**IV. Southern Europe Today**

1. A Region of Tradition

* **Iberian Peninsula –**
* Rich cultural history found throughout this region
* Ancient Greeks and Romans established the examples of democracy and protecting human rights

B. Economic Change

* Until recently most of the countries in this region were ruled by dictators
* Today they are all ruled as democracies which has helped create more jobs and increase economic growth
* Huge economic growth was seen between 1980 and 2000

C. Portugal Today

* Like other countries in the region it has seen a strong economy since joining the EU
* **Diversify –**
* EU membership gives Portugal access to markets around the world

D. Regional Challenges

* Traditionally Southern Europe has been a center of trade
* Products from China have greatly increased in modern times
* Chinese companies pay workers less which means that they can sell their products cheaper
* Southern Europeans no longer have large families, which means that they increasingly rely on immigrant labor
* Employers welcome immigrants but many Southern Europeans are afraid that immigrants are challenging traditional culture
* **Deportation –**
* Immigrant groups have proven to be easy scapegoats in Europe since the financial crisis of 2008
* Immigration shows both the benefits and the challenges of living in today’s interconnected world