



AP[®] European History 2002 Sample Student Responses

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Part B: 6

Since the end of WWII there have been signs of a decline of nationalism in Europe. One of the most obvious of these is the degree to which ~~most~~ ^{many} of the countries of Europe have agreed to join themselves politically and economically. European integration, the European Community, shared resources, and a shared monetary system are also manifestations of the same. Politically, European countries have agreed to share power and cooperate; economically, they have decided to integrate. ~~The~~ Examples of these actions have been visible since the early years after WWII.

In the ^{early} 1950s, France, Germany and "any other country who wished to join them" formed a steel and coal union, pooling their resources in order to achieve better industrial and technological advantages. Since then, the idea of pool resources has been expanded to include removal of tariffs at ^{the} borders of a much larger number of European nations to allow free movement of goods and products. Nations have realized that their economic futures are closely tied; as early as the beginning of the late 1970s, the European Community was making plans to draw the economies closer; the European Union considered a single currency in the late 1980s and the member countries drew up plans for the Euro in 1991.

The Euro is the ultimate gesture of fading nationalism, which has been replaced with a similar sentiment for the culturally

diverse Europe as a whole. With the Euro as the single common currency of the majority (15 nations) of Europe, each economy depends on the others. The old coins that celebrated each nation's history and cultural pride are abandoned in favor of a coin that does not need to be changed upon crossing an international border. Because of the interdependency of ~~the~~ economies, the European Union has set base limits for ^{a nation's} economic statistics, a measure which ensures the development of yet more balance between economies.

Besides the obvious political effect of economic integration (that is, having one's monetary policy virtually overseen by ^{international} an Union), there are other political examples of fading nationalism. During the cold war years, nationalism was undermined in Europe by the contest of two superpowers. The resulting international groups — NATO and the Warsaw Pact — came with a certain degree of anonymity: each nation acted, in NATO matters, for the good of NATO, rather than for the particular good of the specific nation. So overshadowed by ~~the~~ ^{the} pair of superpowers, many less influential nations merely identified themselves as ^{for} one side or the other. Those ^{that} ~~who~~ did experience bursts of nationalism, as in Greece or Yugoslavia, found themselves struggling in the former case and promptly crushed (by the Russians) in the latter.

The creation and successes of the UN — another international

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organization focused on the good of the world rather than that of the particular participating nation—helped again to further a loss of nationalism. The enthusiasm for the EU, though by no means universal, is strong, yet among the EU's goals for the future include political integration.

The representatives of the many nations in the EU have been considering international parliaments, councils, boards, and a variety of courts. They would like to impose some level of standardization of criminal law and initiate open ~~border~~ borders between many of the European countries. They want to raise today's youth as citizens of Europe (Europe already has its own flag, song, passport, and driver's license, educated in universities ~~are~~ across Europe, not just in their own countries. They want to implement environmental, health, and labor plans, as well as international volunteer services and an international police force. These are not ^{the} aims of a non-political entity.

Socially, Europe grows smaller. New transportations (the ^{current} European rail system was created by the EU in order to supply jobs to workers of a wide range of nationalities), faster and cheaper travel, and projects to otherwise physically link European cities together (such as the Channel connecting France and England) have allowed more and more of the European population to travel throughout Europe. Globalizati

of industries, overnight shipping, and the increasingly better long-distance service and connections for telephones have made distances in Europe seem smaller. A continued population increase and the introduction of the internet and the web to European society have brought Europeans themselves closer, both socially and ~~politically~~ culturally.

The decline of nationalism in Europe is due to the integration and globalization of the last half century. Nationalism in the old sense has been replaced for a sort of continentalism, which focuses ^{on} Europe as a community and as a whole. International projects and organizations have been most instrumental in this change. International political organizations have decreased feelings of national identity and increased plans ~~of~~ for a more politically united Europe of the future. Monetary and economic integration has united many of the most salient European economies and set standards for regulating them. Nationalism has been — or, rather, is in the process of being — succeeded by a broader sense of the world.

Since 1945, ~~many~~ many historians suggest, nationalism has been on the decline. This notion does seem accurate. Organizations such as the European Union show the European nations setting aside of nationalistic pride in place of stability and security. The inception of the Euro as the standard for European currency in 1998 also shows the willingness to join a unified European community, and deflate small nation pride. Through political and economic means, Europeans are showing their that their nationalism has been on the decline since 1945.

The European Union, the Warsaw Pact, and the United Nations; these are all organizations that, since the end of World War Two, have developed; all involving European nations. By joining into these ~~my~~ groups, nations are recognizing the need for international governing. When an international group makes policy, it shows that the involved nations are not as full of national pride as they were in the past. France, for example, fought wars because its pride was damaged. Now, they are part of the European Union, ~~in conjunction~~ along with its

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past rivals. Politically, nationalism has decreased.

In 1998, many European nations agreed to distribute the Euro as the continental means of currency. This meant that the French would have to give up their Francs, and the Germans their Marks. Because the transition was nearly seamless, these nations are now in a closer bond than they were any time in the past. By doing this, European nations showed ~~that~~ that their nationalism was at a lower ~~level~~ enough level to share their currency.

Over the past 57 years, nationalism has ~~subsided~~ declined. European nations are joining in international governing bodies as well as ~~starting their~~ giving up their traditional currency in place of new, standard currency. This idea of nationalism declining is valid.