**II. Northwestern Europe Today**

A. United Kingdom

* **Great Britain –**
* Most people mistakenly call all of the United Kingdom – England
* **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**
* 80% of the population lives in England

Four Political Regions

1)

2)

3)

4)

* **London –**

B. National Government

* Has a constitutional monarchy
* **Queen Elizabeth II –**
* **Parliament** –

C. Two Houses of Government

* **House of Lords -**
* **House of Commons –**
* **David Cameron –**

D. European Union

* **European Union -**
* **Open Markets –**
* **Currency –**
* **Euro –**

E. Scandinavian Countries

* **Scandinavia –**
* Very long winters and short summers
* Sun shines only 2-3 hours a day in some places during the winter
* Sun shines almost 24 hours a day during the summer
* **Start of Summer –**

F. Scandinavian Governments

* **Cradle-to-Grave System –**
* Covers healthcare, education, and retirement
* Paid for by high taxes
* Sweden citizens pay about 60% of their income in taxes

G. Europe and Technology

* Almost universal access to the Internet
* Helps connect Europe to the rest of the world
* Scandinavian governments invest large sums of money on research and development

H. Living Together

* **“The sun never sets on the British Empire”**
* Immigrants from around the world move to Europe in search of jobs
* **Cultural Borrowing –**