

Module 1B: From Conflict to Close Partnership: The European Union [Worksheet]

Worksheet 1: Text Analysis

The following text is an excerpt from the Schuman Declaration – 9 May 1950

... The contribution which an organized and living Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable (不可或缺) to the maintenance of peaceful relations...

Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete (具體、實在) achievements which first create a de facto (事實上) solidarity(團結). The coming together of the nations of Europe requires the elimination (消除) of the age-old opposition of France and Germany. Any action taken must in the first place concern these two countries.

It proposes that Franco-German production of coal (煤) and steel (鋼) as a whole be placed under a common High Authority, within the framework (框架) of an organization open to the participation of the other countries of Europe. The pooling (聯合經營) of coal and steel production... will change the destinies (命運) of those regions which have long been devoted to the manufacture of munitions (軍火) of war, of which they have been the most constant (恆常) victims.

The solidarity in production thus established will make it plain that any war between France and Germany becomes not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible...

The production will be offered... with the aim of contributing to raising living standards and to promoting peaceful achievements.

Q1. What was Schuman's suggestion to make war between France and Germany become materially impossible?

Q2. Why did the author think that "Europe will not be made all at once"?

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For teachers

Worksheet 2: Text analysis

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The production will be offered... with the aim of contributing to raising living standards and to promoting peaceful achievements.

Q1. What was Schuman's suggestion to make war between France and Germany become materially impossible?

Coal and steel were important war resources. Schuman proposed that Germany and France should no longer run their own coal and steel industries. He proposed to set up an organization in which representatives from France and Germany (and other participating countries) would discuss and decide things together. No country would be allowed to produce armaments on its own.

Q2. Why did the author think that "Europe will not be made all at once"?

Comment [WU3]

Comment [WU1]: An organized and living Europe: Schuman urged European countries to work together as a whole. He spoke not only for France, but for the whole continent.

Comment [WU2]: Peace is the foundation for civilization (& basis of any development). The maintenance of peaceful relations was therefore essential for the post-war reconstruction in Europe.

Comment [WU3]: WWII had ended just five years ago. Trust between former rivalries was not yet fully rebuilt. The only way to unite Europe was to be pragmatic and realistic.

Comment [WU4]: The first step had to be concrete (and binding in some sense), as experience had taught Europe a painful lesson that diplomacy alone won't work, e.g. the failure of the League of Nations.

Comment [WU5]: Reestablishing Franco-German relation was the first and foremost issue. Hostility between the two nations had caused much trouble to Europe, e.g. Franco-Prussian War, WWI and WWII.

Comment [WU6]: Coal and steel were important war resources. Coal provided energy for factories and railways (mobilization) while steel was used to produce armaments (guns, tanks).

Comment [WU7]: Pooling means shared ownership. France and German (and other participating countries as well) would no longer run their own coal and steel industries. All matters had to be discussed and decided by the future members of the ECSC. That way, no individual country could produce armaments on its own.

Comment [WU8]: Coal and steel previously reserved for producing destructive weapons could then be spared for other constructive uses, e.g. infrastructure.