

CHAPTER
24

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: MOVEMENT
Languages Fuel Nationalism

Section 3

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

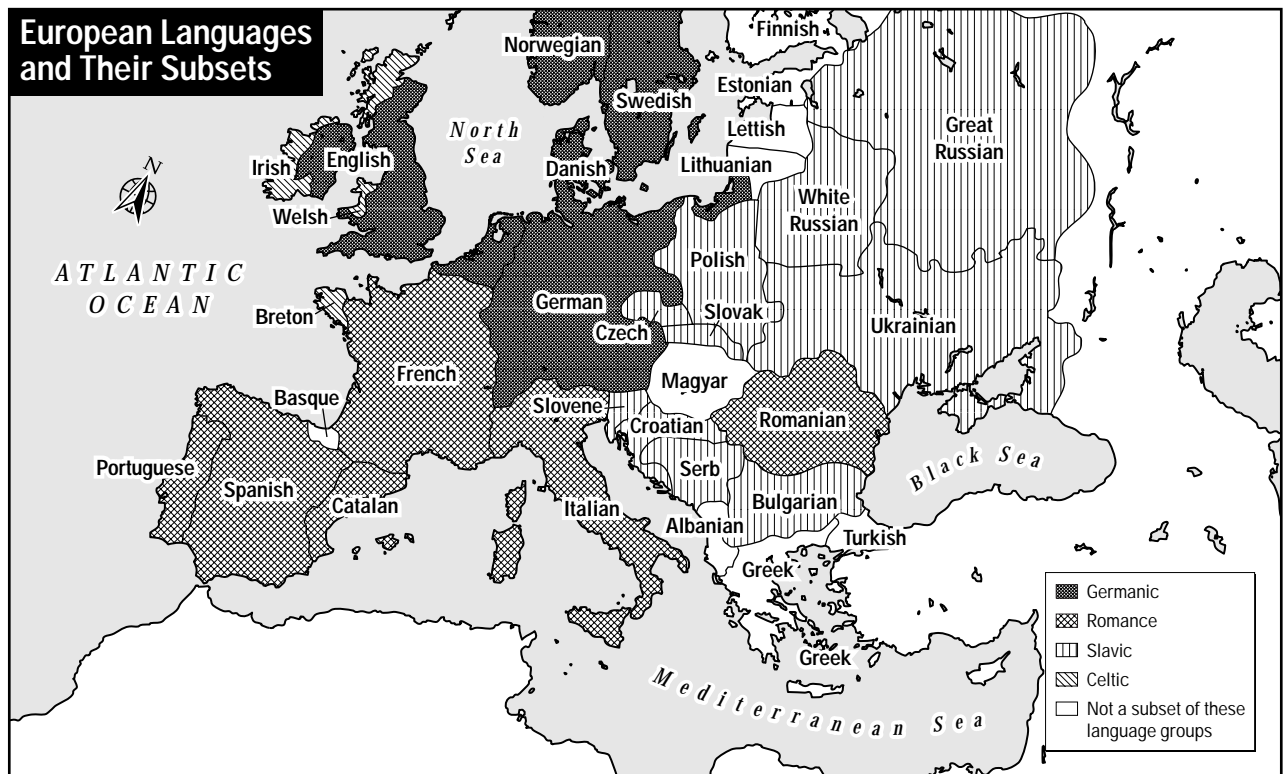
The languages of Europe are divided into four main families—Celtic, Germanic, Romance, and Slavic. Nationalists, people who believed that people of a common ancestry should unite under a single government, often used common language as a tool to achieve their goal.

In central Europe, the idea of a national language sparked ideas of forming one nation. The German people, though divided into many different states and principalities, became obsessed with national unity. Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm, famous for *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, traveled throughout Germany studying dialects and collecting folk tales in the hopes of creating a sense of German identity.

In southeastern Europe, Slavic patriots began a movement to preserve their cultures and foster national identities. These patriots collected folk

tales, studied languages, compiled dictionaries, and wrote books in their native tongues. For example, in a region that was to become Romania, a man named George Lazar began teaching the history of Romania in Romanian—much to the surprise of the upper class, who still spoke Greek. In addition, a Serb patriot, Vuk Karajich, published *Popular Songs and Epics of the Serbs*, formed a Serb alphabet, and translated the New Testament into Serbian.

However, the efforts of these nationalists to help create a sense of national unity sometimes had mixed results. Germany benefited from the unifying elements of language, as the German people formed one country in 1871. On the other hand, the multitude of languages and dialects of the Slavic peoples in southeastern Europe have probably helped keep these peoples divided.



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Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. Name the four major language families in Europe. _____

In what part of Europe is each of the language families found? _____

2. To what major language family does English belong? _____

3. What part of Europe—eastern or western—has the greater number of languages in the smallest geographic area? _____

To what family do most of these languages belong? _____

Name five of these languages. _____

4. What seems unusual about Romania being in the romance language family? _____

5. How might language help to divide people and prevent them from forming their own country?

Examine the map again. In what part of Europe might that have happened? _____

6. How might language unite people and help them to form their own country? _____

Examine the map again. In what part of Europe might that have happened? _____