

## Study Guide – Unit 4 – Europe & Russia

### *SSWG 3ad 4a*

#### Terms to know

The European Union – *a supranational organization through which a number of European countries work together on shared issues*

Supranational Cooperation – *a form of international cooperation in which countries give up some control of their affairs as they work together to achieve shared goals*

Centripetal Force – *the forces that unite people and countries*

Centrifugal Force – *the forces that divide people and countries*

Common Market – *a group of countries that acts as a single market, without trade barriers between member countries*

EU Flag – *blue flag with 12 stars representing the original 12 members of the EU, it is a great symbol of Europe unity*

Europe Day – *celebrated on May 9<sup>th</sup>, Europeans focus on their motto: “United in Diversity”*

European Citizenship – *citizens in EU member countries are not only citizens of their home country, but also the EU.*

Demography – *the study of human populations, including how they change due to births, deaths, aging, and migration*

Replacement Rate – *the total fertility rate (TFR) needed for a population to replace itself*

Negative Growth – *another way to say a shrinking population*

Fertility Rate – *the average number of children each woman in a place will have during her lifetime*

Pension – *a fixed amount of money paid to a retired person by a government or former employer*

Labor Supply – *the number of capable workers a place has*

Life Expectancy – *the average age to which a person in a given population can expect to live*

Birth Rate – *the number of births in a year for every 1,000 people in a population*

Nation-State – *an independent state, or country, whose people mostly share a common identity*

Ethnic Group – *a group of people in a country who share a unique culture and identity*

Nationalism – *feelings of loyalty and pride toward one’s nation or ethnic group. Nationalism sometimes includes the belief that one’s nation or group is better than all others.*

Failed State – *a state that no longer exists or one in which the government is so weak that it has little control over its territory. Ex. Soviet Union*

The Soviet Union (USSR) – *a failed communist state (1991) which included 15 independent nation-states, including the largest and most important – Russia.*

Ethnic Diversity – *a variety of people from different ethnic groups*

Chernobyl – *the site of the world’s most disastrous nuclear meltdown in Ukraine, which at the time (1986) was a part of the Soviet Union*

Freedom Index Rating – *a rating of how politically “free” people are in their home countries. The lower the score, the freer a people are politically.*

### **Questions to consider – Be specific in your answers and provide examples**

1. Why was the European Union created? *Originally, it was created to create a common market for coal and steel. Today, Europeans see the EU as a supranational organization which makes them much stronger together instead of separately.*
2. Give at least three examples of centripetal AND centrifugal forces to create supranational cooperation. *Centripetal forces include: adoption of a common currency (like the Euro), creation of a trading bloc, working toward common goals in government, creating a common culture using symbols like a flag, anthem, and holidays. Centrifugal forces include: economic, political and cultural differences among the group make it more difficult, but not impossible to work together.*
3. What if a country in the European Union does not agree with a decision of the EU? *That member country must still follow the EU decision. Supranational cooperation requires giving up some independent power.*
4. How has the EU helped the overall economy of Europe? *By creating a common market, using a common currency, reducing trade barriers like tariffs, and creating a larger trading bloc to compete globally.*
5. What issues might lead to other member nations like Britain leaving the European Union? *Economic, political and cultural differences can tear the EU apart.*
6. What has the EU done to help create a unified “European” cultural identity? *Created a motto: “United in Diversity,” created a common currency (Euro), flag, an anthem, a holiday (“Europe Day”), supports cultural programs, encourages travel, makes travel, work and moving easy with European Citizenship.*
7. Why do demographers study populations? *To identify trends which inform predictions about populations and possible policies to influence population trends.*
8. What happens to a population when there is a low replacement rate? *It is getting older, maybe due to increased life expectancy.*
9. How would you describe what is happening to populations across Europe? *They are shrinking (negative growth), getting older, and struggling with a reduced workforce.*
10. What happens to a population when there is a high fertility rate? *Rapidly grows*
11. What problems will arise with an aging and shrinking population? *Reduction of workforce, GDP, spending, and tax revenue. Reduction of government spending on things like pensions and healthcare.*
12. What is the relationship between population and labor supply? *The larger the population the larger the workforce. The smaller the population the smaller the workforce. The older the population the smaller the workforce.*
13. What are the governments of Europe doing to confront the problem of declining populations? *Offering financial incentives like “birth bonuses,” paid time off, and free childcare to encourage families to have more children*
14. Why did the Soviet Union collapse? *Many factors led to the collapse of the USSR. Its secret police made its citizens feel unsafe. It was led by dictators like Joseph Stalin who governed by force without the consent of the people. Communist economic policy slowed production and profit. Quality of life was low. Ethnic nationalism took over.*
15. How can ethnic differences lead to problems? *When more than one majority ethnic group is present in a nation-state, there is the potential for ethnic tensions between the groups. When citizens become more loyal to their ethnic group than their nation at-large, ethnic tensions rise.*
16. Which natural resource does former Soviet state Azerbaijan rely heavily on? *Petroleum (oil)*
17. Why is the life expectancy in former Soviet state Belarus declining? *Much of their land was poisoned when the nearby Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded in 1986 and remains poisonous today.*
18. Which former Soviet state joined the European Union in 2004? *Lithuania*
19. Why are Russians become less and less free according to the Freedom Index Rating? *When the USSR collapsed, powerful political leaders grabbed the best formerly state-run businesses for themselves. Those who were in power, stayed in power economically. The crime rate is high. Russia still controls its citizens for the most part and political corruption is not uncommon.*