Some important European leaders since WWII
Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister both during and after WWII; delivered “Iron Curtain” speech.
Clement Attlee, leader of the Labor Party and prime minister in Great Britain (1945-1951); was able to get Parliament to approve both the National Insurance Act and the National Health Insurance Act in 1946; favored nationalization of some sectors of the economy (transportation, e.g.)
Charles De Gaulle, founder of the Fifth French Republic and president of France from 1959-1969
End of British, French and other European colonial empires
Konrad Adenauer, one of the founders of the West German state after WWII
Marshall Tito, Yugoslav communist leader (+1980); often acted independently of Moscow and its East European allies during the Cold War.
Margaret Thatcher, British Prime Minister (1979-1990) and leader of the Conservative Party
Fall of the Berlin Wall and End of the Cold War
The European Union (EU) – 1994 to the present
The E.U. now has 27 member nations
It also has a common currency, the euro.
Euroskeptics
Questions earlier about *Gastarbeiter* (guest workers), now about immigrants
Rise of anti-immigrant parties (the Front National in France, e.g.)
Protests against budgetary problems and austerity measures (e.g., in Greece or Spain)
Note also disputes regarding agricultural subsidies, genetically modified foods, the environment (Kyoto Accords, e.g.), and the cost of the public sector (pension plans, etc.)
Problems with nationalism
Genocide in the ex-Yugoslavia (Bosnia, etc.) in the 1990s
Slobodan Milosevic, Serbian leader accused of war crimes
Europe’s continuing involvement in other parts of the world (e.g., in Afghanistan in connection with NATO)
Prince Harry in Afghanistan
Is Europe still relevant?