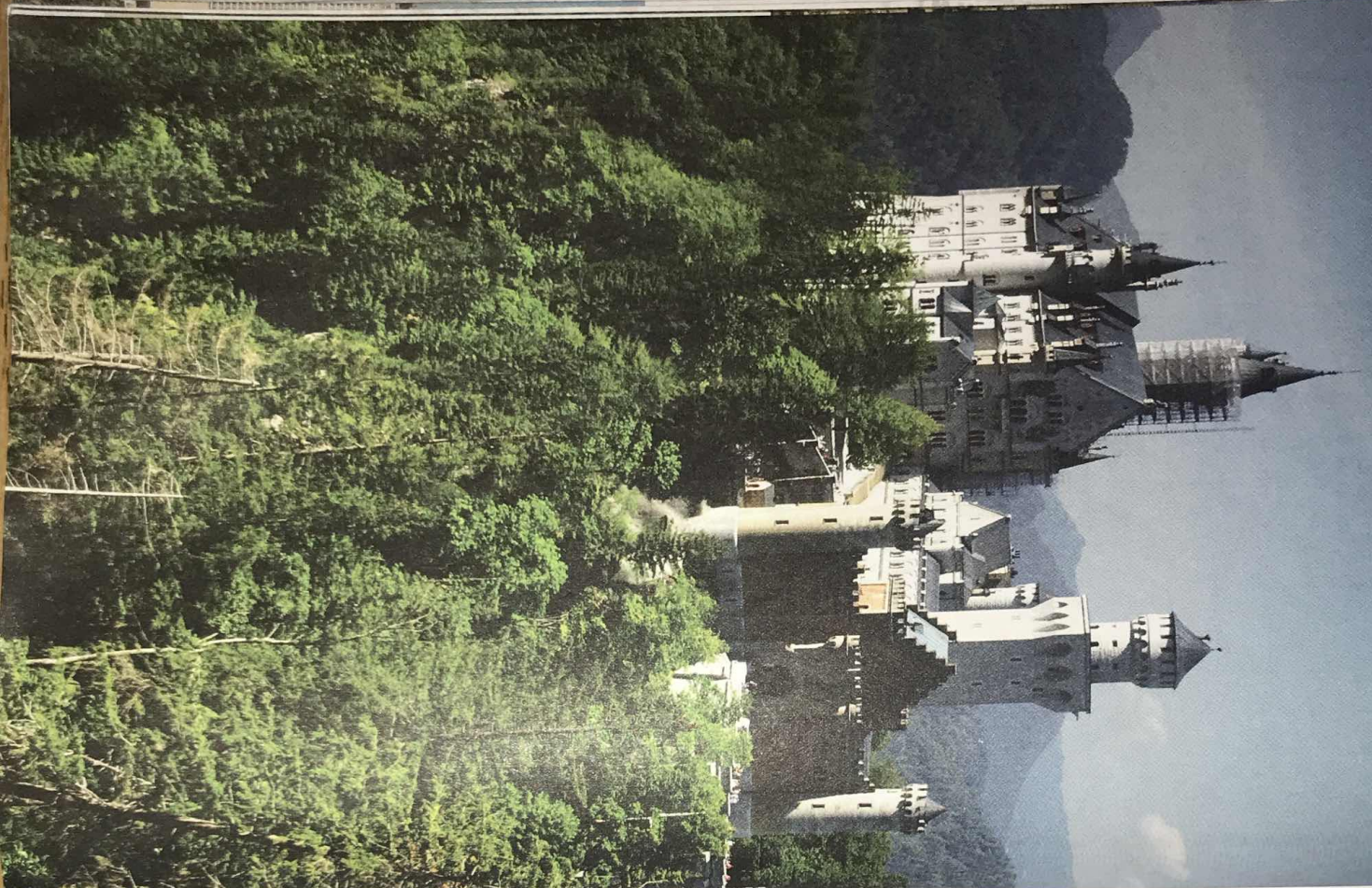


Many people visit Europe to see castles like this one, in Germany. (Lukasz Mlegoo)



## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

# SMALL ONLY IN SIZE

As we have mentioned, large parts of North and South America were once colonies of European countries such as England, Spain and Portugal. So let's talk about Europe.

Europe is the second smallest continent. It is bordered to the west by the Atlantic Ocean; to the north by the Arctic Ocean; and to the south by the Mediterranean Sea.

As for the eastern boundary of Europe, it consists of a series of rivers and lakes inside Russia. Russia is such a large country that its western part is in Europe and its eastern part is in Asia. Russia is also the biggest country in both of those continents!

Another important European country is the United Kingdom.

Great Britain is the largest island of the U.K. (as it is known). The largest part of Great Britain is England, which we have talked about before.

Because the United States started as a series of English colonies, American culture has been hugely influenced by England. The culture of England (and Great Britain) affects everything from what we Americans eat to how we



**American fighting men hug a British woman at the end of World War II**

(National Archives photo)

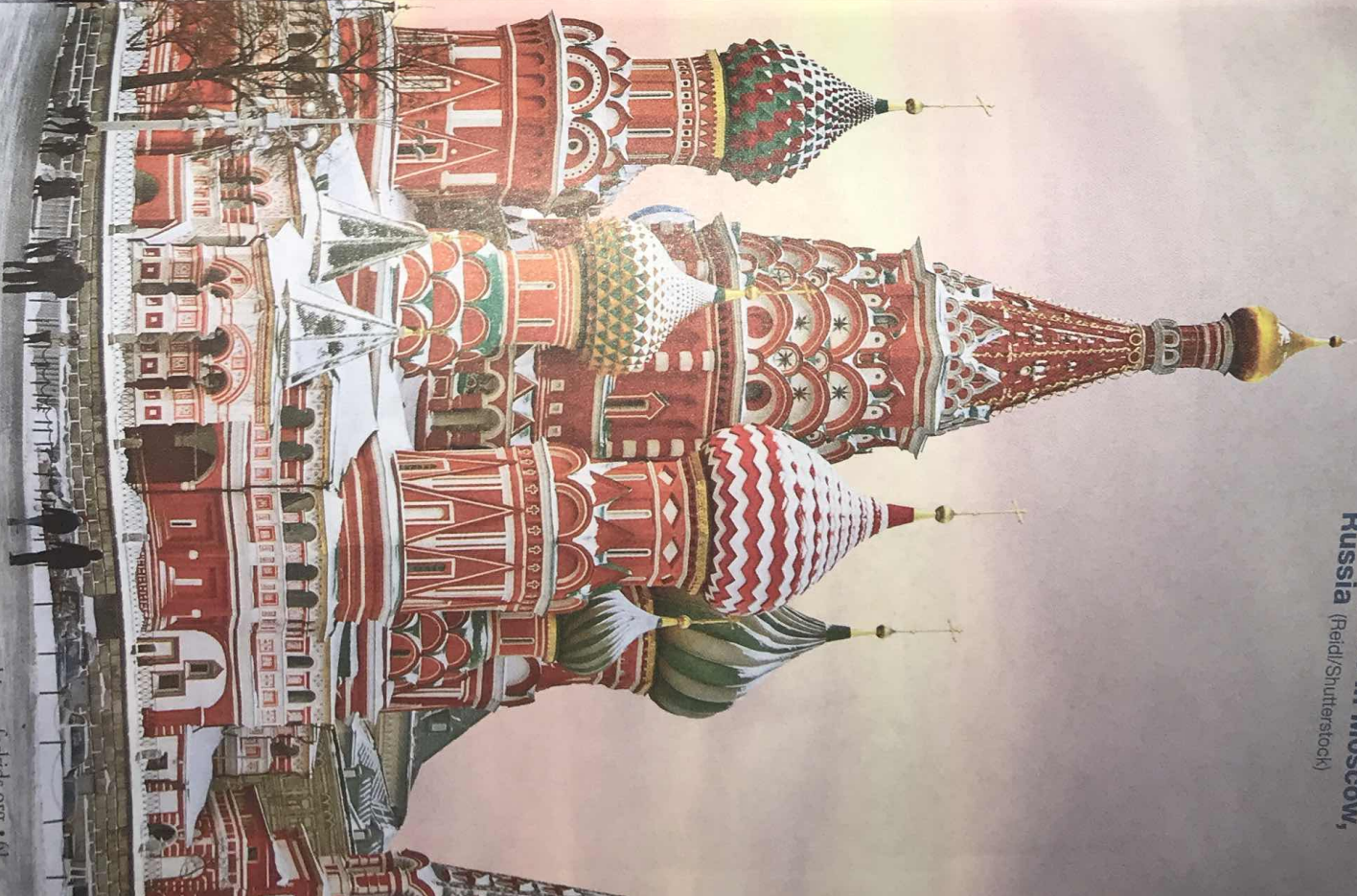
teach to how our military is organized. Our connection to England is why most Americans speak English!

Three of the other more important countries in Europe are Spain, Germany and France. Many Americans are **descended** from people who left Spain, Germany and France and **immigrated** (moved) to the United States. Many words that we routinely use came from the Spanish, German and French languages. The suffix “ville,” used in the words Nashville and Knoxville, is French. It means “city.”

During the last 100 years, the U.S. was twice drawn into wars that started in Europe. The first of these horrible wars was World War I, and the second was World War II. In both of these wars, the U.S. was the **ally** of the United Kingdom, France and Russia (which means that we fought with the U.K, France and Russia.) In both wars, we were an enemy of Germany (which means we fought against Germany.) Fortunately, these wars ended a long time ago.

Did a relative of yours fight in these wars?

**Red Square in Moscow, Russia**  
(Reid/Shutterstock)





**TRUE OR FALSE?**  
Great Britain gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States.  
*(Answer on page 96)*

**The Eiffel Tower, in Paris, France** (S-F/Shutterstock)



There are a lot of beautiful cities in Europe. The two best known (and most visited) are London, England, and Paris, France.

The weather and terrain in most of Europe are similar to that of Tennessee. There are lots of rivers and farms. One difference between Europe and Tennessee is that Europe has a huge mountain range called the Alps with mountains far higher than the ones in Tennessee. ⚡

## QUESTIONS

1) In what ways is England important to the U.S.?

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2) What is one way in which European countries were important to Americans in the 1900s?

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