**Chapter 13 Notes**

**Section 1**

The Northern European Plain provides the region’s best farmland.

The Central Uplands have many productive coalfields.

Several of West-Central Europe’s rivers are navigable. **A navigable river is one that** **is deep and wide enough for ships to use.**

The marine west coast climate, in most of West-Central Europe, is a valuable natural resource. Mild temperatures, plenty of rain, and rich soil have made the region’s farmlands highly productive.

**Section 2**

The Franks conquered much of Gaul after the Roman Empire.

The Franks’ greatest ruler was Charlemagne.

Shortly after the French Revolution a brilliant general named Napoleon took power.

France has a strong economy. It is the EU’s top agricultural producer, and its major crops include wheat and grapes.

Gothic style architecture has high pointed ceilings, stained-glass windows, and tall towers that reach heavenward. Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris is an example.

Paris has famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral.

Bastille Day, held on July 14, celebrates the event that began the French Revolution.

**The** Benelux Countries are densely populated.

The Dutch build dikes to create polders.

The city of Rotterdam is one of the world’s busiest seaports. It is also part of a highly industrial and urban, or city-based, area.

In World War II, Germany invaded and occupied the Benelux Countries. After the war, they joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for protection.

**Cosmopolitan means characterized by** **many foreign influences.**

Brussels, serves as the headquarters for many international organizations, including the EU and NATO.

Belgium and Luxembourg are centers of international business and government.

**Section 3**

1871- Prussia, the strongest state, united the small states of Germany into one nation.

Germany developed into an industrial and military world power.

1945-Germany lost World War II, and it was in ruins.

In 1961 Communist leaders built the Berlin Wall. The Wall’s  **purpose** was to prevent East Germans from fleeing to West Berlin.

In 1989 Communist governments began collapsing and East Germans tore down the Berlin Wall.

In 1990 East and West Germany reunited.

Germans are known as hardworking and efficient people.

The German economy is based on industry.

Significant numbers of immigrants have come to Germany and France to live and work. Their influence is making these cultures more diverse.

Austria – once the center of one of the most powerful empires in Europe, the Habsburg Empire

The city of **Vienna**is Austria’s capital and largest city. It was once the center of Habsburg rule and today tourists visit historic palaces.

Switzerland’s location in the Alps has helped it remain **neutral** for centuries. To stay neutral, Switzerland has not joined the EU or NATO.

Service industries, such as banking, are important and employ more than half of Austria’s workforce.

Switzerland gets people for its army by requiring all male citizens to serve for a period of time.