

Top Themes – Europe

1. Over the past five centuries no other region has influenced the world more than Europe. With its colonies and large scale migrations Europe changed the culture of the globe dramatically.
2. Europe is compact and diverse (583 million people/39 countries/50 languages)
3. Europe has a geographic advantage for trade with the world. It is centrally located, no country is far from the ocean, and it has very navigable rivers.
4. Europe's natural environment has a wide range of topographic (physical features), climatic, and soil conditions and is endowed with many industrial resources.
5. Europe's varied land, combined with its diversity of cultures in such a small space, led to specialization of products and fostered trade within the region.
6. Europe was the first to industrialize and become the clear leader in manufacturing until the 20th century. This added to their wealth and power. This also enabled the industrialization of war with the mass production of far more destructive weapons, leading to the two most destructive wars of the planet.
7. Europe's rapidly aging population is generally well off, highly urbanized, well educated, and enjoys long life expectancy.
8. A growing number of European countries are experiencing population declines. In many of these countries that natural decrease is partly offset by immigration.
9. Europe, the long-time leader in globalization, is now engaged in an internal debate over how much to embrace the globalized economy.