

# Democracy Affects European Foreign Policies During the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Beyond

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## Abstract:

Democracy refers to a political system in which power is vested in the people. The basic principle of democracy is that people have the right to choose their own leaders and determine public policy, usually through elections and voting. The core idea of democracy is that all people are equal and that everyone should have an equal opportunity to participate in political decision-making. Democracy played a crucial role in shaping European foreign policy in the early twentieth century and beyond. As a political institution, democracy not only occupies a central place in domestic politics, but also serves as a guiding principle for the foreign policies of European countries. The periods of World War I and the post-Cold War era were two key periods. After the end of World War I, many European countries tried to turn to democracy, such as the Weimar Republic in Germany. It was a great attempt. After the end of the Cold War, some countries tried to fulfill some criteria in order to become a member of the European Union, and these criteria were related to democracy, which widened the scope of democratic influence. Democracy as a political system has a great influence on the foreign policy of a country.

**Keywords:** Democracy, Left and Right, Ideology, Social experiment, Political system, Foreign policy, early 20th century and After the Cold War

## 1. The Democratic Thoughts and Practice

Introduction: I would like to express some of my views about democracy. As an ordinary student who have been living in mainland China since I was born, it seems like wired that how can I talk about a politi-

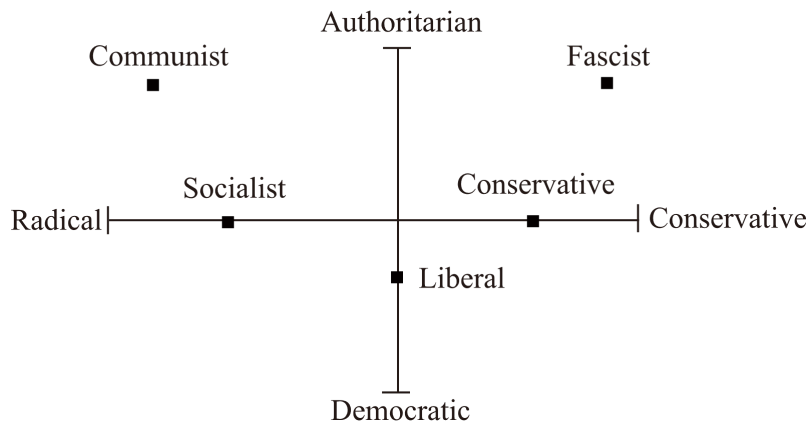
cal system which I have almost never attached with. But I think this is the point that just because I live in the opposites one, so I can express the benefits of democracy relative to dictatorship from a negative point of view, and leave it as a psychological process before the unpredictable future changes.

Methodology: Thoughts, Google, Translation soft-

ware

Some sorts of Democracy in the political spectrum and

different ideologies:



There are different judgment criteria in the coordinate system. Roughly, we sort majority of idealism into Left Right and Middle. Here are some features to divide Left and Right.

In Political phase, Left wing advocates for social equality and justice rather than efficiency. They support more government power and welfare. More tendency towards progress and support change and innovation. They emphasize public interests and social responsibilities.

Right wing emphasizes personal freedom and value. They support free market and limit government power. They tend to conservatism and uphold traditional values.

On Economic aspect. Left wing support wealth redistribution and reduce the wealth gap through tax and welfare policies, especially between the rich and poor classes. They tend to public services and state-owned enterprises and estimates. They advocate for the rights and interests of workers and the strength of trade unions.

Right wing support a free market and reduce government intervention in the economy. They tend towards privatization and reducing public service spending, such as welfare and capital construction. They emphasize capitalism and encourage free competition.

The following features are most existing nowadays rather than in 20<sup>th</sup> century. Left wing support multiculturalism and minority rights.

Their social policies lean towards progress, such as racial equality sexual marriage gender equality. They emphasize environmental protection and sustainable development.

Right wing emphasize national security and legal order. They tend to traditional family values and conservative social values.

Advocating for more cautious in security of immigration and cultural integration.

On Foreign policy and Other aspects

Left wing tend towards international cooperation and global governance.

They support peace and reduce military intervention.

Right wing emphasize national sovereignty and self-interest.

They support strong national defense and military forces to protect national sovereignty

Both Left and Right have the democracy performances.

The most specific instances are socialism democracy and capitalism democracy. Here, the socialism democracy is not the Leninism Revolution socialism but the sort of Reformism or revisionism. I divide the Nordic countries and Switzerland into socialist countries. Because according to the standard of wealth gap, they are the countries closest to the socialism core values of equality in the world today. Although in those countries that claim to be communism, they are still be classified as Western Capitalism.

In Socialism Democracy, the economy is mainly controlled and managed by the state or public institutions, called the ownership by the whole people.

The distribution of resources and wealth is planned and regulated by the government to ensure social equity and reduce the wealth gap. Public ownership contains state ownership and collective ownership for those with administrative levels in cities and below. For Political structure, usually, a one party or multi-party cooperative system is implemented. But in history, there seems to be no successful long time example of single one party in democracy practice yet. We can see that the Leninist Revolution, though the Party claim that they are also undertaking the Democratic Revolution at the same time, always became a dictatorship system after seizing power which they call that period as socialism democratic transform.

In terms of citizen participation, it encourages widespread citizen participation and grassroots democracy such as local committees and trade union organizations, and emphasizes collective decision-making and joint action, which are forms of direct democracy.

Economic democracy and related policies in the Nordic

countries:

Progressive tax system was planned in the early 20s century, Sweden introduced the progressive income tax system.

The progressive tax system during this period was mainly aimed at increasing fiscal revenue and meeting the needs of the national economy.

Then, Sweden has gradually improved this system, and progressive tax rates and welfare policies have been further strengthened, especially after the Social Democratic Party came to power in the 1930s.

Denmark, 1903. Norway, 1892

High-income earners pay high tax rates and low-income earners pay low tax rates. For example, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway all have progressive income tax systems, with the wealthy paying higher tax rates.

High capital gains taxes:

To prevent wealth concentration, they raise tax rates on capital gains, dividends, and wealth. Norway imposes high taxes on capital gains and wealth.

Universal health care:

Provide free public health care services and ensure that all citizens have access to health care.

The public health care systems in Norway and Sweden provide free or low-cost health care to all citizens. Sweden, 1955. Denmark, 1961. Norway, 1956

Free education:

To ensure equal educational opportunities for all, they provide free education from kindergarten to university.

Free primary education: Sweden, 1842. Denmark, 1814. Norway, 1848.

Free further education: Sweden, 1977. Denmark, 1968, Norway, 1970s

Unemployment protection:

They provide generous unemployment benefits and job retraining to help the unemployed overcome their difficulties and find new employment.

For example, Denmark's "flexicurity" policy combines a flexible labor market with strong unemployment protection.

Pension security:

Provide generous public pensions to ensure adequate living security for the elderly.

For example, the public pension systems in Finland and Sweden provide basic living security for all retirees.

Labor market policies

Strong unions:

Trader unions have a strong presence in the Nordic countries, ensuring that workers receive fair wages and working conditions. Landsorganisationen I Sverige, LO, 1898. Denmark, 1898. Norway, 1899.

Minimum wage

Set high minimum wages through laws and collective bargaining to ensure a minimum standard of living for low-income workers.

In Norway, high minimum wages are set through industry-based collective agreements.

Social insurance certificates

Child welfare:

Enhance child benefits and parental leave to reduce the financial burden of raising children.

Finland and Sweden have instituted high child benefit and long paid parental leave.

Housing allowances:

Provide housing subsidies and public housing to help solve housing problems for low-income families.

For example, the governments of Denmark and Sweden provide housing subsidies and build public housing to help low-income families have affordable housing.

However, ideology is not absolute. Just like the political system, democracy and centralization are often combined to be a more realistic and long-term choice. Even in some extreme countries, democracy still exists, but this kind of democracy is not universal. I don't think democracy is an inevitable global trend, and not every country is suitable for democracy. One of the important reasons is the level of the people. If the cultural and moral quality of the masses is not high, and even believe that witchcraft and metaphysics can cure diseases, and that the omnipotent God can make decisions for them, then democracy based on this mass base is irresponsible to the country. India, which calls itself a socialist country, is also the most populous democracy in the world. However, this kind of democracy is a low-quality democracy, inferior to a flawed democracy, and even worse than some enlightened despotism. This is of course related to its domestic religious ethnicity and traditional inertia, and the same situation also applies to the Islamic world. Iran carried out a series of modernization and democratization reforms during the Pahlavi dynasty, but it caused serious economic problems and political corruption, which only showed the drawbacks of the democratic process to the masses, so they turned to support conservative religious forces. Russia is also a country with a religious tradition. The Soviet Union was an atheist country, but after its disintegration, the Orthodox Church quickly revived in Russia. One theory is that Russia has a strong Mongolian autocratic gene, and the Orthodox Church believes in the love of God, is willing to accept God's call, and completely entrusts itself to God (this is very similar to Stalin being the people's father and the party being completely correct), so Russia has not yet achieved democracy where the people are the masters of the country.

The integration of religion and politics is of course a fun-

damentalist ideology, but there are still few countries with this extreme form. More often, we must consider the influence of religion on the thoughts and culture of individuals and countries, which cannot be ignored. I would also like to discuss China here. I put it in the political spectrum because it is indeed a special existence. I try to be relatively objective but it is impossible. Whether it is the capitalist system or the socialist system, whether it is democracy or authoritarianism, it seems that they have had a profound impact on the Chinese people. This kind of influence is that the world first changed China, and then China in turn profoundly influenced the world pattern. In comparison with world history, perhaps only Russia is somewhat similar. The most important point of this influence is that China is a super regional power, and it has almost never declined or broken. The Mongol Empire and the Persian Empire did not influence their culture to form the Mongol cultural circle or the Persian cultural system in the region. There was no nationalism and main ethnic group in the Roman Empire. The Ottoman Empire also had complex identity issues. The British Empire or the United States did not experience the alternation between capitalism and socialism, nor did they experience setbacks and sacrifices in democratic practice and communist experiments, because these two almost established the democratic system in one step after the struggle. In modern times, China has experienced the failure of the royal family's democratic reform, the line of the democratic parties but failed in the civil war (strictly speaking, the Kuomintang does not have a democratic nature, but Sun Yat-sen's plan for Chinese democracy is a three-stage military-political training and constitutional government. It can be said that the Kuomintang is a quasi-democratic party, but until the end of the civil war, the Kuomintang was still in the training stage, and finally realized democracy in Taiwan), the Communist Party's planned economy and the Cultural Revolution, the reform and opening up to carry out economic capitalism but the politics is still dictatorship, and there is a trend of returning to dictatorship, but it is obvious that this is not Mao Zedong's communist dictatorship, but a dictatorship based on geopolitical games and the establishment of hegemony. It can be said that China's history involves most ideologies in the political spectrum. But it always seems to lead from one extreme to another. From the highly centralized Qing Dynasty to the chaotic and fragmented warlord separatism in the late Beiyang government, and from the unprecedented extreme communist experiment in human history to the brutal oppression of ordinary people after the transformation to capitalism. In the 21st century, it is obvious that the pure ideological game has disappeared. The game between communism and capitalism based on Marxism no longer seems to be

the main theme. Instead, it is replaced by the confrontation between camps based on countries and nations, democracy and dictatorship. The current international situation is actually difficult to predict. On the one hand, elections in most democratic countries lead to major changes in their policies within four or five years. On the other hand, the politics of authoritarian countries are mostly black box operations, and the thoughts of their leaders are unpredictable. But in the foreseeable future, the Russian-Ukrainian war has changed the global landscape, the Israeli-Palestinian war has once again triggered turmoil in the Middle East, and the elections in the United States and European countries will inevitably affect the decisions of NATO and the European Union. Iran's reformist president still governs under a religious background, but it seems that a ray of sunshine has finally penetrated the black veil.

### Conclusion:

The political spectrum is the most intuitive form of ideology. Usually, a country's position on the spectrum can be judged by its economic policies and political structure. However, ideology is only one aspect of politics. Power structure and interest relations are the core of politics.

Democracy is a good system, and it works for both the left and the right, because it gives citizens the right to participate in political decision-making and choose their leaders and representatives through elections. Therefore, governments must be accountable to voters and leaders must respond to the needs and expectations of citizens. Democracy allows different views and interests to be expressed and considered in the political process, promoting inclusiveness and diversity in society.

Anti-Democracy:

In my historical education experience in China, communism was very popular at the beginning of its birth. It was considered the beginning of a new era of mankind until the dramatic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. As the center of the international communist movement and the leader of the Leninist camp of socialism, the Soviet Union shouldered the responsibility of liberating the world until Mao Zedong criticized Khrushchev's revisionism.

Fascism, on the other hand, has been deeply despised from its inception. Its symbolic emblem is the club of the Roman Empire. Nazi Germany, Italy and military Japan were all victims of World War I

Fascism and Communism are usually considered as two extreme ideology. In history, people had social experiments trying to reach the picture depicted by theories or propaganda. But basically they all failed. Some were terminated by wars, while others disintegrated internally.

Because of some features in implement of Communism and Fascism policies, they are anti democratic and caused geopolitical opposition and conflicts between countries.

Both political constructions of Communism and Fascism are single direction: A powerful leader of Party own the absolute control to the whole country while other classes can hardly influence state affairs. Besides the political control they also have Party-State which is different from the past imperial system. Although the emperor holds the highest power of country, many times he is unable to achieve cultural and economic control at the grassroots level. Compared with that, Populism is the foundation of fascism and communism. We can see that many propaganda slogans in Communism and Fascism countries saying: The Party/Leader represents people. We are the pioneers of the nation/specific class.

The application of fascism to populism

**Leader worship:** Fascism emphasizes the personal charisma and authority of the leader and regards the leader as the incarnation of the nation and country. Through leader worship, fascism can exploit the people's admiration for the leader to consolidate its dominance.

**Mobilization of Nationalism:** Fascism exploits nationalist sentiments and emphasizes national unity and purity. Through hostile propaganda against foreign countries or minority groups, it stimulates nationalist sentiments and unites the masses under its own flag.

**Promises to restore glory:** Fascism often taps into populist sentiments, promising to restore past national glory and economic prosperity. This promise appeals to people who feel lost and angry about social changes.

**Xenophobia and xenophobia:** Fascism inspires fear and solidarity in the population through exclusion and hostility toward outsiders or minorities. This kind of xenophobia can help fascist regimes consolidate power and turn mass anxiety into support for themselves.

Communisms' application to populism

Communism is theoretically more inclined to the propaganda of class struggle and proletarian interests, rather than directly utilizing populism like fascism:

**Class struggle propaganda:** Communism places more emphasis on class struggle and the opposition of class interests. It would mobilize working-class support through a critique of capitalist exploitation and inequality, rather than relying on populist sentiments.

**Internationalism and Unity:** Communism emphasizes internationalism and unity of the global proletariat. It theoretically opposes racial and national divisions and advocates the unity of the global proletariat against international capitalism.

**Economic and social changes:** Communist regimes often win mass support through economic and social changes,

such as land reform, industrialization, and the expansion of social welfare. These measures are aimed at improving the living conditions of workers and peasants, rather than relying on populist sentiment to mobilize the masses.

Populism is not democratic because its nature is in conflict with the core values that a typical democratic system emphasizes: decentralization of power, freedom of speech, pluralism, and checks and balances on power. Populism often emphasizes the charisma of leaders and simple solutions rather than promoting social progress and the public interest through widespread political participation and complex policy formulation.

In terms of how politics work, it goes like this:

Both fascism and communism emphasized a strong centralized government. In this centralized system, the government controls everything, and individual freedoms and rights are greatly restricted. Individual freedoms and rights are often sacrificed in order to achieve the so-called common goal. Both fascism and communism were one-party systems and did not allow other political parties to exist or operate. Political opposition and dissent are suppressed, and elections are not free, fair, or even held in the first place. Under fascist and communist regimes, media and freedom of speech were tightly controlled and censored, and only voices supporting the government and ideology were allowed to be aired. This included restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and association; controlling the economy; limited free market, strong government intervention. In communist theory, a planned economy is the best option. Economic and social life is centrally planned and controlled by the government, and individual economic freedom and choice are limited.

Both fascism and communism are aggressive and expansionary in nature. However, fascist states often achieve their political and ideological goals through military aggression and military expansion. In the communist export revolution, the emphasis is on promoting communism through political, economic, and ideological support. This strategy became even more prominent during the Cold War.

Why the Leninist revolution can not be democratic?

"The root cause lies in their adoption of Leninist methods, not in their Marxist ideals"--Lee Kuan Yew

System genetics:

**Dictatorship of the proletariat.** The biggest problem is, who can be the proletariat? And who can join the Party as a member of proletariat? Lenin's proletarian dictatorship used state machinery and violent means to suppress counter-revolutionary forces and remnants of the bourgeoisie to ensure the consolidation and development of the socialist system. Obviously, one feature of this system is "violence". In the war period, the revolution is bloody,



and they would betray their allies. Even we are the same Nation and we are fighting against Germans, but you are Bourgeoisie. Therefore, we need to prepare all the time to seize power. In the peace period, violence manifests itself as inter-party struggles. Thoughly you were my comrades, you are now anti-party and have the preference to go on the way of Bourgeoisie. Communists are always unclear about the compatibility of nationalities and classes. A revolutionary view of history cannot fully explain their rise to power. So they want to rationalize this violence on the one hand, and continue to use and monopolize this violence on the other hand.

The proletariat is the core concept of Marxist theory and Lenin's revolution. This concept Refers to those people who do not own the means of production also the people who are being exploited and oppressed in society. Here are two most important dimensions to define them: No money, No power. Achieving proletarian revolution also requires them to be revolutionary. Nowadays we can see that the worker are not so revolutionary as last century. Because their life conditions and working conditions get better. They are satisfied with food, clothing, housing, transportation and basic social welfare. Though they sometimes opposites the salaries and have street demonstrations, they never repeat the history of shooting with troops and trying to seize power with the proletariat party. Because it is not necessary, the payment is too high. I do not want to discuss whether this is the corruption of the bourgeoisie and capitalism, which will be another question

The vanguard of the proletariat, the members of the party must be the vanguard of the working class with the most revolutionary consciousness and organizational ability and democratic centralism, which is the organizational principle of Leninist parties. But when we check the several most important leaders of Party, we can find that a considerable number of them are not strictly proletarians themselves or proletarian families. Lenin, who was born into a middle-class family and his father was an education official. Lenin received a good education and became a lawyer. Trotsky was born into a wealthy peasant family. He learned mathematics at university. Zinoviev was born into a wealthy peasant family. Bukharin was born into a middle-class family. His father was a teacher. There were so many examples. And the same condition happened in CCP and communist parties in other countries. This situation shows that the proletariat, at least not those workers who have no social status and wealth, does not play a big role in leading the revolution. These idealistic intellectuals and sympathetic or petty bourgeoisie groups who are dissatisfied with the society at that time are the main force leading the revolution. This is exactly what Lenin called

the vanguard of the proletariat, but they are not selected from the proletariat. Their cognitive level and social status are higher than those of ordinary proletarians. In terms of the composition of the party, the Bolsheviks seemed not much different from the bourgeoisie that led the February Revolution.

Let us turn to their revolutionary methods. We need to compare their activities before they seized power and the adjustments they made to those activities after they established a communist government. This change is very interesting and basically shows the essence of Communist Party, at least they call themselves democratic and advanced.

During the Russian Revolution of 1905, the Bolsheviks actively participated in and led many workers' uprisings and strikes. During the Russian Revolution of 1905, the Bolsheviks actively participated in and led many workers' uprisings and strikes.

However, during the Soviet era, strikes were not allowed in official ideology and policy, and strike activities were severely suppressed. The Soviet government claimed that the interests of workers and the state were identical, and that the working class was regarded as the masters of the state. The working class expresses and defends its interests through Soviets and trade unions, so there was no need to strike. While the Soviet Union's trade unions nominally represented the interests of workers, they were actually controlled by the government and played a role in maintaining government policies and supervising workers. When dealing with workers' issues, trade unions mainly used education and propaganda to avoid radical strikes and protests.

Some workers activities after the Soviet government built: In the early 1920s, there were some strikes in the Soviet Union, such as the Kronstadt Rebellion in 1920 and the Petrograd Strike in 1921. The Soviet government then severely suppressed these strikes and rebellions, with the Kronstadt Rebellion being suppressed by the Red Army and the leaders of the Petrograd strike being arrested or exiled.

During the Great Purge, opposition and dissent were suppressed. During this bloody era, people feared the Soviet authorities, so strikes and protests were extremely rare during this period. However, many workers suspected of participating in opposition activities were arrested, executed or exiled.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the Soviet Union underwent economic reconstruction after the war, but dissatisfaction among the working class remained, especially over working conditions and living standards. Although strikes were rare, there were occasional protests and strikes, such as some workers' protests after Stalin's death in 1953. The

government continued to use tough measures to suppress strikes, and worker leaders were arrested and strikes were quickly quelled.

In the 1960s and 1980s, the Soviet Union's economic stagnation and social problems intensified, and the dissatisfaction of the working class rose again. In 1962, the Novocherkassk workers' protests were held, in which workers protested against rising food prices and deteriorating living conditions. The government sent troops to suppress the protests, resulting in many deaths, and the participants and leaders of the incident were severely punished.

We cannot infer from this that the bourgeois government is more benevolent, but we can see that the Soviet government is resistant to the workers' movement in all aspects: from ideology to incitement to actual operation.

Workers' organization during bourgeois government is the basis of communist revolution

During the Revolution of 1905 and the February Revolution of 1917, workers and soldiers spontaneously organized Soviets (Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies Committees). The Bolsheviks used and developed Soviet organizations as a tool for revolutionary struggle, establishing close ties with workers and soldiers through the Soviets to promote the revolutionary process.

The bourgeois Russian Provisional Government was mainly composed of bourgeois and liberal parties. Its attitude and approach towards the Bolsheviks went through a process of change, from initial relative tolerance to later hostility and repression.

In March-April 1917, the February Revolution overthrew the Tsarist regime, and the Provisional Government was established. The society was in a state of change and turmoil. The Provisional Government was initially relatively tolerant of the Bolsheviks and allowed them to carry out political activities, because the main task at that time was to consolidate the new regime and stabilize social order. The Provisional Government hoped to gain the support of the Soviets through a certain degree of cooperation to avoid further social unrest. From April to July 1917, the Provisional Government continued to participate in the First World War, which aroused social dissatisfaction and the Bolshevik anti-war stance gained more support. Lenin published the "April Theses" and put forward the slogan "All Power to the Soviets". The Provisional Government began to be wary of the Bolsheviks. In July 1917, workers and soldiers led by the Bolsheviks launched a large-scale protest, demanding that the Soviets seize power. The Provisional Government sent troops to suppress the protests, arrested Bolshevik leaders, and carried out extensive suppression of the Bolsheviks. In August 1917, right-wing General Lavr Kornilov attempted a coup to overthrow the Provisional Government and establish a military dicta-

torship. The Bolsheviks actively mobilized workers and soldiers to resist Kornilov's attack, and the Provisional Government quelled the coup with the help of the Bolsheviks. After the incident, the influence of the Bolsheviks further increased, but the Provisional Government remained vigilant against the Bolsheviks. On the eve of the October Revolution, social contradictions intensified, the Provisional Government failed to resolve the land and war issues, and the Bolshevik revolutionary propositions gained widespread support. Here, by the way, I would say that this is almost the same as the history in China. The CCP also used the taking advantage of the war between the Kuomintang and Japan to develop and expand itself. The land revolution also won over a large number of lower-class people, that is, the proletariat, but Mao Zedong defined the vast majority of China's proletariat as peasants. These peasants who obtained land became the main fighting force of the Communist Party's army during the Chinese Civil War. Here we can see that the capitalist sister government did not show hostility to the Bolsheviks at the beginning, at least not like Lenin said that it was a life-and-death struggle between classes. But the Bolsheviks wanted to seize power and monopolize

However, during the Soviet era, although there were official trade unions controlled by the government, independent workers' organizations at the grassroots level were basically non-existent. Not to mention workers' organizations with the goal of establishing a new government.

All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions

The Soviet Union established trade union organizations controlled by the government, and all workers must join these official unions.

The main responsibilities of official trade unions are to implement state policies, organize workers for production labor, and provide social welfare, rather than to protect workers' interests or organize strikes. Trade union organizations are largely controlled by the government and the Communist Party, their leaders are appointed by the party, and trade union activities must comply with party policies and instructions.

Peasants are also an important part of the revolution

The Bolsheviks put forward the slogan "Land for the Peasants", calling on the peasants to confiscate the landlords' land and distribute it to the landless and land-poor peasants in order to win the support of the peasants. The peasants' dissatisfaction with the landlords' land system was precisely an important driving force for the revolution.

However, after the Communist Party seized power, farmers no longer had any of their land directly owned by them. The rural land policy in the Sino-Japanese period has undergone many major changes, from wartime com-

munism to agricultural collectivization and agricultural reform.

1918-1921: The Subaru Telegraph came to power and implemented wartime communist policies in response to the civil war and economic crisis. The nation has moved forward with forceful collection and distribution of land, food and production resources. The landlords confiscated their land and distributed it to the poor peasants. Practical food gathering, forcibly collecting peasant food, creating rural economic difficulties and peasant dissatisfaction.

1921-1928: Wartime communism led to the collapse of the economy and peasant rebellions. In 1921, the Sub-Saharan African government implemented a new economic policy and relaxed its control over the rural economy. The Sulawesi government permitted market and private economies to a certain extent, allowing farmers to freely buy and sell surplus products. Food tax collection and collection system for surplus food

From 1928 to 1933, after the Siberian Empire was established, the policy of agricultural collectivization was promoted, and socialist industrialization and agricultural modernization were realized. It forcibly promoted collective farms (kolkhoz) and national farms (sovkhoz) to replace individual peasant economies. Farmers are forced to concentrate land, tools and livestock into collective farms, where they work together and share results. The refusal to recapitalize the wealthy farming communities (kulak) led to the demolition, dumping and confiscation of property. This land distribution method and the plowing of farmers have led to food shortages and large-scale famine in rural areas.

1934-1953: The government permitted farmers to leave their farms in collective farms and set up small plots of land for their own cultivation.

1953-1964: After Stalin passed away, Khrushchev returned to Taiwan and promoted agricultural reform. He promoted the large-scale planting of corn and increased food production, but climate and technical issues have not yet achieved expected results. The right to use the land reserved for large farmers and the merger of small collective farms

1964-1982 After Khrushchev was expelled, he established a strong and conservative agricultural policy. The government extended the collective farm and state-run farm systems from 1985 to 1991, and under the Gorbachev government's reform and opening-up policy, farmers were allowed to acquire land as individual households and to operate independently. Through the Land Law, farmers were granted more land use rights, but they have not yet fully realized that there are farmers on the land.

Crazy methodology and unrealistic utopia

I cannot speculate whether the Soviet leaders or the Soviet

Communist Party believed in communism like a religion, and believed that the description in this theory could really be realized. Or whether they had to support the propaganda of communism in order to maintain their rule. But one thing is certain: these crazy measures were not the collective will of the people, but the wishful thinking of the Soviet Communist Party and the government. So when we look at the Soviet government's behavior from the perspective of a loser in later generations, we have to blame their many policies for being even more backward and cruel than those of the Tsar.

Here are some of the policies implemented by the Soviet government to achieve communism. Most of them were undemocratic.

Dissolution of the Constituent Assembly (1918): After the October Revolution of 1917, the Bolsheviks allowed elections for the Constituent Assembly to be held. However, when the election results went against the Bolsheviks, Lenin ordered the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in order to strengthen Bolshevik control.

Wartime Communism (1918-1921): Policy Content: Wartime Communist policies included grain requisitions, nationalization of factories, central planning, and forced labor.

Background to Implementation: In response to the civil war and economic crisis, the Soviet government implemented these extreme economic and social restrictive measures.

Results: Caused severe economic collapse and social discontent, leading to riots and rebellions such as the Kronstadt Marine Uprising in 1921.

New Economic Policy (1921-1928): Policy Content: Partial restoration of market economy, permission for private small and medium-sized enterprises, free trade in agricultural products, and relaxation of grain requisition policies for peasants.

Background: To restore the economy and ease social tensions, Lenin proposed a new economic policy that balanced the relationship between state control and the market economy.

Aftermath: Agricultural and industrial production picked up, and the economy recovered, but it also sparked internal debates over policy direction.

First Five-Year Plan (1928-1932): Policy content: Emphasis on the development of heavy industry, introduce collective and state farms, and promote large-scale industrialization.

Background: Stalin wanted to industrialize the USSR quickly, strengthen the nation, and consolidate his power.

Results: Industrial production increased significantly, but collectivization of agriculture caused widespread famine, especially in Ukraine.



Second Five-Year Plan (1933-1937): Policy content: Continue to promote industrialization, focus on strengthening machinery manufacturing and military industry, and further consolidate the collective farm system.

Implementation background: Based on the First Five-Year Plan, Stalin continued to promote industrialization to enhance the military and economic strength of the Soviet Union.

Result: Industrial output continues to grow, but farmers' living standards remain low and state control further tightens.

The Great Purge (1936-1938): Policy content: Carry out large-scale political suppression and purge of counterrevolutionaries inside and outside the party, and eliminate potential opposition and "enemies".

Implementation background: Stalin hoped to eliminate any forces that might threaten his power and consolidate his personal dictatorship.

Result: Millions of people fell victim to the purges, including executions and sent to Gulag labor camps, causing a huge impact on Soviet society and economy.

Suppression of the Prague Spring (1968): The Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies carried out military suppression of the Prague Spring reform movement in Czechoslovakia in order to maintain the stability of the socialist countries in Eastern Europe and maintain Soviet control. This incident demonstrated the Soviet Union's resolute opposition to attempts at democratization and liberalization in Eastern European countries.

Almost all democracies take the evil of human nature as an important factor in the design of political systems. This includes how to prevent those in power from continuing to expand their power in their desires, how to prevent power from infringing on the law and social contracts, and how to enable the people to Discuss political affairs in a rational and rational manner rather than insulting and frame-up each other. In communist countries, the design of the political system ignores human nature. The theory of human nature is a much-discussed topic on the Chinese Internet. Many people say that what we call human nature is actually shaped under the capitalist system. For example, endless desires, the mentality of comparing each other, etc. Although the theory of communism was born, a truly communist society can only be found under conditions of great material abundance. But no one knows how to quantify this standard. Lenin believed that electrification can achieve communism. However, now that humans have achieved informalization and even begun to use artificial intelligence, we still cannot distribute resources equally. While there were still some groups who believed communism was achievable, many feared that the costs of a social experiment would be too high. This practical

progress is not worth the casualties of the Great Famine and the Great Revolution.

### Conclusion:

Fascism and communism, as two extreme anti-democratic political ideologies, have had a profound impact on the history of the 20th century. Fascism, by emphasizing the supremacy of the nation and the state, led to extreme dictatorship and foreign aggression; while communism, by pursuing the dictatorship of the proletariat and public ownership of the economy, attempted to establish an equal society, but in practice it caused great sacrifices. They undoubtedly reflect the complexity of modern political and social development

Although anti-democratic dictatorships do not conform to the wishes of the majority of the people, and we have also seen that fascism and communism, which are representatives of anti-democracy, have declined in the course of history, anti-democracy as an important force in world politics will not disappear. It is unimaginable that the world is full of democratic countries. Even in countries with mature democratic systems, there are anti-democratic people. Democracy is fragile, and so is dictatorship. Humanity can learn from the disasters brought about by these anti-democratic forces in history and avoid war as much as possible.

## 2. How was WWI a catalyst for policy changes in Europe during the late 19th - early 20th century

### 2.1 Generalistic Overview of Foreign Policy

Before discussing countries and their foreign policies, it is important to first recognize the different types of foreign policies. All foreign policies countries partake in can loosely be categorized into five separate types. These five types are Imperialism, Diplomacy, Neutrality/Isolationism, Collective Security, and Appeasement. Firstly, Imperialism is usually characterized by colonization and forceful annexation of a nation or an area. The most significant recent example of this would be the event coined the "Scramble for Africa", where many European countries split up Africa into multiple colonies. Imperialism generally started fading out Europe around WWI. Diplomacy is one of the most common foreign policies taken by countries in the 20th-21st century, this term can be attributed to having economic, cultural, and political relationships or simply generally negotiating with other countries and creating treaties. It is generally an umbrella term for peaceful negotiations between countries. Isolationism/Neutrality

is quite simple in prospect, the term is defined as when countries avoid war or political/economical connections with other countries. During wars, these countries also would not actively engage in any conflict with other nations. Collective security references when groups of countries come together to form an organization that upholds peace. Organizations such as the EU and NATO fall under this category of foreign policy (NDISC, 2023). While it is important to recognize collective security, this particular type of foreign policy will not be very relevant in the time period that this section of the paper discusses. Lastly, Appeasement is when countries attempt to negotiate with another country specifically to stop their military advances/annexation of a particular area. This usually results in the signing of a treaty. Most of the different types of foreign policy will be examined in this section during discussions of three individual countries, France, Britain and Germany.

During the late 19th century, the Scramble for Africa concluded and many European countries now held colonies in Africa. This period was called “Neo-Imperialism” by some (Louis, 32). This term references the rise of a “new age” of imperialism that is characterized with large-scale conquest of multiple nations and large amounts of exploitation for resources, partly due to the technological developments at the time. This laid down the groundwork for many of the choices countries made during the late 19th-early 20th century. This period of “Neo-Imperialism” lasted until the end of WWII, which was when most of the colonies gained independence due to the larger European powers drawing out. Which may be attributed to the rise in more liberal/democratic government forms as well as the spreading of democratic ideas from the west. In fact, this is a general trend throughout this era, the spreading of democracy is very apparent as most of the large European countries after WWI or WWII opted for a more parliamentary or democratic form of government.

## 2.2 Foreign Policy changes in Britain Pre and Post WWI

Britain generally took a more isolationist role before WWI, this can be largely attributed to the size of the British Empire at the time. Due to the widespread colonization and the emergence of “Neo-Imperialism”, Britain employed a policy that was later coined “Splendid Isolation”, this period lasted from 1822 when Britain left the Concert of Europe up to 1902 and 1904. Britain’s policy was to not involve themselves in any of Europe’s power balancing or engage in any long term diplomatic relations or alliances with European countries. The term itself was coined by George Eulas Foster, who was a Canadian pol-

itician (Roberts, 629). During WWI, Britain allied with countries such as France, Russia and Italy. Britain was mostly the one that funded the war and built economic relations with these countries until the United States entered the war. The role of Britain as the founder of the war was then replaced by the United States in April 1917 (Hayes 177).

British foreign policy after WWI was much more varied and takes a very different stance when compared to before the war. The core reasoning of this is both the loss of most of its colonies with gradual decreases in influence to the European power balance, as well as the rise of democratic ideas being generally unfriendly to a country with a more imperial approach. This can be seen by Britain being forced to take a more passive role when interacting in Europe. An example would be the stance it took during the Paris Peace Conference. Which was deemed more conciliatory (Goldstein, 1991). The introduction of America into the power balancing of the world certainly did not help, with the financial prowess that the United States wields, Britain was no longer seen as the financial figurehead to the world. This leads to a further decrease in influence (Northedge, 1966). Britain along with many other countries slowly transitioned to a more diplomatic-oriented style of foreign policy during the years between WWI and WWII. Other important events that Britain was involved in during this time was the Sykes-Picot agreement that followed the breakup of the Ottoman empire after WWI, which was between Britain and France. This agreement specifically contained information on how these two countries would split the land after the Ottoman Empire dissolves. Another very important treaty that Britain took part in was the Treaty of Versailles. This treaty was a treaty that massively restricted Germany after their defeat in WWI. Specifically, it massively restricted its millitarical power and demanded a large sum of money and debt to be paid to all countries on the winning side.

It can be said that the radical shift Britain underwent between Splendid Isolation to the Triple Entente to assuming a seemingly more neutral role in its foreign policy can be attributed largely to the changes in democracy and its spread. Democracy, especially in this era is in one of its biggest expansions, with most European countries already undergoing or have undergone revolutions that caused a change in their governmental structure. This trend in the world was likely caused by the recent success of the American Revolution in the last few decades, which caused ideas of democratic governments and the concept of democracy to spread to the world. Europe was evidently affected by said spread of ideals. Of course, Britain still had a massive empire before WWI started. And its policies of isolationism may have halted the progress of its change

in governance. After WWI, however. The country saw a change in its internal power balance. The royal family and to that extension the monarch no longer held the same power as they had centuries ago. This very well could be attributed to the spread of democratic ideas in this time. The breakup of the British empire furthered Britain's decline in power. Historians have commonly called Britain between WWI and WWII a "Troubled Giant" due to its decrease in power, therefore making Britain have much less influence in the European power sphere (Northedge, 1966). The fact that Britain was the one to fund the war also did not help its economic situation.

During the years before WWII, Britain was caught up in the general trend of disarmament of the countries with large amounts of power in the world. Britain has either orchestrated or played a supporting role on multiple treaties in this time, such as the London Naval Treaty in 1930. This treaty was largely unsuccessful however due to Japan, Germany, Italy and Russia all not agreeing with the treaty. Britain, the United States and other countries attempted to draft another treaty, but diplomacy failed and that led to rearmament and preparations for fighting against Germany in WWII. Something final to note is that Britain once again had a change in stance due to a new elected leader known as Ramsey Mcdonald, who was the leader of the newly created Labour party. This caused Britain to no longer take a pacifist stance and put more power into strengthening itself (Robbins 1994). Britain employed one final significant method of foreign policy before WWII, in which Britain tried to appease Italy and Germany in hopes that war will not break out. Britain did this via legally allowing these two countries to take certain territories for themselves in hopes of satiating them, this was unsuccessful however, and the second world war soon began.

### 2.3 Foreign policy changes in Germany pre and post WWI

Germany was a fairly new nation (Germany here refers to the German Empire), arising only in 1871. The main practices of Germany were on the diplomatic side during those times. However, the government at the time was imperial. This meant there was a monarch who was titled "Kaiser". During the years leading up to WWI, Germany first took a relatively peaceful approach towards foreign policy under the lead of the Imperial Chancellor at the time, who was a man named Otto von Bismark. He was content with the state that Germany was in and only wished for stability. In 1871 however, Germany made the decision to annex the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. These two regions were both in French control. This move by Germany was

significant because it faced significant backlash from the French. With that move, Germany effectively had only one policy that made sense to employ. This policy was to isolate France in order to prevent it from making any meaningful alliances. Ultimately, this ended up failing due to France later making an Alliance with Russia. France would later develop a hatred for Germany, seen multiple times in its foreign policy that frequently targeted Germany after the war.

Later on, Germany began making alliances with countries. Namely, Germany allied itself with Austria-Hungary in what was called the "Dual Alliance". Later on, Italy also joined said alliance due to fears with French colonial policies interfering with its efforts in North Africa. This alliance was later coined as the "Triple Alliance" (Weitsman, 79). Germany later on also took many colonies during the scramble for africa. In 1890. Germany underwent a change of rule from Bismark to Kaiser Wilhelm. The policies he took during this time period can be best described as reckless (Tipon 243). Wilhelm wanted to quickly increase the German influence on the world. Thus he enacted the policy known as "Weltpolitik". This satisfied the French wish to isolate Germany after many years of attempting to do so. Germany later attempted to enter a naval race with Britain, this ended up failing due to the creation of the Dreadnought battleship.

After the first world war, Germany found itself to be in a generally undesirable state. They were facing large amounts of debt and war funds as well as the highly suppressive nature of the military restrictions from the Treaty of Versailles. This led both to massive resentment brewed due to the conditions of said treaty as well as lowered support for the democratic regime at the time. This led room for a single leader to rise and take control of the country. Which led to the rise of Hitler and the Nazi regime in 1933. Hitler adopted a very interesting strategy, he demanded quite reasonable things to exploit the British policy of Appeasement, he accepted the things that were offered and continued to re-arm Germany, which caused Britain and other countries to continue offering territories in hope to appease Germany. After taking many territories, Germany allied itself with Italy, which was called the Rome-Berlin axis, this was later turned into the axis powers after allying with Japan( Weinberg, 276).

In a brief summary, Germany's foreign policy was very notably influenced heavily by the ruler at the time. The democratic spreading of ideas in this era affected the birth of the German empire. While its initial reception was that of an imperialist regime, a democratic government was quickly established after WWI. No doubt, this was very likely due to the mass change in governmental structure of European countries after WWI. With Germany being no

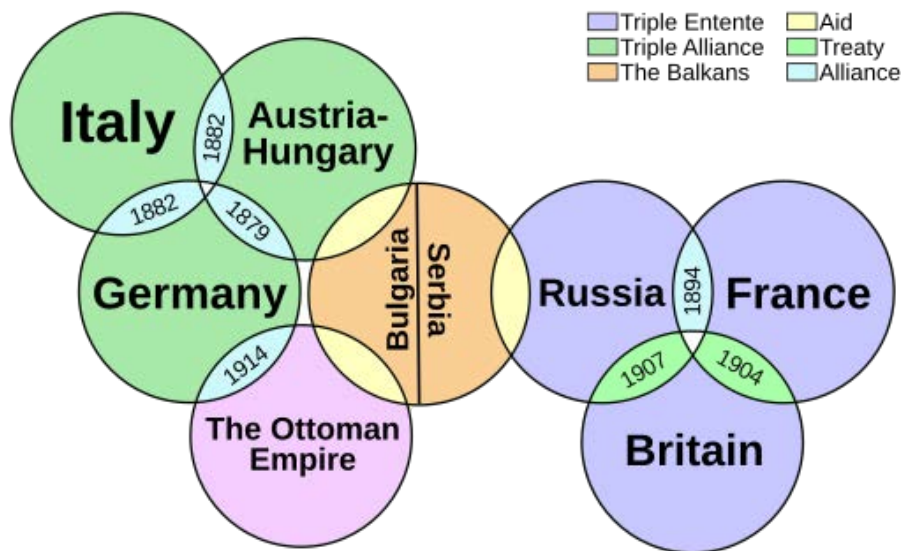
exception.

### 2.4 Foreign policy changes in France pre and post WWI

France’s foreign policy leading up to WWI was rooted in mostly a hatred of Germany due to their occupation of Alsace and Lorraine as mentioned above, France’s foreign policy department itself was made from a diplomatic group, accounts say that this group ran all of France’s foreign policy up to 1914 (Hayne 427-452). However during this period, France’s foreign policy was not a main focal point as the country was struggling internally with issues of both governmental structure and religion. At this point most countries in Europe have made their transitions into a more democratic type of government. While France had already undertaken its revolution and removed the monarchy, they were still struggling on whether to incorporate religion, namely christianity or to stay secular. This affected foreign policy as well as the previously mentioned diplomatic groups operated differently based on what members joined the group. These people were usually from high-ranking families or positions of power, but also frequently had different views and religious beliefs. While France was a republic, the more diplomatic group of foreign relations mingled well with the more aristocrat-

ic representatives in the country. During the Scramble for Africa, France practiced imperialist policy and also was a big player in the Scramble for Africa. Due to this, France has had frequent conflicts with other European powers. One of the most severe of which was the Fashoda Incident in 1898, where France had a conflict of interest with Britain over Egypt. Britain ended up reigning over Egypt and France Morocco, but this was seen as a defeat to most nonetheless.

After Bismark was removed and Kaiser Wilhelm took the reins of foreign policy and relations in Germany, France finally successfully isolated Germany from any alliances. France reached out and formed the Triple Entente, which was a diplomatic alliance between three countries, that being France, Britain and Russia. France made multiple attempts to attract Britain and Russia under the foreign minister at the time, Théophile Delcassé. Notably, the Franco-Russian Alliance during 1894, the “Entente Cordiale” with Britain in 1904 and finally the Anglo-Russian Entente in 1907, which marked the creation of the Triple Entente. This was essentially the Stance the European powers had when they entered WWI. By the start of WWI, France’s foreign policy was mainly oriented towards their allied countries, namely Russia.



After WWI, France first practiced diplomatic alliance strategies with a goal to weaken Germany’s influence and ensure that Germany complies with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. France wished to arm itself and its allies for another potential German threat, but later on took a more passive stance after pressure put on by its allies during 1924. During the 1920s, France also suffered a significant blow to its economy. During 1923, due to

Germany not being able to ship enough coal as part of the treaty, France and Belgium co-occupied the region known as Ruhr, which was a main industrial zone inside Germany. Germany then responded with a policy of passive resistance. The most detrimental part about this crisis is that Germany started printing large sums of money to pay its workers. This caused heavy hyperinflation in the country, which not only impacted the German middle class but



also importantly the French Franc, which was its currency. This made France lose a very large sum of money due to the ensuing hyperinflation. During 1924, France finally accepted the issues with the reparations part of the Treaty of Versailles as part of the Dawes plan, orchestrated by the American banker Charles Gates Dawes (August, 451). During 1925, the Locarno Treaties pulled Germany back into France's good graces. The treaty itself was a series of agreements that were signed in Locarno, Switzerland. It addressed the border between Germany and France. Around this time, the prime minister at the time was a man named Aristide Briand. Briand used his diplomatic skills to build good relations with the German reich. This was the basis for one of the first Collective Security policies, known as the League of Nations.

During the 1930s, France wanted one last extension of its power. As stated by British historian Richard Overy, "In the 1930s France became a deeply conservative, defensive society, split by social conflict, undermined by failing and un-modernized economy and an empire in crisis. All these things explain the loss of will and direction in the 1930s." This loss of direction caused France to fall behind the other European powers both in societal progress as well as its economical power. This was also largely due to France's unwillingness to give up an empire in a world that was more and more unaccepting of imperialism. France mostly practiced Appeasement during the leadup to WWI against Germany. One last point to mention, France also focused after WWI to build smaller alliances with weaker powers. With creations such as the "Little Entente" between weaker powers.

## 2.5 Conclusion

Overall, these three European powers were seen as some of the most powerful and influential powers Pre-WWI, and all these countries took a drastic change in foreign policy after WWI. This change could be summarized into a multitude of factors. For one, the progression of democratic thoughts as well as the spreading of democratic ideals from the west impacted a large number of policies after WWI. This can be explained by the rise of the United States as a recognized prevalent superpower in the world, and thereby holding more influence than most European powers. With many countries changing their governmental structure or power balance due to the fact. It was arguably one of the biggest contributing factors to a lot of the events discussed in this section. Another plausible reason would be the country's position whether that be financial or whether it was on the losing side of the war. As seen with Germany, the Treaty of Versailles was an indirect cause to the Nazi regime taking power, and then inevitable

WWII as well. We also see the conflicts of France being unable to adapt to the changing worldview on democracy. With several of its failures and setbacks also being rooted in its policies towards other countries as well.

## 3. In what ways has the increased emphasis within the European Union on democratic principles and human rights affected its foreign policy and relations with non-EU countries since the end of the Cold War?

### 3.1 Introduction

In the context of the Cold War era, the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe practiced tactics of political repression, frequent use of covert police forces, strict monitoring of citizens' freedom of expression, and suppression of opposition. As a result of these policies, human rights conditions in Eastern Europe deteriorated, political dissidents and dissenters became targets of persecution, and social fears and doubts about the government spread widely. In Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries, resistance was suppressed by the Soviet Union. It was not until the end of the Cold War that this status quo changed.<sup>1</sup> These countries suffered from deep authoritarianism under the Soviet Union, and after the end of the Cold War, they urgently needed to move toward more democratic and market-oriented reforms. During the Cold War, Western European countries showed strong antagonism towards the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries controlled by it, which made Western European countries cherish their democratic system and human rights protection more. Western European countries are committed to strengthening democratic institutions and human rights safeguards in order to develop an international perspective distinct from Soviet totalitarianism, and to establish a good example of freedom, democracy, and human rights on a global scale. Such attempts were reflected not only in domestic policies, but also in the international policies of Western European countries during and after the Cold War.<sup>2</sup>

The end of the Cold War meant the end of East-West rivalry, forcing the EU to rethink its role in global issues. Rec-

1 Applebaum, Anne. *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1944-1956*. 2012, 27. [https://archive.org/details/ironcurtaincrush00appl\\_0](https://archive.org/details/ironcurtaincrush00appl_0)

2 Judt, Tony. *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*. New York: Penguin Books, 2005, 12. <https://archive.org/details/postwarhistoryof0000judt>

ognizing that economic integration alone is not enough to guarantee lasting peace and stability, the EU has decided to refocus its foreign policy toward democratic governance and the defense of human rights. This move has driven not as it were to significant key changes inside the EU, but moreover to noteworthy changes within the interaction between the EU and non-member states. We are confronting numerous tests, such as how to adjust the advancement of democracy against commonsense interface in a complex geopolitical context, and how to guarantee wide acknowledgment and regard for law-based standards in a diverse international community. The EU has played a crucial part in forming its outside arrangements and in its dealings with non-EU part states.

### 3.2 Post-Cold War Transformation

In the context of the Cold War era, the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe practiced tactics of political repression, frequent use of covert police forces, strict monitoring of citizens' freedom of expression, and suppression of opposition. As a result of these policies, human rights conditions in Eastern Europe deteriorated, political dissidents and dissenters became targets of persecution, and social fears and doubts about the government spread widely. In Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries, resistance was suppressed by the Soviet Union. These countries suffered from deep authoritarianism under the Soviet Union, and after the end of the Cold War, they urgently needed to move toward more democratic and market-oriented reforms. During the Cold War, Western European countries showed strong antagonism towards the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries controlled by it, which made Western European countries cherish their democratic system and human rights protection more. Western European countries are committed to strengthening democratic institutions and human rights safeguards in order to develop an international perspective distinct from Soviet totalitarianism, and to establish a good example of freedom, democracy, and human rights on a global scale. Such attempts were reflected not only in domestic policies, but also in the international policies of Western European countries during and after the Cold War.<sup>3</sup>

The end of the Cold War meant the end of East-West rivalry, forcing the EU to rethink its role in global issues. Recognizing that economic integration alone is not enough to guarantee lasting peace and stability, the EU has decided

to refocus its foreign policy toward democratic governance and the defense of human rights. This shift has led not only to profound strategic changes within the EU, but also to significant changes in the interaction between the EU and non-member states. The EU has not only strengthened its public image on the global stage, but has become a key player in moving international governance forward by focusing on core values of democracy and human rights. We are facing many tests, such as how to balance the promotion of democracy against practical interests in a complex geopolitical context, and how to ensure broad recognition and respect for democratic principles in a diverse international community. The EU has played an indispensable role in shaping its external policies and in its dealings with non-EU member states. What has happened since the end of the Cold War

The foremost discernible alter within the EU's foreign policy since the conclusion of the Cold War has been a move in center from absolutely financial participation to a more profound advancement of democracy, human rights, and the run the show of law. Since the conclusion of the Cold War, the European Union's (EU) center on democracy and human rights has developed essentially in its foreign policy and has ended up a central component in forming its relations with non-EU nations. The EU plays a fundamentally part in progressing the standards of democracy and the run the show of law by fortifying arrangements, community arrangements and international participation. With the convergence of Eastern and Central European nations within the early 1990s, the EU not as it were extended its circle of impact, but too experienced exceptional political and financial tests. These nations have chosen to join the EU as a central course to their political and financial modernization, but this prepare isn't as it were approximately financial integration, but too almost reshaping and changing political frameworks and values. In arrange to guarantee that the modern part States meet the same guidelines of law based and human rights ensures as the rest of the EU, the EU has started a arrangement of regulation and lawful changes that require the candidate nations to form profound political and social changes amid their promotion handle. This handle has had a significant affect not as it were on coherence inside the European Union, but moreover on the advancement of majority rule standards and the security of human rights around the world.

Since the conclusion of the Cold War, the EU's change on democracy and human rights issues has not as it were had a significant effect on its inner administration show, but moreover played a key part in its foreign policy and interaction with non-EU nations. After the conclusion of the Cold War, the EU slowly built-up democracy and human rights as the core concepts of its foreign policy, and this

<sup>3</sup> Judt, Tony. *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*. New York: Penguin Press, 2005. 122. <https://archive.org/details/postwarhistoryof00judt>.

move was not as it were a reflection of past involvement, but too a reaction to rising challenges within the setting of globalization. The Maastricht Treaty, marked in 1992, and ensuing arrangements encourage solidified these center values and coordinates them into the legitimate and approach system of the European Union.<sup>4</sup> The Maastricht Treaty stamped a noteworthy turning point by unequivocally consolidating democracy and human rights into the center standards of the EU, and by setting the Copenhagen criteria requiring modern part states to have strong law based teach, the run the show of law, and human rights ensures some time recently they can formally connect. These standards not as it were reinforce democracy inside the EU, but moreover give an critical esteem foundation for its foreign policy. In addition, the Treaty of Lisbon, marked in 2009, encourage reinforced the EU's commitment and gave lawful impact to the Constitution of Essential Rights of the European Union.<sup>5</sup> These changes not as it were reinforce the EU's inside lawful and approach structures, but too fortify the EU's defense of democracy and human rights, and lay a strong establishment for the advancement of these core values around the world.

### 3.3 Expansionary Approach Impacts

The EU's enlargement policy could be a prime illustration of how law based standards and human rights shape its outside relations. Potential individuals must meet the Copenhagen criteria. This necessity has provoked major political and legitimate changes in candidate nations to advance law based administration and human rights measures.<sup>6</sup> In their journey to connect the European Union, Central and Eastern European countries have attempted gigantic political and legitimate changes to meet EU measures. Nations such as Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, for case, embraced extensive political and lawful changes to comply with EU prerequisites before joining the alliance. For case, changes within the regions of legal autonomy, anti-corruption measures and the security of minorities are at the heart of the EU's conditional

4 European Union. *Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty)*. 1992. Article 2. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A11992M%2FTXT>.

5 European Union. *Treaty of Lisbon Amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty Establishing the European Community*. 2007. Article 6. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12007L%2FTXT>

6 Smith, Karen E. *European Union Foreign Policy in a Changing World*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2014. 45. [https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book\\_slug=european-union-foreign-policy-in-a-changing-world--9780745664694](https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book_slug=european-union-foreign-policy-in-a-changing-world--9780745664694).

approach.<sup>7</sup> These changes were not simply formal alterations, but significant social changes, counting the foundation of legal autonomy, the security of minority rights, and the foundation of a showcase economy. Broad political and lawful changes driven to the move from communist fascism to democracy and a advertise economy. These changes are pointed not as it were at meeting the EU's promotion criteria, but too at building a steady, affluent and fair society. The appropriation of this development arrangement by the Central and Eastern European countries not as it were contributing to the democratization prepare inside these nations, but too improves the territorial solidness and security of the EU. In spite of numerous challenges, the change endeavors of these nations have laid a strong establishment for their financial advancement and equitable solidification, and offer important lessons for democratization forms somewhere else. For case, the EU has been especially compelling in advancing democracy and human rights in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. And, with blended victory, the EU is attempting to advance democracy and human rights in North Africa and the Middle East. Through its participation with the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the Union for the Mediterranean, the EU is effectively locked in in a assortment of activities pointed at supporting law based administration and human rights assurance in these locales. In any case, political insecurity and deep-rooted dictatorship posture a colossal problem.<sup>8</sup> The EU's position on Turkey, for illustration, moreover, appears the profundity of its engagement with law based thoughts and territorial political interface. Since the 1990s, Turkey has been endeavoring to connect the European Union, which is closely related to Turkey's national majority rule change and the progression of human rights.

In the course of Turkey's participation in the negotiations, the EU has given clear instructions to Turkey to implement comprehensive democratic reforms, including improving the rights of the press and minorities, and strengthening the independence of the judiciary. To meet this requirement, Turkey has implemented a number of key internal reforms, including amending its own constitution, promoting and developing democratic institutions, and strengthening human rights protections. Although Turkey has made some breakthroughs in some areas, it

7 Vachudova, Milada Anna. *Europe Undivided: Democracy, Leverage, and Integration After Communism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. 129. <https://archive.org/details/europeundividedd0000vach>

8 Bicchi, Federica. *European Foreign Policy Making Toward the Mediterranean*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006. 54. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3699687>

still faces many difficulties and difficulties in implementation and continuous improvement. Some challenges, such as restrictions on press freedom, questions about the independence of the judiciary, and policies toward minorities, have strained relations between the European Union and Turkey. By expanding its membership and extending its regulatory reach, the EU aims to promote political stability and economic development in Europe and its neighboring regions.<sup>9</sup>

The extension policy of the European Union has greatly influenced its approach to international relations and global governance. Since its inception, the EU has continuously expanded its membership through a series of enlargement policies, each of which has profoundly affected its external engagement. The broadening handle not as it were coordinating the unused part States into the organization system of the EU, but too expands the standards and values of the EU to their prompt neighborhood and past. This regulating impact, dubbed “normative Power Europe” by Conduct (2002), positions the EU as an advocate for advancing majority rule standards and human rights in its outside relations.<sup>10</sup>

Moreover, the EU’s development methodology has reshaped its geopolitical center and vital approach. The accession of new part states assist grows the EU’s contacts with the exterior world and improves its part in territorial and worldwide issues. This procedure of extension has driven the EU to a more self-assured foreign policy, particularly in its eastern and southern fringe. This development has provoked the EU to embrace a more emphatic foreign policy, particularly in its eastern and southern neighborhood, where the EU advances solidness through integration and participation.<sup>11</sup> In expansion, participation between the EU and its neighbors has endured in arrange to expand approaches, through the reinforcing of participation structures and the strengthening of organization assentions. These assentions, based on political discourse, financial participation, and back for law-based changes,

9 Manners, Ian. “Normative Power Europe: A Contradiction in Terms?” *Journal of Common Market Studies* 40, no. 2 (2002): 240. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-5965.00353>

10 Manners, Ian. “Normative Power Europe: A Contradiction in Terms?” *Journal of Common Market Studies* 40, no. 2 (2002): 235. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-5965.00353>

11 Balfour, Rosa, and Corina Stratulat. 2015. *The EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood: Incomplete, but Not Without Purpose*. European Policy Centre, 45-48. [https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue\\_Paper\\_79\\_-\\_EU\\_member\\_states\\_and\\_enlargement\\_towards\\_the\\_Balkans.pdf](https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue_Paper_79_-_EU_member_states_and_enlargement_towards_the_Balkans.pdf)

regularly institutionalize the EU’s part in impacting administration and solidness within the encompassing locale.<sup>12</sup> Since the conclusion of the Cold War, the increased concern for democracy and human rights inside the EU has generally molded the heading of its remote relations and discretionary techniques, particularly its vital development. In promoting democratic change and compliance with human rights norms, the EU has not only strengthened its stability and governance capacity at home, but also made its core values and norms of conduct visible in the region around it.

### 3.4 Agreed Terms of Trade and Cooperation

In its trade dialogue with non-EU countries, the EU has always considered democratic principles and human rights to be one of its core issues. Schimmelfennig and Sedelmeier stressed that the EU intends to promote its core values and norms through trade agreements, and expects partners to ensure that citizens’ fundamental rights are protected when signing such agreements. Examples include freedom of expression and the independence of the judiciary.<sup>13</sup> The EU then prefers to deepen economic and political cooperation with countries that excel in democratic governance and human rights. For example, cooperation between the EU and Norway is based largely on the two countries shared democratic views and human rights safeguards. Such cooperation not only strengthens economic communication between the two countries, but also strengthens their cooperative activities on a global scale.<sup>14</sup> Second, when it comes to democracy and human rights, the EU’s diplomacy tends to adopt a more positive view.

For example, through cooperation agreements with African countries, the EU not only provides financial support, but also actively assists its Allies in improving governance and the rule of law in order to raise standards of democ-

12 Balfour, Rosa, and Corina Stratulat. 2015. *The EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood: Incomplete, but Not Without Purpose*. European Policy Centre, 72-75. [https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue\\_Paper\\_79\\_-\\_EU\\_member\\_states\\_and\\_enlargement\\_towards\\_the\\_Balkans.pdf](https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue_Paper_79_-_EU_member_states_and_enlargement_towards_the_Balkans.pdf)

13 Schimmelfennig, Frank, and Ulrich Sedelmeier. 2005. *The Europeanization of Central and Eastern Europe*. Cornell University Press, 12-15. <https://hdl.handle.net/1814/2860>

14 Balfour, Rosa, and Corina Stratulat. 2015. *The EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood: Incomplete, but Not Without Purpose*. European Policy Centre, 45-48. [https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue\\_Paper\\_79\\_-\\_EU\\_member\\_states\\_and\\_enlargement\\_towards\\_the\\_Balkans.pdf](https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue_Paper_79_-_EU_member_states_and_enlargement_towards_the_Balkans.pdf)



racy and human rights.<sup>15</sup> In addition, with the deepening of European integration and the adjustment of the international political and economic background, the trade agreements formulated by the EU according to the conditional provisions are facing unprecedented pressure and strict challenges.

In view of this, various countries are actively exploring the creation of a modern union of great powers independent of the EC to cope with the changing external political environment.<sup>16</sup>

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni recently visited China with the aim of strengthening bilateral relations and addressing major global issues, including the ongoing war in Ukraine (South China Morning Post 2024).<sup>17</sup> The visit was her first official trip to China since taking office and follows Italy's withdrawal from the Belt and Road Initiative in 2023. Meloni's goal is to restart economic cooperation while managing the geopolitical implications of Italy's withdrawal from the Belt and Road initiative. Through its cooperation agreement with China, Italy not only seeks economic support, but also actively seeks China's help in improving governance and the rule of law in the country in order to raise democratic and human rights standards. However, as EU integration deepens and the international political and economic environment changes, Italy's trade agreements with China are facing unprecedented pressure and rigorous challenges. In light of this, Italy is actively exploring the creation of a modernized coalition of powers, independent of the EU, to respond to the changing external political environment.

In addition, guided by the Cotonou Agreement, the EU has successfully pushed several African countries to upgrade their human rights histories and implement more open and fair political processes. The treaty also shows that the EU's trade and cooperation strategy not only advances the ideals of human rights and democracy in theory, but also has a profound impact in practice. Through the implemen-

15 Balfour, Rosa, and Corina Stratulat. 2015. *The EU's Eastern Neighbourhood: Incomplete, but Not Without Purpose*. European Policy Centre, 72-75. [https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue\\_Paper\\_79\\_-\\_EU\\_member\\_states\\_and\\_enlargement\\_towards\\_the\\_Balkans.pdf](https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue_Paper_79_-_EU_member_states_and_enlargement_towards_the_Balkans.pdf)

16 Schimmelfennig, Frank, and Ulrich Sedelmeier. 2005. *The Europeanization of Central and Eastern Europe*. Cornell University Press, 12-15. <https://hdl.handle.net/1814/2860>

17 South China Morning Post. "Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni Arrives in China for First Official Visit." Last modified July 27, 2024. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3272144/italian-prime-minister-giorgia-meloni-arrives-china-first-official-visit>.

tation of the Cotonou Agreement, the EU has successfully promoted the improvement and upgrading of human rights in some African countries, while also establishing a more transparent and fair political process. Driven by assertions marked between the EU and Ukraine, Georgia and other nations, the agreement indicates the changes required in ranges such as legal autonomy, anti-corruption measures, and ensures of essential flexibilities.

In expansion, exchange understandings marked between the EU and non-EU part States for the most part incorporate arrangements and arrangements related to human rights.

These arrangements not as it were advance great honours, but moreover serve as a effective device for the EU to drive positive alter in its accomplices. For case, the General System of Preferences (GSP+) program gives exchange inclinations to creating nations that execute universal legitimate settlements, counting human rights, labor rights, natural security, and productive administration.<sup>18</sup>

The EU has played an indispensably part in advancing law based changes in its neighborhood through exchange and participation assertions.

These participation understandings have not as it were quickened financial synergies, but also advanced political and lawful changes, subsequently improving territorial solidness and administration quality. The EU's law based point of view and accentuation on human rights in exchange and participation assertions illustrate the values of its discretion. Through these strategies, the EU is encouraging its accomplices to preserve majority rule teach and to esteem the security of human rights. The European Community has not as it were reinforced its interaction with non-European Union nations, but has moreover contributed to the advancement and usage of democracy and human rights at the worldwide level.

### 3.5 Around strategy and sanctions

The EU is locked in in a human rights exchange with a number of nations and employments conciliatory channels to address human rights-related issues. These dialogues, which point to extend shared understanding and advance change, are portion of a more comprehensive EU technique to coordinated human rights into all of its

18 Orbie, Jan, and Lisa Tortell. "The New GSP+ Beneficiaries: Ticking the Box or Truly Consistent with ILO Findings?" *European Foreign Affairs Review* 14, no. 5 (2009): 668. <https://www.routledge.com/The-European-Union-and-the-Social-Dimension-of-Globalization-How-the-Orbie-Tortell/p/book/9780415467884>.

outside approaches.<sup>19</sup> If diplomatic efforts fail, or if the EU observes democratic backsliding, human rights violations or electoral anomalies in certain countries, the EU has the right to impose sanctions and restrictions on those countries that violate human rights or democratic principles. Use coercive measures to help countries re-establish democracy or improve human rights. For example, sanctions against Belarus for election fraud and human rights abuses, as well as sanctions against Russia for its activities in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea. This act is not only a response to specific events, but also constitutes a key link in the EU's efforts to uphold its core values and international image. In some specific cases, the sanctions imposed by the European Union have had a clear effect. For case, financial sanctions against Iran over its atomic program constrained the Iranian government back to the arranging table and inevitably marked the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), illustrating the EU's viability in diplomatic sanctions.<sup>20</sup> Be that as it may, sanctions don't continuously have the required impact, particularly when confronted with dictator administrations with solid inside controls and assets. For illustration, financial sanctions against Russia have restricted its exercises in Ukraine to a few degrees, but they have not profoundly changed its vital approach.<sup>21</sup>

In foreign policy, the EU's regard for human rights and democracy is reflected within the utilize of sanctions as a device. Sanctions are not as it were a means of sanctions, but moreover a vital choice to advance democratic governance and human rights advance. For example, in reaction to Russia's extension of Crimea in 2014 and consequent struggle in eastern Ukraine, the EU forced a range of financial and policy sanctions on Russia. The objective of these measures is to drive Russia to comply with worldwide law and guarantee that Ukraine's sway and regional astuteness are regarded. The European Union has forced sanctions on the Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko for mishandle and restraint of the dem-

19 Smith, Karen E. *European Union Foreign Policy in a Changing World*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2014. [https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book\\_slug=european-union-foreign-policy-in-a-changing-world--9780745664694](https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book_slug=european-union-foreign-policy-in-a-changing-world--9780745664694)

20 Meier, Oliver. "European Union Policy on Iran's Nuclear Programme." *EU Non-Proliferation Consortium*, 2013, 45. <http://www.nonproliferation.eu/eu-policy-on-irans-nuclear-programme>.

21 Gould-Davies, Nigel. "The Logic of Economic Sanctions on Russia." *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy* 60, no. 4 (2018): 124. <https://www.iiss.org/publications/survival>

ocratic process amid his run the show. These sanctions incorporate travel bans and property blockades on people included within the crackdown, as well as confinements on exchange and speculation exercises that may advantage the Government of Belarus. These set up sanctions' arrangements, covering travel bans and resource solidifies, highlight the European Union's assurance to maintain majority rule convictions and human rights standards in its remote dealings.<sup>22</sup>

With the conclusion of the Cold War, the EU started to pay more consideration to the standards of democracy and human rights, which had a checked effect on its foreign policy and interaction with non-EU member states. Through outside discretionary communication, the authorization of sanctions, and support in conditional exchanges and participation assentions, the EU guarantees itself as an specialist for majority rule administration and human rights on the worldwide arrange. This approach fortifies not only the EU's conciliatory exercises, but too its part in advancing worldwide values.

### 3.6 Challenge and Feedback

One of the most challenges confronting the EU is to balance its key interface with its commitment to majority rule standards and human rights. This criticism concerns the EU's selective application of democratic conditions in its external relations, sometimes ignoring human rights violations in strategically important countries or regions. Critics argue that the EU often sacrifices its democratic values for strategic gain, especially when dealing with authoritarian regimes. For example, the EU's engagement with China has been criticized for prioritizing economic interests over human rights, which has undermined its credibility as an advocate of democratic norms.<sup>23</sup> Moreover, the effectiveness of the EU's approach has been called into question. Although the EU has developed ambitious policies aimed at promoting democratic governance in these countries, with some success in promoting democracy and human rights, in some cases the impact of its efforts has been limited and progress has been uneven, and persistent problems of corruption and political instability have prevented substantial consolidation of

22 Schimmelfennig, Frank, and Ulrich Sedelmeier. 2005. *The Europeanization of Central and Eastern Europe*. Cornell University Press, 12-15. <https://hdl.handle.net/1814/2860>

23 Manners, Ian. "Normative Power Europe: A Contradiction in Terms?" *Journal of Common Market Studies* 40, no. 2 (2002): 240. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1468-5965.00353>

democracy.<sup>24</sup> For example, the EU's General System of Preferences (GSP) and its enhanced version, GSP+, offer tariff relief to developing countries in exchange for their compliance with international human rights conventions, but have been criticized for poor monitoring and enforcement. Countries such as Sri Lanka and Cambodia have been accused of renegeing on commitments, but the EU's response has sometimes been slow or not strict enough. Moreover, the EU's insistence on linking trade benefits to human rights and democracy could strain relations with partner countries, which may find such conditions intrusive or paternalistic. This is particularly evident in the EU's relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, which sometimes resist conditionality and accuse it of neocolonialism.<sup>25</sup>

### 3.7 Challenge and criticism

One of the main challenges facing the EU is to balance its strategic interests with its commitment to democratic principles and human rights. This criticism concerns the EU's selective application of democratic conditions in its external relations, sometimes ignoring human rights violations in strategically important countries or regions. Critics argue that the EU often sacrifices its democratic values for strategic gain, especially when dealing with authoritarian regimes. For illustration, the EU's engagement with China has been scrutinized for organizing financial interface over human rights, which has undermined its validity as an advocate of equitable standards.<sup>26</sup> Besides, the adequacy of the EU's approach has been called into address.

Another major separate inside the EU is the need of consistency in its political approach to human rights mishandle. The EU's foreign policy, particularly all choices relating to democracy and human rights, requires unanimity among part states. Part states frequently have diverse interface, which makes it troublesome for the EU to reach consensus on human rights issues. For case, whereas a

24 Balfour, Rosa, and Corina Stratulat. 2015. *The EU's Eastern Neighbourhood: Incomplete, but Not Without Purpose*. European Policy Centre, 45-48, 72-75. [https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue\\_Paper\\_79\\_-\\_EU\\_member\\_states\\_and\\_enlargement\\_towards\\_the\\_Balkans.pdf](https://www.epc.eu/content/PDF/2015/Issue_Paper_79_-_EU_member_states_and_enlargement_towards_the_Balkans.pdf)

25 Smith, Karen E. *European Union Foreign Policy in a Changing World*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2014. <https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9780745670428>.

26 Manners, Ian. "Normative Power Europe: A Contradiction in Terms?" *Journal of Common Market Studies* 40, no. 2 (2002): 235-258. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1468-5965.00353>

few Part States advance a solid and vigorous human rights procedure, others may prioritize financial or security contemplations, which may debilitate or compromise approach usage. Such irregularities seem weaken the EU's capacity to produce a bound together vision and forcefully advance its center values on a worldwide scale. Disunity within the EU has diminished its impact and viability in progressing human rights around the world. This view is corroborated by the EU's diplomatic dealings with Russia, Turkey and other countries.<sup>27</sup> The core of this issue is how to find a reasonable balance between promoting fair democratic norms and protecting strategic interests. The EU often faces many challenges in promoting democracy, as is evident from its bilateral relationship with China, and must comprehensively assess and adapt its strategy to better cope with these ongoing changes. While China is the EU's main business partner, its record on human rights and its political system differ markedly from the EU's core values. Faced with this situation, the EU needs to find a delicate and balanced relationship between economic interests and the promotion of values.<sup>28</sup>

Furthermore, the EU is critical of the dependence of sanctions as a tool, given their ineffectiveness and possible unintended effects in promoting human rights and democratic order. Some commentators have pointed out that sanctions will likely worsen the humanitarian crisis and undermine the EU's public credibility as a global responsible player in efforts to resolve disputes peacefully.<sup>29</sup> The imposition of sanctions often fails to achieve its intended purpose, that is, they often fail to induce a shift in the approach to human rights or the democratization process in the sanctioned State. Many countries subject to sanctions have the ability to find strategies to circumvent sanctions or choose to withstand economic pressure without adjusting their policies. Especially in the face of internal power and well-resourced power government, its prediction effect is not always the best.

As an example, although the sanctions against Russia have limited its activities in Ukraine to some extent, they

27 Schimmelfennig, Frank, and Ulrich Sedelmeier. 2005. *The Europeanization of Central and Eastern Europe*. Cornell University Press, 12-15. <https://hdl.handle.net/1814/2860>

28 Kundnani, Hans. "The EU as a Global Actor: Its Evolving Role in International Relations." *Foreign Affairs* 90, no. 4 (2011): 27-38. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/2011-07-01/eu-global-actor>

29 Manners, Ian. "Normative Power Europe: A Contradiction in Terms?" *Journal of Common Market Studies* 40, no. 2 (2002): 235-258. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-5965.00353>

have not completely revised the direction of their decision-making.<sup>30</sup> In addition, economic sanctions may bring about a series of unforeseen negative effects.

For example, the inconvenience of sanctions may force extreme financial weight on conventional individuals of society, not fair on the government and a specific person. At the same time, these sanctions may further kindle national estimation and boost back inside their governments, instead of effectively advance change. In spite of its numerous reactions and challenges, the EU proceeds and advance equitable standards and the assurance of human rights in worldwide administration. Engagement with non-EU nations is continuously a complex adjusting act that must strike a adjust between advancing law-based thoughts and ensuring territorial political interface. Since the Cold War period, the EU's proceeded center on the standards of democracy and human rights has constantly affected its foreign policy and relations with non-EU nations. To address these suggestions, the European Union needs to resolve its inside debate, fortify approach coherence, and follow to its core values in its outside engagement. As it were by overcoming such complex challenges and challenges can the EU genuinely ended up more grounded in a competitive environment among extraordinary powers.

### 3.8 A theoretical viewpoint

Understanding the concept of a Europe of Regulating Strengths (NPE) is crucial for grasping the EU's external actions, particularly its role in shaping global standards and values beyond mere military or economic power. While the EU promotes democratic principles and human rights, its normative influence often intertwines with pragmatic considerations in foreign policy. Critics argue that practical interests frequently overshadow the pursuit of normative commitments, suggesting that EU foreign policy is driven more by strategic imperatives than by idealistic principles. Realist specialists unequivocally contend that the EU's approach is based essentially on strategic considerations, such as financial benefits and regional political soundness, instead of on a guarantee to advance democracy and human rights.

This criticism highlights the high tension between ideal-

ism and positivism in EU foreign policy.<sup>31</sup> For example, we can combine a "Europe of normative forces" perspective with real-life insights to gain a deeper understanding of the interrelationship between the EU and Turkey. The European Union calls on Turkey to make important democratic changes during the accession process to bring it more in line with EU principles and values. However, Turkey has been slow and inconsistent in meeting these criteria, leading to doubts in the EU about Turkey's readiness to join the bloc.

Despite such concerns, the European Union has continued to engage with Turkey because of its strategic importance, in particular its role in dealing with migration flows and security challenges in the Middle East. Although Turkey's record on human rights and democracy remains to be improved, its EU candidacy has long been subject to some debate. However, the EU's local political and economic position in dealing with these issues gives it considerable flexibility on these issues.<sup>32</sup>

A similar pattern is evident in my relationship with China. Although the EU often questions China's human rights situation in public, in reality, the EU's economic engagement with China is actually very close. Realists argue that this means that the EU's foreign policy is still driven by practical interests, rather than by the power of rules alone.<sup>33</sup> This set of examples reveals that while the theory of a "Europe of normative forces" can explain the EU's foreign strategy to some extent, a pragmatic perspective is equally important, demonstrating the complex balance that the EU faces in defending its core values and pursuing its practical interests.<sup>34</sup> While the idea of a "Europe

31 Hyde-Price, Adrian. *European Security in the Twenty-First Century: The Challenge of Multipolarity*. London: Routledge, 2006. <https://www.routledge.com/European-Security-in-the-Twenty-First-Century-The-Challenge-of-Multipolarity/Hyde-Price/p/book/9780415417673>.

32 Tocci, Nathalie. "The EU and Conflict Resolution: Promoting Peace in the Backyard." *Routledge Studies in European Foreign Policy*. Routledge, 2011, 55-77. <https://www.routledge.com/The-EU-and-Conflict-Resolution-Promoting-Peace-in-the-Backyard/Tocci/p/book/9780415588485>

33 Christiansen, Thomas. "The European Union after the Lisbon Treaty: An Elusive 'Normative Power'?" *International Affairs* 92, no. 2 (2016): 359-376. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1468-2346.12118>

34 Youngs, Richard. "Normative Dynamics and Strategic Interests in the EU's External Identity." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 42, no. 1 (2004): 415-435. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.0021-9886.2004.00519.x>

30 Gould-Davies, Nigel. "The Logic of Economic Sanctions on Russia." *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy* 60, no. 4 (2018): 124. <https://www.iiss.org/publications/survival>



of normative forces” gives us insight into the EU’s vision and impact in the global landscape, integrating a realist perspective is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of how the EU should face its foreign policy challenges.

### 3.9 A vision for the future

From one perspective, the EU seems to want to embed itself more deeply into the ideals of democracy and human rights, which are also enshrined in its commercial and cooperation agreements with non-EU countries. These treaties are not only used for economic purposes, but also as a means to promote governance innovation and uphold human rights.<sup>35</sup> The EU’s future direction will also be to increase its support for civil society groups and human rights defenders around the world. The aim of this approach is to promote the idea of democracy in the region and to strengthen the resistance of societies against authoritarianism and human rights violations.<sup>36</sup> There is an opportunity for the EU to become more active in promoting democratic governance and human rights through multilateral platforms and global organizations. Under its diplomatic influence and institutional structure, the EU is working to develop and shape global guiding standards and norms aimed at protecting democracy and human rights.<sup>37</sup> Taken together, since the end of the Cold War, the EU’s strong commitment to democracy and human rights has shaped not only its internal cohesion, but also its international engagement. Looking ahead, the EU will continue to play a key role in promoting these core values around the world to help shape a more democratic and rights-based international environment. On the other hand, in the face of the impact of the promotion of democracy and human rights in the external environment, the EU must address its internal problems. Ensuring strict adherence to these principles by all Member States is essential to maintaining credibility and consistency in external action. The recent growth of countries such as Hungary and

35 Drieskens, E. 2016. “EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area: Legal and Trade Policy Aspects.” Springer, 34. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/eu-ukraine-deep-and-comprehensive-free-trade-area>

36 Smith, Karen E. *European Union Foreign Policy in a Changing World*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2014. <https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9780745670428>.

37 Jones, M. 2018. “EU Diplomacy in Multilateral Forums: Advocating for Human Rights.” *European Foreign Affairs Review* 23(3): 205-220. <https://kluwerlawonline.com/journalarticle/European+Foreign+Affairs+Review/23.3/EERR2018023>

Poland make it clear that more robust strategies and institutions are needed to maintain democratic norms within the EU.<sup>38</sup> At the same time, the EU can increase its role by building stronger partnerships with like-minded countries and international organizations. By working with the UN, the Council of Europe, and other regional groups, the EU’s proposals could be even more effective. In addition, close cooperation with civil society organizations and strong support for civil society action can contribute to a more sustainable process of democratic transition.<sup>39</sup>

In the future, the EU must make strategic changes in several key areas to further enhance the impact of its globalization to promote democracy and human rights.

Above all, the EU needs to strengthen its internal functioning to ensure that all member states strictly adhere to democratic and human rights norms, while ensuring that external policies are not adversely affected by internal conflicts or their credibility. Next, the EU needs to increase its assistance to emerging democracies, including economic support, technical assistance, and political collaboration, to help them strengthen their democratic governance and rule of law institutions. Third, the EU should use multilateral cooperation mechanisms to build close exchanges with other leading international bodies and countries to jointly face global democracy and human rights issues.<sup>40</sup>

### 3.10 Conclusion

Since the end of the Cold War, the EU’s core emphasis on democracy and human rights has had a profound impact in its foreign relations and interactions with non-EU countries. The EU is actively promoting these core values

38 Kelemen, R. Daniel. “Europe’s Other Democratic Deficit: National Authoritarianism in Europe’s Democratic Union.” *Government and Opposition* 52, no. 2 (2017): 211-238. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/government-and-opposition/article/abs/europes-other-democratic-deficit-national-authoritarianism-in-europes-democratic-union/984B59EDBC8F41D2BD4F59B3D8E4259B>.

39 Börzel, Tanja A., and Thomas Risse. «The Transformative Power of Europe: The European Union and the Diffusion of Ideas.» *KFG Working Paper Series* 1, no. 1 (2009): 1-28. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228653867\\_Characterisation\\_of\\_non\\_human\\_origin\\_probiotic\\_Lactobacillus\\_plantarum\\_with\\_cholesterol-lowering\\_property](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228653867_Characterisation_of_non_human_origin_probiotic_Lactobacillus_plantarum_with_cholesterol-lowering_property)

40 Youngs, Richard. “The Uncertain Legacy of Crisis: European Foreign Policy Faces the Future.” *Carnegie Europe*, 2014, 35. <https://carnegieeurope.eu/2014/09/04/uncertain-legacy-of-crisis-european-foreign-policy-faces-future-pub-56509>.

on the planet by strengthening policy promotion, commercial cooperation agreements, diplomatic engagement, and sanctions. Using political and diplomatic tactics, the EU continues its efforts to promote and uphold democratic ideals and human rights. The EU unequivocally prescribes the utilize of universal arrangements, conciliatory weight and exchange to energize States to improve their human rights and democratic frameworks. Such proactive engagement not as it were makes a difference the EU to extend a positive public picture on the worldwide organize, but moreover illustrates its assurance and reach to illustrate authority and authority in managing with universal occasions. All things considered, finding a adjust between the pursuit of key interface and the advancement of human rights, and guaranteeing an proficient and reliable approach, remains an continuous challenge. As the EU proceeds to explore the complexities of the worldwide environment, its commitment to center values will play a crucial role within the EU's future worldwide policymaking. In spite of the fact that the EU has advanced democracy and human rights in numerous ways in its foreign policy, its efforts have had a significant affect all inclusive, indeed within the confront of troubles and criticism.

Since the conclusion of the Cold War, the EU has made surprising advance in making democracy and human rights central components of its outside relations. This technique is as of now reflected within the EU's enlargement policy. This arrangement requires all nations joining the EU to follow entirely to the guidelines of democracy and human rights. For case, the Copenhagen Criteria require candidate nations to illustrate steady educate that ensure democracy, the run the show of law, human rights, and regard and secure the rights of minorities. This unfor-giving environment not as it were encouraged the move of Central and Eastern European countries to equitable teach, but also assist fortified these center values inside the EU's extending borders. In expansion, the EU frequently has arrangements in its bargains and participation understandings that combine financial benefits with regard for human rights and majority rule beliefs. For illustration, the General System of Preferences (GSP) gives a extend of advantaged get to to the EU advertise for creating nations committed to actualizing universal settlements on human rights, Laboure rights and great administration. The aim of this approach is to energize positive changes in administration and human rights. But the real impact of these arrangements may not continuously be steady, and their application may cause pressures with cooperating nations that see them as encroaching on protection rights or carrying on like guardians.

Within thefield of foreign policy, the EU is applying its potential impact to progress human rights and majority

rule administration. It plays a part in political discourse, accommodating strife circumstances and effectively supporting gracious society organizations in third nations. A few promotion initiatives, such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), give the essential budgetary assets and back to nearby teach working to advance human rights and law based standards. Through these endeavors, the EU points to make favorable conditions for law-based advance and the assurance of human rights.

Sanctions play another key part within the EU's foreign-policy Arsenal. When a country truly abuses human rights or undermines democratic development, the EU can force financial sanctions to drive the government to recast its arrangements. Sanctions against financial movement incorporate travel bans, resource solidifies, and limitations on financial movement. Be that as it may, the legality of the sanctions did become a subject of much wrangle about. Pundits contend that sanctions can do more hurt to ordinary individuals than to particular administrations. In addition, sanctions authorization procedures can shift, reflecting geopolitical objectives more than for the most part acknowledged ethics. In spite of our awesome endeavors, the EU's diplomatic technique has encountered awesome troubles and challenges. Attempting to strike a adjust between procedures such as majority rule thoughts, human rights, financial interface and security concerns seem raise suspicions that the EU's approach is conflicting and might be seen as duplicative. Within the case of Belarus, the EU's firm position on human rights stands in stark differentiate to its more measured position towards nations such as Saudi Arabia, where the key interface of states often take priority over those of others.

In expansion, accomplishing policy consensus over the EU is additionally a challenge. When nations have diverse interface and sees, approaches can show up incoherent and ununified, which in turn seem debilitate the EU's by and large part. The inner inconsistencies experienced by part States in how to construct and oversee relations with major powers such as China and Russia uncover numerous problems since of the major challenges confronted by part States in weighing their financial interface against the EU's commitment to common standards. Going forward, the EU must proceed to explore these complexities, reaffirming its commitment to majority rule principles and human rights, whereas remaining adaptable and versatile to a changing worldwide scene. This includes not as it were putting weight on tyrannies and human rights abusers, but too locks in helpfully with developing powers and advancing multilateral participation to address worldwide challenges. After the conclusion of the Cold War, the EU paid extraordinary consideration to the advancement of

democracy and human rights, which had a significant affect on its outside relations procedure and interaction with non-EU nations.

This procedure has in fact improved the European Union's notoriety around the world and infused force into worldwide political and social advance, but it has moreover experienced nonstop problems and feedback. In creating its technique, the EU ought to endeavor to guarantee that its principal values and down to earth considering coexist concordantly in a changing universal circumstance, and that its discretion is successful and strong. In conclusion, since the conclusion of the Cold War, the EU has received an assortment of arrangements and teach to advance democracy and human rights around the world.

Not as it were does it upgrade the EU's universal notoriety, but it moreover contains a long-term affect on political and social advance around the world. Be that as it may, the EU still faces many challenges and limitations within the prepare of implementing this technique, and it is fundamental to continuously alter and optimize the strategy in order to accomplish its long-term strategic goals more effectively. For end of, the EU ought to stay committed to its central thoughts, whereas adaptably reacting to changes in the worldwide political scene in order to ensure the common sense and durability of its foreign policy.

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