**Chapter 12 Notes**

**Section 1**

Most of the region’s people live on coastal plains and in fertile river valleys. It is here that most farming (agriculture) in Southern Europe takes place. Nearby seas provide for profitable fishing industries.

Southern Europe is known for its Mediterranean climate, which features warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

The region’s climate and resources support such industries as agriculture, fishing, and tourism.

From west to east, Southern Europe’s peninsulas are the Iberian Peninsula, the Italian Peninsula, and the Balkan Peninsula.

The **Alps**—Europe’s highest mountains—are in the north of Mediterranean Europe.

**Section 2**

Greeks created democracy, which inspired the government embraced by most people around the world today.

In the early 1800s, Greeks rose up against and overthrew the Turks. After the rebellion, Greece became a monarchy.

A military dictatorship ruled from 1967 to 1974. Since 1974, a democracy has once again governed the country.

Nearly everyone in Greece belongs to the **Orthodox Church**, **a branch of Christianity that dates to the** **Byzantine Empire.**

The church and family have been central elements of Greek culture.

Greece’s economy still lags behind some other European nations. This lag is largely caused by a lack of resources.

Greece has one of the largest shipping fleets in the world.

Greece’s GDP—the value of all its goods and services—has risen steadily in recent years because of tourism.

**Section 3**

**The Renaissance** - Many merchants became rich from trade. The money they made was used to sponsor artists and architects.

During the Renaissance artists and writers—many of them Italian—created some of the world’s greatest works of art and literature.

A rise in nationalism, or strong patriotic feelings for a country, led people across Italy to fight for unification.

Under Benito Mussolini, Italy became a dictatorship. Mussolini joined Hitler to fight other countries of Europe in World War II. In 1945 Italy was defeated.

The **pope, the head** **of the Roman Catholic Church,** lives in Vatican City, an independent state located within the city of Rome.

Southern Italy is the country’s poorer half because its economy has less industry.

Italy’s government has tried to promote industry in the south. It has offered **incentives**, such as lower taxes, to private companies that will build factories in Southern Italy.

Northern Italy includes the country’s most fertile farmlands in the Po River Valley

Railroads, highways, and tunnels make the shipment of goods through the Alps easy.

Millions of tourists visit the cities of northern Italy every year. They are drawn by the cities’ rich histories and culture.

Tourists are lured to Venice by the romantic canals that serve as roads through the city.

**Section 4**

Many elements of Iberia’s art and architecture reflect its Muslim past.

Most people in both Spain and Portugal are Roman Catholic.

The Basque (BASK) people of the Pyrenees have their own language, which is not related to either Spanish or Portuguese.

The Spanish are known for a style of song and dance called flamenco.

Spain and Portugal are still poorer than other countries in Western Europe, but the economies are growing rapidly.

Spain today is **a parliamentary monarchy, which means** **that the king rules with the help of an** **elected parliament.**

Farmers in Portugal grow many crops but they are most famous for grapes and cork.

Portugal is a republic with elected leaders.