

45. Southern Europe

= *Spain and Portugal* – Iberian peninsula, hundreds of years occupied by Moors (North African Muslims), Pyrenees + Strait of Gibraltar (Gibraltar = British colony/dependent territory), *Mediterranean climate* (dry inland climate not so suitable for agriculture → irrigation) => *tourism*

= *Italy and San Marino* – Apennine peninsula

= *Greece and Malta*

Portugal

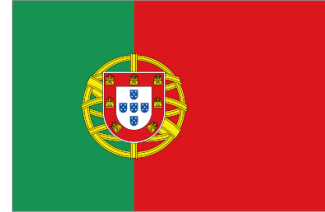
Capital: Lisboa

Population: 10 million

GDP/capita (2001): 10,700 USD

+ Madeira in Atlantic Ocean, Tagus, Douro and Guadiana rivers

- Portuguese explorers in 1400s and 1500s → Brazil => many historical buildings, nowadays restaurants, museums, art galleries and shops
- 1986: member of the EU, but still 1 of the poorest countries in western Europe
- *tourism* is important to the economy, mainly in *Algarve* (southern Portugal)
- traditional farming methods (oxen ploughing) in many Portuguese villages
- the world's leading exporter of cork (bottle stoppers, tiles)
- corn, olives and figs are grown and wine, cork and tomatoes are exported
- majority are Roman Catholics
- other large cities: Porto, Setúbal



Spain

Capital: Madrid

Population: 40 million

GDP/capita (2001): 14,000 USD

= fiestas and flamenco, civil war in 1936-1939 (Francisco Franco)

+ Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza)

- large agricultural sector (cereals, vineyards, olives, citrus fruits) and *important tourist destination* → 50 million tourists each year
- car manufacturing + chemical industry
- developed coastal areas vs. developing central regions, Costas: Brava, Blanca, del Sol
- farming and fishing, steel industry (Barcelona)
- strong regional identity: Andalusia, Catalonia, Galicia, Basque provinces
- Spaniards are Roman Catholics
- other large cities: Barcelona, Zaragoza, San Sebastián, Bilbao, Salamanca, Córdoba, Seville, Cádiz, Málaga, Valencia



Italy

Capital: Rome

Population: 58 million

GDP/capita (2001): 20,000 USD

- 1 of the world's leading industrial powers but great difference between the wealthy, industrial north and the underdeveloped, agriculture south
- northern Italy: car manufacturing industry, industrial and product design
- variety of different crops is grown: cereals, corn, fruit, grapes, vegetables, etc.
- siestas (mealtimes)
- Roman Catholicism = ancient historical buildings
- other large cities: Milan, Genoa, Venice, Florence, Naples, Turin



Vatican City

Capital: Vatican City

Population: 1000

= the world's smallest independent state

= the centre of Roman Catholic Church and the home of the Pope

= rich cultural legacy + own radio station, stamps, newspaper, anthem



San Marino

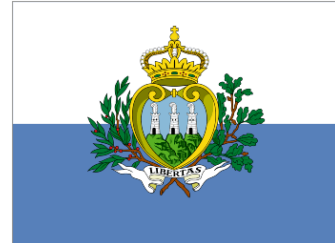
Capital: San Marino

Population: 27,000

GDP/capita (2001): 17,500 USD

= Europe's smallest and oldest republic (founded around 900 AD)

= capital + 8 villages + heavily relies on tourism



Greece

Capital: Athens

Population: 11 million

GDP/capita (2001): 11,500 USD

= rich history (ancient times), independence from the Turks in 1832

+ Peloponese peninsula and Pindus mts.

- >2000 islands, lack of natural resources => 1 of the poorest countries in the EU
- huge *boom of tourism* since 1970s (12 million of tourists) ⇔ beautiful island scenery => hotels, shops, restaurants, ferries and shipping
- problems with water shortage in certain island regions (Aegean Sea)
- 1/3 of the mountainous terrain is used for agriculture
- Greek Orthodox Church
- other large cities: Thessaloniki, Lefkada



Malta

Capital: Valetta

Population: 400,000

GDP/capita (2001): 9,000 USD

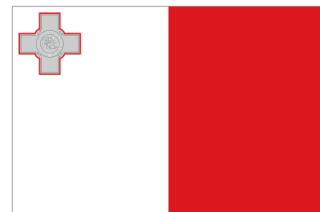
= Malta, Gozo + Comino

= *strategic position* = main advantage and also reason for occupation

= independent since the 1960s

= strong sense of national identity (Maltese language) + Roman Catholicism

= tourism!



Keywords

Iberian peninsula, Pyrenees, tourism, Mediterranean climate, oxen ploughing, Algarve, fiesta, flamenco, costa, Andalusia, Spaniards, siesta, Apennine peninsula