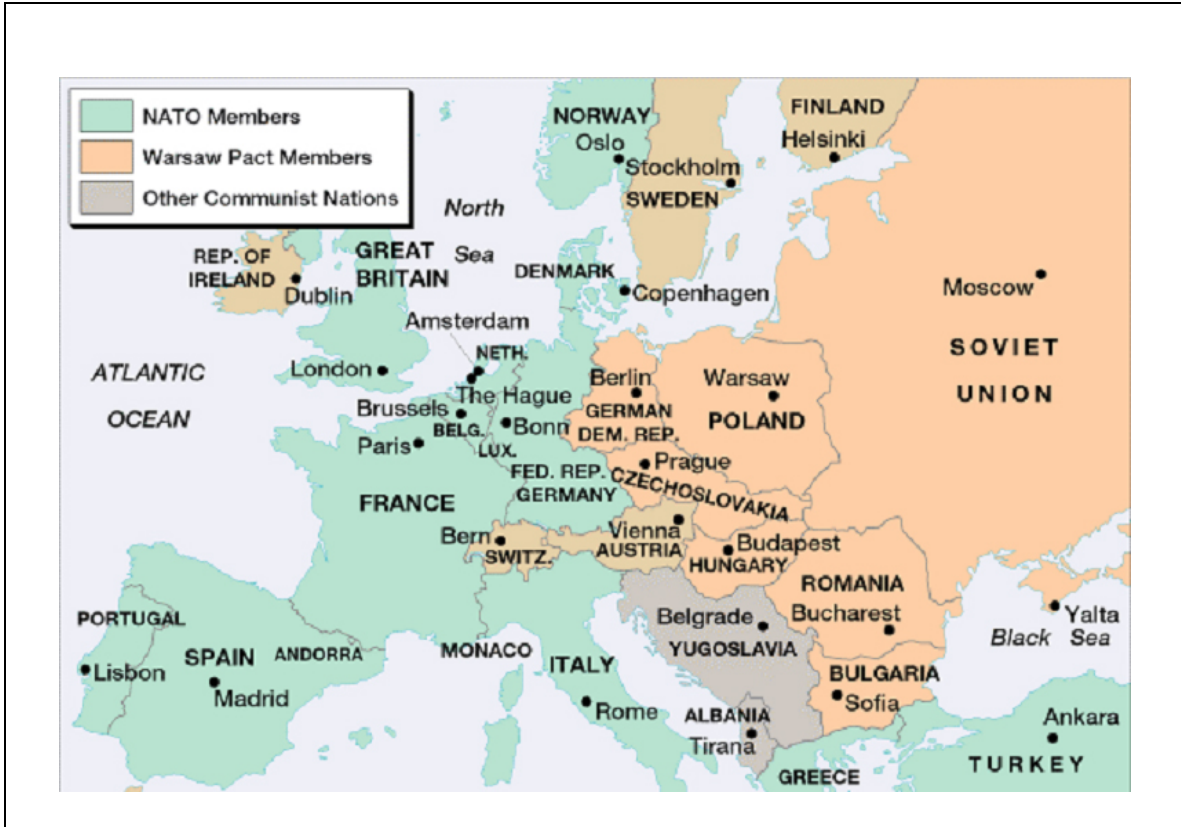


Benchmark: G4a



Brief Constructed Response Prompt:

How did the regional boundaries that once differentiated Western Europe and Eastern Europe change after the fall of communism? Please give details and/or examples to support your answer.

Desired Response(s): Answers may vary; one possible response...

The regional boundaries that differentiated Western Europe from Eastern Europe during the Cold War were largely drawn based on political philosophy and affiliation. Western European countries were primarily democratic and allied with the United States while countries in Eastern Europe mostly fell within the Soviet Union's sphere of influence. Today most people regionalize Europe based on economic ties, as the European Union becomes a strong influence on European life.