

Handout

Timeline of Jean Monnet's Life

Date/Age/ Location	Personal and Professional Life	World Event	Quote
1888-Small child; Cognac	Monnet learned the family cognac business from the dinner table. Visits from clients from throughout the world provided a window to international affairs.		Patience is certainly something that I learned from where I grew up. The people of Cognac were not nationalist, at a time when France was.
1904-16 years; London	Monnet lived with the family of a wine merchant in London to learn English – the language of important clients – as well as their habits and ways. The traditions of British business circles demonstrated the benefits of collective action.		My father said, “Don’t take any books. No one can do your thinking for you. Pay attention to your neighbor. Look out the window, talk to people.” I learned to weigh my words. At sixteen, I was already a traveler.
1906-18 years; Canada, U.S., Egypt, China, Russia, Sweden, and Greece	Rather than go to the university, Monnet traveled and built the reputation of his family’s cognac business. His relationship with the Hudson Bay Company became particularly important.		Here, I encountered a new way of looking at things. Individual initiative could be accepted as a contribution to the general good. When he needed a horse to visit a client, the blacksmith told me: “You can always take this animal. When you come back, just hitch up in the same place.” If I had shown him how surprised I was [at his confidence}, he would certainly have been hurt. It was a different notion of law and order here. In North America, there was dynamism – a world on the move.
1914-26 years; France and England	Discharged from the military for health reasons, Monnet served France in other ways. He proposed a plan for an Allied victory lay by fusing France and England’s war efforts.	World War I	Allied solidarity must be total. Neither side must be free to use its men, its supplies . . . that haven’t been agreed to by both. I know the British well enough to be sure that we can reach a real agreement with them if we appeal to their loyalty and if we play fair. Friendship, to me, is the result of joint action rather than the reason for it.

1919-31 years; U.S.	Due to his effectiveness during the war, at the age of 31, Monnet was named Deputy Secretary General of the League of Nations upon its creation.	League of Nations	Bringing governments together, getting national officials to cooperate, is well-intentioned enough; but the method breaks down as soon as national interests conflict, unless there is an independent political body that can take a common view of the problem and arrive at a common decision.
1923-35 years; U.S., Europe, Asia	Monnet worked as an international financier, consulting on a railway in China and founding a bank in San Francisco. In 1931, published an essay "United States of Europe"		
1938-50 years; England	Jean Monnet was sent to London by the French and British governments to oversee the integration of the two nation's production capacities. When the French were defeated, Monnet inspired de Gaulle and Churchill to take a united stand against Nazism.	World War II	There will be no peace in Europe if the States rebuild themselves on the basis of national sovereignty, with its implications of prestige politics and economic protection. The countries of Europe are not strong enough individually to be able to guarantee prosperity and social development for their peoples. The States of Europe must therefore form a federation or a European entity that would make them into a common economic unit.
1940-1941-early 50s; U.S.	The British government sent Jean Monnet to the U.S. to negotiate the purchase of war supplies. He became one of President Roosevelt's most trusted advisers – using a "balance sheet" to persuade Roosevelt to launch the Victory Program, a massive arms production program to supply the Allies with military material.		With a balance sheet in hand, it was easy to demonstrate there was no other way. The balance sheet of needs and resources, which ought to be the starting point of all administration, is often the last thing the administrators think of. (See sample balance sheet.) You must use your best efforts to smooth out differences and bring about joint decisions by adopting an Allied rather than a national point of view.
1947-59; France	Monnet headed the Planning Commissariat which distributed Marshall aid to great effect.	Cold War Marshall Plan	Thus, for the first time, responsibility was to be shared, and Europe was asked to come together to draw up a balance sheet of its needs and resources. I myself played no direct part in the diplomatic negotiations which culminated in the Soviets' refusal to join in an

			overall programme, on the grounds that it would infringe national sovereignty.
1950s-60s	Monet and his team conceived the idea of the European Community. The Coal Steel Agreement, (prepared in secret), to place all the Franco-German production of steel and coal under a common High Authority open to the other countries of Europe. In 1950, Schuman made the declaration in the name of the French government. In 1952, Jean Monnet became the first President of the High Authority.	Coal and Steel Agreement	In the 4th version, the High Authority was described as the supranational; but I disliked the word, and always have. What mattered was the task it implied and our work was eventually summed up in one sentence. By pooling of basic production and the establishment of a new High Authority whose decisions will be binding on France, Germany, and the countries that join them, this proposal will lay the first concrete foundation of the European Federation which is indispensable to the maintenance of peace. Let us all — Germans, Belgians, French, Dutch, Italians and Luxembourgers — become Europeans. There will no longer be German coal or French steel, but European coal and steel, moving freely between our countries as if within a single country of 155 million consumers
1957		European Economic Market	Once a common market interest has been created, then political union will come naturally. We are not forming coalitions between States, but union among people.
1963	Jean Monnet received an award from Freedom House. Later that year, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Johnson.		See letter from President Kennedy attached.
1979-91 years; France	Jean Monnet died in Houjarey, France at the age of 91. His ashes are in the Pantheon. His home is now a museum owned by the European Union.		Europe will not be conjured up in a stroke, nor by an overall design. It will be attained by concrete achievements generating an active community of interest.