Europe Today: The Fractured Continent
OLLI Boulder Syllabus
Fall Term 2019 - 4 Week Course
Tuesdays; 9:30-11:30 a.m. (September 17 – October 8)
Required Text: Fractured Continent - Europe’s Crises and the Fate of the West by William Drozdiak
Facilitator: Reva Greenburg
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After a brief history of the European Union, we will consider 2 European nations each week, their strengths, weaknesses, peculiarities and the durability of their ties to the EU and to the US. As our text, Fractured Continent, was published in 2017, we will collectively ‘update’ its chapters, whenever possible, with more recent news from sources such as The NYT, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist and the like. The class will be mostly discussion with occasional mini lectures by the facilitator and by willing members of the class.

Week 1    September 17
From the EEC to the EU (Lecture)
Brussels and the Structures of the EU   (2 Homes, 28 Countries, 24 Official Languages, 7 Institutions, 10,000 People. What could possibly go wrong?)
Chapters 2 & 4

Week 2    September 24
Current Problems of the EU
The Power of Berlin   (How successful have Chancellor Merkel’s policies been? What do you think of her decisions on the refugee crisis and on eurozone issues?)
What’s Wrong with Paris?  (What’s right? How is President Macron doing? Who are the ‘gilets jaunes’ and what ignited the movement?)

Introduction, Chapters 1 & 3

**Week 3  October 1**

Madrid and the slow but steady Spanish Economic Recovery  (But continuing complications of the “Catalan Question”)

Rome and its Surprising Mayor  (And then there’s economic decline, corruption, the refugee crisis and Garbage! How effective--or destructive--do you think the new Deputy Prime Minister, Matteo Salvini, will be?)

Chapters 5 & 6

**Week 4  October 8**

Warsaw’s continuing Concerns over Immigration and Environmentalism  (Has Poland’s passion for the EU cooled? Who is Jaroslaw Kaczynski? What do Poland and Hungary have in common?)

Copenhagen and its many Virtues (The Welfare State and its Problems; climate change and Danish Solutions. How does Denmark compare to other Nordic countries?)

Epilogue  (Can the liberal International Order be saved? Do you think this long-standing, but often troubled, experiment in European unity can survive without American support? Are there any bright spots on the Horizon?)

Epilogue, Chapters 7 & 8

Before classes begins, I will send out a list of possible topics on various aspects of the countries we are covering and a few on those we are not. If you are so inclined, please choose one, or add a relevant topic of interest to you, to present to the class. As we have much to cover, talks will be limited to approximately 10 minutes.