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# Post-World War II Europe

Initiatives for European Integration

FlipEU Jean Monnet Module  
<https://flipeu.bilgi.edu.tr/>

# Objectives and Concepts

- **Objectives:** to understand post-world war II Europe, focus on the integration initiatives before the Communities.
- **Concepts:** integration, Europe, Council of Europe, OEEC

# What is Europe?

- The concept of Europe goes back to Herodotus. Herodotus was a Greek historian from Ionia who lived in the 5th century BC (ca. 484 BC–ca. 425 BC) and is regarded as the "Father of History".
- The concept of Europe is associated with different political meanings. Especially after the break-up of the Roman Empire, the concept was used in conjecture with:
  - Christianity, crusades
  - Secularism, enlightenment in 16<sup>th</sup> century
  - Democracy, economic liberalism
- Today with the European Union, the concept is once again being redefined.

# Projects to Unify Europe

- There were many attempts in history to unify Europe.
- One example is from 1923, when Richard von Coudenhove-Kalergi published PANEUROPA.
- Coudenhove-Kalergi believed that Europe and its supremacy were in decline and his project of PANEUROPA was his solution to stop this decline. The main aim of PanEuropa was to ensure peace and stability in Europe through supranational arbitration. PanEuropa would be instrumental in defending smaller states from outside powers and would decrease security expenditure and hence promote economic growth. Thus establishment of a political Europe would revitalize Europe politically and economically.
- This political Europe would not include Britain or Russia. But later editions included Turkey.

# Definition of integration

- A process whereby a group of people, organized initially in two or more independent states, come to constitute a political whole which in some sense can be described as a community.

# Europe After the World Wars

- After World War II, Europe was once again in crisis: socially, economically and politically.
- Europe was divided and the Cold War was taking shape.
- Therefore the Western European countries once again begin to talk about projects to unify Europe to cope with the uncertainties of the time.
- Two organizations emerged as a result of US support for European unification and the efforts of movements for a federal Europe.

# The Council of Europe

- The Union of European Federalists was founded in 1946 and was composed of wartime resistance movements and they aimed to create a federal constitution for Europe
- They convened a Hague Meeting in May 1948
- Movements lobbying for a European federation in Italy, France or Great Britain united and established the Joint International Committee of Movements for European Unity in October 1948. This Committee adopted the name 'European Movement'.
- The report that was written as a result of the negotiations culminated in the Treaty of Westminster in May 1949 which established the **Council of Europe**.

# The OEEC

- In 1947, Truman Doctrine was announced by the USA “to assist the free peoples who are resisting”.
- In 1947, the US Secretary of State Marshall announced the intention to give financial aid to European countries. To support intra-Europe trade and trade between US and Europe.
- The United States put forward a condition stating that the implementation of the aid programme was dependent on the establishment of a permanent institution responsible for the organization of economic cooperation.
- The 16 countries that were participating in the aid programme set up the **Organization for European Economic Cooperation**.



# Why the US supported European integration?

**Geir Lundestad in his book »Empire by Integration: The United States and European Integration, 1945-1997«, 1998 outlines the reasons:**

- desire to remake Europe in the American model – a United States of Europe
- an integrated Europe would be more rational and efficient, especially in economic matters, but also would be easier to deal with politically
- an integrated Europe would reduce the US burden – not as much aid would be needed, Europe could play stronger role in defence, would buy more American goods
- an integrated Europe would contribute to the containment of the Soviet Union
- an integrated Europe would be needed to integrate Germany within Europe, and with France in particular – would prevent Germany from changing sides or going neutral

# Readings and Videos

- You can reach the Council of Europe website from this link. Please visit the site and read the history of the institution <https://www.coe.int/en/>
- Analyse the text of George Marshall's Harvard speech of 5 June 1947, in which he set out the design of the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe. <https://www.marshallfoundation.org/marshall/the-marshall-plan/marshall-plan-speech/>
- You can reach the OECD website from this link. Please visit the site and read how the OEEC (now OECD) was established. <http://www.oecd.org/general/organisationforeuropeaneconomicco-operation.htm>
- the Council of Europe video <https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/videos>