Political Science: International Relations

Table of Contents

Info

There is no claim for completeness. All warranties are disclaimed.

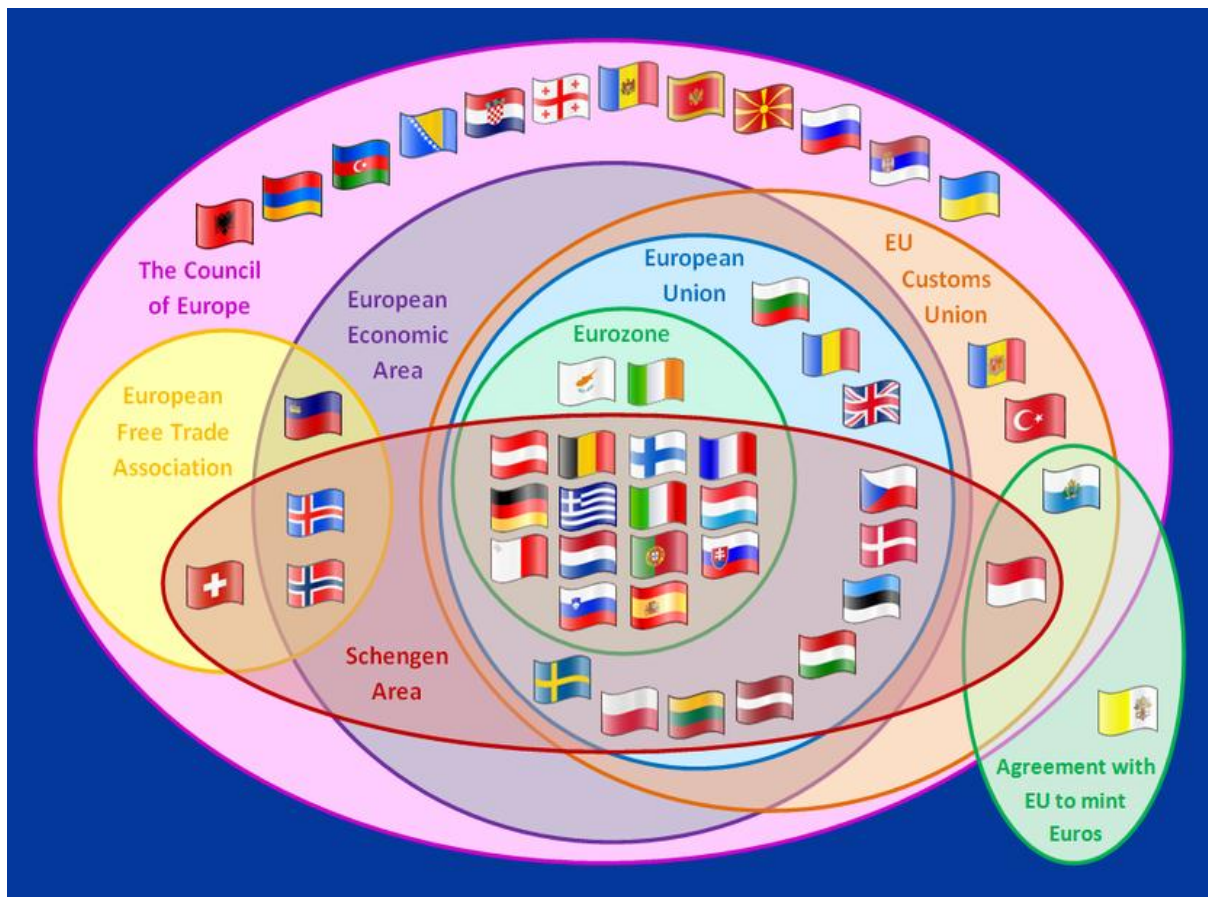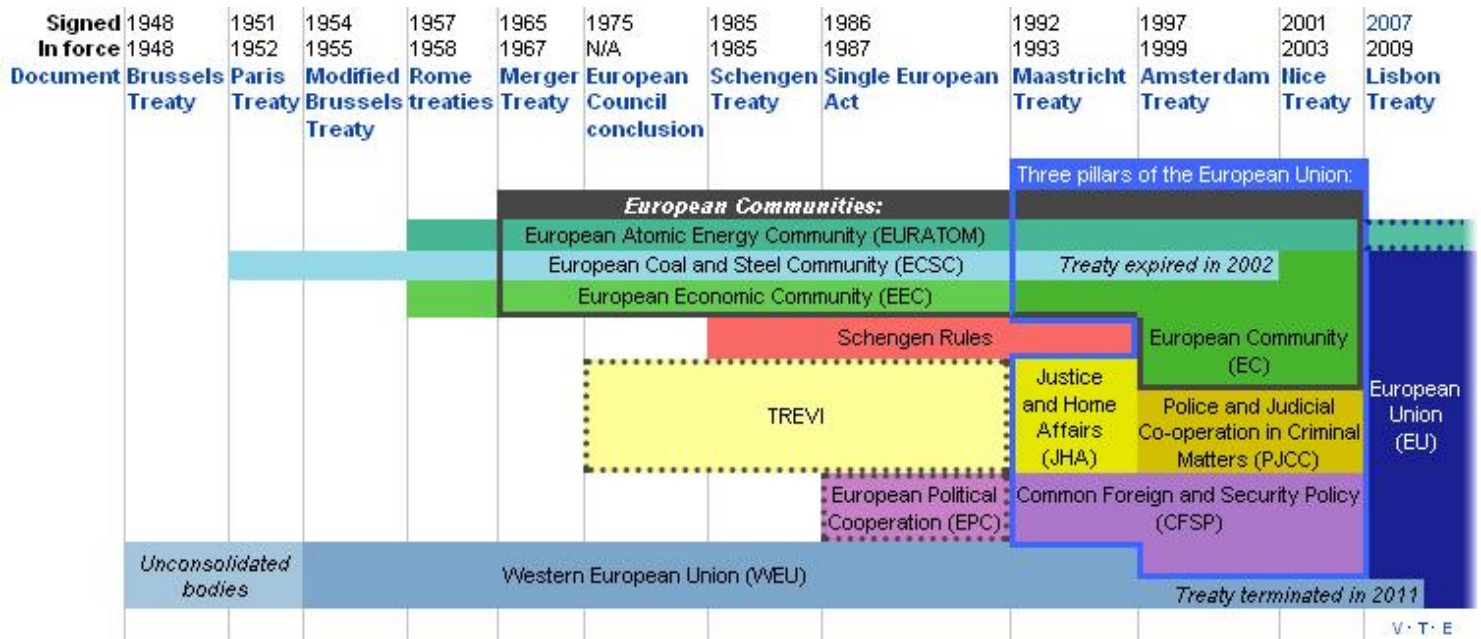## Study Part

European integration and Organizations

You know the major European organizations

- The Council of Europe
- European Free Trade Association *EFTA*
- European Economic Area *EEA[1]*
- Schengen Area
- European Union *EU*
- Eurozone

You know the current situation with regard to membership in European organizations

---

[1] *EWR* in German

Signed	1948	1951	1954	1957	1965	1975	1985	1986	1992	1997	2001	2007
In force	1948	1952	1955	1958	1967	N/A	1985	1987	1993	1999	2003	2009
Document	Brussels Treaty	Paris Treaty	Modified Brussels Treaty	Rome treaties	Merger Treaty	European Council conclusion	Schengen Treaty	Single European Act	Maastricht Treaty	Amsterdam Treaty	Nice Treaty	Lisbon Treaty

First only political agreement (1920), but failed with WWII. After this war they decided that economical agreements are more important: people are directly influenced. Political agreements are only theoretically. → 1st shift

They reached nearly everything economically: no tariffs, one currency, they are unified in a way, so they can go a step further and make it easier with 2nd and 3rd Pillar: Political and Internal security, Common Foreign and Security Police. → 2nd shift: peace, more economically and politically agreements →lower chance of an internal European war. And they have to keep up with "superpowers" like USA, China, Japan and others, so they need one voice!

You know the major bodies of the EU, their role and tasks

European Council Meets 2-3 times/year -, summit with polit. top shots		
European Parliament	**Council of Ministers/the EU**	**European Commission**
- Voice of the people - 1 chamber, seats proportional to pop. Size - Elected by resp. citizens - Decides on EU laws and budget together with commission - Democratic supervision of all EU work	- Not to be confused with "Council of Europe"! - Voice of the members - One seat/country - Presidency rotates/6 months - Manage common foreign & security policy - Decides on EU laws and budget together with Parliament - Minister changes each session (the responsible minster form ea. Country) - Different weights of ea. Country; "special" majority needed for some decisions	- One seat/country - Members do not speak for their country - Real EU representatives for intl. matters - Executive body - Proposes new legislation - Guardian of the treaties - No decisions

You can explain what the EU has achieved

- Providing for free trade in industrial goods
- Improving market access for agricultural goods
- Including trade disciplines
- Establishing rules on customs and origin matters

You can explain what the EFTA has achieved

- Enhancing the European integration/unification aside from the core members [of the EU][2]
- Achieved free trade among its members
    - And became obsolete with the expansion of EU treaties

You can explain which factors promoted the European unification process and which hindered it/slowed it down

Hindering factors:
- At the beginning, it was too early, people didn't understand
- The WWs: there was a national pride to overcome, and they had to trust each other
- It [the EU] became too big to digest all these changes, also its huge geographical extent it has

Promoting factors:
- After the wars everybody wanted peace, security → "never-ever-again attitude"
- Intellectuals and poets thought and wrote about it, they saw the future, wanted better world
- Industrialization: created need for international trade, all countries developed and need-ed a bigger market to sell their products. Unified Europe, there aren't barriers, much eas-ier.
- Due to the economic boom in the 60s[3], more need for intl. treated was created

You can explain the current and future challenges of the EU

- The EU will have to face its uprising huge economic problems with states such as Greece with no money left, which then need support – mostly from the richer countries such as Germany
- It will have to deal with migration waves from Africa
- As all the members are still 27 **sovereign** sates, one single state can crash a whole pro-ject[4]

You can describe the role of the Council of Europe

It is like a European parliament, but **not** a member of the EU, which has the following goals and achieved the following:

---

[2] Interestingly, all members are/were neutral states such as Switzerland
[3] German: „Wirtschaftswunder"
[4] Happened with the Treaty of Lisbon and Ireland, although it eventually was resolved

Goals	Achievements
- Protection of human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law - Cultural identity and diversity - Common solutions to the challenges facing European society - Democratic Stability	- European Convention on Human Rights - European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg - European Committee for the Prevention of Torture

You can explain the different approaches and characteristics of the various organizations

Some organizations (e.g. EFTA) focus on economic collaboration as this is easier to achieve, than political collaboration (e.g. EU)

You can evaluate failures and achievements of the unification process in Europe

Failures	Achievements
- Some ideas were to idealistic (pre 20th-century) - League of Nations failed due to lack of enforcement of measures	- Council of Europe as a non-EU body - All started with the Schuman Declaration - No wars (or at least no WWIII) (within EU[5])

You can evaluate the power and influence of the various bodies within the EU and compare it with national political systems you know (e.g. the Swiss)

Some bodies are constituted the same way and have similar functions, whilst others look alike, though not having the same influence – often a body in the EU has less power than a comparable national body, as many more different opinions come together and cannot *enforce* a law in each member state.

Switzerland and Europe

You know the status of Switzerland with regard to the European organizations

Although not being a full member of the E, Switzerland is a member of many of its organizations, also due to the fact, that the EU is the biggest trading partner for Switzerland (also vice versa, to some degree). Switzerland has adapted many of the EU's / European policies, such as the free trade agreement, Schengen and the Euro.

You can explain why Switzerland has joined some but not others

Switzerland has mostly joined these organizations which provide an advantage to Switzerland, while it hasn't joined the others. In some cases, Switzerland would be, If not having joined, an exert5nal border of the EU (!).

---

[5] But still, there was e.g. the Kosovo war

You can discuss the advantages and disadvantages (hopes and fears) of the current bilateral way of Switzerland, of an eventual EU membership and of a return to isolation

Swiss people fear that …
- … they would have to pay many things for the EU, because they are so rich
- … they would have to change some laws
- … they would lose a part of their sovereignty and neutrality
- … would have to change their currency