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How integration was launched?

The European Coal and Steel Community

Objectives and Concepts

- **Objectives:** to understand how the ECSC was established and why the European Defence Community (EDC) and European Political Community (EPC) failed
- **Concepts:** ECSC, EDC, EPC, Schuman Plan, Pleven Plan

The Three Founding Communities

The European Coal and Steel Community (Paris Treaty signed, April 1951; in operation, August 1952) defunct, concluded for 50 years - **ECSC**

The European Atomic Energy Community (Rome Treaty signed, March 1957; in operation, January 1958) - **Euratom**

European Economic Community (Rome Treaty signed, March 1957; in operation, January 1958) - **EEC**

Founding Members of the Communities

- Belgium
- France
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- West Germany

The Schuman Plan

- In 9 May 1950, the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman made a speech and announced the Schuman Plan:
 - "Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity."
- The Plan was heavily influenced by Jean Monnet (a senior French official) , who envisaged the eventual creation of an economically united western Europe.
- The Schuman Plan led to the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).
- In April 1951 ECSC Treaty signed, which involved a surrender of sovereignty over coal and steel industries to a supranational body.
- Jean Monnet was the president of the High Authority of ECSC.
- Today, 9th of May is celebrated as the 'Europe Day'.

The Pleven Plan

- In October 1950, the French Prime Minister Rene announced the Pleven Plan, which was also influenced by Jean Monnet.
 - Called for the creation of a European Defence Community (EDC), a common army, common uniform, national divisions.
- In May 1952, the EDC Treaty was signed by the six founding members.
 - At the insistence of Italy, a plan was drawn by the ECSC assembly to create a European Political Community (EPC),
- In August 1954, the EDC Treaty was rejected by the French National Assembly

Schuman Plan vs. Pleven Plan

- The Schuman Plan was successful, because:
 - The creation of the ECSC was a solution to immediate practical problems.
 - The ECSC offered a means for each founding member to achieve its key political and economic objectives.
 - The central role of the US and the background of the Cold War were important factors in achieving agreement on the new Community.
 - It was supranational, but it was a sectoral integration project. It was low politics. States were willing to surrender sovereignty.
- The Pleven Plan failed, because:
 - It proposed pooling the military resources of France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux states into a European army.
 - It was supranational. It was high politics, States were not willing to surrender sovereignty.

Germany

- Germany accepted the Schuman Plan, because:
 - Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1949 to 1963 supported the integration Project.
 - The plan aimed to rehabilitate Germany economically and restored its legitimacy in the eyes of the world and strengthened its alliances.
 - The US was pressuring Germany to accept it.

Readings and Videos

- This is a timeline of important events in the history of European integration. Analyse the timeline in the EU website, covering the initial years of the integration. https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history/1945-1959_en.
- Click the following link to reach "Europe in 12 Lessons" published by the European Commission, read pages from 10 to 15. <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a5ba73c6-3c6a-11e8-b5fe-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-100345529>
- Read the Schuman Declaration. <https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/declaration-of-9-may-1950>
- Analyse the photographs of the founder of the EU. The European Union website has information about the founders. Click this link to read about them: https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history/founding-fathers_en
- Founding fathers of the European Union: Jean Monnet – European Commission Official Channel (FR) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRESOK_6rHA
- 60 years of the Schuman Declaration - the birth of United Europe – EPP Group Official Website <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grDDeqn6GkE>