

The Role of Pro-European Groups in the French, Belgian, and British Empires: 1947-1957

The period after World War II saw a significant increase in support for European integration. This was due in part to the devastation caused by the war, which led many people to believe that closer cooperation between European countries was necessary to prevent future conflicts. In addition, the Cold War created a sense of urgency, as the United States and the Soviet Union competed for influence in Europe.



Europe between Imperial Decline and Quest for Integration: Pro-European Groups and the French, Belgian and British Empires (1947-1957) (Euroclio Book 97) by Georges Riat

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Pro-European groups played a significant role in shaping the political and economic landscape of Europe in the aftermath of World War II. These groups worked to promote European integration through a variety of

means, including lobbying governments, organizing conferences, and publishing propaganda.

France

In France, the pro-European movement was led by a group of intellectuals and politicians known as the "Europeanists." The Europeanists believed that France's future lay in a united Europe. They argued that European integration would allow France to overcome its economic problems and regain its status as a great power.

One of the most influential Europeanist groups was the French Movement for a United Europe (MFUE). The MFUE was founded in 1948 by a group of French politicians and intellectuals, including Robert Schuman, Jean Monnet, and Paul-Henri Spaak. The MFUE played a key role in the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951. The ECSC was the first supranational organization in Europe, and it laid the foundation for the European Union.

Belgium

In Belgium, the pro-European movement was led by a group of politicians and businessmen known as the "European Unionists." The European Unionists believed that Belgium's future lay in a united Europe. They argued that European integration would allow Belgium to overcome its economic problems and maintain its independence.

One of the most influential European Unionist groups was the Belgian European Union Association (BEUA). The BEUA was founded in 1949 by a group of Belgian politicians and businessmen, including Paul-Henri Spaak, Fernand Dehousse, and Gaston Eyskens. The BEUA played a key role in

the creation of the Benelux Economic Union in 1958. The Benelux Economic Union was a customs union between Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

Britain

In Britain, the pro-European movement was less strong than in France and Belgium. This was due in part to Britain's traditional isolationism. However, there were a number of pro-European groups in Britain, including the European Movement and the Federal Union.

The European Movement was founded in 1948 by a group of British politicians and intellectuals, including Winston Churchill, Clement Attlee, and Harold Macmillan. The European Movement played a key role in the creation of the Council of Europe in 1949. The Council of Europe was an intergovernmental organization that promoted cooperation between European countries.

The Federal Union was founded in 1938 by a group of British federalists. The Federal Union advocated for a federal Europe. It believed that a federal Europe would be more democratic and prosperous than a Europe of nation-states.

The pro-European groups played a significant role in the creation of the European Union. They helped to promote the idea of European integration and to build support for the European project. Without the work of these groups, the European Union would not exist today.

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