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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.

ZDZISŁAW NOWAK

#### 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-



ment of a concept termed institutionalism. The latter assumes that organizations and economic institutions should be common for the whole territory and subjected to a uniform political authority. Were this project to be actualized it would require an abandoning by individual countries of their sovereign rights. Obstacles in this respect have brought to light the missing of a uniform concept of political integration. Other ideas on uniting Western Europe recur to the institutions of customs unions. Having these at work, however, one of the member countries might become a menace by arising to a dominant position. Finally, owing to these apprehensions, the idea of a uniform integration has been substituted by a notion of organizing several integration bodies representing the diversified interests of individual countries. Following are the most conspicuous economic associations: European Coal and Steel Community (CECA), Organization for Economic European Cooperation (OEEC) transformed in time into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the most dynamic confederacy, namely the European Economic Community (EEC).

In general, the essential nature of economic integration processes can be reduced to problems of economic development. Or to view the matter from a different angle: an economically integrated territory will be characterized by a pattern of economic associations most appropriate for its economical requirements.

JULIAN LIDER

#### MILITARY ASPECTS OF WEST EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN NATO

The post-World War II period has provided special reasons for a military union. Unprecedented conditions of maintaining wars require an agreement on a coalition rendering possible mobilization of the entire political, economic and military potential long before the commencement of action. There arises a necessity of a joint command of the military operations since the very beginning of war. Furthermore, exigencies of the doctrine of "inhibition" contemplated in the leading capitalistic countries as well as within the premises of NATO — the military bloc of these communities — contribute to this situation. During the early years of NATO's existence integration was regarded by West European communities as a means for a military involvement of USA in Europe and for obtaining American financial aid for creating their own armies. On the part of the American ally it represented an instrument for extending its influence over Western Europe, for erecting a network of American military bases, and for encouraging the confederate countries to expand their conventional military forces as a supplement to the nuclear potential of USA. Organizing Western Europe into a military base and an approximation of the starting grounds of American air-force towards the frontier of a presumed enemy has been an important element of the war stratagem of USA. Military integration has proved, too, the sole means of re-establishing the German military forces considered by the Americans an important link for the future contest with the socialist communities.

In time, as the balance of power, especially of military forces, has been