1. Germany
Capital: Berlin
Population: ~84 million
Language: German
Currency: Euro (€)
Germany is Europe's largest economy and a global leader in automotive engineering, manufacturing, and technology. It is known for its precision engineering, with companies like BMW, Volkswagen, and Siemens headquartered here. Germany has a rich cultural and historical heritage, including landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin Wall, and Neuschwanstein Castle. The country has also played a pivotal role in European politics and diplomacy, being a founding member of the European Union (EU). Its cities like Munich and Frankfurt are global financial and business hubs.

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2. France
Capital: Paris
Population: ~68 million
Language: French
Currency: Euro (€)
France is synonymous with art, fashion, and culinary excellence. Paris, its capital, is home to iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum, and Notre-Dame Cathedral. France is the world's most popular tourist destination, attracting millions annually. Culturally, it has influenced art, cinema, philosophy, and literature, producing figures like Monet and Sartre. Economically, it is a major force in agriculture, luxury goods (Louis Vuitton, Chanel), and aerospace, with Airbus being a global leader. France plays a central role in the EU and NATO.

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3. United Kingdom
Capital: London
Population: ~67 million
Language: English
Currency: British Pound (£)
The United Kingdom (UK), comprising England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, is known for its history, culture, and political influence. London, a global financial center, is home to institutions like the Bank of England and the London Stock Exchange. The UK has had a significant impact on global culture through literature (Shakespeare), music (The Beatles), and science (Isaac Newton). Although it exited the EU in 2020 (Brexit), it remains a major player in global trade, finance, and diplomacy.

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4. Italy
Capital: Rome
Population: ~60 million
Language: Italian
Currency: Euro (€)
Italy is renowned for its history, art, and cuisine. Rome, the capital, was the center of the ancient Roman Empire and is home to the Vatican City, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. Italy's contributions to art and architecture are immense, with cities like Florence, Venice, and Milan showcasing Renaissance masterpieces. It is also a hub for fashion and design. The Italian economy thrives on luxury goods, automotive brands (Ferrari, Lamborghini), and tourism.

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5. Spain
Capital: Madrid
Population: ~47 million
Language: Spanish
Currency: Euro (€)

Spain has a vibrant culture known for flamenco music, bullfighting, and festivals like La Tomatina. Its cities like Barcelona and Madrid are cultural and economic centers. Spain is famous for its Mediterranean beaches, historical landmarks such as the Alhambra, and the architectural works of Antoni Gaudí. It has a diverse economy based on tourism, agriculture, and services. Spanish influence is also seen in Latin America due to Spain's colonial past, making the Spanish language one of the most spoken in the world.

6. Netherlands
Capital: Amsterdam
Population: ~17 million
Language: Dutch
Currency: Euro (€)
The Netherlands is known for its progressive policies, picturesque canals, windmills, and tulip fields. Amsterdam, its capital, is a cultural hub with renowned museums like the Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum. The country is also a leader in environmental innovation and water management, with a long history of building dikes and canals. The Netherlands is an important player in global trade, hosting one of the largest ports in the world in Rotterdam. It is also the headquarters of major companies like Philips and Shell.

7. Switzerland
Capital: Bern
Population: ~8.7 million
Language: German, French, Italian, Romansh
Currency: Swiss Franc (CHF)
Switzerland is famous for its neutrality in global conflicts, precision watchmaking, and stunning Alpine landscapes. It is home to financial institutions and international organizations like the Red Cross and the World Health Organization (WHO). Cities like Zurich and Geneva are global financial centers, known for private banking and wealth management. The country is also a hub for luxury brands (Rolex, Patek Philippe) and world-famous chocolate and cheese.

8. Sweden
Capital: Stockholm
Population: ~10 million
Language: Swedish
Currency: Swedish Krona (SEK)
Sweden is known for its high quality of life, social welfare system, and innovation. Stockholm, its capital, is a blend of modernity and tradition, home to the Nobel Prize Museum. Sweden has produced global companies like IKEA, Volvo, and Spotify. It is also a leader in sustainability and environmental initiatives, with vast forests and clean energy sources. The country's cultural contributions include pop music (ABBA) and crime novels (Stieg Larsson).

9. Norway
Capital: Oslo
Population: ~5.4 million
Language: Norwegian
Currency: Norwegian Krone (NOK)
Norway is known for its stunning natural beauty, including fjords, mountains, and the Northern Lights. It has one of the highest standards of living in the world, thanks to its wealth from oil and gas reserves. Oslo, the capital, offers a mix of modern architecture and Viking history. Norway emphasizes sustainability and renewable energy, investing heavily in hydropower. It is also a non-EU member with a unique position in European politics.

10. Denmark
Capital: Copenhagen
Population: ~6 million
Language: Danish
Currency: Danish Krone (DKK)
Denmark consistently ranks high in global happiness and quality of life indexes. It is known for its commitment to green energy and cycling culture. Copenhagen, the capital, is famous for its design, architecture, and culinary scene, including the renowned restaurant Noma. Denmark is a pioneer in wind energy, with companies like Vestas leading the sector. It also plays a significant role in promoting social welfare and education.

11. Greece
Capital: Athens
Population: ~10.4 million
Language: Greek
Currency: Euro (€)
Greece is considered the cradle of Western civilization, with ancient contributions to philosophy, democracy, and art. Athens, the capital, is home to historical landmarks like the Parthenon and the Acropolis. Greece's economy relies heavily on tourism, with islands like Santorini and Mykonos attracting visitors from all over the world. Despite financial challenges in the past, Greece remains an influential cultural and historical hub.

12. Austria
Capital: Vienna
Population: ~9 million
Language: German
Currency: Euro (€)
Austria is known for its classical music heritage, with composers like Mozart and Beethoven linked to Vienna, the capital. The country is also famous for its Alpine landscapes, attracting tourists for skiing and hiking. Austria has a strong economy focused on tourism, manufacturing, and finance. Vienna is often ranked as one of the most livable cities in the world, known for its cultural institutions, historic coffee houses, and stunning architecture.

13. Portugal
Capital: Lisbon
Population: ~10 million
Language: Portuguese
Currency: Euro (€)
Portugal is known for its maritime history, as it was a leading nation during the Age of Exploration. Lisbon, the capital, and Porto are vibrant cities with rich architecture and culinary traditions. Portugal's economy is driven by tourism, agriculture, and exports like wine (Port wine). The country is also recognized for its surf-friendly beaches and Fado music.

14. Belgium
Capital: Brussels
Population: ~11.5 million
Language: Dutch, French, German
Currency: Euro (€)
Belgium is known for its medieval towns, chocolates, waffles, and beer. Brussels, the capital, is often considered the political heart of Europe, hosting the headquarters of the European Union (EU) and NATO.