

Transregional Europe

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BY

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Table of Contents

About the Author	vii
Preface	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2 Europe Imagined: Regions and States	11
Chapter 3 Seeing Europe in Time and Space	23
Chapter 4 Regions <i>an sich</i>: Natural, Linguistic, Religious	37
Chapter 5 Planning for EEurope	45
Building on the Baltic	52
Bogged Down in the Danube	54
Beyond the Balkans: The Adriatic and Ionian Region	56
Alps into Space: The Alpine Space Programme and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)	57
The North Sea	57
The Atlantic Arc: Running into the Sand	59
The Black Sea	60
The Western and Eastern Parts of the Mediterranean	61
Conclusion	65
Chapter 6 Eurasia: Complement or Competitor?	69
Chapter 7 Migrants and Tourists	75

Chapter 8 Whither Europe? Planned and Unplanned Macro-regions	83
Endnotes	89
References	105
Index	133

About the Author

William Outhwaite, Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, UK, taught at the universities of Sussex, in the School of European Studies, and Newcastle, where he is Emeritus Professor of Sociology. His interests include the philosophy of the social sciences (especially realism), social theory (especially critical theory), political sociology and the sociology of knowledge.

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Preface

This book continues a line of argument developed in my *European Society* (2008), *Europe Since 1989* (2016) and *Contemporary Europe* (2017). It aims to integrate work such as ‘new regionalist’ approaches in human geography and planning with related scholarship in history and the other social sciences. At the time of writing, the future of the UK and its relationship with the European Union (EU) still remains open, but it is possible to make two remarks here. First, there is no obstacle in principle to non-member states participating in EU programmes of the kind discussed here. Second, however, when the UK does secede, on whatever terms, it will probably cease to appear in many of the statistical sources on which writers on contemporary Europe have increasingly relied.¹ This is a further source of regret amidst a much broader tragedy. The EU will survive (and hopefully thrive) without the UK, though it is hard to see any future for the UK or whatever remains of it after its probable dissolution.

¹For an early example of this exclusion, see the Commission proposal for Cohesion Policy in the 2021–2027 budget period: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/panorama/pdf/mag65/mag65_en.pdf. The ESPON reports and maps referred to substantially in this book include only the European Economic Area and Switzerland.

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