europe far more conducive to TNC investment, especially when **just-in-time (JIT)** production and transport is important. In mobile phone or PC markets, for instance, consumer trends change rapidly and manufacturing firms need to be able to respond quickly to unexpected fluctuations in demand from European high street stores. Around £27 billion was made available during 2004 to assist infrastructure improvements for the new members. Agricultural producers in the region can now benefit from farm subsidies issued under the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, although at a reduced rate initially. This will certainly entice major western European food suppliers and supermarkets to attempt to acquire or merge with eastern European agribusinesses (see *The Guardian*, 29 April 2004, for more on this).

What is the migration controversy?

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The asparagus harvest in Bavaria, Germany, attracts a seasonal migration of workers from Eastern Europe to pick the crops, a labour intensive and extremely low paid job for Germany. The DBV farmers' association complained 'Germans are too lazy' to do the work and asked for more migrant workers from outside Germany despite more than five million unemployed.

Free movement of goods is accompanied by free movement for people in a world without barriers and concerns over immigration into the UK have certainly been causing a political storm during the past year. Initially, jobseekers from the new member states were to be treated no differently from those of existing members. They were to be guaranteed free and legal entry to the UK and other core nations to seek work or claim benefits should they become unemployed. However, since the negotiations for the accession of the new states were completed in December 2002, existing members have rapidly introduced reforms designed to limit the ability of new migrants to move freely until 2011. In all cases, they are taking advantage of a transitional rule that allows existing members to place entry restrictions on migrants from the new countries for up to seven years.

The British government made its own announcement in February 2004 that new migrant workers would not be eligible for the full range of UK benefits such as housing or income support (*The Guardian*, 24 February 2004).

Sweden made a similar announcement a month earlier (*The Guardian*, 31 January 2004). Initially, Portugal has limited its work permits to 6,500 while Germany, whose economy is currently weak, is banning migrant labour in many sectors of the labour market for the full seven-year period allowed under the accession rules. The ten newcomers will have to wait until 2011 for full freedom of movement for people, goods and capital amidst worries that too many migrants will flood into western Europe. Similar fears were previously voiced in the UK in 1986, when Spain and Portugal joined the EEC; on that occasion, only small numbers of people actually migrated north.

In 2004 there was a major jump in arrivals to Britain, thanks to the EU's expansion eastwards. About 40% of the total increase in migration (excluding returning British citizens) was from new EU citizens. Three sectors, catering, agriculture and building have seen increases.

Migration - Net inflows - UK

2000	162,800
2001	171,000
2002	153,400
2003	151,000
2004	222,600

Source: ONS

Workers Registratoin Scheme by applicants' nationality

Polish	56%
Lithuanian	15%

Slovakian	11%
Czech	7%
Latvian	7%
Hungarian	3%
Estonian	2%
Slovenian	Less than 0.5%
Other	Less than 0.5%

**Source: Home Office – based on rounded figures*

Selected EU Unemployment

UK	4.6%
Spain	10.0%
Ireland	4.3%
France	9.8%
Poland	18.1%
Netherlands	4.8%

Source: Eurostat, as of March 2005

What was all the fuss about the EU constitution?

25 Nov 2005



An anti European Union constitution banner is seen outside Downing Street in London on June 6, 2005. Britain suspended legislation to set up a referendum on the new European Union constitution, already overwhelmingly rejected by voters in France and Holland.

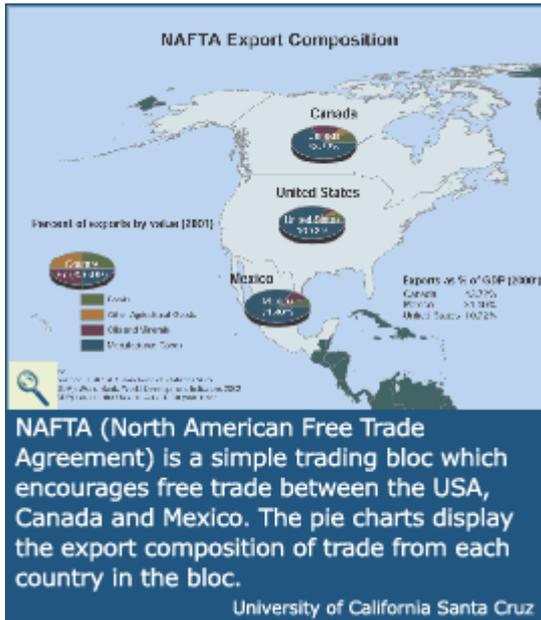
© Reuters

The EU is always evolving. It was expected that the next stage in its development would see far closer political integration than before, perhaps eventually moving towards a federal state system, similar to the way the US is organised. This is now on indefinite hold as the populations of France and the Netherlands, two of the major players in any integration of Europe, firmly rejected the proposed constitution in referenda in May/June 2005 indicating that levels of enthusiasm for such potential developments vary widely between different nations and amongst their citizens. Many people in the UK are concerned that EU Constitution Articles relating to a Common Foreign Policy would make it difficult for the British Government to act independently in the future, as it recently did in Iraq (*The Daily Telegraph*, 30 April

2004). There are also concerns that the "national identity" will be jeopardised by closer integration. However, not everyone thinks that this will happen. Writing in *The Times* (30 April 2004), Tony Blair was keen to point out that new states joining the EU had only recently won their independence, having been shackled to the Soviet Union for decades. "It should be no surprise," he surmised, "that countries which have only recently regained their freedom should be determined to preserve their independence within the EU."

What is a trading bloc?

25 Nov 2005



A Trading Bloc is a grouping of nations that allow free trade across their borders and may have undergone some further degree of political integration. At the simplest level, the North America Free Trade Agreement (1994) encourages free trade between the US, Canada and Mexico by removing internal tariffs. A further step involves adopting a common external tariff; the Mercosur pact between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (1995) is a recent example of this type of *customs union*. In contrast, the European Union is a highly integrated Trading Bloc which has moved beyond a common market towards full economic union with the introduction of a common currency while also now sharing some political legislation. Countries can belong to more than one Trading Bloc. The BBC provides an excellent interactive link for studying the major groupings of nations

Migration and economic activity - essays and notes for exam candidates 25 Nov 2005

A2 essay assignment (economic activity):

1. *Explain how political factors influence the location of industry.*

AS migration question:

2. *Suggest reasons why levels of migration between neighbouring countries can vary over time.*

Notes for exam candidates

Up-to-date case studies can really help with exam success, so make sure you can name the new EU states (e.g. Poland) that are providing the UK with migrant labour. You should also remember the names and locations of some of the TNCs now heading for eastern Europe, following EU enlargement.

Writing about industrial location?

Modern industrial location in Europe can be related to traditional theories of cost-reduction and profit-maximisation, especially with regard to all-important labour costs. However, the macro-political factor of EU enlargement is an important aspect of contemporary industrial location that needs to be highlighted (see also the teacher's notes for our previous article on the re-location of the manufacturing arms of Guinness and Terry's).

Some A-level candidates are required to have quite specific contemporary knowledge of Trading Blocs, including:

- OCR Specification A, module 2684 (EU option)
- Edexcel Specification A, module 6465 (section A – last set as an essay topic in June 2002)
- Edexcel Specification B, module 6474 (section B)
- AQA Specification B, module 4

What is a Trading Bloc?

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Trading Bloc	Membership details
Andean Pact	Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (free trade agreement formed in 1969)
APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation)	Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, United States (aiming to create a free trade area by 2020)
AFTA (Association of South East Asian Nations Free Trade Area)	Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam (the ASEAN security organisation of 1967 has subsequently developed into a free trade agreement)
Cairns Group	Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Hungary, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand and Uruguay (an association of exporters of agricultural products formed in 1986)
EEA (European Economic Area)	The EEA is an agreement that allows Member States of the EU to engage in modest free trade with non-EU Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein but not Switzerland.
EU (European Union)	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Ireland, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom are now joined by the ten newcomers (customs union with free labour movement, foreign policy co-operation and attempted monetary union)
Franc Zone	France and 14 West and Central African countries (whose exchange rates are tied to the French franc)

GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS

Gulf Co-operation Council	Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman (working towards a free trade agreement)
Magreb Union	Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania (working towards greater economic co-operation, including a customs union)
MERCOSUR (Mercado Común de Cono Sur)	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (customs union that first came into effect in 1995)
NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)	Canada, Mexico, United States (free trade area that first came into effect in 1994)
SADC (Southern African Development Community)	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe (an organisation that attempts to promote free trade)

Source: <http://www.aptn.org/ibis/pegb12.htm>

A brief history of the EU

1945	World War Two ended. Many European politicians entered the post-war period determined to avoid future conflict, especially between France and Germany. The threat to western security posed by the Cold War was an added incentive to closer European co-operation and integration.
1951	European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) established by the Treaty of Paris. Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands joined France and Germany in setting up the ECSC.
1957	The six members of the ECSC developed it further to create the European Economic Community (EEC), beginning the movement towards a common market for goods and services. The Treaty of Rome was signed in March 1957 and the Common Agricultural Policy was established the following year.
1973	Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom joined the EEC.
1979	First direct elections to the European Parliament were held.
1981	Greece joined the EEC.
1986	Portugal and Spain joined the EEC.
1987	Single European Act passed, which set out the timetable for the creation of the Single Market by 1993. It also increased the European Commission's political powers and introduced qualified majority voting for a number of issues.
1993	The European Union (EU) was established on January 1 st , following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union. Replacing the earlier EEC, the EU was devised as a territorial entity whose member states belong to a series of different economic groupings and trade agreements, the most important of which is the European Community (EC). For the first time, genuinely free movement of goods, capital, people and services was achieved. Maastricht made the people of the member states European citizens, giving them the right to move freely and live in any member country. The Treaty also established greater co-operation in foreign and security policy. Common home policies covering issues such as workers' pay and health and safety at work started to be adopted. However, the UK negotiated an opt-out from this social chapter, and is still not part of the main treaty.
1995	Austria, Finland and Sweden joined the EU.
2002	The <i>euro</i> became the sole currency of 12 out of 15 EU countries. The three countries remaining outside the euro zone are Denmark, Sweden and the UK.
2004	Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia joined the EU.