

# THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE. A MULTI- PERSPECTIVE HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE, 1500- 2000

*A collection of 29 Narratives on [historiana.eu](https://historiana.eu)*

As part of the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership "Teaching European History in the 21st Century", project partners from across Europe have co-authored a handbook on The European Experience. A Multi-Perspective History of Modern Europe, 1500-2000. This open-access publication is available freely as a pdf file at <https://teh21.sites.uu.nl/> and as hard copy or e-book at <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/books/10.11647/obp.0323>.

At EuroClio, we have collected visual and textual primary sources that allow educators and students to engage with the content of the handbook through Historiana. We have published this content in seven thematic source collections, as well as in 29 separate narratives.

This document serves to reflect the structure of the handbook, highlighting the thematic connections between narratives and source collections. Just click on the thumbnail picture to open the corresponding page on Historiana. By clicking on the thumbnail picture next to the unit's name, you will be able to access the corresponding source collection.



# UNIT 1: IDENTITIES

Who thought of themselves as “European” in the past? And who was thought to be “European” – and who wasn’t? And how exactly did people of the past construct these ideas of European identity? This unit covers the historical development of ideas of Europe as a geographic location, a social entity, and a political community. It explores how physical and political borders and the – forced or voluntary – movement of people shaped these ideas. Finally, it shows the role images of the “Other” – European ideas about the rest of the world – played in the shaping of European identities.

This Unit consists of the following Narratives:



Ideas of Europe



Borders



Migration



Europe's  
Other(ed)s



# UNIT 2: SOCIETY

This unit investigates the way European societies have developed and changed over the past 500 years. This period saw a huge increase in Europe’s population, which fueled debates about the consequences of this demographic transformation. The struggle over scarce resources and the related socioeconomic inequalities play a central role in these debates. The ethnic makeup of these changing societies and the development of European families and their social role under these circumstances are explored in detail.

This Unit consists of the following Narratives:



Demographic  
Changes



Interethnic  
Relations



Household and  
Family



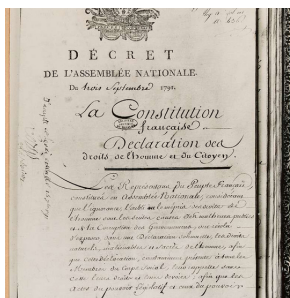
Inequalities



# UNIT 3: POWER AND CITIZENSHIP

This unit explores the conflictual political history of Europe, from the transformative development towards nation-states, fueled by the driving force of nationalism, to the projection of European power over the globe through colonialism and imperialism. This was often a violent history: military conflicts, revolutions and civil wars that shaped the changing face of Europe's political landscape feature prominently in this unit. But the way people negotiated periods of peace at the end of these violent conflicts also play an important role.

This Unit consists of the following Narratives:



Nationalism and State Building



Empire and Colonialism



Revolutions and Civil Wars

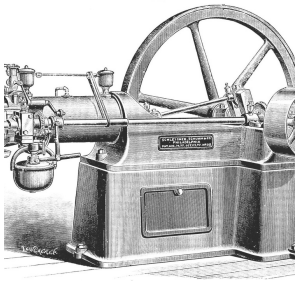


Peace and Conflict



Protests & Social Movements





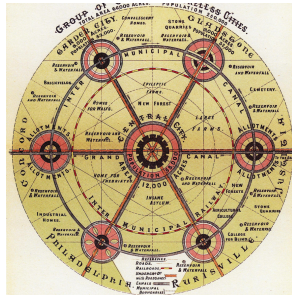
## UNIT 4: KNOWLEDGE

Europe has always been a knowledge society. This unit looks at the way European culture, societies, and economies were shaped by education and knowledge transfer at universities, guilds and learned societies as well as by science and technological change, including industrialization. Debates about social engineering and welfare are also reflected, as are the changing ways that people in Europe have tried to understand and change the natural environment.

This Unit consists of the following Narratives:



Science and  
Technological  
Change



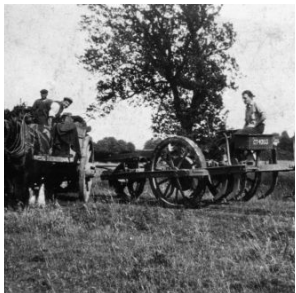
Social Engineering  
and Welfare



Education and  
Knowledge



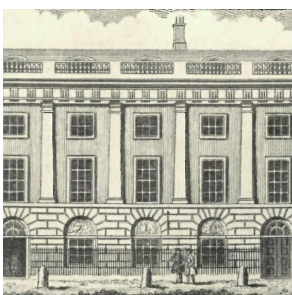
Understanding  
and Controlling  
the Environment



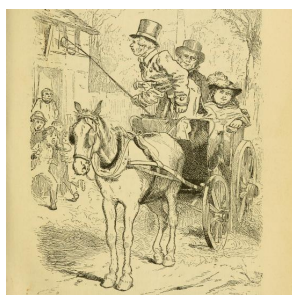
## UNIT 5: ECONOMY

Europe has seen huge economic transformations, from the development of early capitalism that put the continent on track towards long-lasting global economic dominance, to the establishing of socialist command economies in the twentieth century. This unit retraces these processes, with a particular focus on entrepreneurs, companies, and markets, as the driving force of the development of European capitalism. The debates and realities of distributing wealth, including socialism and anti-capitalism, are explored alongside the entangled histories of production and consumption. Finally, the history of the human "resources" that drove these economic developments is investigated.

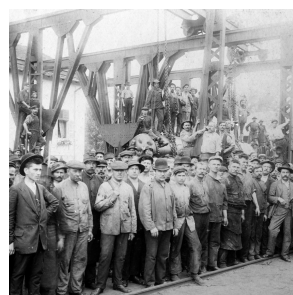
This Unit consists of the following Narratives:



Entrepreneurs,  
Companies and  
Markets



Distributing  
Wealth



Production and  
Consumption



Labour and Forced  
Labour





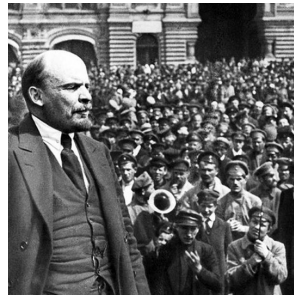
## UNIT 6: LIVING WITH DIFFERENCE

Religious, social, cultural, and political diversity is a fact of life in Europe. This unit explores the ways in which people in Europe have dealt with these differences, from the historical development of religious communities to rivaling ideological schools. The differences between the continent's urban centers and its peripheries and their cultural, social, and economic consequences are investigated, as are the inter-generational differences between parents and children, the young and the old.

This Unit consists of the following Narratives:



Religions



Ideologies



Centres and  
Peripheries



Generations and  
Lifecycles



## UNIT 7: CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

This unit covers the history of Europe's cultural experiments and avant-gardes, from literary works like Thomas More's Utopia (1516) to the establishing of egalitarian communes in the nineteenth century and the rise of political art in the twentieth century. It explores the development of the mass media and popular culture as well as the rise of sports and leisure culture. Finally, it investigates the role heritage and memory have played in European culture, politics, and the development of the continent's urban fabric.

This Unit consists of the following Narratives:



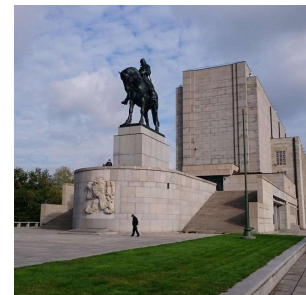
Experiments and  
Avant-Gardes



Mass Media and  
Popular Culture



Sports and Leisure



Heritage and  
Memory