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## Berentsen: Contemporary Europe Study Guide

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# BERENTSEN: CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

## STUDY GUIDE, 2002

### Steven Alan Samson

## Chapter 3: Population

### Study Questions

1. What is usually characteristic of the nationally dominant language of a country? What is the typical result when a majority of the population in part of the country does not speak the dominant language? What name is given the axis line along which ancient Proto-Indo-European was split? (93-96)
2. Distinguish between official and common languages. Why do some Slavic languages use the Latin alphabet while others use the Cyrillic alphabet? Illustrate each of the following: borrowed words, isolated languages, regional variations of dialect, and conflicts over languages. (96-97)
3. Identify five language families represented in Europe. Identify eight subgroups of Indo-European. Identify the family or, in the case of Indo-European languages, the subgroup of each of the following: Hebrew, Albanian, Finnish, French, Greek, Lithuanian, Turkish, English, Gaelic, Yiddish, Polish, Basque, and German. Why are English and German so different today? Which subgroups of Indo-European predominate in Europe? [Worldwide, it is an entirely different story: Mandarin Chinese (874M), Hindi (366M), English (341M), and Spanish (322M), followed by Bengali, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese, German, Korean, and French]. (97-102)
4. Distinguish between animism and polytheism. How did patriarchal and matriarchal religions differ? Identify some pagan rituals that have persisted or been incorporated into historic Christian practice. How is the division in the late Roman Empire reflected in a division within the historic Christian faith? How did this schism affect the means by which Christianity was spread? Identify the chief historic -- external and internal -- threats to European Christianity. What was the Reconquest (Reconquista)? (102-05)
5. Distinguish between Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews (who originally settled in southern and western Germany). Identify some of the varied roles played by Jews in Europe following the Dispersion (Diaspora). [Marranos practiced their Jewish faith in secret]. What was the Pale (from which we get the expression "beyond the pale")? Identify instances of religious persecution that led to the migration of highly motivated and skilled groups? Why is Islam spreading into historically Christian areas of Europe? How did tourism originate [travel books really go back at least to the ancient Greeks]? (105-08)

### Review

Centum-Satem line	Latin, Cyrillic alphabets	naranj
Indo-European	Uralic	Altaic
Hamito-Semitic	Basque	Yiddish
Icelandic	Catalan	Romansch
Ladino	animism vs. polytheism	First Schism
Eastern Orthodoxy	Genghis Khan	Reconquest
Spanish Inquisition	Moors	Suleiman the Magnificent
Reformation	Sephardic Jews	the Pale

Ghetto  
Salzburgers

Huguenots  
pilgrimage sites

Puritans

## Chapter 4: Europe's Unrolling Political Map

### Study Questions

1. Identify some European minority groups who aspire to or have won separate statehood. (110-11)
2. Identify some of the tribal identities that persist today as regional distinctions. Where were Europe's earliest significant city-states? Identify some more recent city-states? How did the Roman Empire influence the political and cultural shape of Europe? How did the migration of German and Slavic tribes restructure it? [Remember the Centum-Satem line]. (111-13)
3. What role was played by Charlemagne's western empire? What realms originated with the Treaty of Verdun? What were *Marken* (as opposed to "core areas")? What was the Holy Roman Empire? Trace the historical development of Mark Brandenburg into the Prussian kingdom (ruled by the Hohenzollerns) and of Ostmark into the Habsburg empire (which overlapped the Holy Roman Empire, also under continuous Habsburg control by the 15<sup>th</sup> century). (113-15)
4. What happened at the Battle of Kosovo? (Historically, Serbia was a major line of defense in Christian Europe). Where did the Ottoman Turks settle in the Balkan peninsula? What groups converted to Islam? What might be some historic reasons for animosities between Croats and Serbs? Identify the two empires that confronted each other along the Croat-Serb frontier? How did life differ on either side of this frontier? [A comparison of the per capita GDP -- Gross Domestic Product -- of Croatia (\$5100) and Yugoslavia (\$2300) is indicative even today]. (115-16)
5. Characterize European life before the emergence of territorial states. Before the advent of national consciousness, what broader commonalities united people? Identify some factors that uprooted traditional life and led to change in the social and political structure? Distinguish between the three major political-geographic regions around 1800. How did the French Revolution promote a sense of national identity and other changes throughout Europe? (116-19)
6. Given the rise of national consciousness, how did the older empires of Eastern Europe (the third region) fare after the Napoleonic Wars? Identify some of the centers of national separatist pressures. What helped insulate Western Europe (the first region) from the more intensive pressures? Identify some of the groups that have preserved distinctive group characteristics in Western Europe. Where were the pressures for unification rather than fragmentation strongest? What were some consequences when state regimes began to represent national groups rather than ruling dynasties? What was *Italia irredenta*? (119-22)
7. Two Balkan wars (1912-13) preceded the First World War. Identify some of the new states that arose following the break-up of the four East European empires. Where and why did national tensions persist? What factors led to the Spanish Civil War (1936-39)? [The author omits the murderous campaign against the Catholic Church by Leftist revolutionaries]. What steps led to German expansion under the Nazis? [Italy's inept invasion of Greece caused a critical delay in the German invasion of the Soviet Union]. What actions during and following the Second World War radically changed the

European map? (122-25)

8. What political changes followed the USSR's withdrawal from Central and Southeastern Europe and its eventual collapse? What changes followed the end of the Franco regime in Spain [which is now a monarchy, not a republic]? (125-26)
9. Why may the success of the European Union encourage further fragmentation? (125-27)
10. Identify the chief stateless nations in France, Spain, and other parts of Europe. Identify some of the reasons for the conflicts between Alsatians and the French government, Flemings and Walloons, Ulster Catholics and the British government? What minorities in Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Bulgaria have irredentist potential? What makes the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia so complicated? (127-34)
11. How did American policy possibly worsen the conflicts within Yugoslavia? [An internecine war denotes a destructive conflict, usually within the same group]. Why are attitudes changing about the size of sovereign units? [Autarky refers to economic self-sufficiency]. Besides the EU, identify some of other attempts at creating larger unions in Europe. (134-36)

## Review

tribes

Franks

*Marken*

Habsburgs

Rumelia

French Revolution

*irredenta* (and irredentism)

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

Maastricht Treaty of 1991

autarky

city-states

Charlemagne

Brandenburg March

Battle of Kosovo

Janissaries

sources of national identity

Polish corridor

autonomous communities

European Union

*Zollverein*

Roman Empire

Treaty of Verdun

Ostmark

Bogomils

three regions

nation-state discontinuity

*Anschluss*

Northern League

internecine