World Industrial Regions

• North America
  – Industrialized areas in North America
  – Changing distribution of U.S. manufacturing

• Europe
  – Western Europe
  – Eastern Europe

• East Asia
Fig. 11-3: The world’s major manufacturing regions are found in North America, Europe, and East Asia. Other manufacturing centers are also found elsewhere.
North America

- Manufacturing in North America is concentrated in the northeastern USA and in SE Canada.
- Only 5% of the land area of these countries.., contains 1/3 of the population and nearly 2/3 of the manufacturing output.
- This manufacturing belt has achieved its dominance through a combination of historical and environmental factors.
- Early. .. settlement gave eastern cities an advantage. .. to become the country’s dominant industrial center.
- The Northeast also had essential raw materials. .. and good transportation.
- The Great Lakes and major rivers. .. were supplemented in the 1 800s by canals, railways, and highways.
The major industrial regions of North America are clustered in the northeast U.S. and southeastern Canada, although there are other important centers.
Fig. 11-5: The value and growth of manufacturing in major metropolitan areas in the U.S. between 1972 and 1997.
Europe and Manufacturing

- The Western European industrial region appears as 1 region on a world map.
- In reality, 4 distinct districts have emerged, primarily because European countries competed with one another to develop their own industrial areas.
- Eastern Europe has 6 major industrial regions.
- 4 are entirely in Russia, 1 is in Ukraine, and 1 is southern Poland and northern Czech Republic.
Manufacturing Centers in Western Europe

Fig. 11-6: The major manufacturing centers in Western Europe extend in a north-south band from Britain to Italy.
Europe’s most important industrial area is the Rhine—Ruhr Valley... in northwestern Germany, Belgium, France, and the Netherlands.

Within the region, industry is dispersed rather than concentrated in 1 or 2 cities.

No individual city has more than 1 million inhabitants.

The Rhine divides into multiple branches as it passes through the Netherlands.

The city of Rotterdam is near to where several major branches flow into the North Sea.

This location at the mouth of Europe’s most important river has made Rotterdam the world’s largest port.

Iron and steel manufacturing has concentrated in the Rhine—Ruhr Valley because of proximity to large coalfields.

Access to iron and steel production stimulated the location of other heavy-metal industries, such as locomotives, machinery, and armaments.
Mid-Rhine

- The 2nd most important industrial area in W Europe includes SW Germany, NE France, and the small country of Luxembourg.
- In contrast to the Rhine—Ruhr Valley, the German portion of the Mid-Rhine region lacks abundant raw materials, but it is at the center of Europe’s most important consumer market.
- The French portion of the Mid-Rhine region—Alsace and Lorraine—contains Europe’s largest iron-ore field and is the production center for 2/3 of France’s steel.
- Tiny Luxembourg is also 1 of the world’s leading steel producers, because the Lorraine iron-ore field extends into the southern part of the country.
United Kingdom

- The Industrial Revolution originated in the Midlands and N England and S Scotland, in part because those areas contained a remarkable concentration of innovative engineers and mechanics during the late 18th century.
- The UK lost its international industrial leadership in the 20th century.
- Britain was saddled with outmoded and deteriorating factories and their “misfortune” of winning World War II.
- The losers, Germany and Japan, received American financial assistance to build modern factories, replacing those destroyed during the war.
- The UK expanded industrial production in the late 20th century by attracting new high-tech industries that serve the European market.
- Japanese companies have built more factories in the UK than has any other European country.
- Today British industries are more likely to locate in southeastern England near the country’s largest concentrations of population and wealth and the Channel Tunnel.
Northern Italy

• A 4th European industrial region of some importance lies in the Po River Basin of northern Italy.
• Modern industrial development in the Po Basin began with establishment of textile manufacturing during the nineteenth century because of 2 key assets: numerous workers and inexpensive hydroelectricity.
Manufacturing Centers in Eastern Europe and Russia

Fig. 11-7: Major manufacturing centers are clustered in European Russia and the Ukraine. Other centers were developed east of the Urals.
Fig. 11-8: Many industries in China are clustered in three centers near the east coast. In Japan, production is clustered along the southeast coast.