Map Identification Study Guide

One goal of the course is to familiarize you with Europe’s geography and the many changes in its national borders over the past three centuries. The midterm and final examinations will have map identification sections, perhaps incorporated into the essay questions. You may feel a bit overwhelmed at first by the task of learning Europe’s complex geography, especially given the changes over many centuries. This guide is intended to help you in studying—to give you concrete examples of the countries, rivers, seas, mountains, etc. that you should be able to identify, and to place them in some sort of order (though because of various overlaps this order is only approximate). You may have trouble finding a few in the lists below, and it is recommended, but not required, that you consult a major atlas (the expense of these makes it unrealistic to ask students to purchase them; the map room in the library has many excellent ones). You of course may ask for help from your teaching assistant or from Professor Lindemann. A few place names that are not featured prominently in the text will be covered in lecture. Not every place name of importance to the course is on this list; it is simply a general guide and certainly covers the overwhelming majority of them.

It is a good idea to purchase some blank maps to help you learn Europe’s geography and changes in national borders from the early 18th to the end of the 20th centuries (you will be given blank maps on your exams, to fill in various places). The Bookstore now has a supply of several thousand copies, and more will be added as needed. (The maps are in the back of the Bookstore’s first floor, in drawers, just behind the pen and pencil section. Rand McNally Europe, Reorder # 118-12861-2)

You should become familiar with the major changes in borders (for example, the dramatic expanding and contracting of France from 1789 to 1815, the partitions of Poland, the unification of Germany, the domains of the Russian and Soviet empires). The rivers, mountains, seas, bays, etc. remain mostly constant (although of course those names differ from language to language, which can cause confusion [e.g., the Danube is the Donau in German]), and while many of the cities grow enormously, their location is the same (in a few notable cases, their names change: from St. Petersburg to Petrograd [during WWI] to Leningrad [when Lenin dies in 1924] then back to St. Petersburg [after the Communists fall from power].

There is a guide to the maps in McKay, just after the Table of Contents. The relevant maps in the Rand McNally Atlas are on pp. 34 to 75.

France:
- Lorraine (and Alsace-Lorraine)
- Normandy
- Provence

Great Britain (United Kingdom)
- England
- Scotland
Ireland
Wales

Netherlands (Holland), Belgium, Luxembourg (Benelux)

Central Europe
Switzerland
Holy Roman Empire
Germany
  Prussia
  Bavaria
  Hesse (Hessenland)

The Habsburg Monarchy, Austria (Austria-Hungary, and successor states)
  Bohemia
  Moravia
  Sudetenland
  Czechoslovakia
  Romania (also under Balkans)
  Hungary

Iberian Peninsula:
  Spain
   Catalonia
   Castile
  Portugal
  Andorra

Eastern Europe
  Russia (and Soviet Union)
   Byelorussia (Belorus)
   Ukraine
   Bessarabia
  Baltic countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia)
  Poland (“Polish Corridor”)

Northern Europe, Scandinavia (Finland, Sweden, Norway)

Italy
  South Tyrol
  Lombardy
  The Romagna
  Mezzogiorno (Kingdom of Two Sicilies)
  Tuscany
  Piedmont

The Balkans
  Romania
   Transylvania
Wallachia and Moldavia
Bulgaria
Yugoslavia
  Serbia
  Croatia
  Slovenia
  Bosnia
Albania
Greece

Ottoman Empire, Turkey

cities
Paris     Marseille     Strasbourg     Bordeaux     London     Madrid
Lisbon    Prague        Vienna        Budapest     Rome        Milan
Bologna   Naples        Turin         Geneva       Cologne     Amsterdam
Berlin    Bonn          Copenhagen    Lyons        Palermo     Valencia
Hamburg   Danzig        Warsaw        Kiev         St. Petersburg     Moscow
Sofia     Athens        Munich        Barcelona    Venice       Dublin

rivers:
Seine    Loire         Rhone        Rhine        Elbe        Oder        Vistula
Dnieper  Volga         Danube       Thames       Po [Italy]  Ruhr        Moselle

mountains:
Alps      Carpathians   Sudeten      Pyrenees     Urals

oceans, seas, bays, other bodies of water:
Baltic Sea     English Channel   Bay of Biscay   North Sea     Black Sea
Caspian Sea    Mediterranean Sea Adriatic Sea

islands:
Balearic      Sicily        Sardinia      Crete
Elbe           Corsica       Cyprus