

January 1, 2001 euro bank notes and currency were put into circulation. The week prior the headline in a paper proclaimed: " The Euro signals the end of 1,000 years of European War", and then goes on to state that "... the Euro experiment will ultimately fail, because it puts economic structure ahead of the political structure and this has never been tried before. On the other hand, perhaps it is here to stay: "German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck said that there were two unalterable components to a nation state: an army and a currency. The Europeans are giving up one next week. Can the other be far behind?" *James Klurfeld-Newda – 2002*

The challenge: With which of the above statements do you agree or disagree with and why? Support with evidence and analysis.

See: <http://www.euro.ecb.int/en.html>