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CHIEF POLITICAL TRENDS OF WESTERN EUROPE IN 1945—1965

After World War II political history was moulded by three basic developments: rise of the socialist bloc; increasing preponderance of the United States over other capitalistic countries; enfranchisement of a majority of Asiatic and African civil communities from under European colonialism. As a result of these events West European countries have lost their world standing. Under the circumstances they have been urged to pursue a policy aimed at three outstanding issues, namely the subdual of leftist movements at home as well as the undermining of the socialist bloc; withdrawal of the cause of European controversy by bringing together and reconciling Great Britain and France on the one hand, and Germany on the other; restraining on the long run American supremacy.

These ends have been considered easiest to achieve on grounds of an integration of Western Europe. The latter idea had always been supported with utmost zeal by Western Germany who regarded it as the sole means of fulfilling its own pursuits of an economic reconstruction and re-militarization. The Common Market agreed upon in 1957 and put in action on January 1, 1959, stands for the most effectual uniting measure. Great Britain's efforts to enter the European Economic Community broke down towards the end of 1962 and at the beginning of 1963 in view of the unshaken French attitude. As far back as in 1959, Great Britain inaugurated the European Free Trade Association intended to compete with the Common Market — with no avail whatsoever.

Bearing in mind the present hindrances of West European integration, its increasing rank over recent years, closely associated with the foundation of EEC, should nevertheless be fully appreciated. United Western Europe — itself pervaded with traditional nationalist tendencies — is becoming an ally of American imperialism. Present-day Western Europe, apart from its extreme anti-communist features, is a conservative and anti-leftist group of countries. Owing to this background a dynamic economic development of West European communities represents a menace. Eastern-bloc countries aware of this situation cannot favour the idea of integration.

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THE CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF WESTERN EUROPE

Integration concepts have been based on the conviction that economic development is chiefly dependent on the extension of the home market. The error of this principle lies in the confusion of the idea of a "market" in a geographical meaning with the economic signification of this word.

Impossibility of solving the problem of economic integration on a functional basis, i. e. by applying the mechanism of free competition, has led to an evolve-