At the end of this session, you should be able to understand
- The new supranational European framework
- The historical origins of cosmopolitanism in Europe and the secret of its success in Europe: radical tolerance and radical openness & giving up national sovereignty
- The emergence of new identities and Beck’s concept of “Cosmopolitization”
- The example of the new Human Rights regimes and how they impact global politics
- The future and the enemies of new emergent cosmopolitan societies like the EU: nationalism, corporate globalism & democratic authoritarianism

The new European concept
- EU is a new economic, political, and cultural concept resulting from its history and experience particularly in the 20th century (two World War’s, Holocaust, genocides)

Characteristics
- New forms of supra-national governance
- Common economic policies & currency
- Transportation and communication links
- Borderless traffic within the EU-member states
- Growing awareness and European identity

A new concept of national sovereignty
- Nation-states within EU voluntarily gave up traditional sovereignty (non-interference) and legitimate use of force over their internal and foreign affairs within their given territories

Examples:
- Establishment of a European tree trade area ➔ economic and monetary union
- Common trade, monetary, agricultural, and tax policy
- Common currency ➔ Euro since 2003
- Common Institutions: European Central Bank, European High Court, European Parliament
- Harmonization of laws re: environment, education, health, and consumer protection, immigration and external border policies (visas, asylum, judicial and police cooperation)
- Common foreign and defense policy (in the making)
- European Constitutions (in the making)

Development of a European Identity
- Disjunction/decoupling of state and nation
- National introspection
- Rewriting national histories
- Commemoration of common heritage
Emergence of sub-national (regional, local) and supra-national (European, cosmopolitan world citizen) identities and patriotism

Global effects of the European experiment: the Human Rights Example

- Increase of HR institution-building, enforcement & creation of HR awareness on a global level through:
  - European Charter of HR
  - NGO’s and transnational activists
  - United Nations
  - International Criminal Court (not signed by U.S.)
- Trials of perpetrators in other states (Pinochet case)

- HR violations become a domestic and international liability for governments (torture, death penalty, lack of due process) ➔ delegitimation, loss of “soft power”

The future of the EU experiment?

- The EU experiment has unique historical, cultural, and geographical features and is not likely exported elsewhere soon, except perhaps the model of economic regionalism
- The EU future and that of other experiments that go beyond the nation-state is not secure yet.

- According to Beck it is in a process that could be derailed by the enemies of this new emergent cosmopolitan society:
  - Nationalism and its modernized offshoots, such as exclusive “Christian Europeanism,” “Culturalism,” reductionist EU national federalism
  - Corporate globalism
  - Democratic authoritarianism