

The Beginnings of European Economic Unity in the context of the Cold War

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Brussels Study, Tour 2022 (group 3)

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Overview:

This lesson is designed to fit into a Semester long Senior elective course entitled the History of the Cold War. Most of the class is set up as a simulation in which the class is divided into five groups representing the US, USSR, UK, France and People's Republic of China. The simulation runs from 1950 to 1990 and groups have economic, political, and military control over their countries. While a major focus of the simulation is the global struggle between communism and capitalism, I have made a deliberate decision to increase the importance of other themes such as decolonization and European economic and political unity. This particular lesson would take place sometime after 1973 to reinforce some of the specific effects that have already played out in the simulation between 1952 (creation of the European Coal and Steel Commission) and 1973 (admission of UK, Ireland and Denmark into the European Common Market). With some minor adjustments, it could also be used in a European history class. Students will be given a copy of excerpts from the two treaties will complete the work in their country groups.

Excerpt from the Treaty of Paris (1951)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC,
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE ROYAL OF BELGIUM,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC,
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUCHESS OF LUXEMBOURG,
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS,

CONSIDERING that world peace may be safeguarded only by creative efforts equal to the dangers which menace it; CONVINCED that the contribution which an organized and vital Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations; CONSCIOUS of the fact that Europe can be built only by concrete actions which create a real solidarity and by the establishment of common bases for economic development; DESIROUS of assisting through the expansion of their basic production in raising the standard of living and in furthering the works of peace; RESOLVED to substitute for historic rivalries a fusion of their essential interests; to establish, by creating an economic community, the foundation of a broad and independent community among peoples long divided by bloody conflicts; and to lay the bases of institutions capable of giving direction to their future common destiny; HAVE DECIDED to create a European Coal and Steel Community

The following are recognized to be incompatible with the common market for coal and steel, and are, therefore, abolished and prohibited within the Community in the manner set forth in the present Treaty:

import and export duties, or charges with an equivalent effect, and quantitative restrictions on the movement of coal and steel

measures or practices discriminating among producers, among buyers or among consumers, specifically as concerns prices, delivery terms and transportation rates, as well as measures or practices which hamper the buyer in the free choice of his supplier

subsidies or state assistance, or special charges imposed by the state, in any form whatsoever;

Excerpt from the Treaty of Rome (1957)

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC,
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUCHESS OF LUXEMBOURG,
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS,

DETERMINED to lay the foundations of an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe, RESOLVED to ensure the economic and social progress of their countries by common action to eliminate the barriers which divide Europe, AFFIRMING as the essential objective of their efforts the constant improvement of the living and working conditions of their peoples, RECOGNISING that the removal of existing obstacles calls for concerted action in order to guarantee steady expansion, balanced trade and fair competition, ANXIOUS to strengthen the unity of their economies and to ensure their harmonious development by reducing the differences existing between the various regions and the backwardness of the less favoured regions, DESIRING to contribute, by means of a common commercial policy, to the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade, INTENDING to confirm the solidarity which binds Europe and the overseas countries and desiring to ensure the development of their prosperity, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, RESOLVED by thus pooling their resources to preserve and strengthen peace and liberty, and calling upon the other peoples of Europe who share their ideal to join in their efforts, HAVE DECIDED to create a European Economic Community

Write a coherent organized answer to each of the following. Use your experience in the Cold War simulation up to this point and reference the specific excerpts from the two treaties give to you.

- 1. Describe the European Coal and Steel Community that was created under the Treaty of Paris. In your answer be sure to discuss the historical context of the countries involved and the symbolism of the specific products that it included.**
- 2. The Treaty of Rome did not immediately expand the geographic scope of European unity but it greatly expanded European unity. Explain.**
- 3. Discuss the relationship between the UK and what would eventually become the EU from the early 1950s through 1973. Address all of the following in your answer.**

The British government was not interested in joining the European Coal and Steel Commission. Even immediately after the Treaty of Rome, the UK remained uninterested. However, in the 1960's the UK made two formal attempts to join the European Economic Community. What changed that would make the British interested in joining a European economic union?

What clause from the Treaty of Rome encouraged the British to join?

Why weren't the British accepted until 1973?

Who joined the European Common Market in 1973 with the British?