

European Defence Community ©



Impregnable Europe

Fifth Edition

The Evolution of civilisations, inclusive of their diverse internal cultures – for example, nations or sociological trends – has altered the cultural frontiers between civilisations during critical periods in history. Chronicles reveal that Europe – within its present External Cultural Frontiers – has lost and retrieved significant continental and maritime regions. [European Cultural Frontiers: The Endangered Zones.](#)

A significant time-line also confirms that Western Europe possesses an internal Central Region that has remained immune from foreign/non-European occupations. Presently, this internal region – as far as external threats are concerned – basks in security. Its geography places it at considerable distances from the exposed *frontline* European Cultural Frontiers of our day. [Integral Frontiers of Europe.](#) In the distant past, however, due to Europe's overall weakness, the region in question was also on the *frontline*. Nevertheless, despite its extensive internal conflicts, it remained an impregnable bastion since the fall of Rome's governance in the west. Thus, attempts by non-European forces to penetrate its topographic formation have failed persistently. A number of aspects – inclusive of its specific geography and population density – have acted as defensive factors. Maritime and coastal regions in

the north were not challenged. In the south, coastal regions were defended successfully, but significant maritime regions were lost only to be recovered later. In the west the Pyrenees mountain range acted as a natural barrier. Consequently, the occupation of the Iberian Peninsula, commencing during the second decade of the eighth century – by a unified non-European army crossing the Strait of Gibraltar – could not be extended northwards into the region in question, as incursions across the Pyrenees could be defeated successfully. Nonetheless, that success during the second quarter of the eighth century was primarily due to intense pre-emptive preparations in Gaul/France. It was high time for Europe to defend itself in its western geography decisively. A century earlier, halting a similar invasion by the Saracens in the east, where Armenia – the first country to acknowledge Christianity as a state religion – and its western neighbour the Byzantine World were situated, proved also to be daunting. Indeed, by the second quarter of the seventh century, most of the former was occupied. Thus, the European Civilisation’s External Cultural Frontiers, developed according to that time-line, were assaulted broadly – by the same militant psyche – in their eastern and western outlooks successionaly. Despite resolute European measures, considerable regions remained occupied by a foreign culture for centuries.

Severe dangers have also emanated from the east and the south-east. For example, during the thirteenth century, forces from Mongol dominated Central Asia overran significant sections of Eastern Europe, and could only be halted in tracts immediately beyond the continental eastern edges of the illustrated Central Region. Furthermore, during the fourth quarter of the seventeenth century a vast Anatolian Islamic army advancing from the south-east reached the gates of Vienna, besieging the city, but was unable to advance any further. It is the second potent attempt, by the same element, to occupy central Europe decisively. However, immense sections of south-eastern Europe remained occupied for



centuries by a foreign culture undermining European standards and traditions atrociously. It is also imperative to take into account that, by this juncture, the Byzantine World / Rome in the East extending to the Eastern Mediterranean – an intercontinental geography – is obliterated. A monumental catastrophe with multiple tentacles. Thus, in a key eastern direction, the future of European Civilisation's intercontinental geography and demography beyond Continental Europe are destroyed predominantly. In south-eastern Europe, the External Frontiers of the European Civilisation were to remain in upheaval for a considerable period of time. Alarming levels of European disunity – at times also emanating from the above illustrated geography – contributed to this disastrous state of affairs.

It was only during the contemporary period – with the onset of the European Project – that the practically endless, ever-assertive, inter-European rivalries and divisions began to dissipate. [The Future of European Integration](#). This internal amelioration can redirect Europe's attention to its external adversaries effectively. From a security point of view, however, a Western European amalgamative attempt of the early 1950s – a treaty referred to as the *European Defence Community* – proved to be abortive. In 1954, the six signatory states could only obtain five ratifications for the treaty in question. The initiative was a pivotal step in the right direction. Its failure – primarily due to inter-European mistrust within an uncertain Cold War psychology – occurred when the European Project was in its inceptive development stage. Three years later, with the Treaty of Rome, the same six states proceeded to establish the *European Economic Community* – *EEC*. This development was the foundation of a vast federation, but it lacked a consolidated military of its own. Hence, the European Union began as the *EEC*. However, had it been successful, the advent of the European Project could have been looked upon as the *European Defence Community* – *EDC*, or the correspondingly prepared *European Political Community*, intended to incorporate the *EDC* and the earlier established *European Coal and Steel Community*.



The European Defence Community Treaty, Paris, 27th of May, 1952; The Six Signatory States are France, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and West Germany. In France – on the 30th of August 1954 – *Assablée Nationale* – failed to ratify the Treaty. Consequently, it was abandoned.

Further areas of weakness have been Europe's incapacity to keep pace decisively with a number of rapidly advancing global and internal currents. The European Union's centre of gravity remains significantly tilted towards internal economic issues; besieged with a psyche of permanence, other key factors are often sidelined. [Shields of Europe](#). This is an unreasonable stance that may induce an avalanche of negative consequences. In this respect, an infrastructure for an all-European defence force remains a major issue. Consequently, the emphasis may have to be focused firstly on the integration of European forces to a reasonable level, hence establishing a force that can provide Europe with the necessary resources and political weight. Thus, allowing it to play its long awaited global role successfully and in turn promoting global security effectively. Secondly, the strategic concentration of such forces – inclusive of concentrations in the outlying regions of the External Cultural Frontiers where risks are at their maximum – can provide an enhanced overall defence. It is also appropriate to add that Rapid Reaction Forces – with their serious limitations – have no place in long-term security issues. [Frontiers of Europe: Union of Cultures within a Civilisation](#). Subsequently, it may be possible to gradually upgrade such outlying regions to the same level of security as maintained in Central or Western Europe. Understandably, exposures emanating from well designed long-range missile technologies can place practically all regions at risk. Undoubtedly, an expedient outlook will take into account Europe's overall interests and defend them jointly with greater efficiency, across-the-board, than they have been hitherto. [European Security Integration](#).

A rapidly changing world may also bring about the failure of [Greater Europe's](#) External Cultural Frontiers, thus creating perilous internal sociological and security issues, inclusive of developments with former characteristics enveloped in a modern setting. It is best not to repeat the errors of the past.

[Political Europe](#)



*T. S. Kahvé,
Ararat Heritage,
London, 2013/2017*