

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: AN OVERVIEW

compiled for the seminar
"History of European Integration," Summer 2009

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Overview

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Abstract:

The EU is not the only institution bringing about European integration. It is the preliminary result of a long process, and is embedded into a web of other structures.

This presentation shall provide a brief overview of such structures and of the historical development of the European Union.

Contents:

1. Framework
2. Accession & Integration
3. Institutions

1. Framework

There are many supranational structures working together to create what can be politically understood as „Europe“ today.

1. Framework

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- Interlocking Institutions

- Historical Developments almost never based upon singular occurrences
- usually, several events, people, institutions contribute to a paradigm shift
 - E.g. Roman Revolution, Fall of Rome, End of the Middle Ages, American Revolution, American Civil War

- it is the multiplicity of institutions and initiatives which has created the European framework as it is today

- several non-EC/EU institutions have helped aid European integration, and create a “wider net” than just the EU proper

1. Framework

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- Paneuropean Union (1923), Count Coudenhove-Kalergy
- Council of Europe (1949)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe / OSCE (1973 as CSCE)
- European Cooperation Administration / ECA
European Recovery Program / ERP (“Marshall Plan”; 1948)



source: Wikimedia Commons

1. Framework

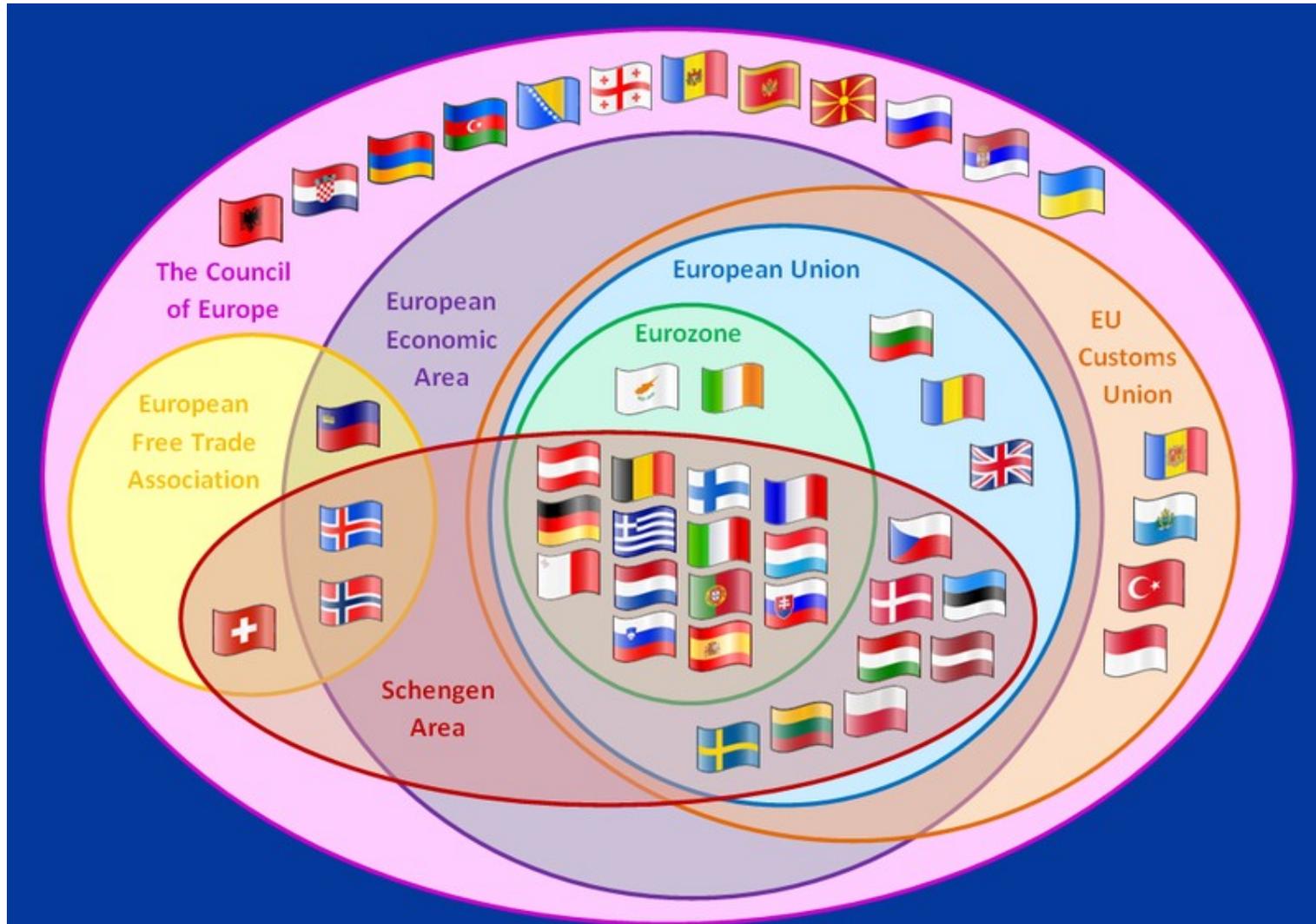
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- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO; 1949)
- Western European Union (WEU; 1948)
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA; 1960)
- European Economic Area (1994)
- European Union Association Agreements



1. Framework

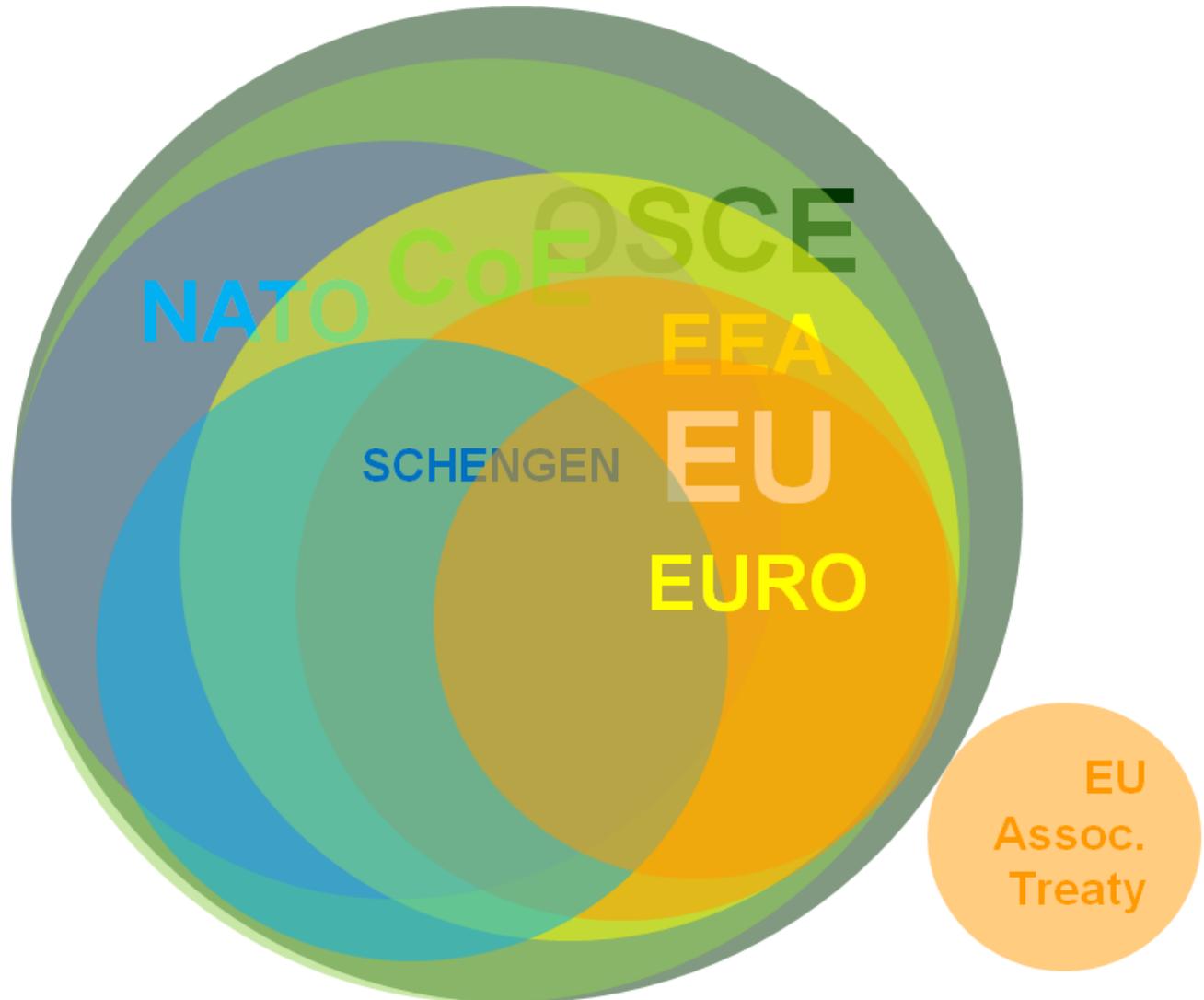
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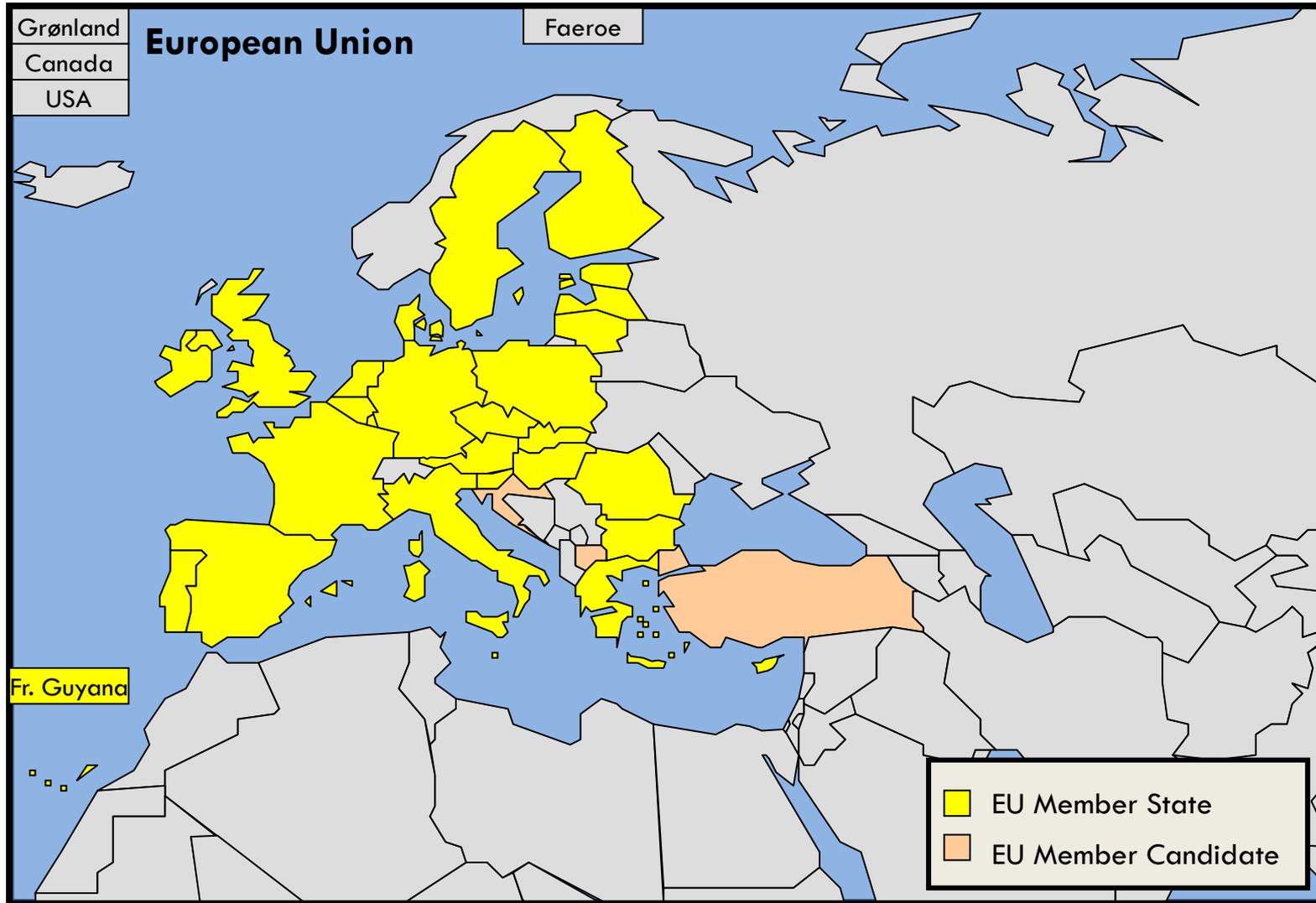
1. Framework

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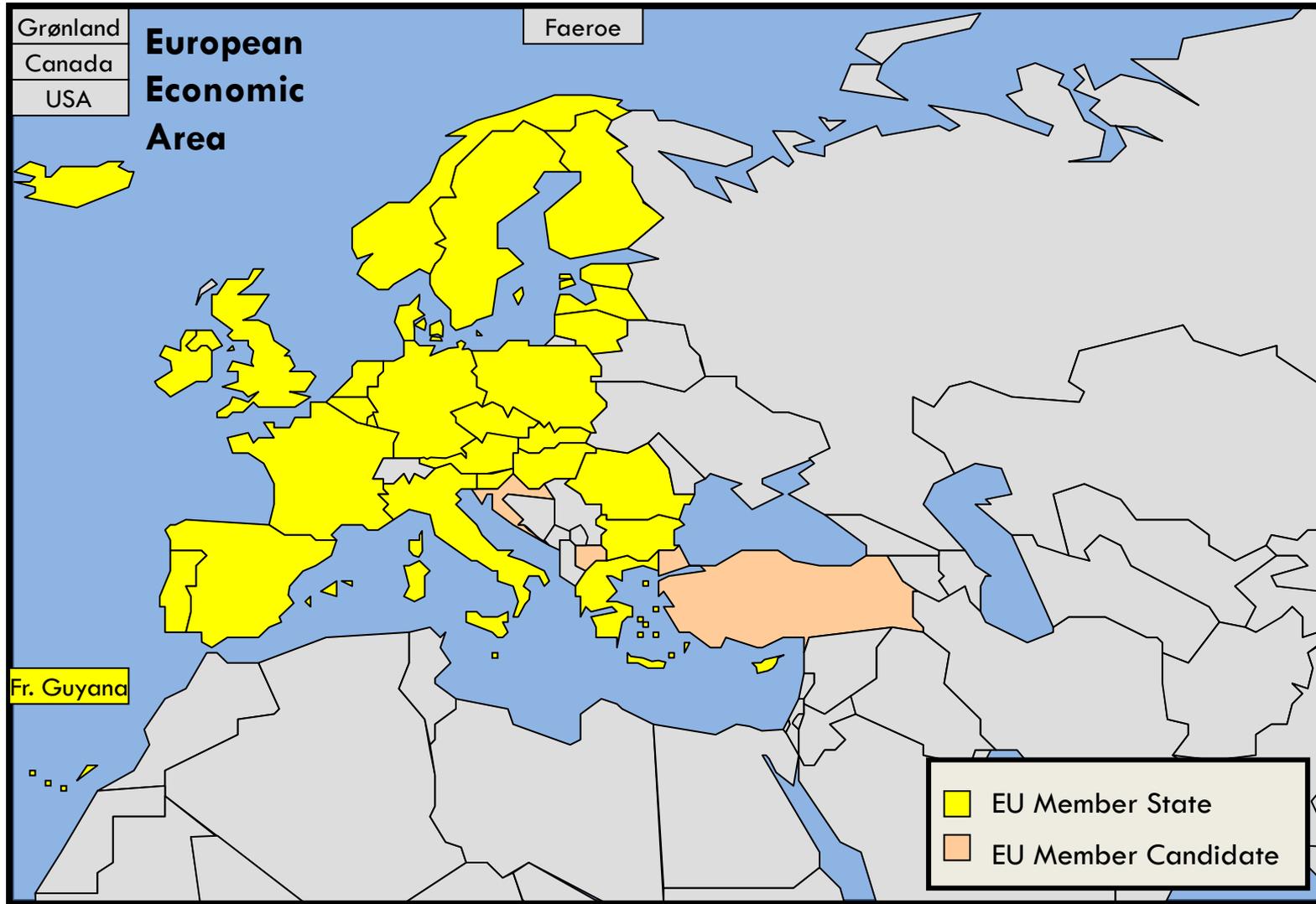
Layers of
European &
Transatlantic
Integration



1. Framework

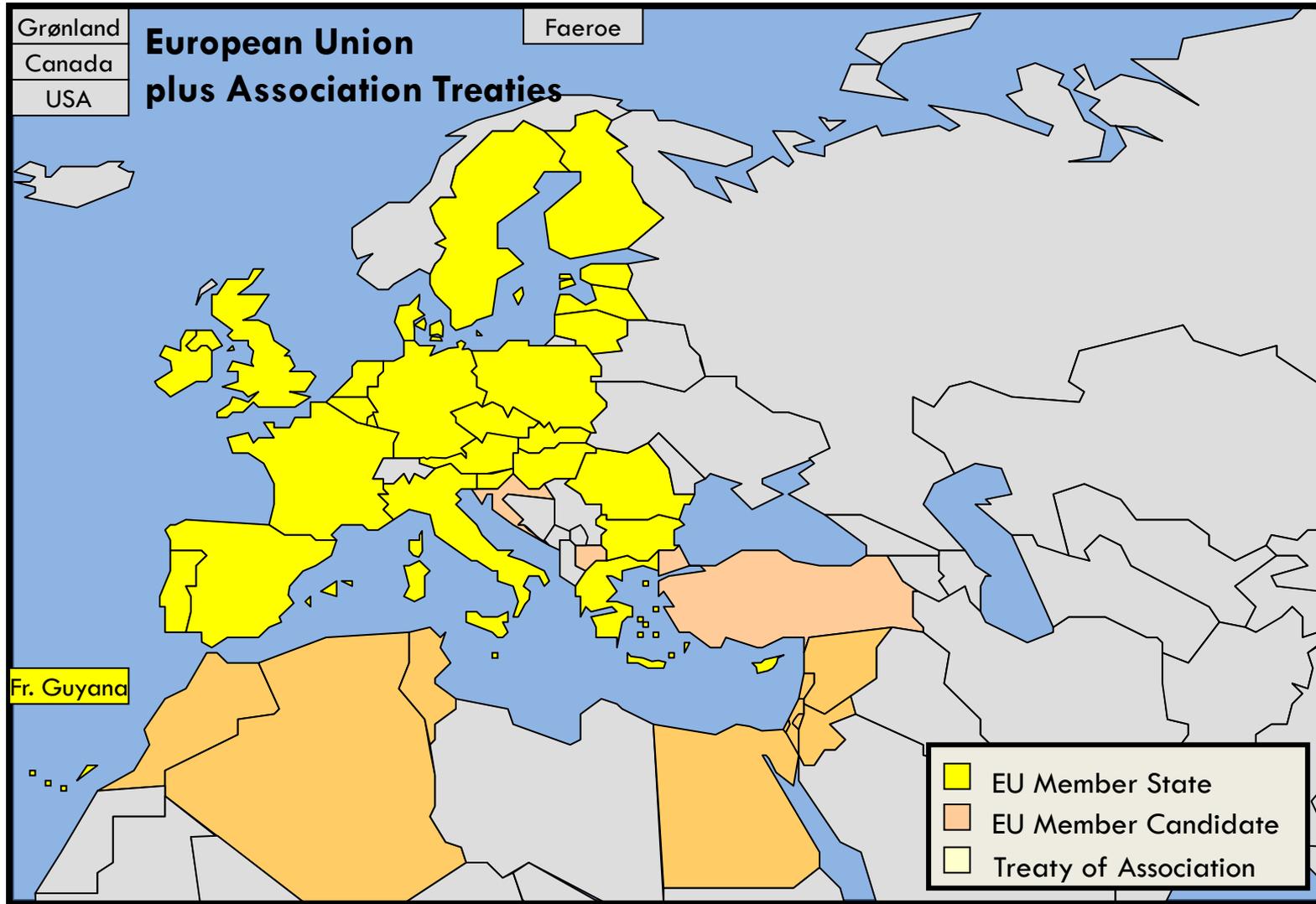


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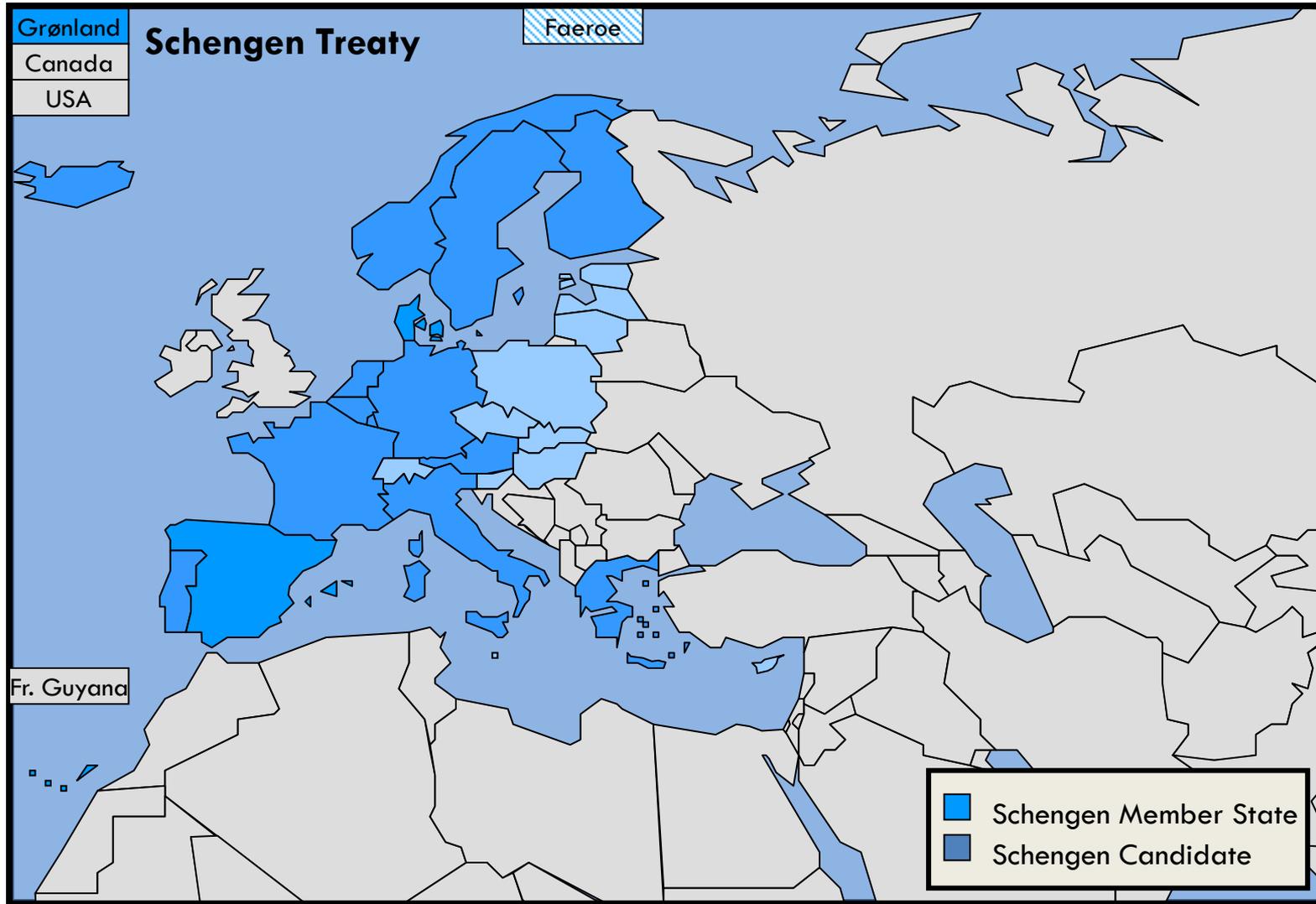
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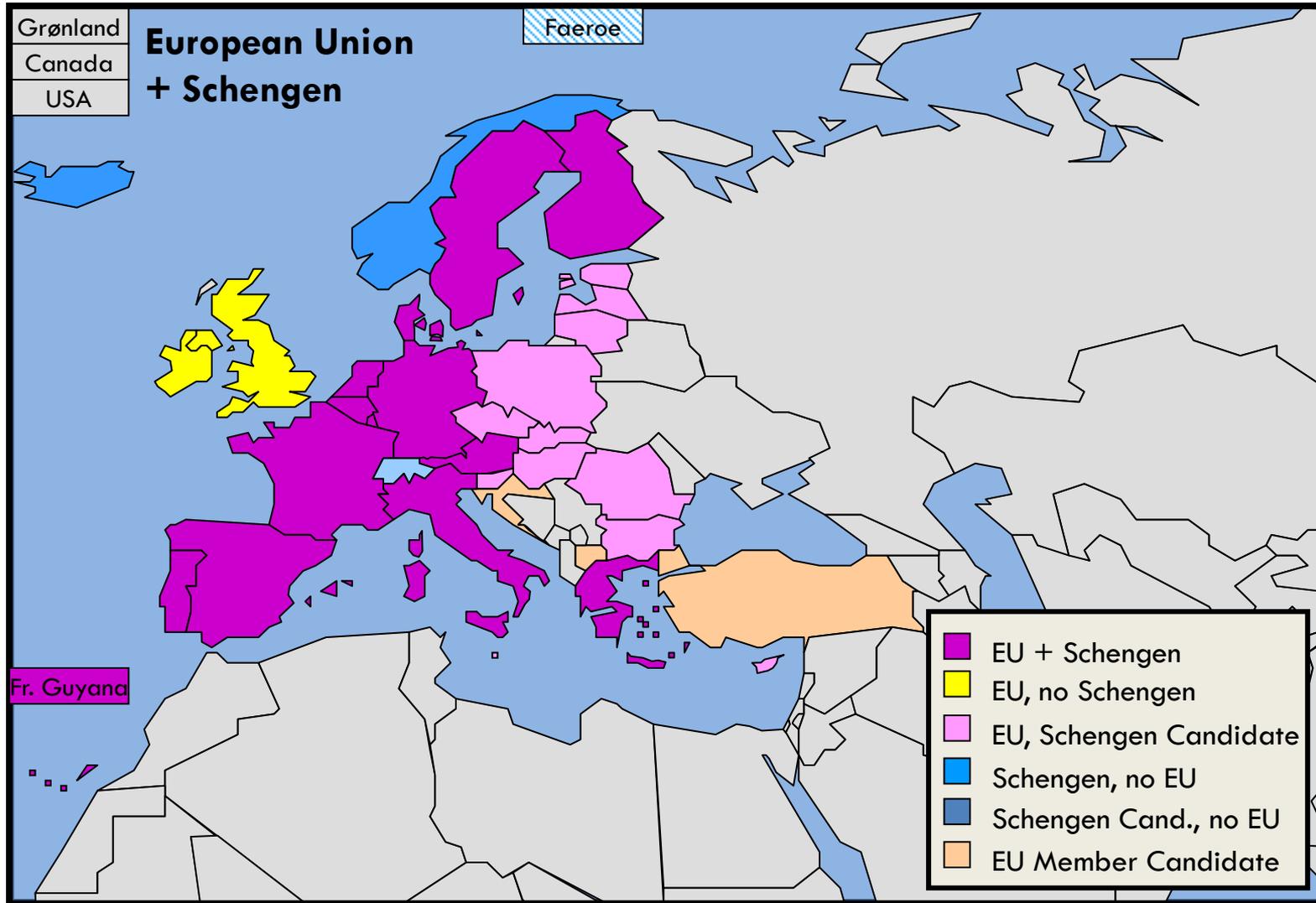
1. Framework

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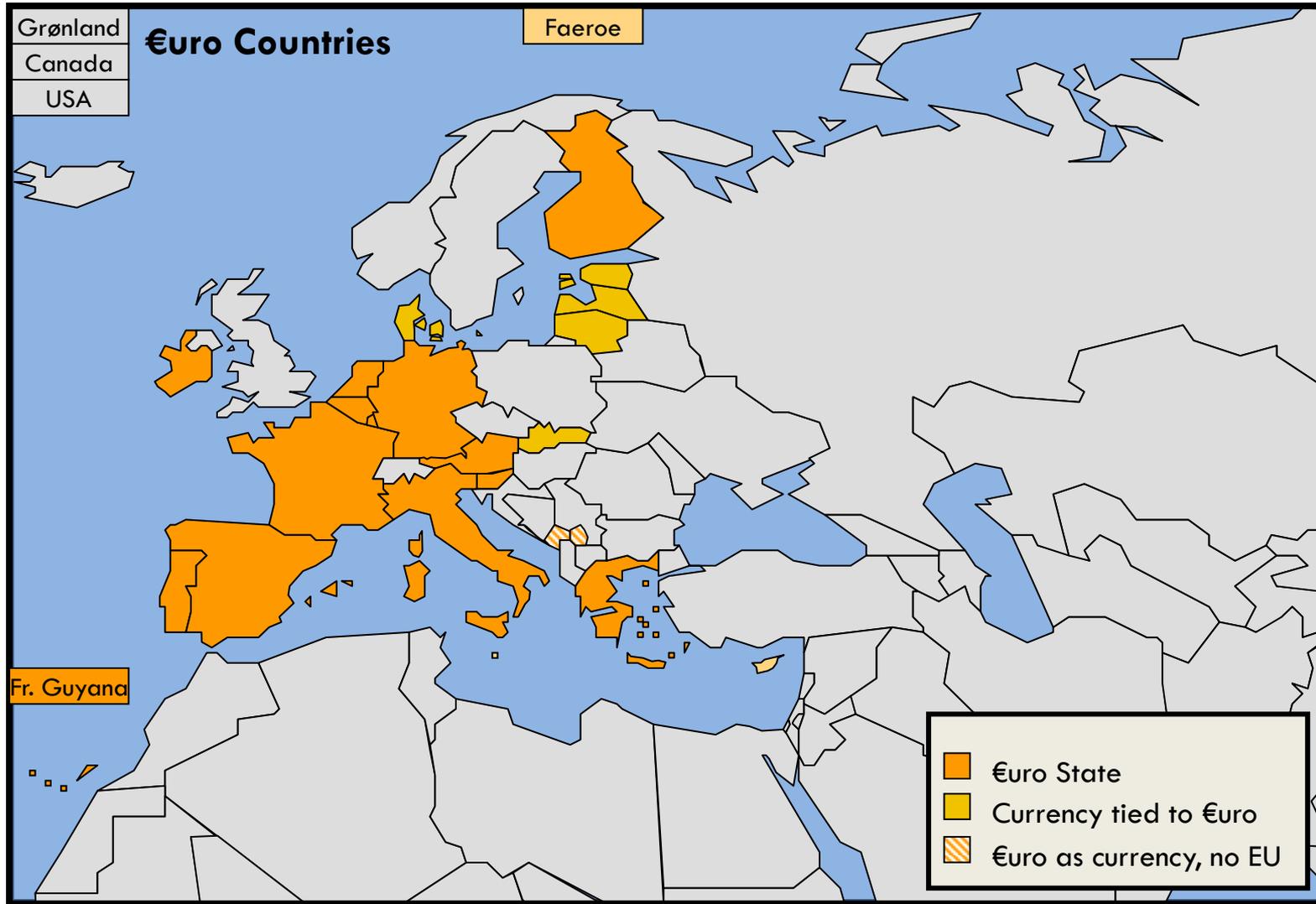
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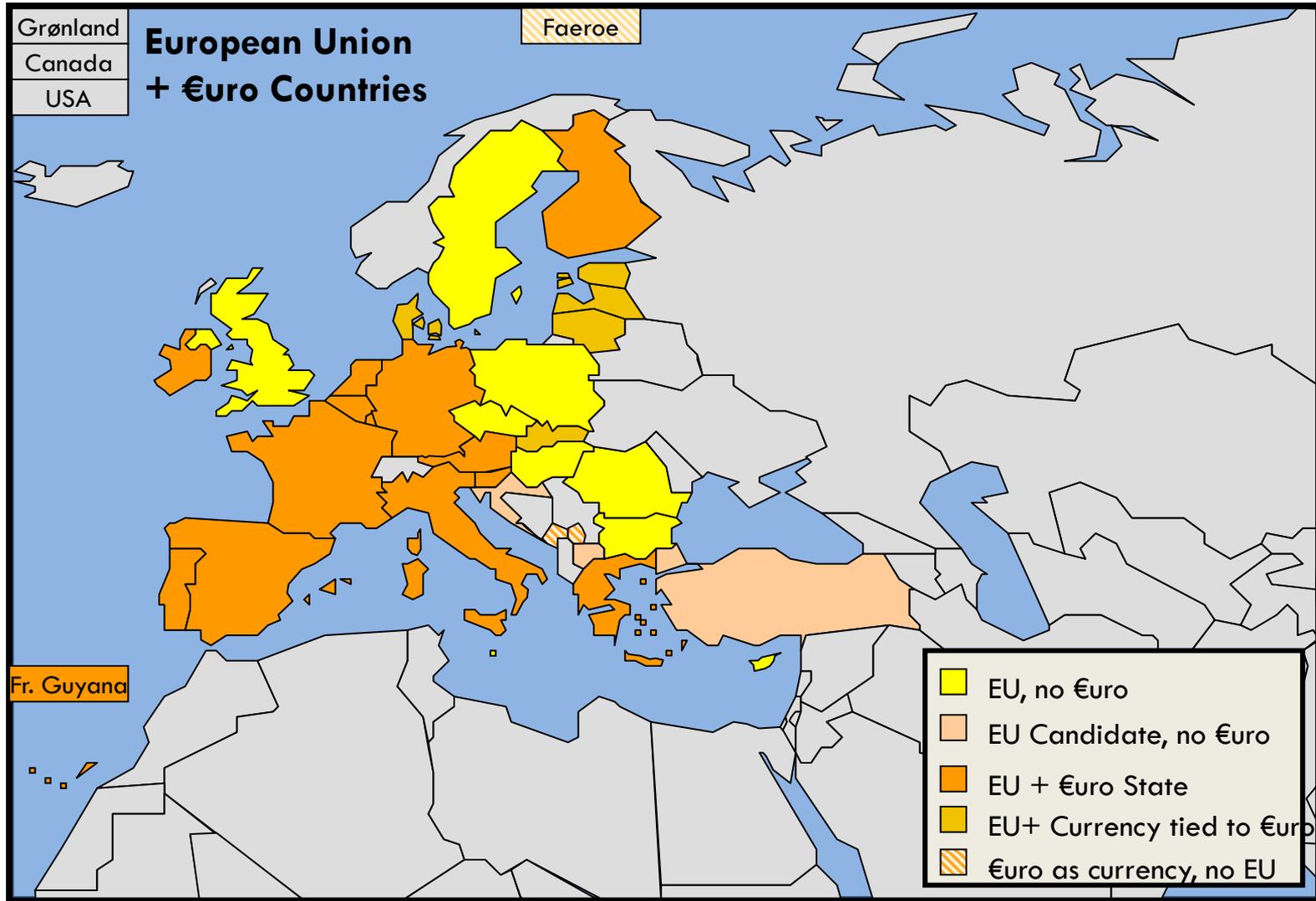
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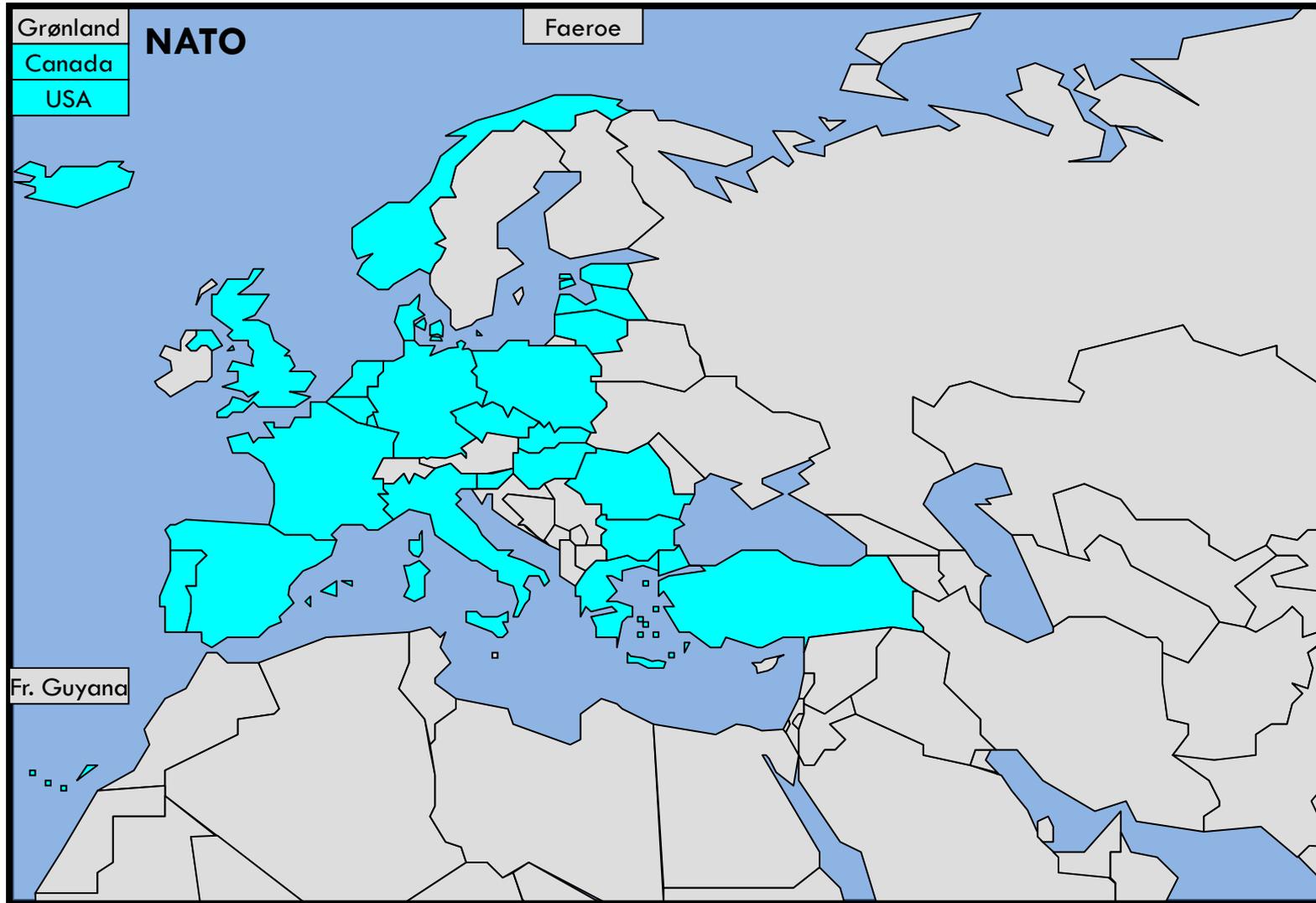
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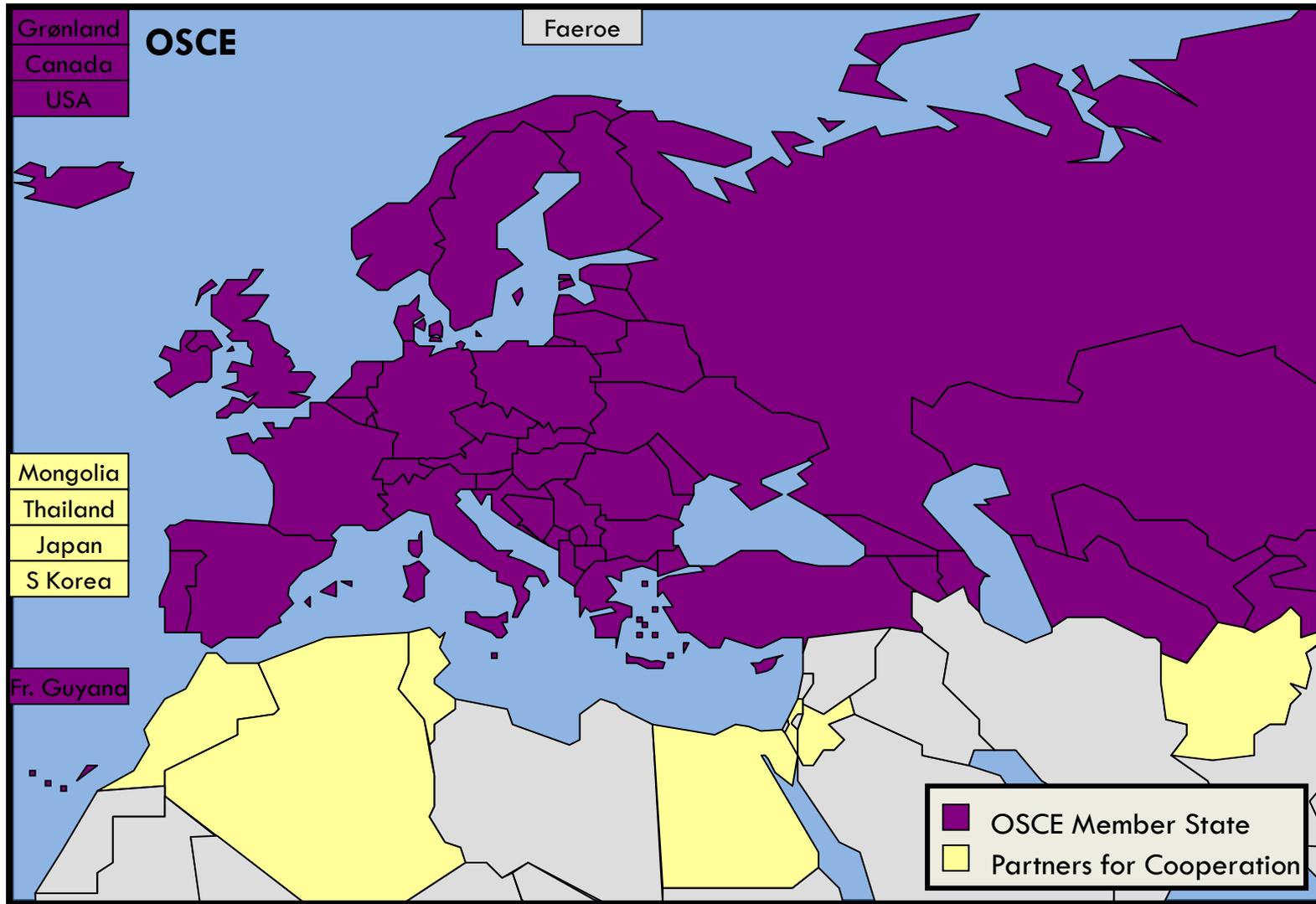


1. Framework

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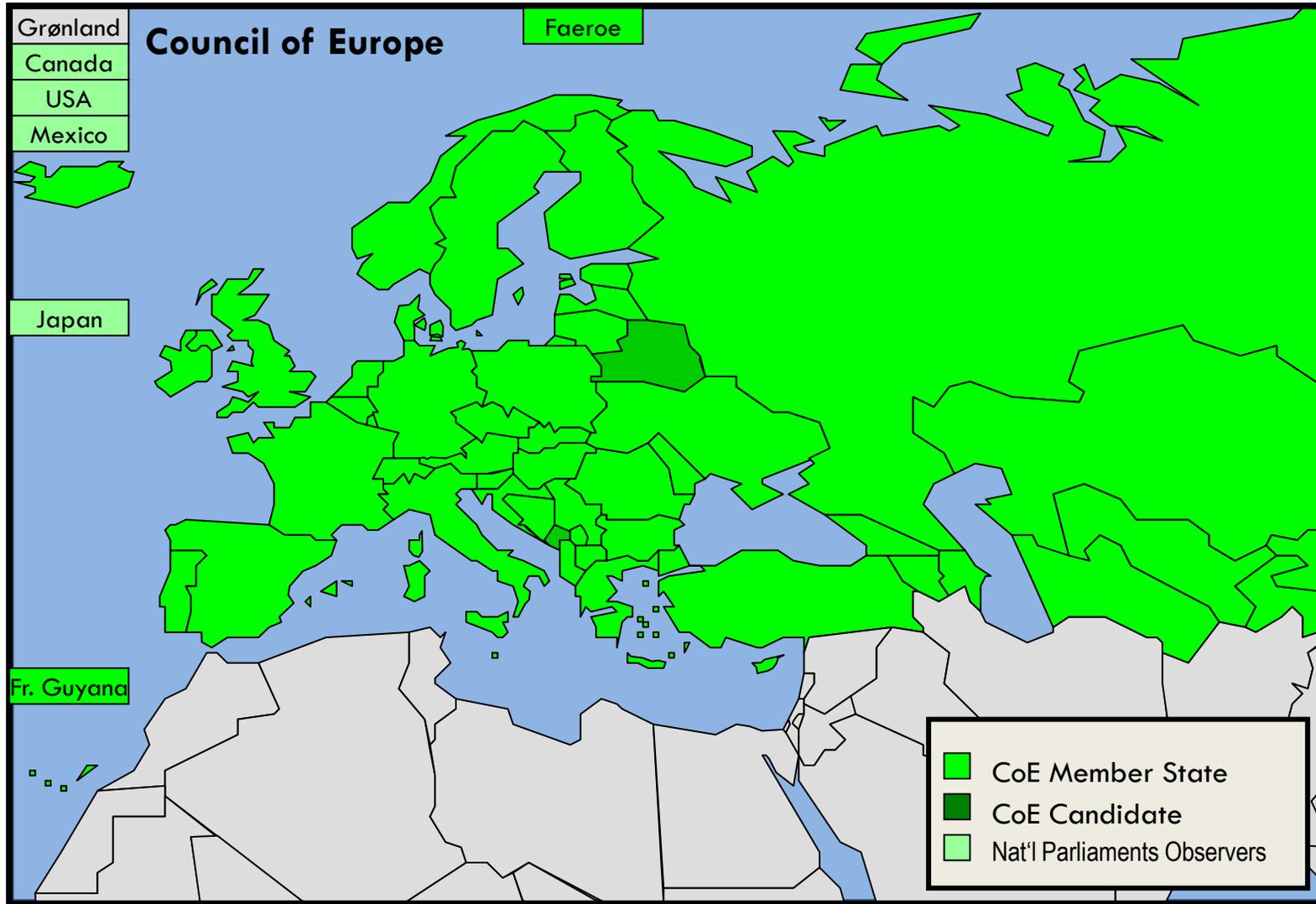


1. Framework



1. Framework

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2. Accession & Integration

Stages of European Unification

2. Accession & Integration

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- States may have common interest – yet they still will want to retain their sovereignty.
- Any theory trying to explain processes of integration will have to show why states would voluntarily cede sovereignty over select issues.
- Integration oftentimes does not take a direct route. E.g., political integration can sometimes come about through economic integration, and vice versa.

2. Accession & Integration

- Various Theories of Integration:
 - ▣ realism
 - ▣ federalism
 - ▣ functionalism
 - ▣ transactionalism
 - ▣ neofunctionalism
 - ▣ intergovernmentalism
 - ▣ ...
- see:
Wiener, Antje, Thomas Dietz. *European Integration Theory*.
Oxford: OUP, 2004.

2. Accession & Integration

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- European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)
as foundation: economy
- West European Union (WEU)/North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):
defense (after European Defense Union / Pleven Plan failed)
- integration into Western alliance system, defense against Soviet Union

- political structures emerging as part of economic cooperation
- being freed from defense, energies able to shift elsewhere

- integration has led to an ever-increasing interweaving of European
decision-making, and of transference of sovereignty to the European level

2. Accession & Integration

- Most important steps towards integration:
 - 1948: Brussels treaty, 1955 WEU (European Defense Institution -2001); ERP
 - 1949: Council of Europe, NATO
 - 1950: Schuman Plan
 - 1951: Treaty of Paris: ECSC signed / 1952 in effect (-2002), Pleven Plan for EDC, fails 1954 through French Parliament
 - 1955: FRG joins NATO 1955 after Paris Agreement; Warsaw Pact (-1991)
 - 1957: Treaty of Rome: EEC (Common Market), Euratom
 - 1967: European Communities: EC=EEC+ECSC+Euratom
 - 1968: Albania withdraws from Warsaw Pact
 - 1985: Single European Act / enacted 1987 (more power to Council, Parlm.); 1985: Schengen Agreement / enacted 1995
 - 1993: Treaty of Maastricht: EEC=EC, EU, monetary union prerequisites
 - 1999: Treaty of Amsterdam: EC jurisdiction over immigration & asylum
 - 2002: European Monetary Union: €
 - 2007/2009: Treaty of Lisbon („Reform Treaty“)

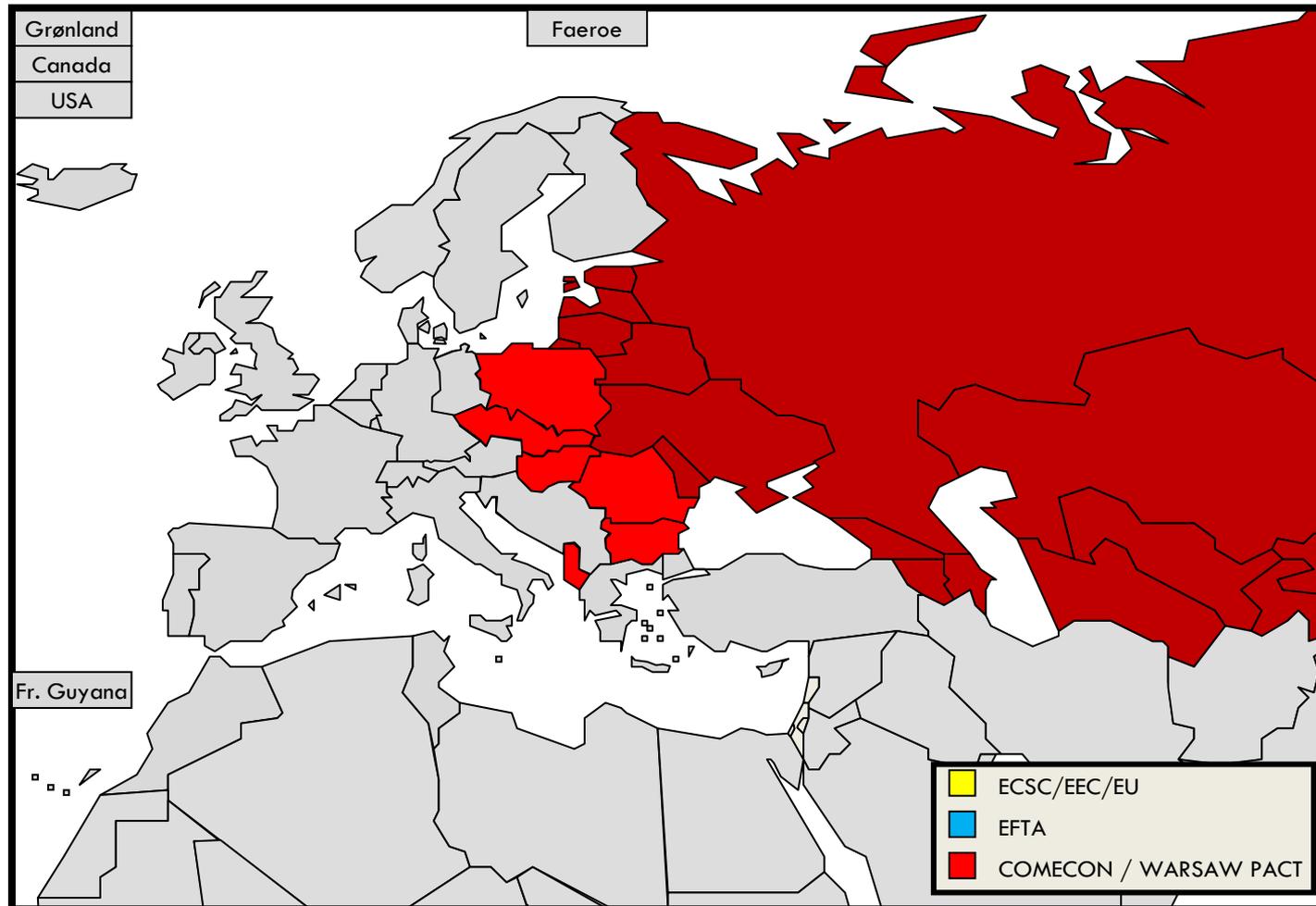
2. Accession & Integration

- accession means the enlargement of the EC/EU, i.e. the acceptance of new members into the community
- several phases of accession
- accession accompanied by or enabled through institutional change in the member countries (e.g. democracy, free market, rule of law; specifically, acceptance of the *acquis communautaire*)
- accession reflects changes in the world historical framework (e.g. Cold War)
- Shifting integration philosophies:
Free Market only (European Free Trade Association/EFTA) vs.
Free Market + Integration (EC/EU)

2. Accession & Integration

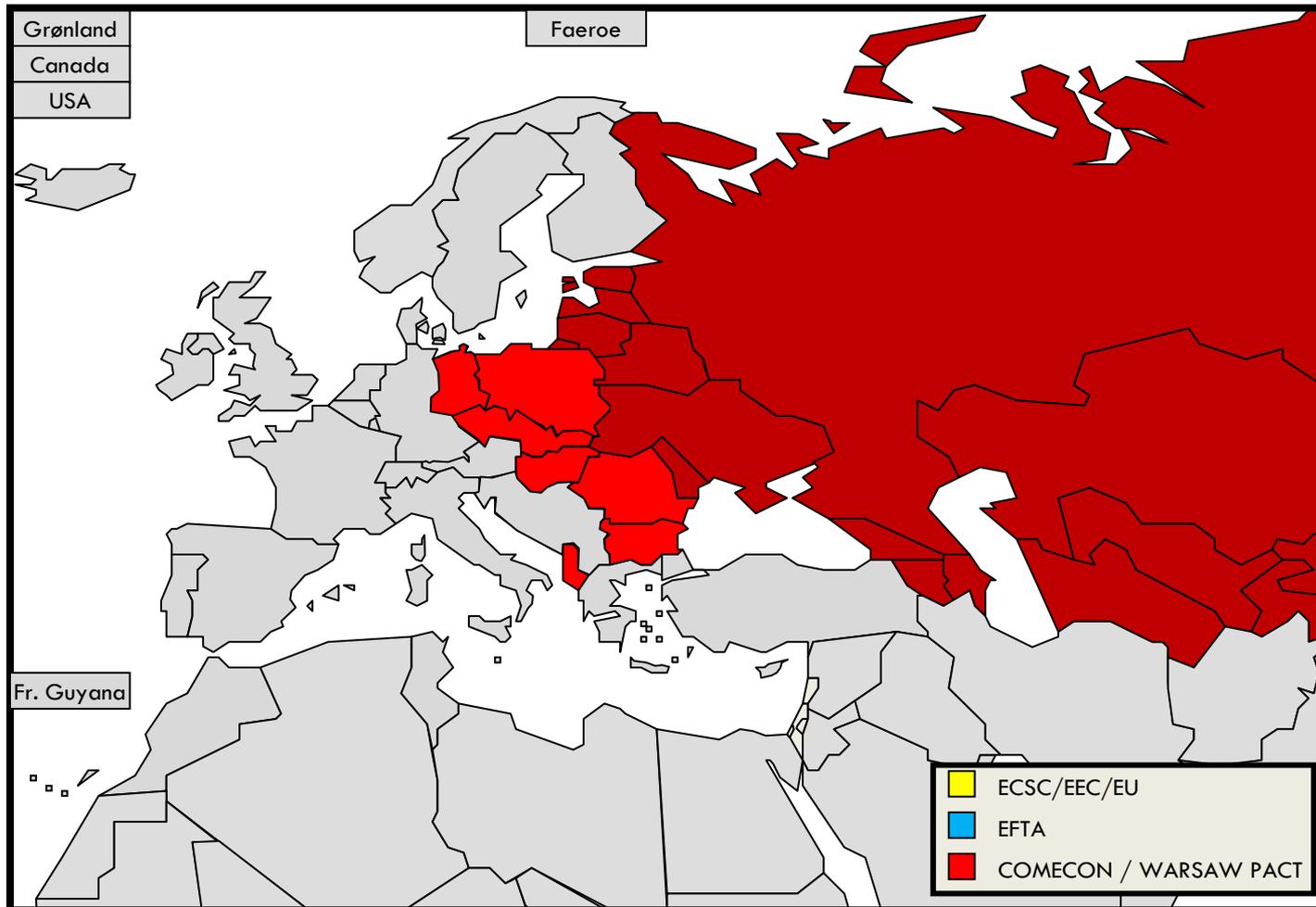
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1949: COMECON (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance)



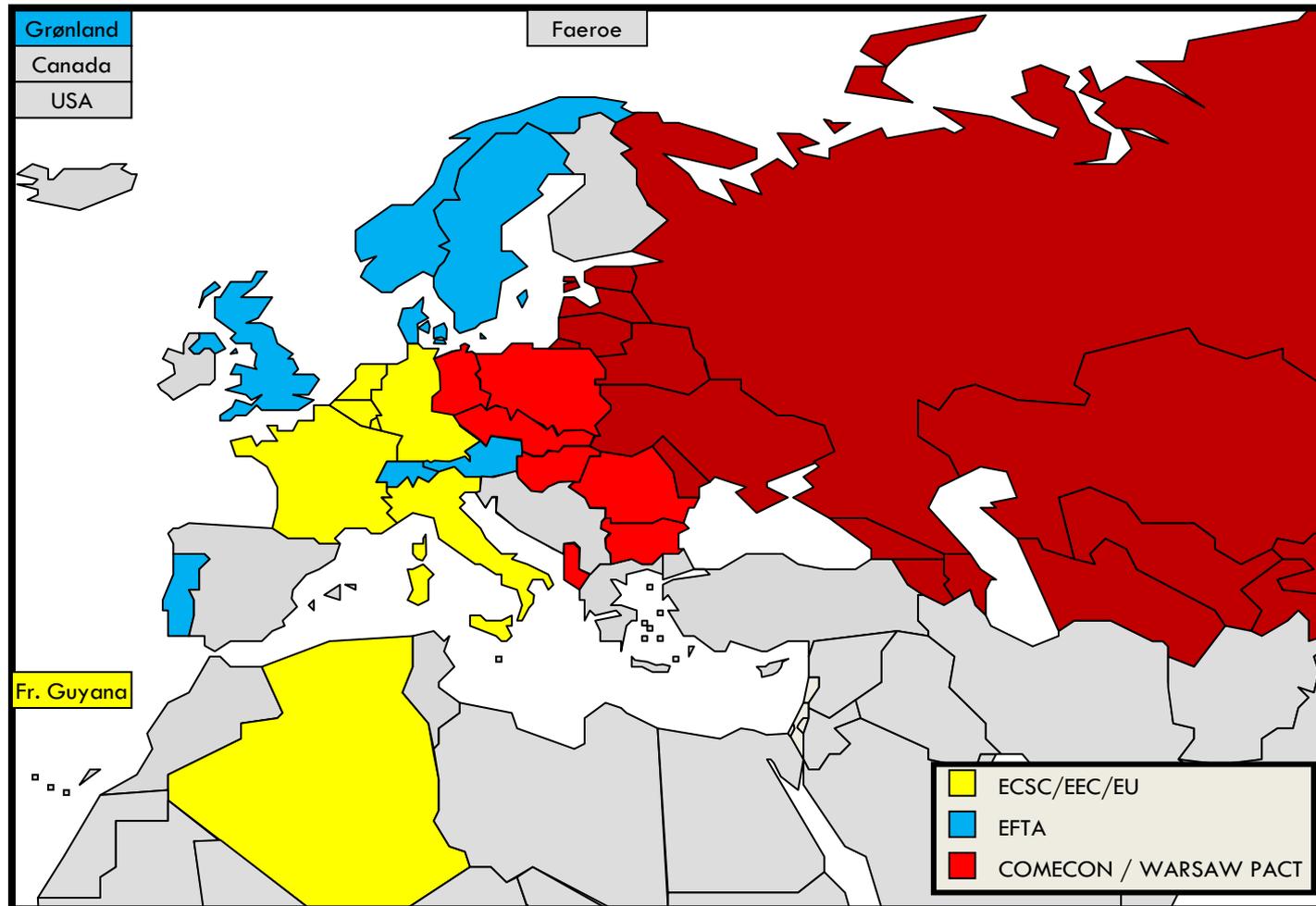
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1950: COMECON + GDR



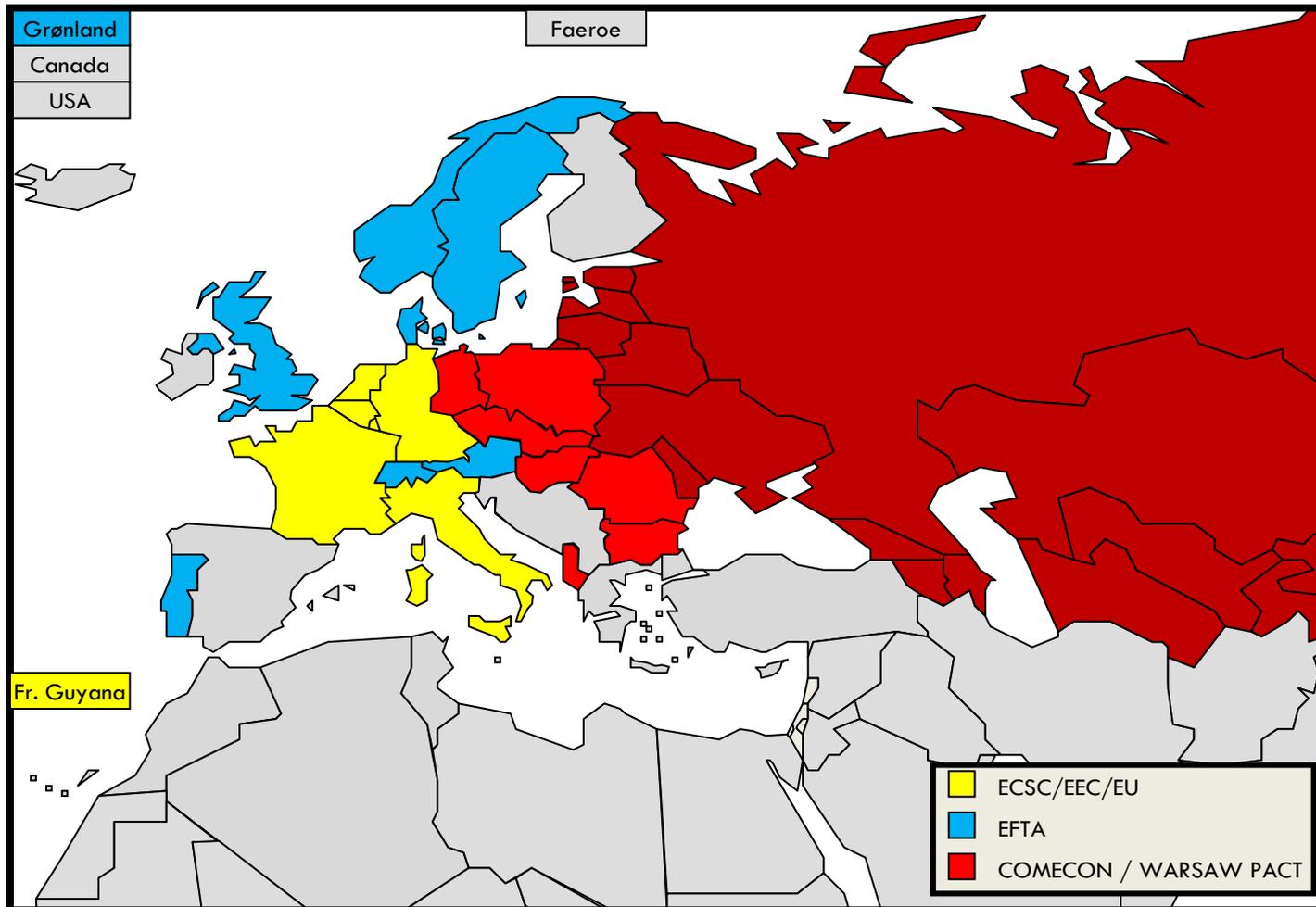
2. Accession & Integration

1960: EFTA (A, DK, N, P, S, CH, UK)



2. Accession & Integration

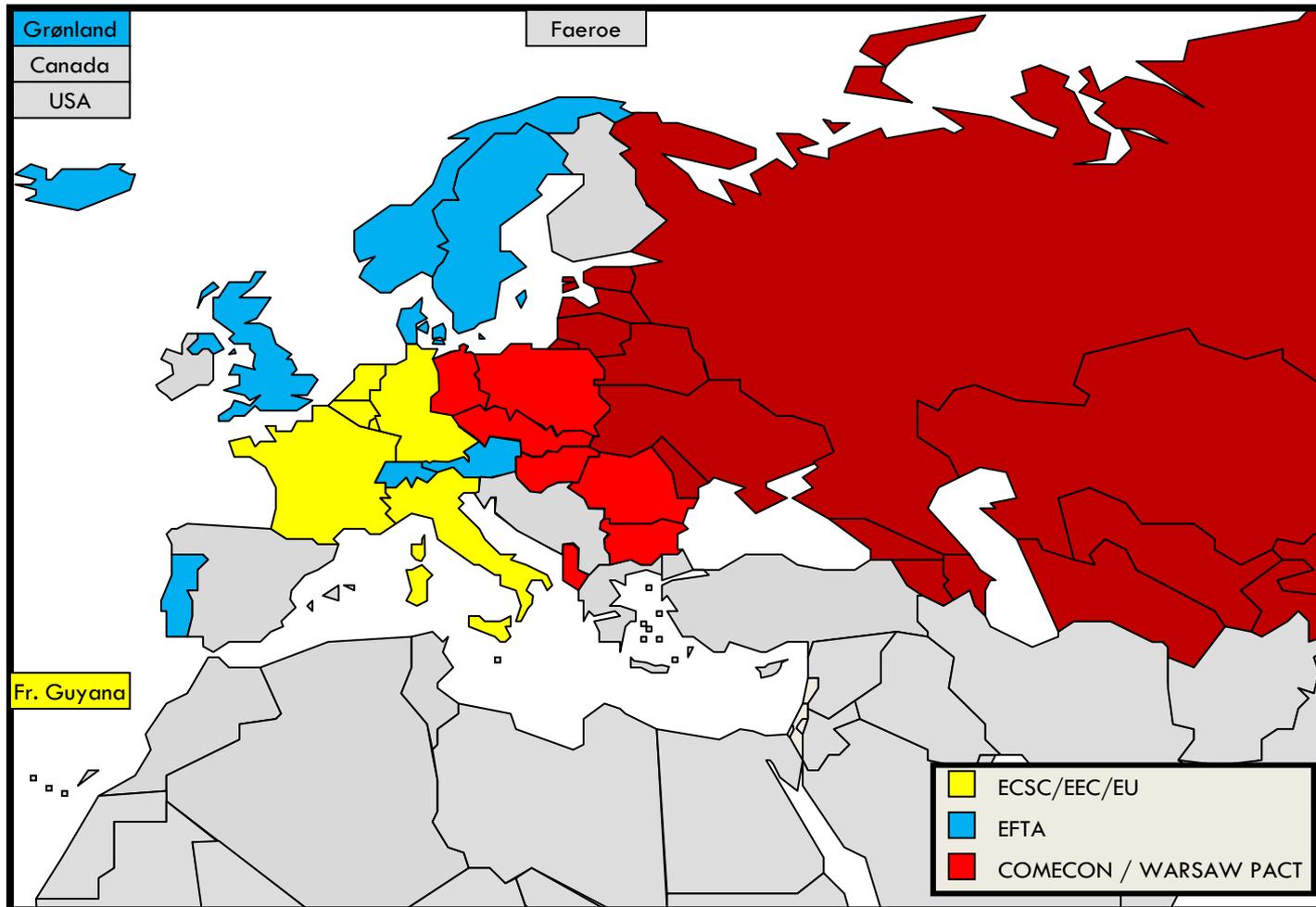
1962: Algeria becomes independent



2. Accession & Integration

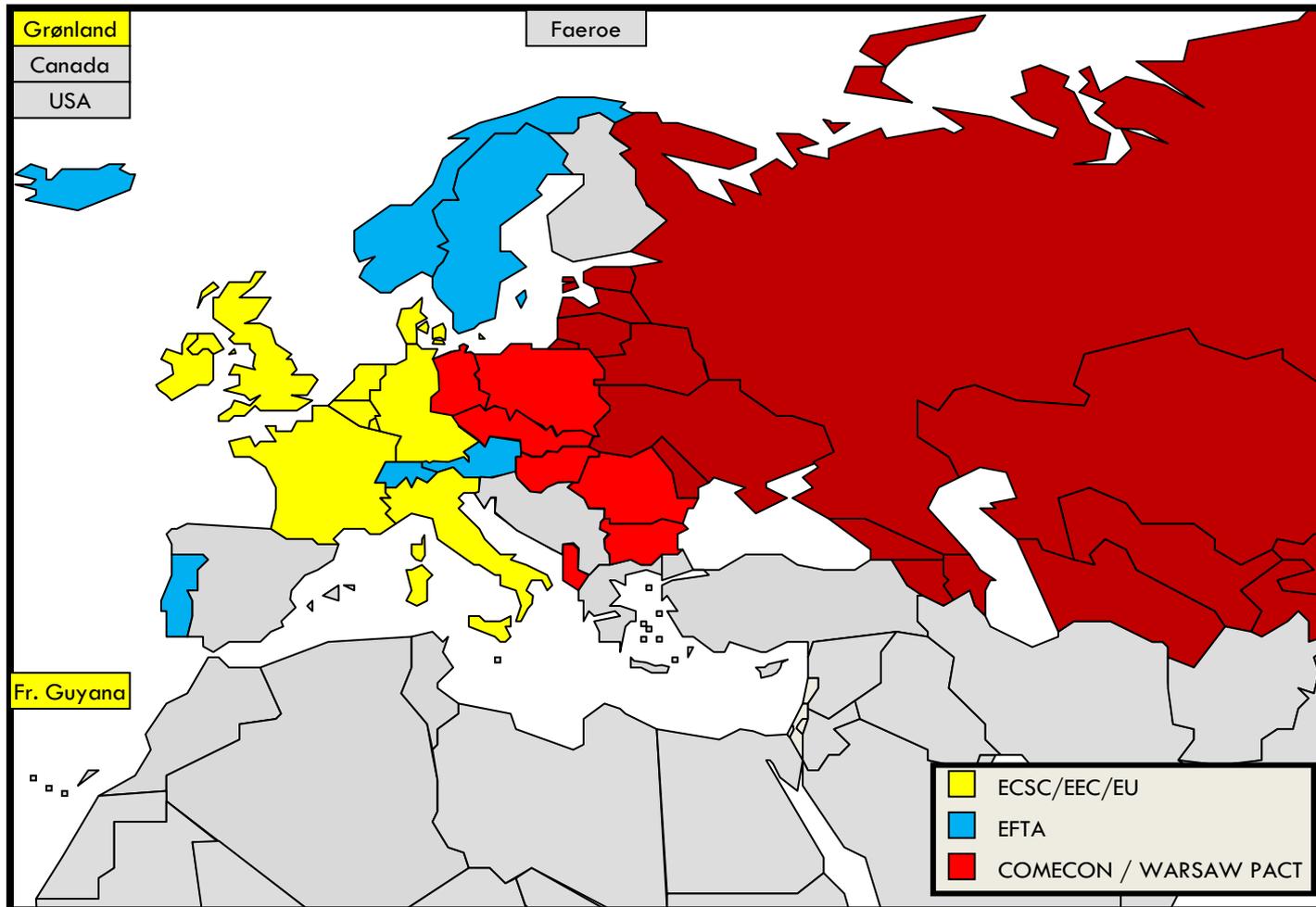
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1970: EFTA + Iceland



2. Accession & Integration

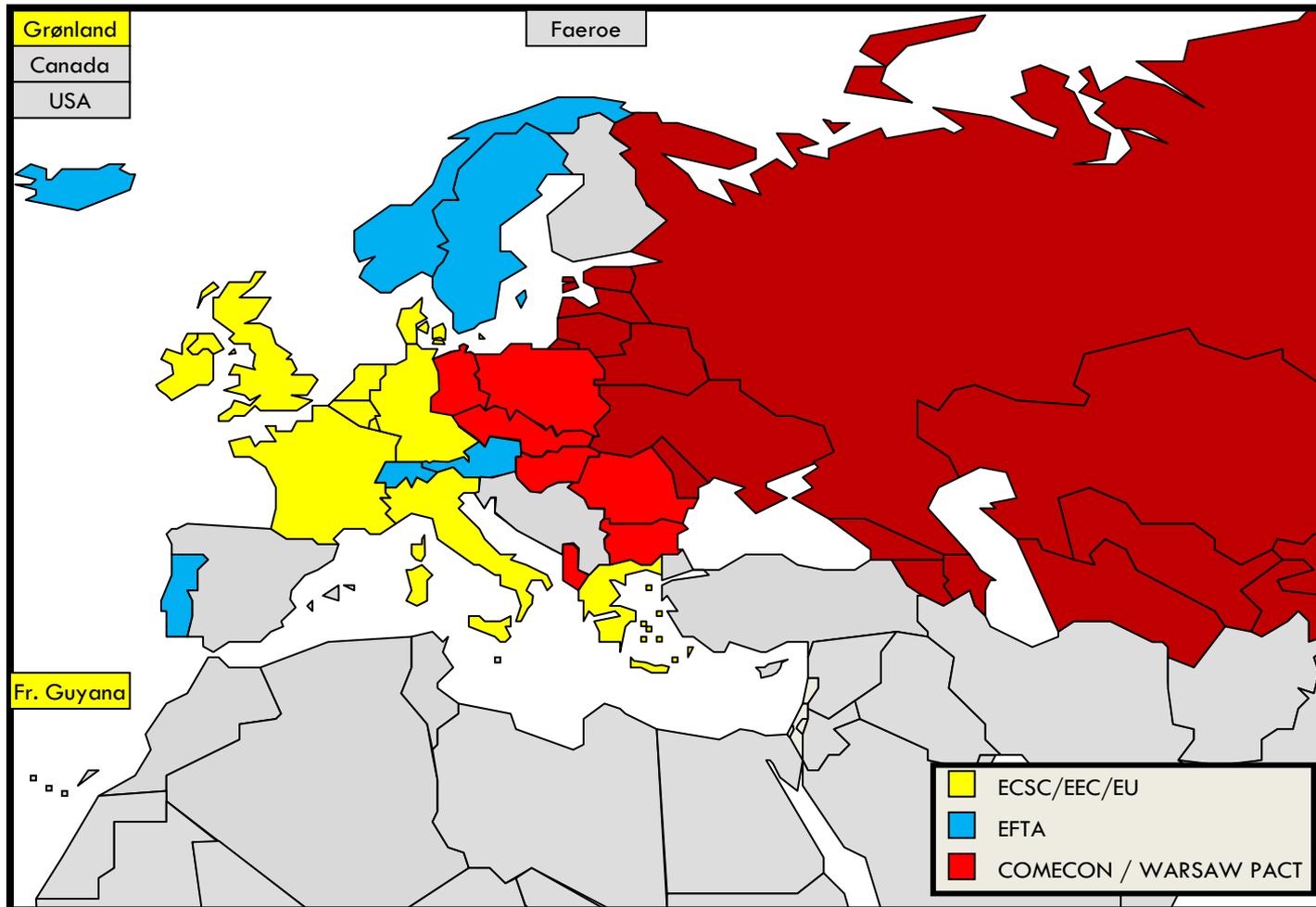
1973: EFTA -/ EEC +UK, IRL, DK



2. Accession & Integration

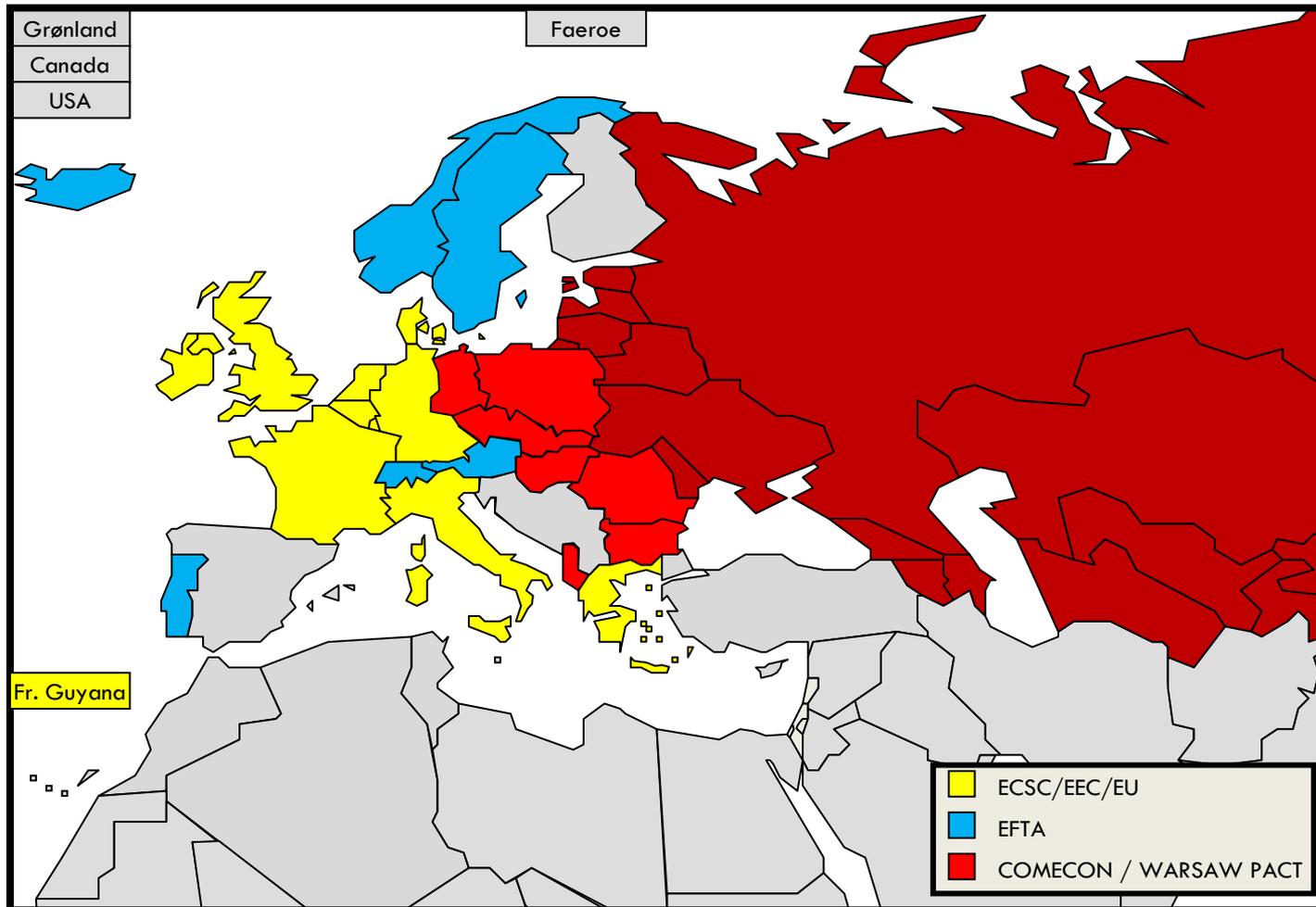
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1981: EEC + GR



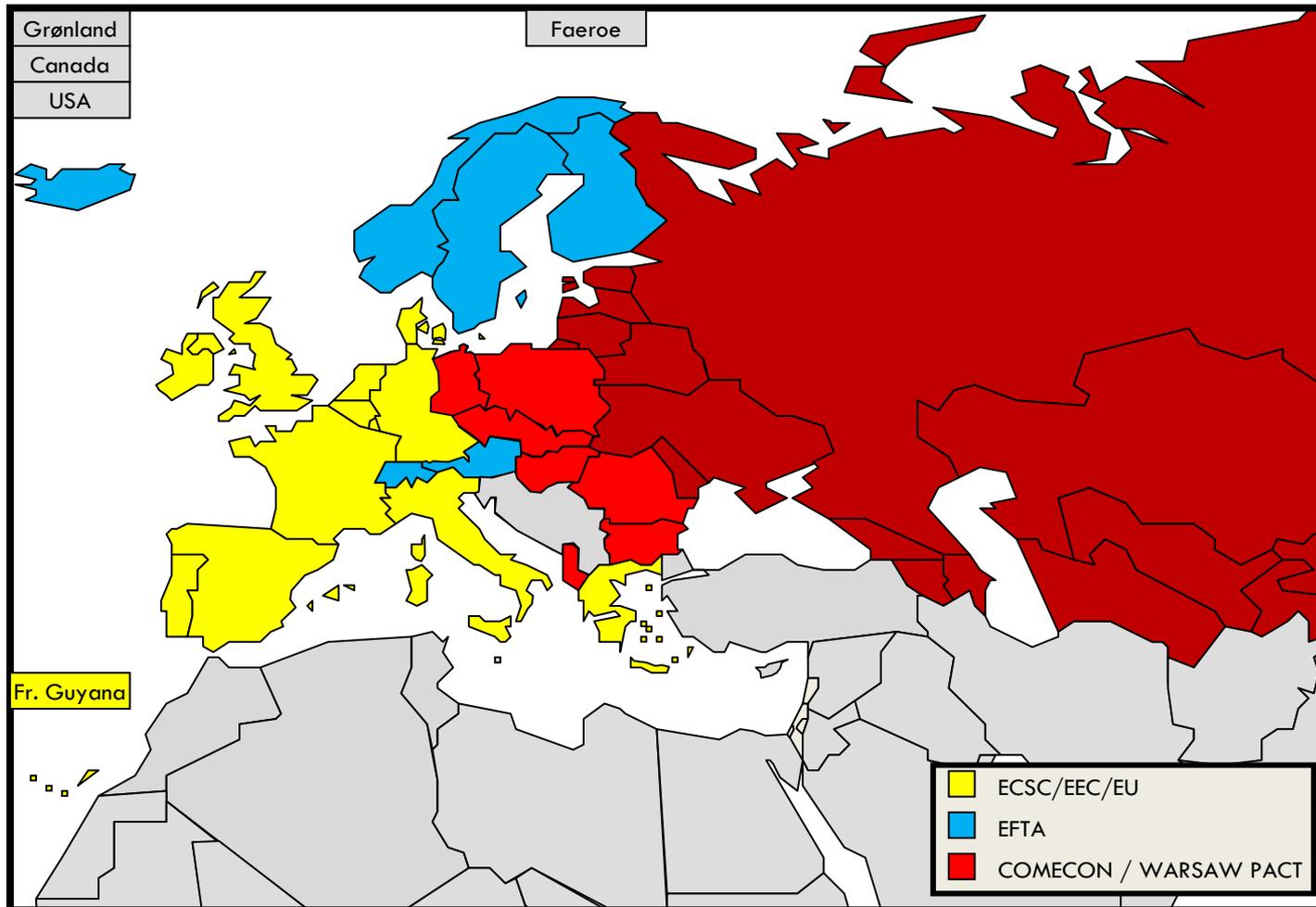
2. Accession & Integration

1985: Home Rule in Greenland



2. Accession & Integration

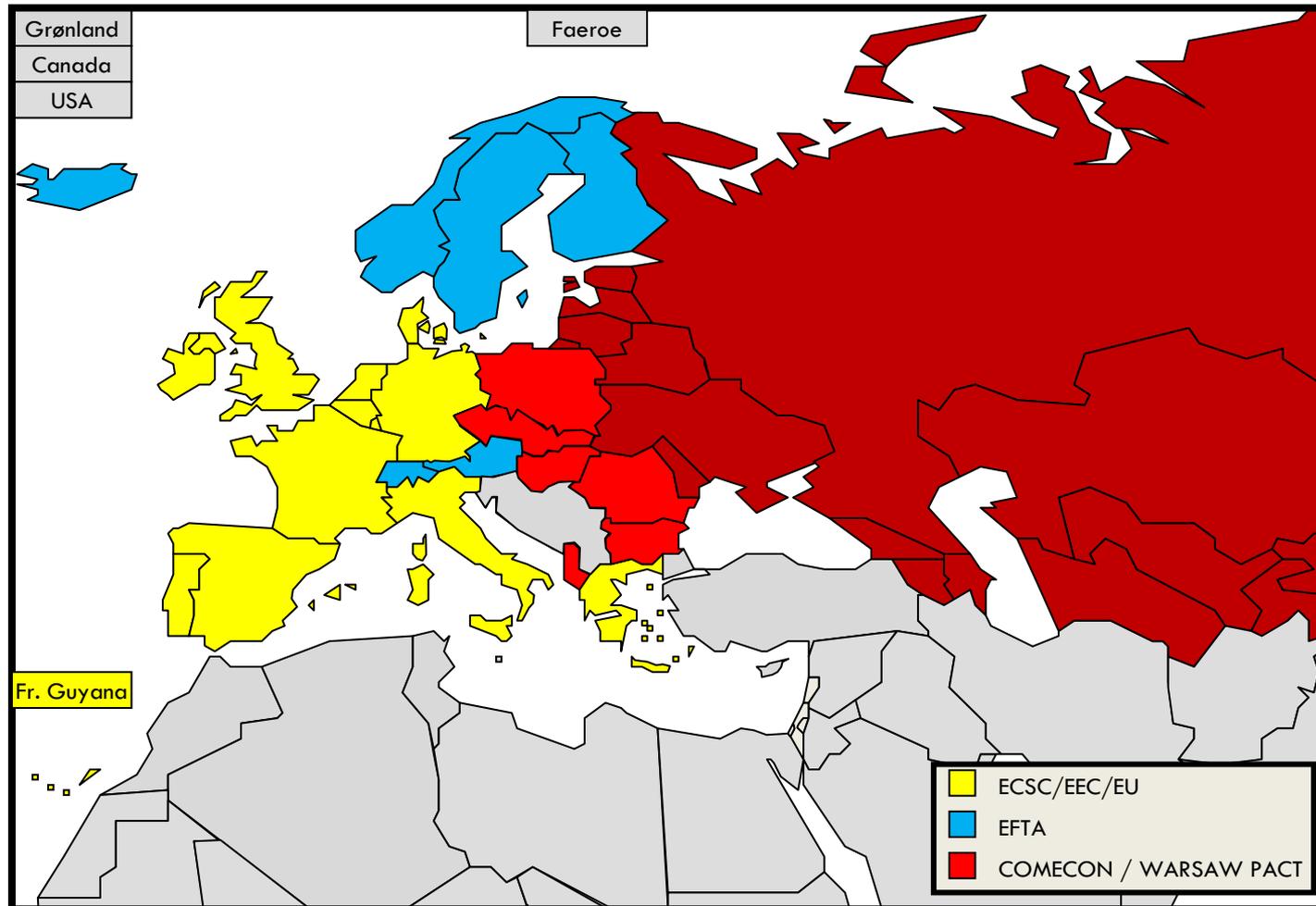
1986: EEC +E, P; EFTA -P +FL



2. Accession & Integration

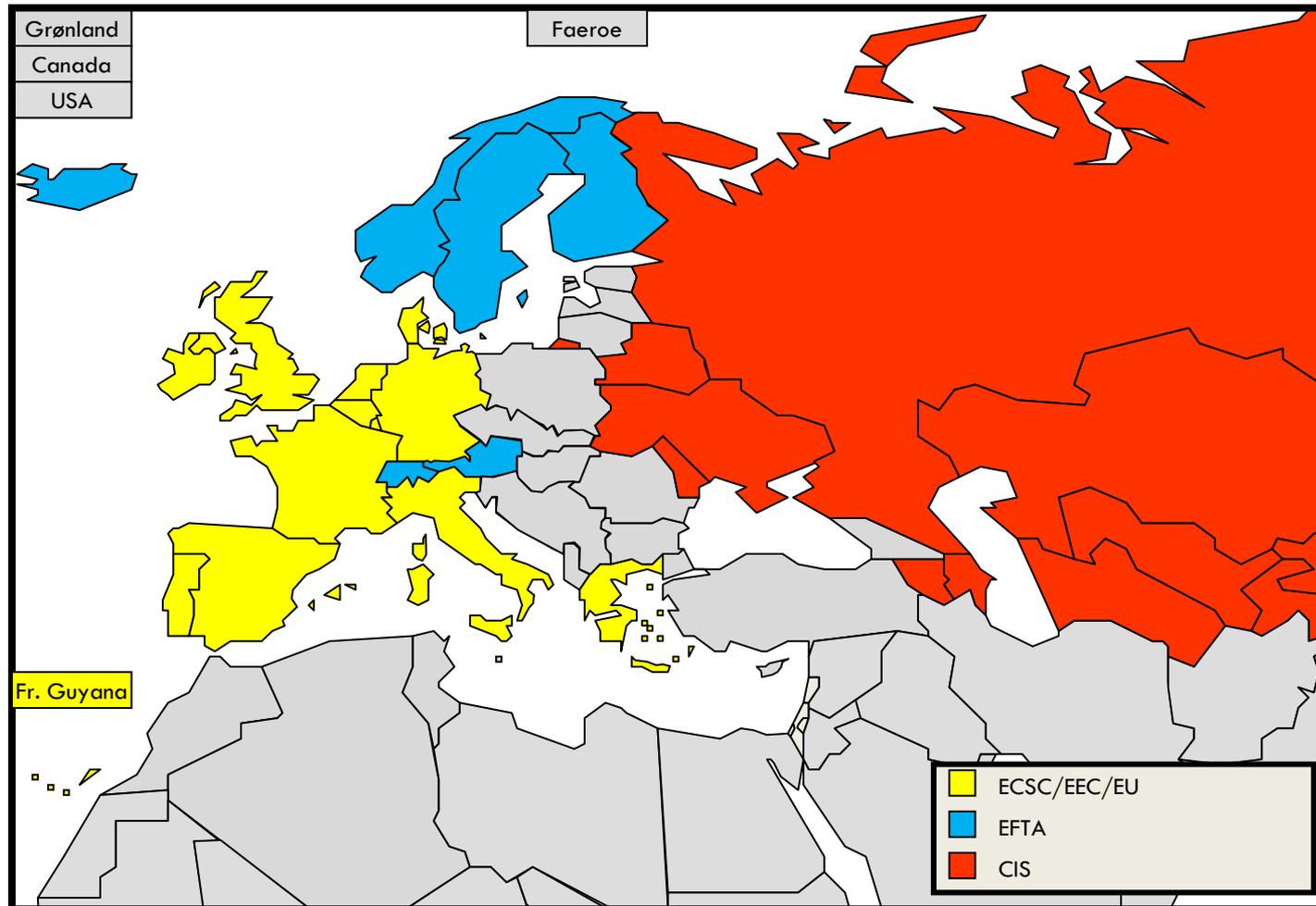
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1990: German Unification



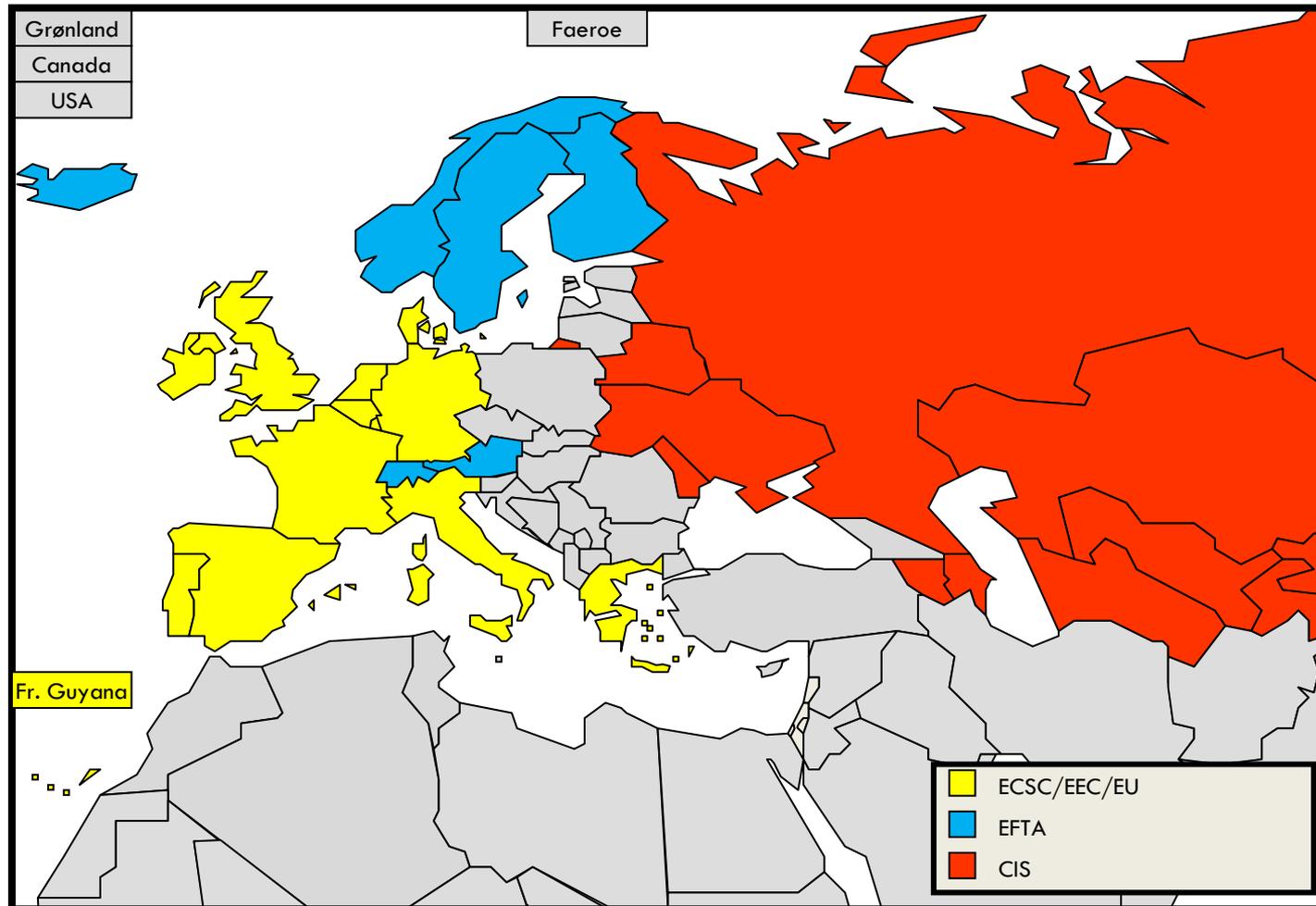
2. Accession & Integration

1991: COMECON+USSR disbanded, CIS founded



2. Accession & Integration

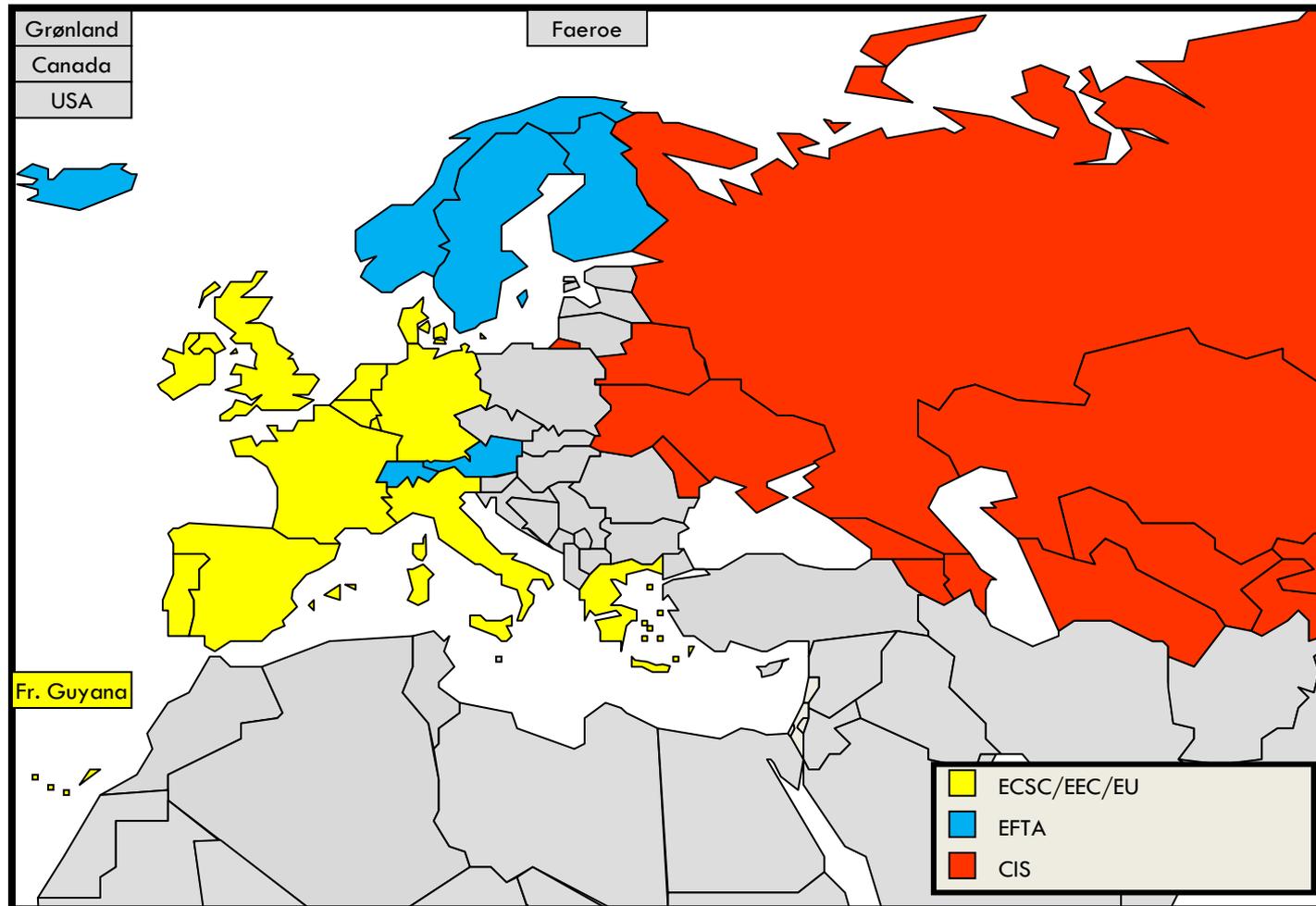
1992: Breakdown of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia



2. Accession & Integration

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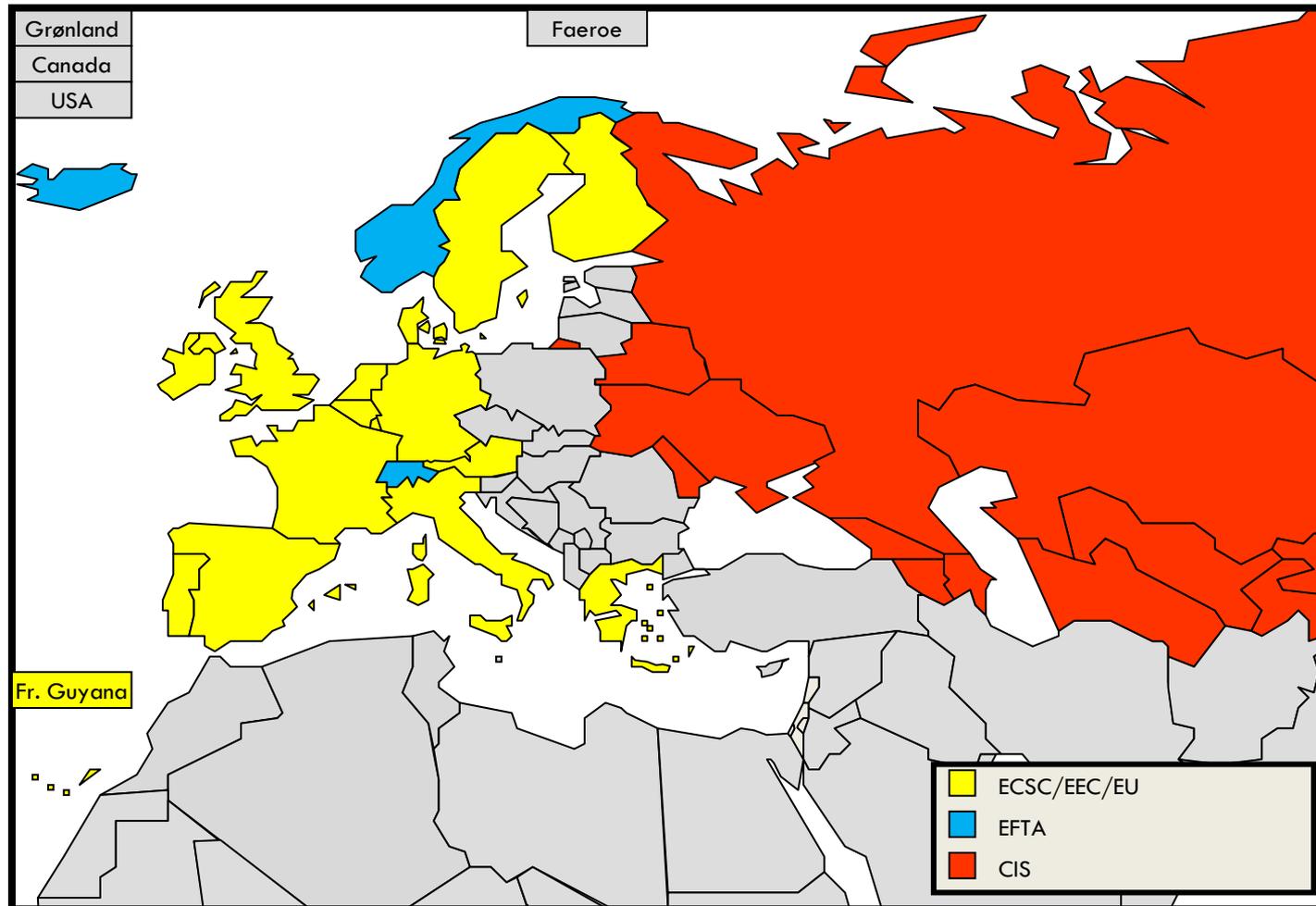
1993: CIS + Georgia



2. Accession & Integration

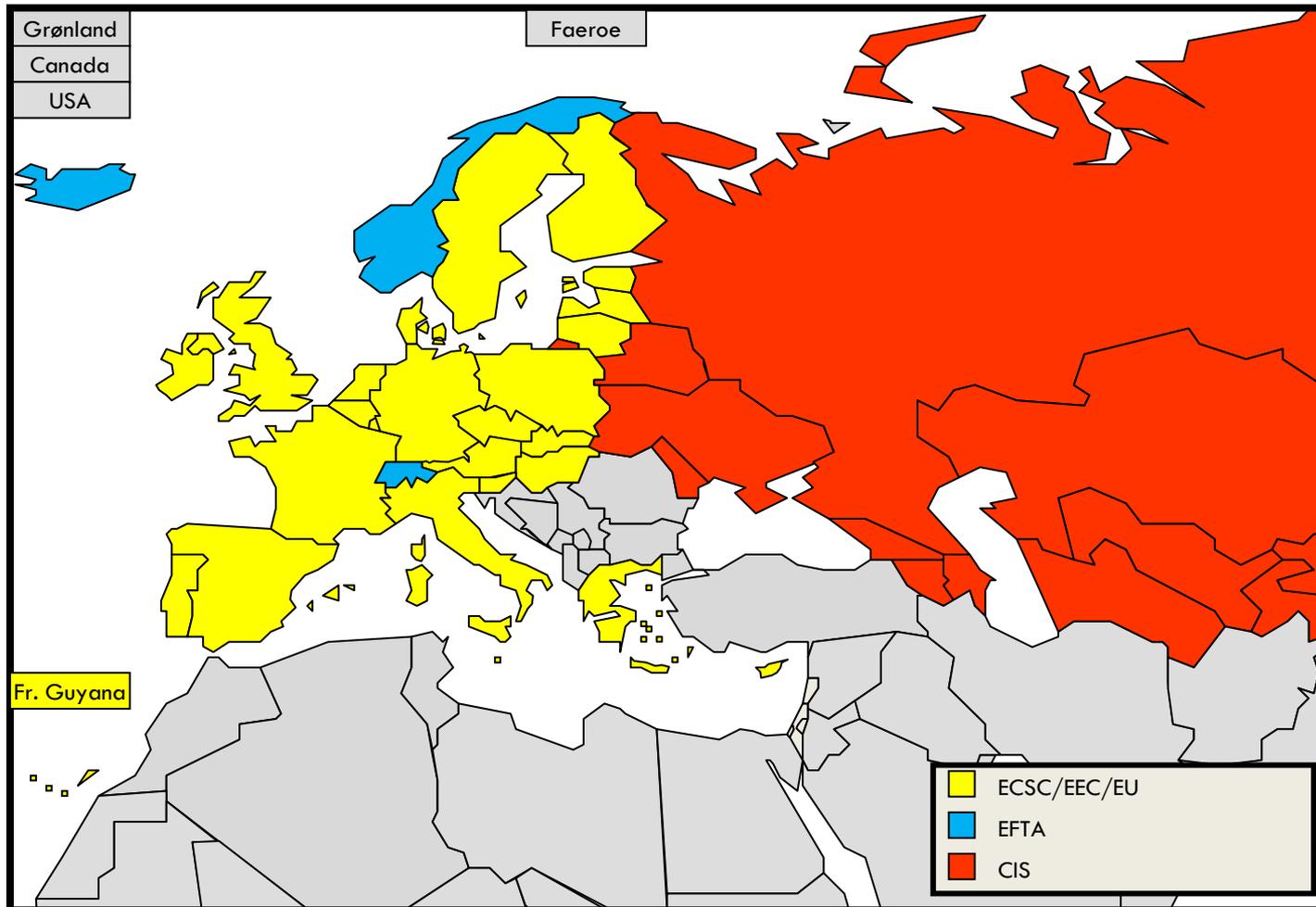
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1995: EU + A, FL, S



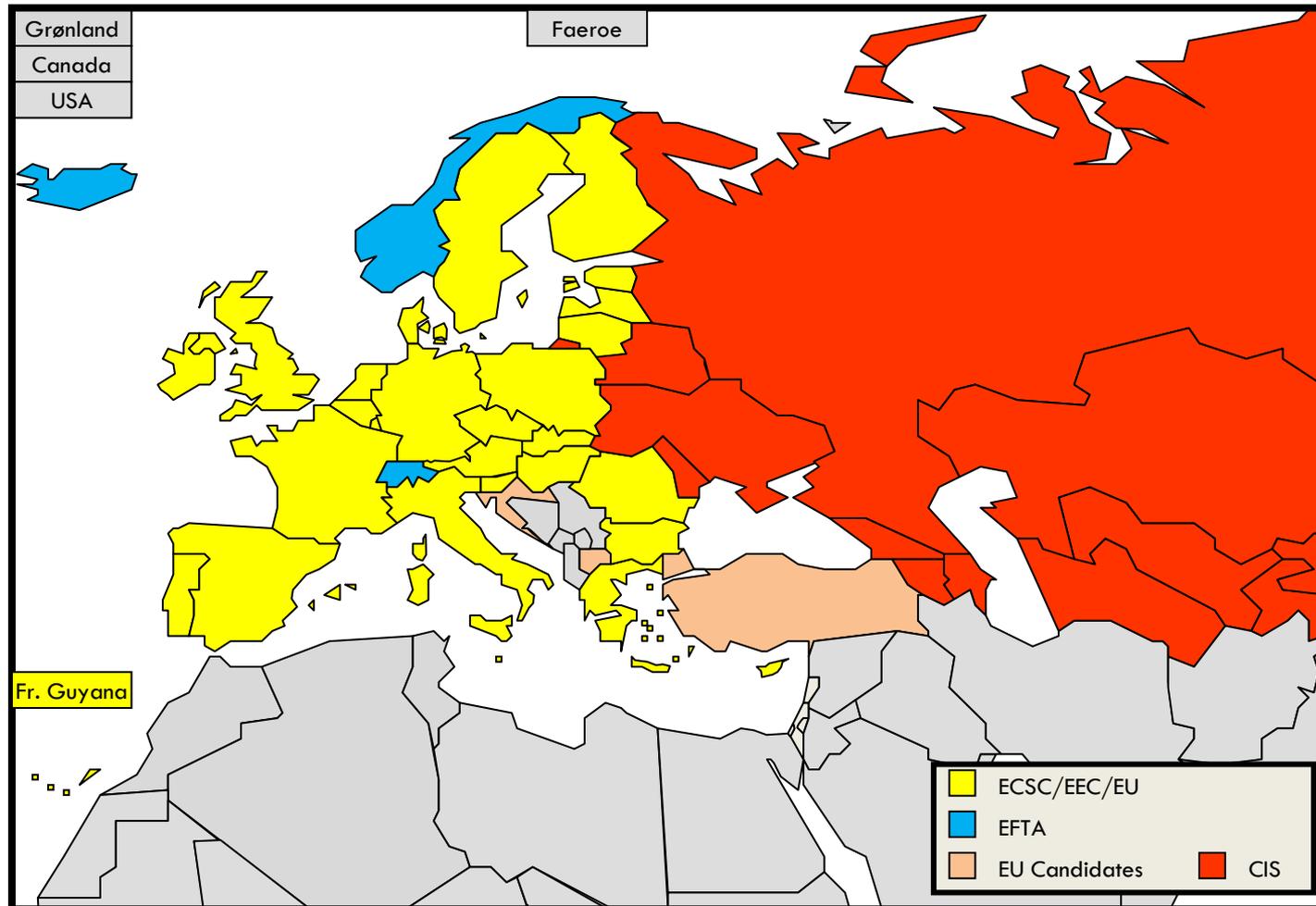
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2004: EU + CZ, CY, ES, H, LV, LIT, MT, PL, SK, SLO



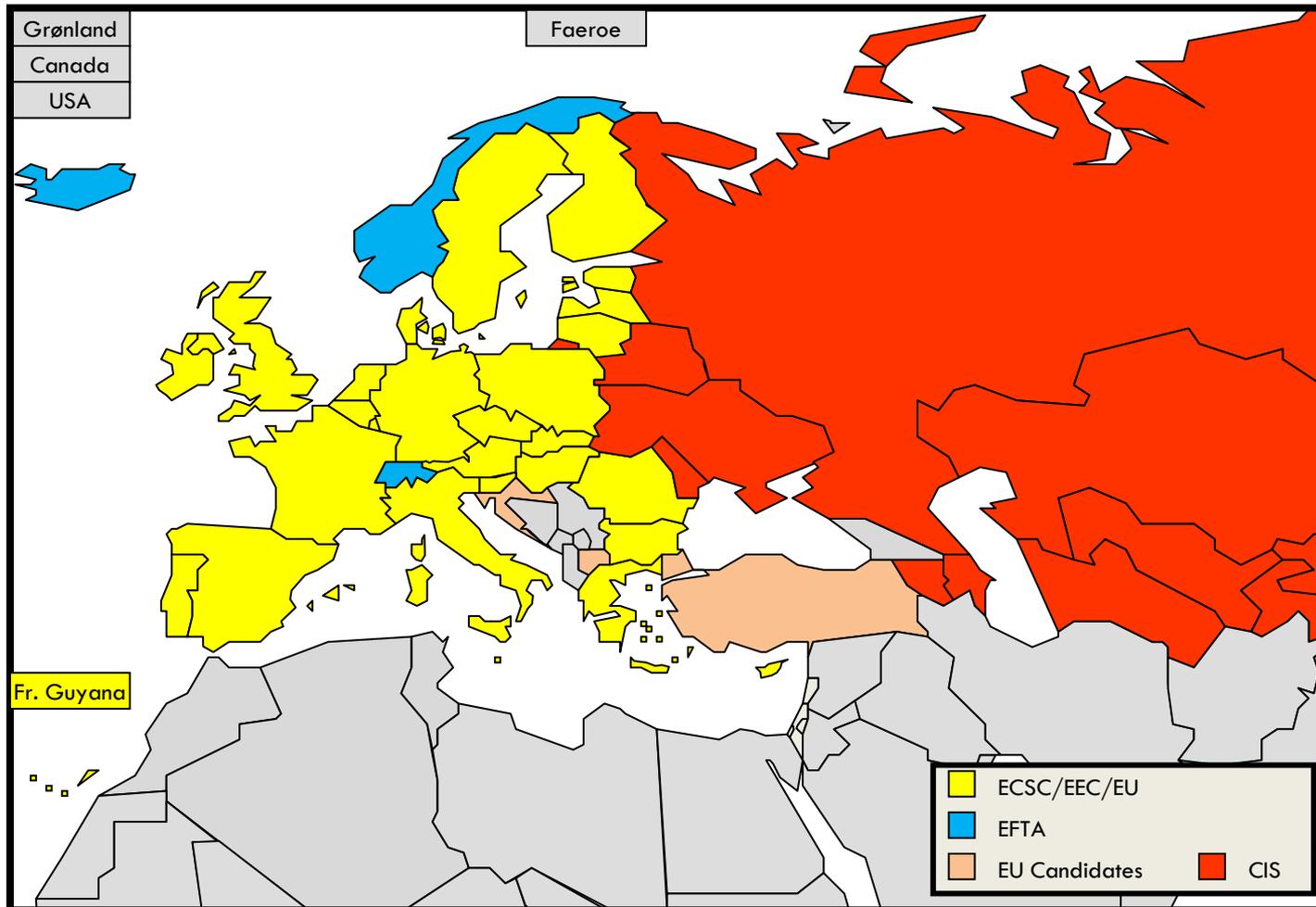
2. Accession & Integration

2007: EU + BG, RO



2. Accession & Integration

2009: CIS -Georgia



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3. Institutions

How does the EU work?

3. Institutions

- „Pillars“ of the European Union
 1. European Community
 2. Common Foreign and Security Policy
 3. Police and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters (freedom of movement, internal security)

3. Institutions

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- European Council (heads of state/gvmt, Pres. of Commission): develop guidelines, policy directions
 - ▣ Council of Ministers (varying members depending on tasks; ~upper house/legislative+executive), 6 months presidency (rotating)
 - ▣ Parliament (~lower house/legislative/consultative)
 - can censure Commission, take Council and Commiss. to Court
 - approve budget
 - give opinions to community directives+regulations
 - can veto Commission or Pres. of Commission
 - citizens have right of petition
 - ▣ European Commission (~government/executive)
 - Head: one member per state (27 now)
 - European Civil Service
 - ▣ European Court of Justice (~judiciary)
 - ▣ Court of Auditors, Europ. Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, Europ. Investment Bank, Europ. Central Bank