



UNDERSTANDING The EU: An Elder Academy Event

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Overview of today's talk

- 1. What is the European Union?
- 2. What is the logic behind European integration, past and present?
- 3. Brief history of EU's evolution
- 4. Canada-EU relations
- 5. Debates surrounding European integration
- *Break*
- 6. Conclusion: the future of European integration

1. Brief overview of the EU

- Economic and political union: EU27 of 450 million people
- EU motto: “United in diversity”
- *Acquis communautaire* and common values
- EU treaties, legislation and norms
 - Democracy, human rights, and rule of law
- European institutions and member states
 - Commission, Parliament, Council and Courts
 - Fundamental role for national governments



Members of the EU (27 at present)

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

- 1951 Treaty of Paris: France, W. Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands.
- 1973: Denmark, Ireland, UK
- 1981: Greece
- 1986: Portugal and Spain
- 1995: Austria, Finland, Sweden
- 2004: Cyprus, Czech, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia.
- 2007: Bulgaria and Romania
- 2013: Croatia
- 2020: - UK (*Brexit becomes official*)

“Supranational” organization

	Typical international organization	EU	Typical state
Policy responsibilities	Task-specific, or limited range of tasks, powers controlled by member states	Encompassing range of tasks, but EU powers controlled by member states, often shared with them	Encompassing range of tasks, can determine its own powers
Powers of common/ central institutions	Limited (member-state control)	Substantial (mix of supranational and intergovernmental decision making)	High (in federations: divided between central government and subunits)
Legislation	Operates based on founding treaties; no legislative role	Legislative actor, law binding on member states	Legislative actor
Policy implementation	Dependent on member state agencies	Largely dependent on member state agencies (limited from-line implementation powers, plus oversight role)	Implements its own legislation
Sources of finances	Member state contributions	Primarily member state contributions (no taxation power) but some income from tariffs	Primarily taxation
Identification of citizens	Weak	Weak to medium	Strong

2. The logic of European integration

Post-Second World War priorities:

- To ensure future peace in Europe; shift away from the dangers of nationalism; economic reconstruction after WWII; role of the United States.
- Using material interdependence, as opposed to idealism.
- Climate of the Cold War

“The German Question”

- Rebuild engine of European economy
- Maintain stability in the region

Modern day rationale:

- Political and economic ambitions of the EU - competitive market economics, and ability to set norms worldwide.
- Security and welfare considerations for its members – environmental risks, migration and demographic change, financial concerns.

Germany and France, 1945

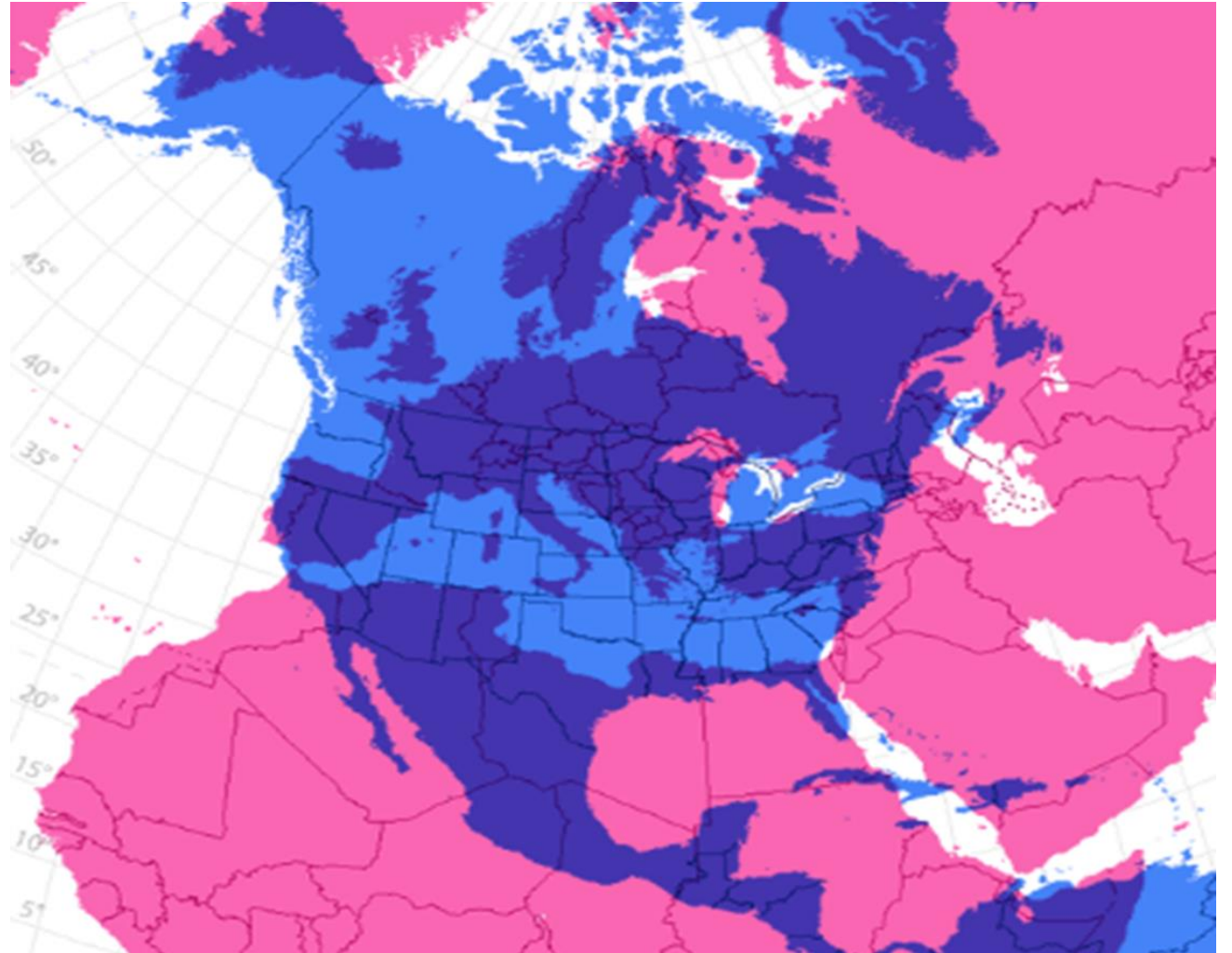


Soviet threat / Cold War



Size of European continent, relative to the number of countries within.

(North America in blue, super-imposed on Europe, to illustrate the differences in scale.)



3. Brief history of EU development

- 1950s:
 - 1951 Treaty of Paris forms the European Coal and Steel Community of the founding 6 members.
 - 1957 Treaty of Rome builds off of early success to form the European Economic Community, and Euratom (Atomic Energy Community)
- 1960s:
 - First major instances of internal conflict, when French President de Gaulle vetoed the UK's application for membership, and later changes to agricultural policy.
- 1970s:
 - First enlargement in 1973 (Denmark, Ireland, and UK).
 - Stagflation and oil crises reduce interest in deeper integration.
 - Currency turmoil motivates first instance of EC monetary cooperation ('snake').

Brief EU history, continued...

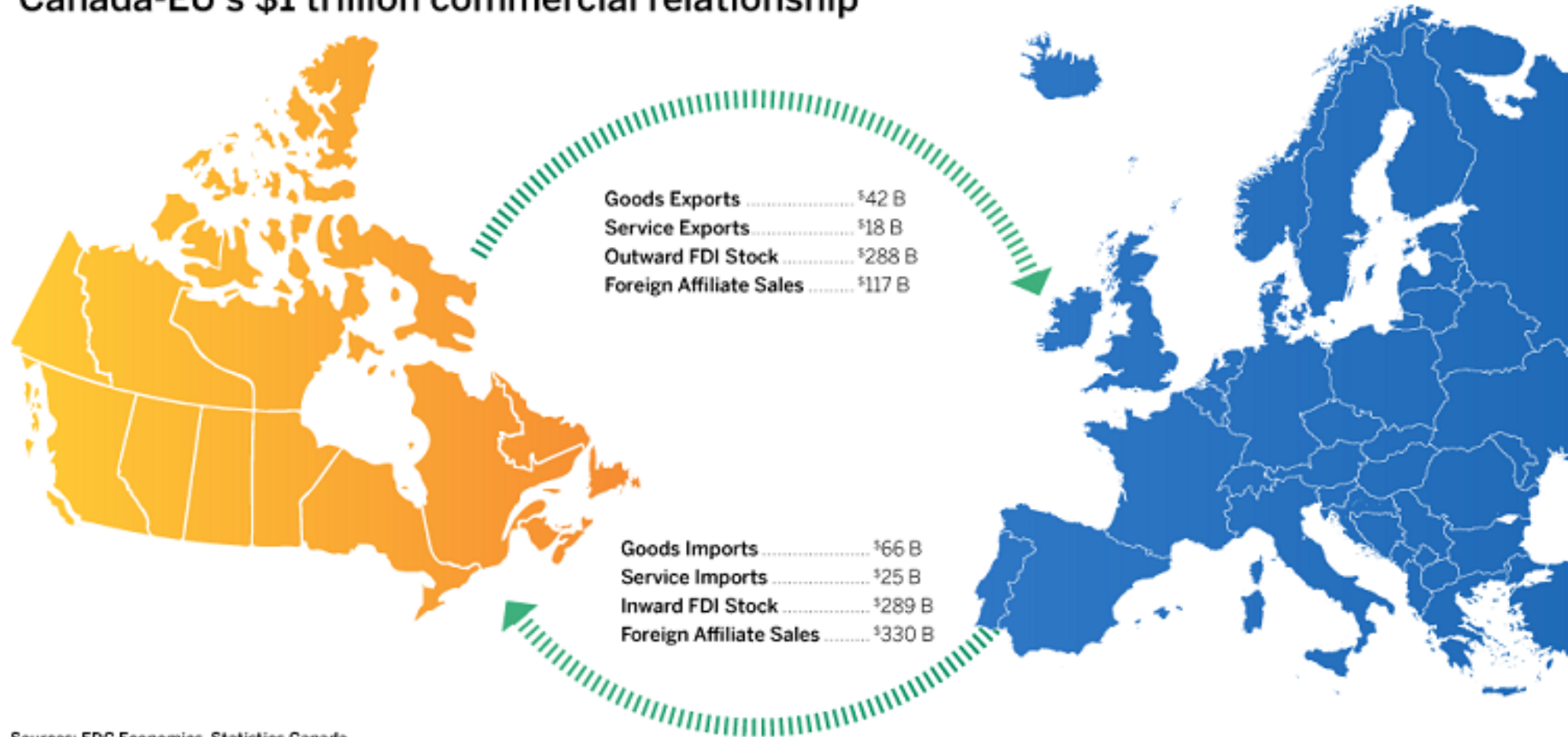
- 1980s:
 - Second enlargement (81/86)
 - 1985 Single European Act sets ambitious plan for the Single Market
- 1990s:
 - 1992 Maastricht Treaty creates single legal persona of “EU”, establishes the Single Market, sets out framework for the euro (EMU).
 - Third enlargement (95).
 - Rapid treaty updates in 1997 and 2001, in anticipation of Eastern candidates.
- 2000s:
 - Euro adoption complete in 2001.
 - Major enlargement: +10 in 2004, +2 in 2007.
 - 2005 failed Constitutional Treaty
 - 2009 Lisbon Treaty
- 2010s:
 - Croatia enlargement, Iceland rejection, and triple crises (sovereign debt, migrant, Brexit).

4. Canada-EU relations

- Existing formal ties since 1976, when Canada signed a Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation with the EEC, and when the EC established a Delegation to Canada in Ottawa.
- 2009, negotiations began on CETA ('Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement'). Concluded in 2014, signed in 2016, in 'provisional' force since 2017.
 - Largest free-trade agreement in force between two wealthy industrialized markets.
 - 'Comprehensive' agreement because includes access to procurement, investment, services, etc.
 - Ongoing problems with ratification in 2016 (need for national parliamentary approval of a 'mixed' agreement).

CETA deliberations

Canada-EU's \$1 trillion commercial relationship



Sources: EDC Economics, Statistics Canada

5. Debates surrounding European integration

- Tensions between supranationalism and national sovereignty
- Tensions between unity of law and diversity of populations
- Breadth (market integration) vs. depth (political integration)
- Future expansions?
- Precarious balancing act between domestic fiscal policies and EU-level monetary policy
- Tenacity of borders

6. Conclusion: the future of European integration

- EU as *sui generis* polity. Not quite a federation, more than an international organization. Unprecedented in terms of how national governments have voluntarily relinquished sovereignty in key policy areas.
- Can the EU withstand more enlargement? At what cost?
 - Candidates: Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Turkey.
 - *Potential* candidates: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo.
- Power struggles over norms, as seen with the EU vs. the governments of Hungary and Poland.
- Rise of nationalism and protectionism – temporary or enduring?

Thank you!!!