
“When Hope and History Rhyme” The European Union as a force for Peace in the World

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"I sing of equality. There's nothing greater than a human being, nothing nobler! Caste, creed, religion — there's no difference. Throughout all ages, all places, we're all a manifestation of our common humanity"

From “Manush” (“Human Being”) by Kazi Nazrul Islam



Structure of the lecture

- Post-war Europe: integration for peace
- How the EU preserves peace in Europe
- EU extensive support for peace in the World



Post-war Europe: integration for peace

- 1945: Europe is a pile of ashes
- Fear to fall into a third world conflict
- Remembrance of the revanchist Treaty of Versailles (1919) and the heavy consequences of the induced German feeling of injustice



→ Audacious propositions of integration as rampart against another devastating war in the continent



Post-war Europe: integration for peace

"Men will be proud to say : I am a European [...] We hope that wherever they go in the European continent, they will truly feel : here, I am at home, I am a citizen of this country too, the men are my brothers and friends, let us meet together, let us work together, let us do our utmost, all that is in us, for the good of all"

(Winston Churchill, 1948)

World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it [...] 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 [...]"

(Schuman Declaration, 9 May 1950)



Post-war Europe: integration for peace



"European unity was a dream of a few people. It became a hope for many. Today it is a necessity for all of us"

(Konrad Adenauer, 1954)

French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman and Chancellor of West Germany Konrad Adenauer, 1950



Post-war Europe: integration for peace

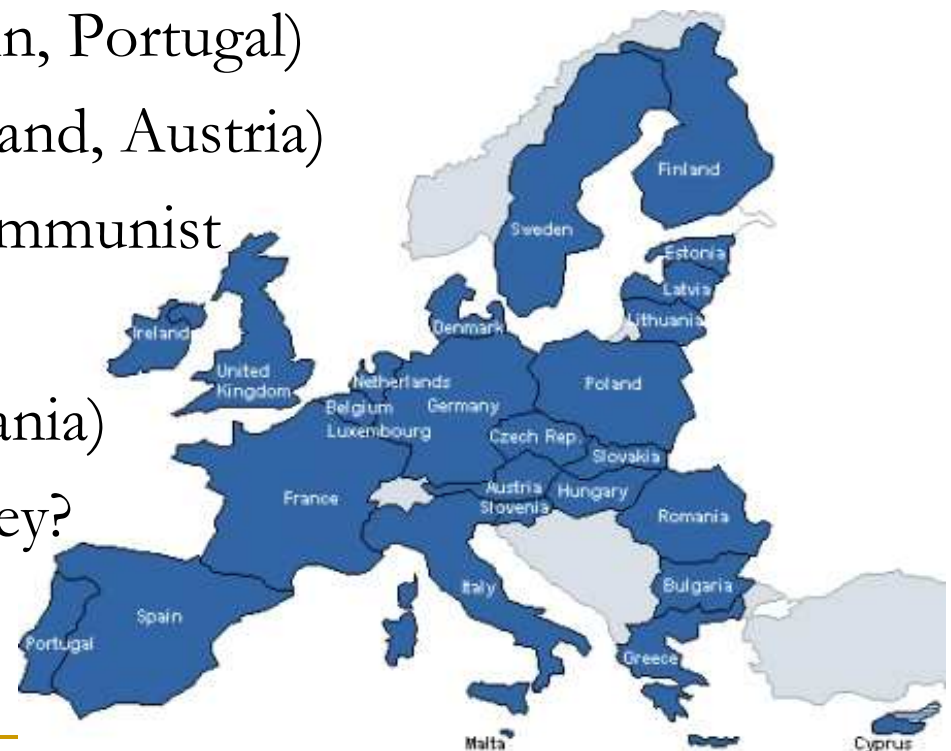
- Initial integration steps in Europe
 - 1949 : creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (without Germany)
 - 1951 : creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)
 - 1954 : rejection by the French Parliament of the European Defence Community
 - 1957 : Rome Treaty → Setting up of the European Economic Community bringing together 6 European countries: France Germany, Italy and the three Benelux countries
 - 1985 : Schengen agreement initially signed by France, West Germany and the Benelux countries



Post-war Europe: integration for peace

■ Enlargement → 27 countries in 2011

- 1957 : Six founding members
- 1973 : North (Denmark, UK, Ireland)
- 1980s : South (Greece, Spain, Portugal)
- 1995 : North (Sweden, Finland, Austria)
- 2004 : South-East (8 ex-Communist + Cyprus and Malta)
- 2007 : East (Bulgaria, Romania)
- >> Iceland, Balkans, Turkey?



How the EU preserves peace in Europe



How the EU preserves peace in Europe

- Democracy and rule of law
- Justice and Freedom
- Economic Development
- Trade
- Support for peace dialogue
- Security policies



How the EU preserves peace in Europe

- Democracy and rule of law
 - Every European country has democratic institutions
 - Crucial separation of the three powers (judiciary, executive and legislative)
 - The EU has its own institutions, complementary to the national ones:
 - The European Commission
 - The Council and the European Parliament (since 1979)
 - The European Court of Justice
 - Important role of Civil Society
 - Freedom of the Press



How the EU preserves peace in Europe

■ Justice and freedom

- The EU is based on the values of human dignity, freedom, equality and respect for human rights
- European countries are signatory of all major human rights treaties and member of the Council of Europe
- In 2000, the EU adopted the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**, bringing together all the political, economic and social rights enjoyed by people within the EU, among which
 - Prohibition of death penalty
 - Prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment
 - Freedom of thought, conscience and religion
 - Gender Equality
 - Rights to fair and just working conditions



How the EU preserves peace in Europe

■ Economic Development

- European Union members are economically highly developed and rich countries
- However, there exist huge discrepancies between and within the 27 countries
- “European Regional Development fund”, “European Social Fund” and “Cohesion Funds” are part of the EU cohesion policy aiming at reducing regional disparities in terms of income, wealth and opportunities

→ More cohesion for a sustainable peace



How the EU preserves peace in Europe

■ Trade

- Single market : abolishment of customs barriers within the European Common market and devise of a common trade policy among EU members
- Common currency (Euro) shared by 18 EU Member States

→ This economic integration creates interconnectivity and brings about shared interests, guarantor of peace

“If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.”

(Nelson Mandela, Nobel Peace Prize, 1993)



How the EU preserves peace in Europe

■ Support for peace dialogue

- Example of Northern Ireland Peace Process
- “Good Friday” peace agreement in April 1998 after 30 years of civil war between Unionists and Republicans
- **Signature of peace agreement ≠ its implementation!**
- EU strong financial and political support for the implementation : funding of successful Peace programmes (I,II and III) and Special European Commission Taskforce → **Investments in sectors, fields, groups hardest hit by the conflict, prioritising cross-community approach.**



How the EU preserves peace in Europe

■ Security policies

- Change in the security threats to the EU after the Cold War: **threats are more complex** (terrorism, cyber attacks, organized crime, etc) and traditional military interventions hardly able to tackle them.
- Measures to keep peace include intelligence, financial sanctions and cross border cooperation.
- But peace and security in Europe are also **resolutely intermingled with a state of peace in countries all over the world.**
- For its own security and for matters of social justice and international solidarity, the EU also offers its support for peace around the world....



EU extensive support for peace in the World



EU extensive support for peace in the World

- Democracy and rule of law
- Justice and Freedom
- Economic Development
- Trade
- Support for peace dialogue
- Security policies



EU extensive support for peace in the World

- Democracy and rule of law

- Illustrations of EU support around the world

EULEX Kosovo: ongoing EU rule of law mission launched in 2008. It includes around 3200 police and judicial personnel. Project focused on rule of law including democratic standards.



Election observation in Bangladesh: both financial and technical support for the organization of free and fair elections. In 2008 general elections, EUR 15 million support and presence of about 150 EU observers.



EU extensive support for peace in the World

■ Justice and Freedom

- The EU supports many organizations and projects aiming at the promotion of human dignity, freedom, equality and respect for human rights (notably through the United Nations)
- Action based on EU Human Rights guideline
- Illustrations of EU particular programmes **in Bangladesh:**

96 HR projects currently financed by EU and its MS

- Kishori Abhijan project for the empowerment of adolescent girls, in collaboration with UNICEF
- EU/UNDP improving access to justice for marginalized people: establishment of village courts in 500 union councils
- Education on the Convention against torture with Odhikar
- EU/ILO monitoring and assessing progress on decent work, etc



EU extensive support for peace in the World

■ Economic Development

“Poverty is a threat to peace” (M. Yunus)

- The EU, together with its member States, provides more than half of of development aid worldwide (€ 49 billion in 2009)
- The European Commission follows an ambitious action plan to achieve the Development Millennium Goals
- In Bangladesh, the EU is the first purveyor of development assistance, with an allocation of more than EUR 400 million for 2007-2013, covering sectors such as human and social development, climate change, food security, etc



EU extensive support for peace in the World

■ Trade

- EU promotion of regional integration
 - Example: Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)
- EU trade policy as a leverage for the promotion of human rights
 - Example: “GSP+ regime” granted under specific HR conditions
- EU trade policy to promote development objectives
 - Example **in Bangladesh**: *Everything But Arms* regime provides unconditional free access to European market for Bangladeshi goods. Value of goods exported to the EU reached in 2010 the historical level of EUR 6.6 billions.



EU extensive support for peace in the World

- Support for peace dialogue

- Illustrations of EU support around the world

EU-led Aceh Monitoring Mission: Monitoring the implementation of the peace agreement signed by the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement in 2005.

In Bangladesh, support for the CHT Peace Agreement

- EU advocates for the complete implementation of the agreement, seen as the most sustainable way to maintain peace in the CHT region.
- Additional funding of EUR 24 million recently agreed in Brussels for ongoing projects aiming at promoting sustainable development and long term peace in the region, notably through capacity building and empowerment of local institutions and communities.



EU extensive support for peace in the World

■ Security policies

- Illustrations of EU military peace keeping missions in the world

EUFOR ALTHEA: EU military deployment in Bosnia and Herzegovina to oversee the military implementation of the Dayton Agreement. EUFOR has 2500 troops from 27 countries, mostly from the European Union.

EUNAVFOR Somalia - Operation Atalanta: EU naval operation to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden and insure a safe delivery of World Food Program humanitarian aid.



Conclusion

- EU integration after decades of conflict was when History was reversed and Hope emerged from the ashes...
- But History also showed that concluding an agreement is not enough. Europe has developed a strategy to sustain peace, leaning on justice and dialogue, as well as equity and respect of Human dignity and freedoms.
- In today's world, "no man is an island". The EU tries to use its own experience of nations working together to promote peace worldwide.



“When Hope and History Rhyme...”

*“History says, Don't hope
on this side of the grave.
But then, once in a lifetime
the longed-for tidal wave
of justice can rise up,
and hope and history rhyme.”*

from "The Cure at Troy " by Seamus Heaney

(quoted in Amartya Sen, The Idea of Justice, 2009)

