

Editorial Note

Europe 1992 – Call for Papers

We are told that 1992 will mark a new stage in the history of Europe. Events in 1989 sharply redefined the shape that the 1992 process might take, but there is no doubt that the issue of Europe's identity – cultural as well as economic and political – will continue to be a live one. We are marking 1992 with a special issue devoted to the question of popular music in Europe: its past, present and future. Two broad areas are involved:

- (1) What is, and has been, specifically European about European popular music? How does this character define itself against the musics of other parts of the world, and what inter-relationships are there (have there been) between Europe and the other regions?
- (2) What is, and has been, the internal structure of European popular music geography? What commonalities, links, influences, differences and conflicts are characteristic of the relationships between the various traditions associated with different regions and nations in the continent?

Within these two areas, many specific topics come to mind:

- the structure of the European music industry;
- Euro-pop/Euro-rock: is there such a thing?;
- the reception and transformation of American sources;
- the diverse developments of indigenous traditions and their fate in late twentieth-century supra-national society;
- European musical imperialism (in Africa, for instance);
- the periodisation of European popular-music history;
- class types of popular music and the varied evolution of class-musical inter-relationships;
- sacred and secular;
- the significance of ethnicity (Celtic, Nordic, Latin, Slav, etc.).

There are many other relevant topics.

The issue will be published in January 1992. The copy deadline is 1 June 1991. Proposals and papers should be sent to Richard Middleton, The Open University Northern Region, Eldon House, Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3PW.