

Western Europe

**-Countries in Western Europe:
France, Germany, Netherlands,
Belgium, Switzerland, Austria**

**-France and Germany: two
most dominant countries in
Western Europe**

**-Strong economies due to
access of ports, trade routes,
and natural resources**



-Benelux: economic union of the countries of Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg

History of Western Europe

-Reformation: time period in early 1500s when many Catholics broke away from the church and formed Protestant churches

-Started with Martin Luther, a German monk who was unhappy with the teachings of the Catholic Church

-Published his “95 Theses”: 95 things that the Catholic Church did/taught that he disagreed with

History of Western Europe

-nationalism: belief that people should be loyal to their nation

-This belief led to many wars between countries in Western Europe from the 1600s-1800s

Economy of Western Europe

-Belgium, Switzerland, France, and the Netherlands are strong in livestock and dairy farming

-France is the largest producer of agricultural products in Western Europe

-Major crops: wheat, grapes, and vegetables

Economy of Western Europe

-Western Europe is a very popular tourist area

-Especially France (Paris, French Riviera), Switzerland (Swiss Alps)

-Western Europe is also a producer of luxury goods: expensive cars, watches



Culture and Modern Society of Western Europe

-Western Europe produced many great
classical composers

-Germany: Johann Sebastian Bach,
Ludwig van Beethoven

-Austria: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

-Many Western European cities have
excellent public transportation systems

-Paris Métro, Berlin U-Bahn

Culture and Modern Society of Western Europe

-Many Western European countries receive *much* more paid vacation than the United States

-Germany: about 20 paid vacation days per year

-Austria: 5 weeks!