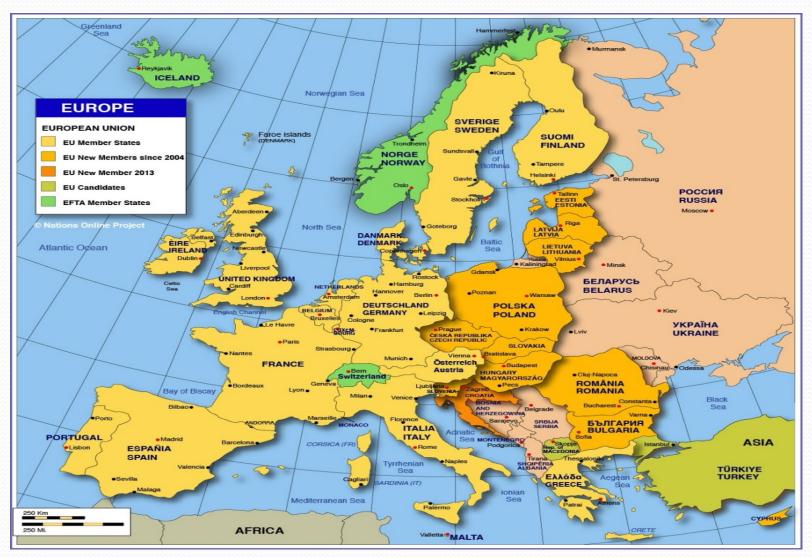
EUROPE IN WORLD POLITICS

IRL 314

MAP OF EUROPE



ABOUT THE MAP

The continent spans across 3,930,000 sq. miles and contains 47 countries with about 740 million population. Europe is surrounded by great seas such as the Mediterrean Sea, Black Sea etc.

- There are also regions within Europe.
- Scandinavian/Nordic countries: Sweden, Finland and Norway.
- Western Europe and Eastern Europe.
- Euroasia: Turkey (in between Europe and the Arab world).
- Mediterranean Europe: Greece, Cyprus, France, Spain, Turkey, Italy etc.

HISTORY

Europeans were by no means the pioneers of human civilization. Half of recorded history had passed before anyone in Europe could read or write. The major empires that influenced the world from present day Europe are:

The Greek Empire

Roman Empire

From the time that Paul and Silas sojourned into shores of Europe, Christianity reshaped Europe so much that the religion formed the basis of modern societies.

CHRONOLOGY OF NOTABLE EVENTS 500 BCE-1300 BCE

- 500-300 BCE Creative era of Classical Greek Civilization: Plato, Aristotle.
- 46 BCE Roman Republic conquers Greece
- 45-31 BCE Roman Republic evolves into the Roman Empire
- C 26-29 CE Jesus is active in Palestine; beginnings of Christianity
- 306-337 Roman Emperor: toleration of Christianity
- c 420 St. Augustine writes City of God
- End of Roman Empire in the West

Chronology of events

- 450-750 Roman Catholic Church gains converts and influence in Western Europe.
- 610-632 Prophet Mohammed teaches the new religion of Islam.
- 635-750 Islam spreads across Middle East, North Africa and Spain.
- 1100-1200 Arabic and Greek science enters European Culture.
- 1100-1300 Development of Universities and Scholasticism

MAJOR REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE

RUSSIAN OR BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION

Prior to the historic revolution, Russia, around 1880s passed through the Industrial Revolution and part of the world economic system. European capital entered the country, financing railways, mines and factories (as well as government and the army).

During this period, peasants worked for long hours under harsh conditions and meagre wages.

Russia was predominantly an Agrarian economy. The peasants formed four-fifths of the population. Russia was ruled by a Tsar (Emperor).

Bolshevik Revolution

The revolutionary intelligentsia also known as populists were inspired to overthrow the Tsar and change the exploitative capitalist system through the writings of Karl Marx and Engels. The young turks of the revolutionary struggle were:

Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Joseph Stalin etc.

Of all of them, Lenin was the most intellectually inclined with Marxism. In 1903, there was a split within the ranks of Russian Marxists. Lenin led the Bolshevik faction, while the majority were called the Mensheviks.

By 1917, the economy of Russia was in a bad state due to effects of World War I. Food became very scarce, on March 8, 1917; food riots broke out, which soon developed doubtless with the help of revolutionary intellectuals into political insurrection.

Crowd shouted, "down with the Tsar"! Troops within the city refused to fire on the insurgents; mutiny and insubordination spread from unit to unit. Within a few days, a Soviet of Workers and Soldiers Deputies were organized. The Tsar was forced to abdicate his throne. On March 17, Russia became a republic.

The revolution was already well advanced when Lenin and the other Bolsheviks arrived in Petrograd in April. Lenin and his comrades took sides with the Petrograd Soviet against the provisional government.

The Bolsheviks adapted four points that made the revolution a huge success.

- immediate peace with the Central Powers
- redistribution of land to the peasants
- transfer of factories, mines and other industrial plants from the capitalists to committees of workers in each plant
- recognition of Soviets as the supreme power instead of the provisional government.

Lenin backed by Trotsky, Stalin and majority of the party Central Committee planned to seize power. The Bolsheviks took over telephone exchanges, railway stations, and electric power plants in the city. By November of 1917 the revolution had become a done deal. In March 1918, the Bolsheviks renamed themselves the Communist Party.

NOTABLE EVENTS

- 1894 Creation of Russian Marxist organization the Social Democratic Party
- 1903 Social Democrats split into two factions, Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.
- 1905 Economic hardship, "Bloody Sunday", and Russo-Japanese War Spark Revolution of 1905 St. Petersberg
- 1905 Tsar's October Manifesto establishes new parliamentary body the Duma
- 1914 Russia enters war with Germany and suffers crushing military defeats
- March 1917 Tsar Nicholas II abdicates; Russia becomes a republic under provisional government and continues war with Germany

- April 1917 Germany provides safe passage for Bolshevik leaders to enter Russia.
- Nov 1917 The Bolshevik Revolution: Lenin and followers overthrow the provisional government in Petrograd
- 1918-1922 Bolsheviks consolidate power and suppress all opponents in Civil War and Red Terror
- * 1922 Est of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

From the beginning of history until about 1800, the work of the world was done with hand tools. Since then it has been increasingly done by machines. Before about 1800, power was supplied by human or animal muscle, reinforced by levers or pulleys and supplemented by the force of running water or moving air.

The far reaching transition from hand tools to power machinery was the vast technological and economic process that is called the Industrial revolution. Its beginning cannot be dated exactly. It is still going on, for in some countries industrialization has only recently begun and even in the most highly developed countries it is always making advances.

Industrial Revolution

The first country to be profoundly affected by industrialization was Great Britain, where its effects became manifest in the half century following 1780.

The English Revolution of 1688, confirming the ascendancy of Parliament over the king, meant in economic terms the ascendancy of the more well to do property owning classes. From 1688 to 1832, the British government was substantially in the hands of these landowners. The result was a thorough transformation of English farming without which Industrial revolution could have occurred.

Incentives and Inventions

As the 18th century progressed, the British having established markets in America and Europe; conquered a colonial empire and won command of the sea needed to expand the frontiers of their business ventures.

The profit motive prompted a continuing search for more rapid methods of production. Cotton was an essential commodity at that time. Using hand methods, Europeans could not produce cotton cloth in competition with the lower cost Asian producers. Capital was available and the financial industry was already evolving in Britain.

Inventions

In 1733, a man named John Kay invented the fly shuttle by which only one person instead of two was needed to weave cloth on a loom. The resulting increase in the output of weaving set up a strong demand for yarn.

Other inventions occurred in the textile industry such that British imports of raw cotton multiplied fivefold in the 30 years following 1790.

In value of manufactures, cotton cloth rose from 9th to 1st place among British industries in the same years.

Inventions

About 1702 Thomas Newcomen built the first economically significant steam engine, which was soon widely used to drive pumps in the coal mines. In 1763, James Watt formed a business partnership with Matthew Boulton. Their partnership exemplified the connection between inventors and investors. By 1780, their partnership was already a commercial success.

The newly established factories spelt doom for skilled workers. For instance, hand weavers and spinners were thrown out of jobs by the new machines.

The people who found jobs in the new factories (men, women, children) often worked 14 hours a day or occasionally even more.

Industrial revolution

Work became tedious and oppressive. The factory owners or the "cotton lords", were the first industrial capitalists. The industrialists were strengthened by the works of Adam Smith's 1776 Wealth of Nations.

For the working class in England, the Industrial revolution was a hard experience. Though it was the order of the day whenever, a society transits from one system to another.

Through the Industrial revolution:

Industrial revolution

- people migrated from suburbs to cities
- workers obtained more knowledge of the world
- Workers developed a sense of solidarity
- Common political interests
- Class interest
- Higher national income
- Establishment of labour unions
- Factories sprang up in France, Belgium etc
- London became the world's financial capital
- Britain became a model country to other nations.

The great political questions in mid 18th century Europe had been settled by force. The German Empire was the strongest and most obvious of the new political structures that had emerged through the use of armed power, but all of the major European states had concluded that large military forces were essential for their national existence. One, two, or even three years of compulsory military service for all young men became the rule.

In 1914, each of the Continental Great Powers had not only a huge standing army but millions of trained reserves among the civilian population.

Germany wanted a bigger role in international affairs. This new drive challenged Britain's position as leader in global politics. France too was not left out in the struggle for economic and political power with Germany (steel). Economically, each European people required habitual contact with the world as a whole. Each national population was to that extent dependent and insecure. Industrial countries were especially vulnerable, relying as they did on the import of raw materials and food and on the expanding export of goods, services, or capital in return.

There was no world state to police the worldwide system, assuring participation in the world economy to all nations under all conditions (no hegemon). Each nation had to take care of itself. Several alliances were formed in order to checkmate other rival countries.

- Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy (Triple Alliance)
- Franco-Russian

On June 28, 1914, a Bosnian terrorist assassinated the heir to the Habsburg Empire, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand in the streets of Sarajevo the Bosnian capital in the Austrian Empire.

Diplomatic crisis erupted quickly beyond Austria and Serbia. The countries within the European alliance system were mobilized to start a war that would be known as World War I (1914-1918).

World War I lasted over 4 years, the USA entered the war in 1918. Germany and its allies were called the Central Powers, while the Entente governments (Russian Empire, UK and France) were termed the Allies.

The total number of casualties in World War I both military and civilian was about 37 million.

16 million deaths and 21 million wounded. The total number of deaths includes 9.7 million military personnel and about 6.8 million civilians. The Entente Powers (Allies) lost about 5.7 million soldiers while the Central Powers lost about 4 million.

The war disrupted trade resulting in acute shortages of food which resulted in famine in Europe, the Ottoman Empire and Africa.

By late 1918, Germany which had the upper hand initially got weakened because America joined the Entente Powers.

The German foreign office made overtures to President Wilson. An Armistice was arranged and on November 11, 1918, firing ceased on the western front.

1919: Western Allies complete the Versailles Treaty and recognize new nations in Eastern Europe; Germany was charged with war guilt and reparations.

- Germany lost all its colonies.
- ➤ Under the League of Nations, France and Britain divided the best of African colonies.
- Germany refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles.
- > The Treaty did not destroy Germany's economic and political strength.
- ➤ The war left major European nations much weaker than before to face rising economic power of the USA, the revolutionary government of the Soviet Union and the emerging anti-colonial movements of Africa and Asia.

With the rise of Adolph Hitler to power in 1933 and the spread of totalitarianism in Spain and Italy under Franco and Mussolini respectively, it was certain another major war would happen.

Adolph Hitler with his Nazi ideology of establishing world domination (Third Reich) for 1,000 years invaded Poland on September 1 1939. On September 3, Britain and France declared war on Germany. The war spread very widely and became the Second World War.

By June 1940, the mechanized German forces drove relentlessly southward. In 2 weeks, German forces killed 100,000 French soldiers. By June 22 France sued for peace and an armistice was signed.

- USSR which had a secret peace pact with Nazi Germany became threatened because Nazi Germany purposed to take over Eastern Europe. On June 22, 1941, Stalin was caught completely surprised through Germany's incursion into USSR. By the autumn of 1941 the Germans had overrun most of Ukraine, where many Jews were killed.
- With just 25 miles to Moscow, the cold winter and Stalin's doggedness prevented the Nazi Army from getting to Moscow.
- On December 7, 1941 without warning, Japan (close ally of Nazi Germany) launched a heavy air raid on American naval base at Pearl Habour in Hawaii. The air strikes killed 2,500 Americans.

- On December 8, USA and Britain declared war on Japan.
 Three days later Germany and Italy declared war on the USA.
- The Holocaust: In January 1942, Hitler came up with the "Final Solution" doctrine. He blamed Jews for all the problems in Europe. During the war, some 6 million Jews were systematically killed all over Europe. Millions of Poles, Russians, Gypsies and others were murdered by the Nazi.
- On August 6, 1945 an American aircraft dropped an atomic bomb built in the United States on Hiroshima that had a population of 200,000 people. The city was completely destroyed and 100,000 died. Several thousands suffered the long term effects of radiation.

- On August 9, a second American atomic bomb struck Nagasaki and killed 60,000 more. The atomic bombs and Soviet declaration of war drove Japan to surrender.
- On September 2, 1945 the formal surrender was signed. The emperor was permitted to remain as head of state, but Japan was placed under a United States army of occupation.
- In February 1945, Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin agree on postwar arrangements at meeting in Yalta.
- May 1945 Germany surrenders after Hitler commits suicide in Berlin.

- World War II was the most devastating war in human history.
- Soviet military deaths were estimated at over 6 million, German at 3.5 million, Chinese at 2.2 million, Japanese at 1.3 million, Polish at 700,000, British and Commonwealth losses were over 400,000, America about 300,000, French about 200,000.
- Total estimates of 60 million casualties.

World War II or Second World War had left Europe in a worse state of disorder than World War I. It had ruined one of the world's chief industrial areas and brought its economic system to collapse.

Europe could no longer pay for imported goods. The Second World War left only the USA and Soviet Union (USSR) still standing in military strength.

The two countries became the superpowers: USSR expanded its stronghold on Central and Eastern European countries with Communism. United States propagated their impressive capitalist system in Western Europe.

- Mutual Mistrust between the superpowers over the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons strained their relationship.
- In 1949 Soviet Union tested an atomic bomb
- Britain tested Atomic bomb in 1952
- In 1947, financially strained Britain cut back on its commitments in the Mediterranean. The United States quickly moved to fill the vacuum.
- American President Truman agreed to finance the anti-communist forces in Mediterranean region .

- In March 1947, America formulated a broad national policy to contain communism everywhere. "To assist free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures".
- The Truman Doctrine of 1947 committed the United States to unprecedented involvement in global military and economic affairs.
- The Marshall Plan was announced by the American Secretary of State George Marshall in 1947. The Plan provided billions of dollars for reconstruction of war damaged European economies and infrastructure. The Plan was meant to contain Communist expansion in Western Europe.

- In 1949, United States created a network of military arrangements with Western European countries. The defense pact was named The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- In 1949, a Council for Mutual Economic Aid was organized by USSR for all its satellite states in Eastern Europe. By 1955, USSR signed a defense pact with its cronies. The alliance was called the Warsaw Pact.
- ➤ Germany was divided into 2. East controlled by the communists and West controlled by the capitalists.
- ➤ Throughout the Cold War, Europe queued along American led capitalist system and Soviet led communist system.

- ❖ By the late 8o's, it was quite evident that Soviet Union was fast losing out due to:
- Dwindling economic fortunes
- Bureaucratic bottleneck (one party system)
- Rebellion against communism within Eastern bloc countries

EUROPE DURING COLD WAR

The breaking of Berlin wall in 1989, which separated East and West Germany was considered by many as a symbol of unity. On Dec 26, 1991, President Gorbachev announced the dissolution of USSR. The USSR became dismembered into 15 countries.

Yugoslavia was not left out, the country broke into 6 countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Rep of Macedonia, etc)

Some countries in the Eastern Europe are now members of European Union

The modern day European Union is a direct result of a determination among European politicians to prevent future violent conflicts in Europe after World War II.

The original aim was to tie countries together by forging closer industrial and economic co-operation.

• In 1950, French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman proposes integrating the coal and steel industries of Western Europe. This initiative birthed the Treaty of Paris that created the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951.

• Six countries that formed European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) are Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and West Germany.

In 1957, 6 Western European countries established a Common Market which became known as European Economic Community.

The same countries signed the Treaty of Rome, creating the European Economic Community (EEC) and European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM).

These countries began to remove trade barriers between them and move towards creating a Common Market.

- By 1965, the name was changed to European Community.
- In 1967, EEC, EURATOM and ECSC are merged to establish some sets of institutions (European Commission, European Council and European Parliament) whose members were initially selected by national Parliaments.
- 1979: The 1st direct elections to the European Parliament were held where voters from each Member State elected their members.
- 1986: The Single European Act is signed by EU governments, providing for the creation of a single market in which people, goods, capital and services can move freely around European Community.
- In 1992, under the Maastricht Treaty European Council became European Union.

- Under Maastricht Treaty, EU leaders agreed to create an Economic and Monetary Union with a single currency managed by European Central Bank.
- In 1999 Europe's single currency, the EURO was officially launched.
- As at 2013, 17 countries use euro as their official currency. These countries include:

Austria France Luxembourg Slovenia Belgium Germany Malta Spain.

Cyprus Greece Netherlands

Estonia Ireland Portugal

Finland Italy Slovakia

European Union

Member States (28)

Austria Italy
Belgium Latvia
Bulgaria Lithuania
Croatia Luxembourg

Iceland

Cyprus Malta

Czech Rep. Netherlands

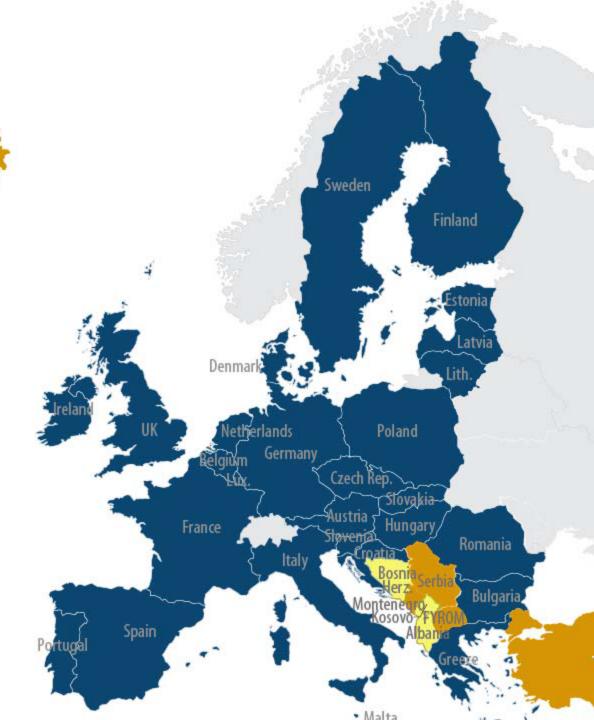
Denmark Poland Estonia Portugal Finland Romania Slovakia France Slovenia Germany Greece Spain Sweden Hungary Ireland UK

Candidate Countries

Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia Montenegro Iceland Serbia

Potential Candidate Countries

Albania Kosovo under Bosnia & UNSCR 1244 Herzegovina



KEY INSTITUTIONS IN EU

- **The European Council**: It serves as the driving force for EU policy. It is composed of all the Heads of Government of EU member countries and the President of the European Commission.
- The European Commission: It implements and manages EU decisions and common policies; it ensures that EU treaties and rules are followed. It is made up of 28 Commissioners (one for each country).
- **Council of Ministers**: It enacts legislation, usually based on proposals from the Commission and agreed to in most cases by the Parliament (28 members).

KEY INSTITUTIONS IN EU

- **The European Parliament**: It represents the citizens of the EU. It consists of 766 members who are directly elected from member states for 5 year terms.
- European Court of Justice
- European Central Bank

WHY ENLARGEMENT:

- To foster better political and economic integration
- To help in transforming former communist countries and dictatorships into democratic societies/free market economies.
- To deepen and widen the role of EU as an international actor.

PROCESS OF ENLARGEMENT

- According to Maastricht Treaty, any European country may apply for EU membership if it meets a set of core political and economic criteria. Countries must
- maintain democratic institutions.
- respect rule of law
- protect Human rights
- protect minority groups
- operate free market/capitalist economy
- be willing to abide by all EU laws and regulations
- All member countries must agree for new members to join

NIGERIA'S CIVIL WAR (1967-1970)AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

- Nigeria was plunged into a deadly war in 1967 after the bloody coup and counter coup of January 15, 1966 and July 29 1966 respectively.
- Northern officers felt aggrieved because they thought the January 15 1966 coup was targeted at destroying the Northern oligarchy. Most of the coup plotters were from the Eastern extraction.

- General Aguiyi Ironsi, the first black man to lead UN Peace Keeping Force in history did not deal with the coup plotters and also turned Nigeria into a unitary state.
- The counter coup of July 29 1966 led to the execution of over 200 top military officers from the Eastern region.

• The insecurity and uncertainty influenced Lt. Col Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu on May 30 1967 to call on all the ibos to return home and eventually he declared the secession of the Eastern region as the state of Biafra.

ROLE OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DURING NIGERIA'S CIVIL WAR 1967-1970

- During the war, Biafran propagandists appealed to the consciousness of the outside world. The propagandists painted an ugly image of the federal government.
- USA could not intervene because Washington considered Nigeria to be the brainchild of its key ally Britain.
- Dr. Martin Luther King jnr before his assassination tried to broker peace between Nigeria and Biafra.
- Britain supplied Nigeria with ammunition.

- France wanted Nigeria to disintegrate. France saw Nigeria's economic muscle, robust population, land mass and geographical location as a threat to its influence on Francophone countries in West Africa.
- France stationed sophisticated military hardware in Benin republic, Cameroon and Chad.
- After the war France made moves in blocking the establishment of ECOWAS in 1975.
- Racist regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa sold arms and ammunition to Biafra.

- Portugal was the major arms broker for the Biafran secessionists. Portuguese enclaves of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea Bissau supported Biafra against Nigeria.
- Nigeria's not too friendly relationship with communist USSR improved during the civil war. USSR was instrumental in supplying superior weapons to federal government.

AFTERMATH OF THE CIVIL WAR

- Gen Yakubu Gowon paid a state visit to different countries notably USSR (Moscow). USSR was given multi billion dollar Ajaokuta Steel project. Trade relations and educational scholarship schemes emerged between Nigeria and Soviet Union.
- Nigeria pursued liberation struggle to end Apartheid and colonial rule in Africa especially Lusophone colonies (Portuguese colonies).
- Nigeria pursued good neighbourliness project in West Africa. Nigeria gave economic aid to Chad, Benin republic and contributed 33% of ECOWAS budget in its early years.

Relationship with France has improved. France maintains huge investments in Nigeria. Nigeria's Big Brother role in Africa has also made Nigeria to open doors to French cultural values.

EU-AMERICA RELATIONS

- Since the 20th century, relations between EU and America has evolved.
- America was instrumental in ending the most disastrous wars (WW I and WW 2) that engulfed Europe.
- America was/is the arrow head of the western capitalist bloc during/after the cold war era.

- Both US and Europe are proponents of:
- Democracy, open societies, human rights and free markets.
- Both the US and Europe also share a huge and mutually beneficial trade and investment relationship.

- The North Atlantic Treaty
 Organization (NATO) remains the preeminent security alliance of the EuroAtlantic citizens.
- Since the end of cold war, 12 new members from Eastern & Central Europe have joined NATO.
- America is the leading partner in NATO.

- Both parties share common problems such as:
- International terrorism, transnational crimes, nuclear proliferation, environmental issues, political instability and economic problems in other regions of the world.

- The foreign policy of Russia has received heavy criticisms from EU and America.
- Russian policy makers viewed the expansion of NATO's membership and US-EU's support for the independence of Kosovo as threats to Russia's influence internationally.

- The US and EU openly criticized the 2011-2012 parliamentary and presidential elections that brought former KGB Lieutenant Colonel, Vladimir Putin back to power.
- On the other hand, Russia opposed NATO's intervention in Libya (2011) that ousted Muammar Gaddafi from power after 42 years as Libya's ruler.

- Russia has being protecting the regime of Bashar Al Assad and frustrated all the efforts made by America and EU to address the violence in Syria through the UN Security Council.
- European nations and America are concerned over Russia's role in meddling into Ukrainian affairs and Russia's forceful annexation of Crimea peninsula from Ukraine (2014).

- It must be noted that America wants EU not to be dependent on Russia's gas supplies. One Third of EU's gas imports comes from Russia.
- America wants EU to develop renewable energy and seek for gas in other parts of the world.

- The US and EU are the biggest trading partners in the world.
- The relationship between them gulps about \$5 trillion annually in total commercial sales and provides up to 15 million jobs in America and Europe.

- China is the most populous country in the world.
- China has one of the largest economies in the world.
- China is a recognized military power with nuclear capabilities.
- China is among the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council.

- China is one of the most influential players in global trade and investments.
- China boasts of rich cultural heritage which is displayed through movies, China Towns in different parts of the world, Chinese restaurants and the internationalization of Martial Arts.

- China's relationship with EU is basically motivated by economic benefits.
- China wants wider access to EU markets and investments.
- China seeks technological transfers.
- China wants EU to desist from criticism on Taiwan and Tibet (China wants other countries to believe in One China policy).

- China uses bi-lateralism to deal with EU member countries in order to penetrate individual EU member countries.
- The EU wants China to support reform of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that aim to prevent proliferation.

- EU through the big 3 (UK, Germany and France) has persuaded China to use its influence to halt Iran's nuclear programme.
- China's economic interests in Africa seems to be hindering the European countries.
- China identified with Africa during the Anti-Colonial struggles. China assisted quite a number of African countries in developmental projects

 China has always wanted African countries to support it in the UN on Taiwan, Tibet and human rights issues.

 In recent times, China sees Africa as a viable market for its exports. Chinese manufacturing industries enjoy the unique advantage of producing textiles, electronics and other products at relatively cheap prices which fits the demand of less developed African countries.

- Africa has become the 2nd largest supplier of crude oil to China (Sudan and Angola are their top suppliers).
- The EU is China's largest trading partner, while China is EU's 2nd largest trading partner after USA.

EU-CHINA RELATIONS

During the euro zone crisis, China bought billions of european bonds in order to salvage the collapse of some European economies.

There is a general perception in Europe that the culture, civilization and technological breakthrough of the Chinese are inferior to the Europeans.

EU-NIGERIA RELATIONS

Relations between the EU and Nigeria have been rocky since Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960.

Several years of military rule worsened relationship between Nigeria and EU.

The June 12 1993 annulment and the execution of Ken Saro Wiwa and Ogoni leaders in 1995 for their protests against Shell operations brought political relationship to a standstill.

The involvement of Shell in the Niger Delta crisis did not hinder EU companies such as Shell and Total from operating in Nigeria.

EU measures were lifted after the 1999 election which brought ex military ruler, General Olusegun Obasanjo as civilian President.

With the return to democracy, political relations between the EU and Nigeria were resumed and the charismatic President Olusegun Obasanjo quickly became a darling to Western nations.

Between 2001-2007, €600 million was released by EU for developmental projects in Nigeria.

In 2005, Nigeria reached an agreement on debt owed to Western nations (Paris Club), whereby US \$18 billion was forgiven and US \$12.4 billion was reimbursed.

In 2003, EU released 5million euro in support for the election.

- 7million euro for the promotion of democracy and human rights.
- 6.6million euro for national and state assemblies.

In 2004, EU countries licensed exports of military equipment, such as ground vehicles, aircraft and large calibre firearms to Nigeria worth 82 million euro.

Countries like UK, Germany, Italy and France have established military collaboration with Nigeria.

Nigeria has the largest number of migrants to Europe every year. A share of these figures especially women and children are trafficked for sexual exploitation in countries such as Italy, Spain, Belgium, Romania and Netherlands.

Companies in some EU countries play active role in Nigeria's economy

Britain: British Airways, Cadbury, British American Tobacco, Unilever, Shell, GlaxoSmithKline and Guinness.

France: Total, Larfarge, Air France

Italy: Agip, Gitto construction, AG Ferrero etc **Germany**: Julius Berger partly owned by Germany is the biggest construction company in Nigeria.

It is quite alarming that a large percentage of Nigeria's stolen wealth are stashed in European countries (Dubai, Malaysia, China, Singapore are now been used). Nigeria's adoption of same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) in 2013....14 imprisonment has caused stirs with the European Parliament. There are calls that Nigeria and Uganda be sanctioned for passing the anti-gay/lesbian marriage bill.

Nigeria's main exports to EU include: oil and gas, rubber, copper, cocoa, oil seeds, skins and leather, fish, wood and wood charcoal.

EU observer monitoring group is one of the most credible international election observers during electioneering period in Nigeria.

FACTS ABOUT BRITAIN/UK

- Britain spearheaded the industrial revolution that has contributed immensely to the advancement of humankind in all facets of life.
- Britain boasts of a rich political history as one of the most powerful empires in modern history.
- Britain is considered to be one of the major proponents of liberal democracy.
- Britain practices parliamentary system of government with the British Monarchical system still in place.

FACTS ABOUT BRITAIN/UK

- Before the emergence of America and Soviet Union as superpowers (after WW II), Britain was the most powerful nation in the world.
- Britain is a formidable military power with nuclear capabilities.
- Britain is a permanent member of the UN Security Council.
- London is one of the most organized cities in the world.
- London is one of the financial capitals in the world financial market.

- On June 23, 2016, the United Kingdom voted to exit EU through a non binding advisory referendum.
- The outcome of the referendum led to the resignation of David Cameron as British Prime Minister.
- David Cameron was one of the leading figures for the "Remain" campaign (UK to still be a member of EU).
- Cameron was succeeded by Theresa May as British PM.

- 52% of Britain voted for Exit, while 48% voted for Remain.
- The Exit campaign was championed by former London Mayor, Boris Johnson.
- The calls for British exit from EU enjoyed popular support in England and Wales. On the other hand, many people from Scotland and Northern Ireland clamoured for Britain to remain within EU.

- On June 24, 2016, global stocks plummeted with \$2 trillion dollars and pounds sterling dropped to its lowest value in 30 years.
- UK banks and companies were negatively affected after the referendum.
- Proponents of Brexit believe that UK will no longer be bound by EU's common external tariffs on imports. Hence, UK will be able to reduce the cost of imported goods.

- After Brexit, UK would become an independent player, free to seek its own trade deals with the rest of the world.
- It is expected that UK will negotiate with large markets such as India, China and United States.

- Economic experts are skeptical about UK's commitments to development aid in Africa going by the analysis that UK may experience a recession.
- On June 24, South African rand was the worst performing currency after the UK pound. This is due to South Africa's close financial ties to the UK and the fact that many large South African companies have a dual listing on the London and Johannesburg stock exchanges.

 According to Bloomberg, the UK is South Africa's fourth largest export destination, mostly dominated by metals and agricultural goods. The bulk of these exports have duty-free access to the EU under the terms of the Trade Development **Co-operation Agreement. The trade terms** with the UK will now need renegotiation and revision, which could take up to two years, and significantly impact investment in key industries such as mining and agriculture.

- Brexit will most likely have adverse effects on the Nigerian economy. On June 24, 2016, Nigerian banks such as Zenith Bank and Fidelity Bank recorded losses.
- Trade flows and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) may suffer setbacks in Nigeria-Britain economic relations.
- The Director General of Nigerian Institute of International Affairs asserted that Brexit may likely influence Britain to strengthen its economic ties with Commonwealth countries in Africa such as Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Botswana.

 Brexit could impact Africans seeking to move to the UK. Much of the public support for Brexit stemmed from xenophobic sentiments so the UK can be expected to tighten its inflow of migrants.