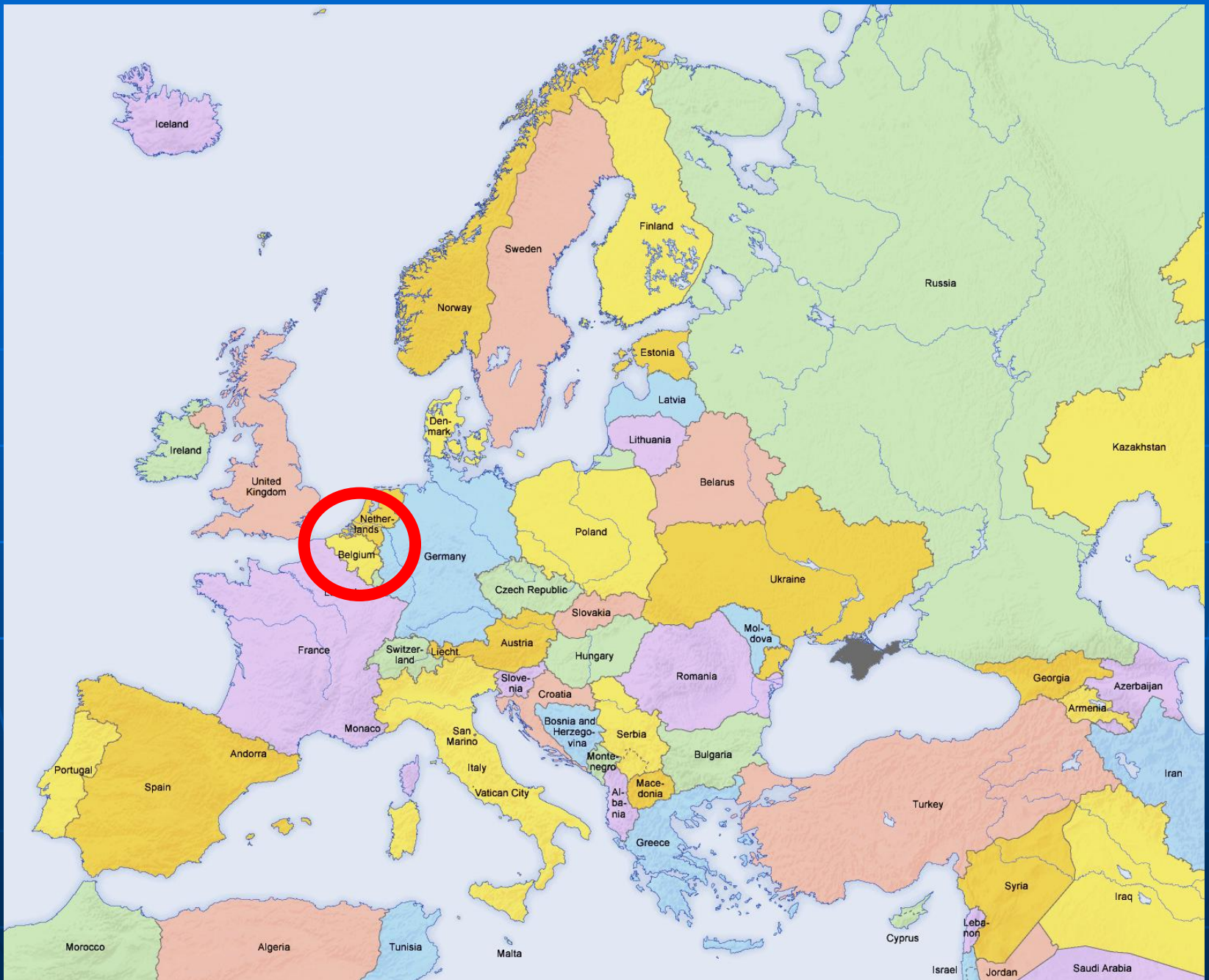


# **Belgium for Beginners**

**What Do You Know About Belgium?**



Iceland

Ireland

United Kingdom

Denmark

Norway

Sweden

Finland

Russia

Estonia

Latvia

Lithuania

Belarus

Kazakhstan

Netherlands

Belgium

Germany

Poland

Ukraine

Czech Republic

Slovakia

Hungary

Austria

Slovenia

Croatia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Serbia

Montenegro

Albania

Macedonia

Greece

Bulgaria

Romania

Moldova

Georgia

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Iran

Portugal

Spain

Andorra

Monaco

Switzerland

Liechtenstein

Austria

Slovenia

Croatia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Serbia

Montenegro

Albania

Macedonia

Greece

Bulgaria

Romania

Moldova

Morocco

Algeria

Tunisia

Malta

Cyprus

Israel

Jordan

Lebanon

Saudi Arabia

Syria

Iraq





MER  
DU  
NORD

PAYS-BAS

FRANCE

LUXEMBOURG



# Part 1: Belgium in general

- Geography and climat
- Population
- Culture and religion
- Politics
- Typically Belgium
- Famous Belgians

# Geography and Climat

## ■ Neighbours

- Surface: 32545 km<sup>2</sup>
- Landscape
- Max distance: 280 km





# Population

- 11 mil. inhabitants
  - 315 inhabitants per square km
  - 97% lives in urban area
  - Triangle Antwerp-Brussels- Leuven
  - Ax Bergen – Charleroi – Luik



# Population (2)

- Age constitution:
  - 0-15 yrs: 18%
  - 15-24 yrs: 13%
  - 25-49 yrs: 37%
  - 50-64 yrs: 16%
  - 65-79 yrs: 12%
  - Above 80: 3.8%

# Population (3)

- Cultural mixture:
  - Belgians: 91.6%
  - Italians: 1.7%
  - French: 1.1%
  - Dutch: 1%
  - Marocs: 0.8%
  - Turkish: 0.4%
  - Spanish: 0.4%



# Culture + religion

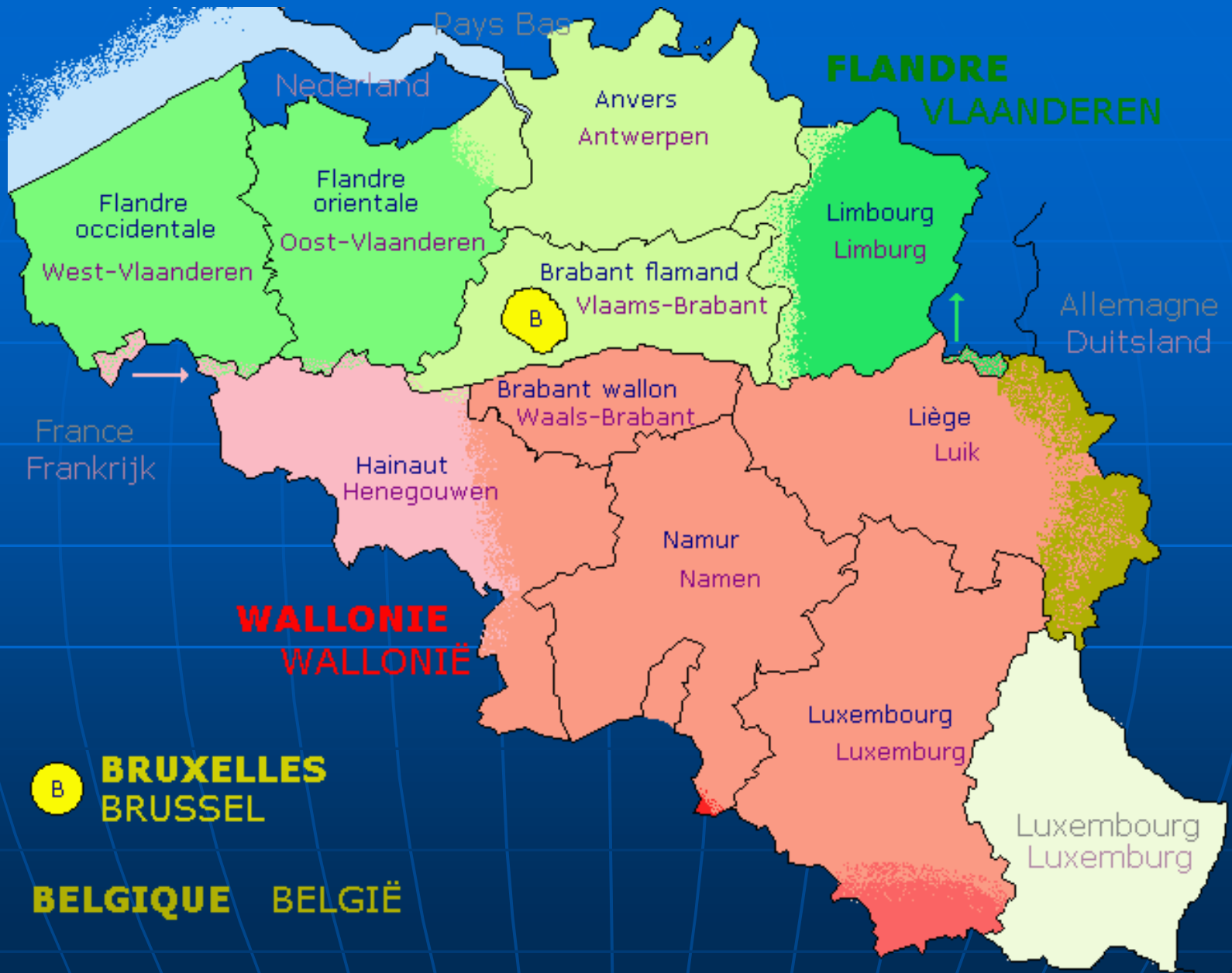
## ■ 3

### languages

- Dutch: Wij spreken Nederlands
- French: Nous parlons le Français
- German: Wir sprechen Deutsch

### • Religion





# a Constitutional Monarchy



# Belgian COMPLEXITY .....

the Belgian state is divided into

The federal state: **the federal government,**

Three regions :

Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels :

**3 regional governments**

three communities: Flemish, French, German :

**3 community councils.**



## BELGIUM

### THE FEDERAL STATE



## THE COMMUNITIES

### THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY



### THE FRENCH COMMUNITY



### THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY



## THE REGIONS

### THE FLEMISH REGION



### THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION



### THE WALLOON REGION



# BELGIUM

a federal parliamentary democracy  
under a constitutional monarchy,



- Charles MICHEL
- Prime Minister: 11 oktober 2014  
21 december 1975 (39 years)

# THE BELGIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



## 3 geographical Regions:

**Flanders (flemish)**

**Wallonia (french)**

**Brussels (bilingual)**

- 10 policy areas:
- economy, energy, employment, transport, public works, science, regional development, environment, agriculture, housing, and water



# 3 REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS



BOURGEOIS I  
The flanders Government



MAGNETTE I  
The Wallonia Government



VERVOORT II  
The Brussels government

# 3 linguistic communities

- The Flemish community
    - (= *Flemish regional government*)
  - The French community
    - (= *Wallo Brux*)
  - The German community
- 
- 3 policy area's
    - Education, culture and language.

# 3 community governments ..



BOURGEOIS I: flemish community (=Flemish region)



DEMOTTE III  
French community



PAASCH I:  
german community

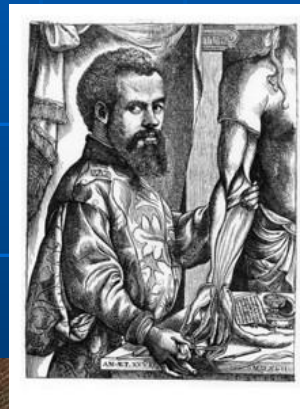
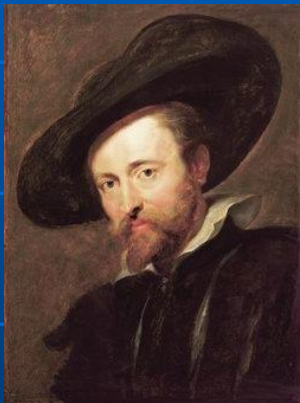
# Typical Belgium

- Brussels: European capital
- 'French' fries; chocolates, tintin, beer, ...
- Polyglot
- Linguistic problems
- Brick in the belly
- Productive
- Bon vivants ...

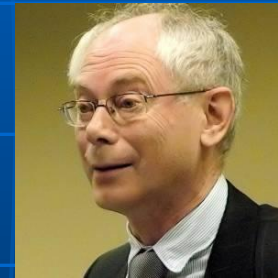
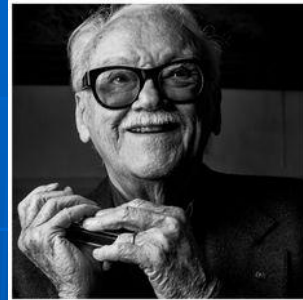




# Famous Belgians, once ...



and now ...





# Part 2: The economic history of Belgium

# Introduction

- Small country → small internal market → obliged to focus on external markets
- On top of the worlds list of large import and export countries
- Very large import and export-quote



# Internationally oriented economy

- Middle ages: busy trade center;
- 10-15th century: important textile center (cloth)
- 15th century: Antwerp became more important (Atlantic harbour)
- 19th century: Wallonia, productive region (mining/steel)
- Now:
  - 2 out of every 3 large companies depend on foreign decisions

# From industry toward services

- 1970-1995: reduction of the employment in primary sector but mostly in secondary sector
- partly compensated by strong growth in tertiary sector
- increase of employment of women
- more small companies

# Two major economical problems

- Unemployment
- Public debt

# Unemployment

- Slight improvement but still too high
  - differences between sexes: mostly women
  - differences between regions: mostly Brussels and Wallonia
- Causes
  - Sectorial problems
  - A lot of people of active age
  - Increase of employment of women
  - Very high productivity
  - Very high cost of labour (fiscal and parafiscal)

# Working population

- Total: +/- 4,1 mlj
- Agriculture: 0,07 mlj
- Industry: 1 mlj
- Services: 3 mlj