

WHO are THE EUROPEANS?

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Europe as a Shifting Idea



- “Europe” has never been just geography.
- Historically shaped by:
 - Culture
 - Religion
 - Civilization
- First used by Greeks — vague western label.
- Roman Empire = political unity, not “Europeanness.”

Defining Through Religion & Civilization

- After Rome: Latin Christendom = shared identity.

- Europe vs. “Others”:

- Islam
- Byzantium
- Colonized worlds

- Enlightenment: Europe = reason, civilization, superiority.
- Justified imperialism as “civilizing mission.”



Crisis, Memory & the Peace Project

- *19th—20th c.: Nationalism fragmented Europe.*
- *World Wars = shared trauma.*
- *Post-war: Europe reimagined as peace project.*
- *EU built on remembrance, not just economics.*
- *Europe = idea shaped by who's included/excluded.*



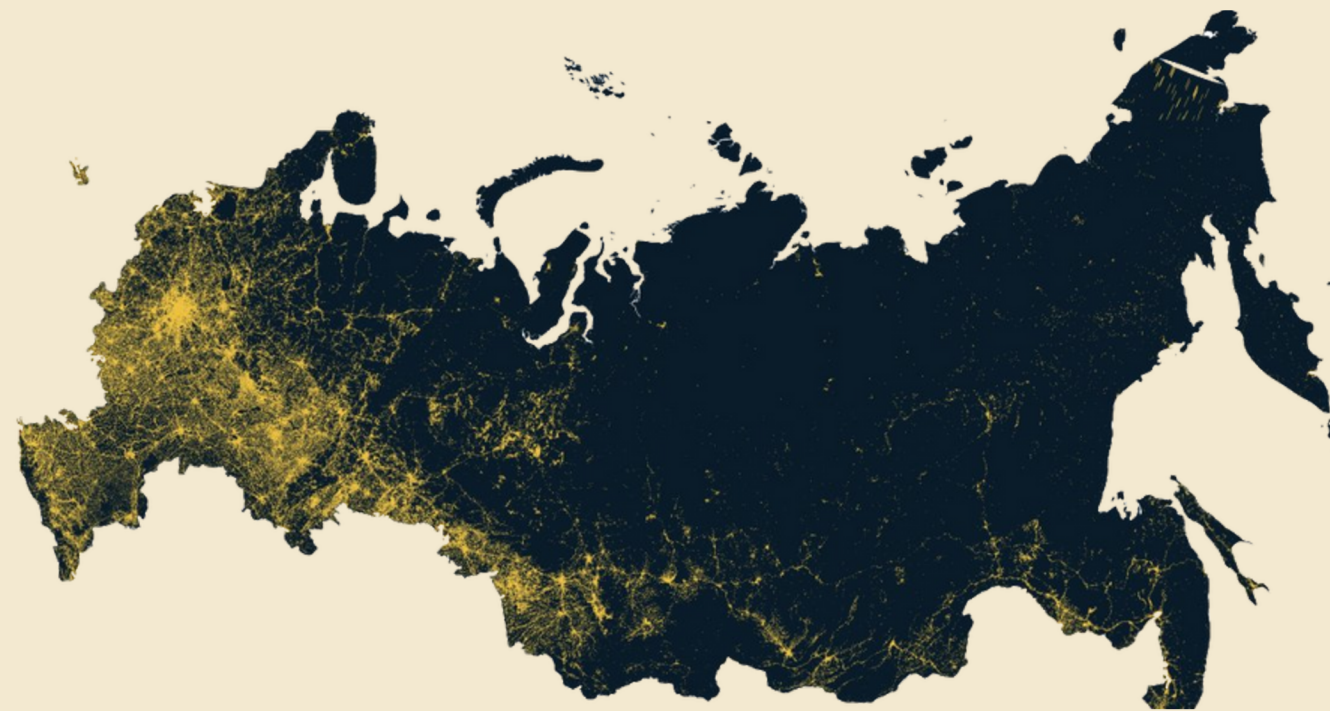
The Geography of Europe

- Who is European?
- Which countries make up Europe?
 - European continent
 - European union (EU)
 - Schengen & EEA
 - European identity



The Case of Russia

- Transcontinental
- Geographically: 25% Europe, 75% Asia
- Population density & capital : west third of the country (i.e. European side)



The Case of Cyprus

- Geographically West Asian, culturally and geopolitically South-East European
 - EU member state
 - Turkish & Greek population
 - Significant role in Greek Mythology



The Case of Turkey

- (& potentially Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan)
- How they feel vs. how Europe feels
- Generally considered both European & West Asian
 - Cultural identity
 - Historical Ties
 - Political aspiration
- Ural mountains



What do Americans think of Europe?

- Stereotypes vs. Reality - Class Basis
- Exotification, flattening effect among youth
- Generally positive sentiments
- Most important region for security





How do Russians see Europe?

- Russia is no longer part of Europe
 - a “vast Eurasian and Euro-pacific power”
- 2021 study - 64% of Russians didn't see themselves as a European country, only 29% did
- Western threat to Russian traditional values



What do Chinese people think about Europe?

- Soft power triumphs, mainly among youth
- Divide between Western/Eastern
- Rich culture and history, unpolluted environments

The EU and European Identity



- *Is the EU Europe?*
 - *Those in the EU*
 - *Those not*
- *Public Opinion on the EU positive trend*
- *Varying levels of belonging and simultaneous identities*

National Identity vs European Identity

- *National vs European Identity*
 - *High vs Low attachment*
- *Rise of Euroscepticism*
 - *Germany, Italy, Netherlands*
- *Brexit and 5 years on*
- *Younger Generation feels more “European”*



Who Belongs to Europe?

- *Increased opposition for Türkiye*
- *What about the Balkans?*
- *Decreasing European Identity*
 - *Russia, Türkiye*
- *Increasing European Identity*
 - *Ukraine, Georgia*



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