European Union Law

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Introduction to the course. The history of the European integration

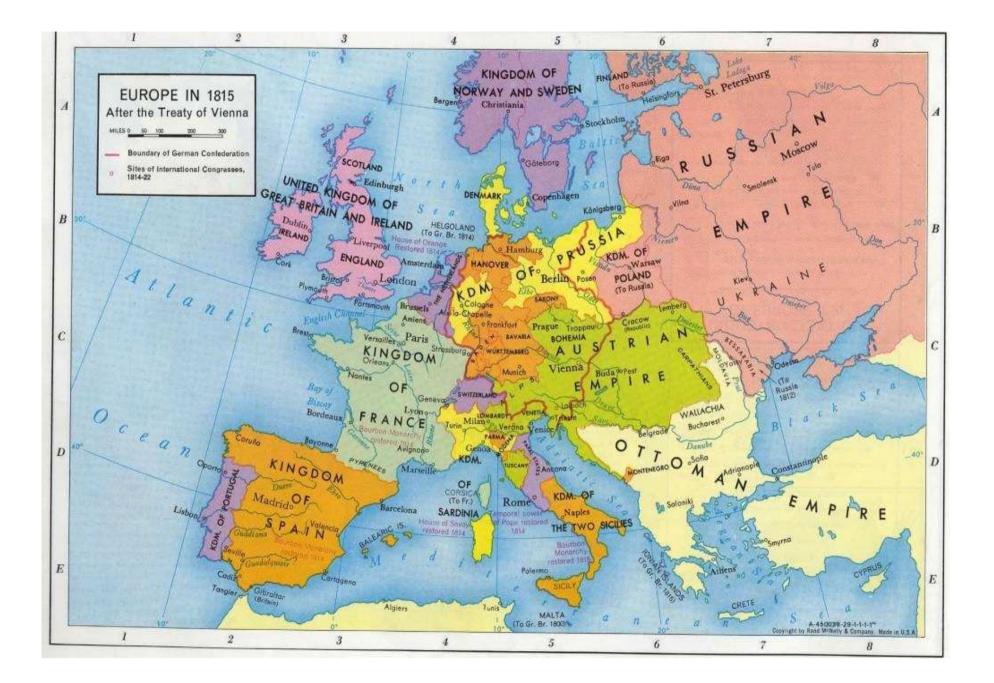
Lesson No 1

Looking back ...

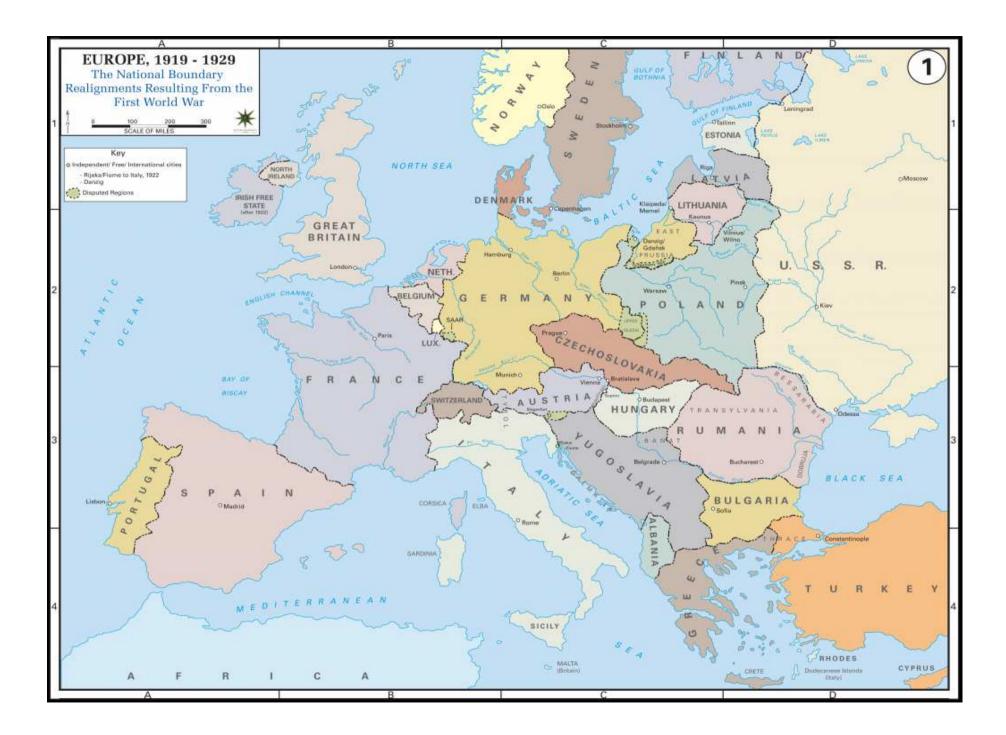
The history of the European continent

- from the end of the French Revolution
- to the beginning of the European integration process (the middle of last century)
- to the current European Union (today)

200 years, more or less

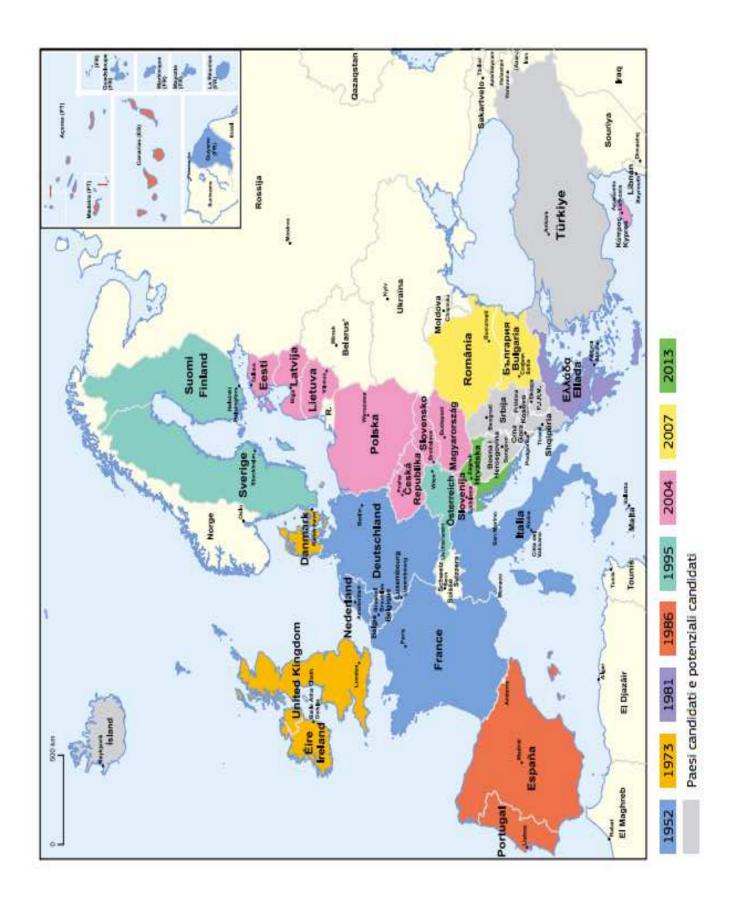






Europe unified under Nazis and Fascists





The Neo-functionalism: the "Functional Approach" to the European integration

Schuman Declaration May 5th, 1950

(...) *Europe will not be made all at once,* or according to a single plan. *It will be built through concrete achievements* which first create a de facto solidarity (...)

(...) The pooling of coal and steel production should immediately provide for the setting up of common foundations for economic development **as a first step in the federation of Europe** (...)

Art. 1 TEU (current 'Lisbon' version)

- "(...) This Treaty marks a new stage in the process of creating <u>an ever closer</u> union among the peoples of Europe (...)" (see also the Preamble of TEU and TFEU)
- This idea was recently put into questions in order to avoid Brexiteers from winning the 2016 referendum in UK → decision of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States concerning "A new settlement for the UK within the EU" (18-19 February 2016): it was recognised that UK was "not committed to further political integration into the EU"; accordingly, it was agreed that at the time of the next Treaties revision it would have been made clear "that the references to ever closer union do not apply to UK"