

## PART ONE

# Continental Contrasts

### *Preface*

It is the essential difference that separates us. It is found in how our societies were created. Europe was constructed from the top down and America was made from the bottom up. How Europe and America were built affects how Europeans and Americans think, how we behave, and how our governments rule. It affects ambition, and defines our spirit of competition. It writes our interpretation of history. It influences how we talk to each other; Americans are direct and Europeans are indirect. It changes the way we see things; Europeans in shades of grey and Americans in black and white. It is reflected in how we describe the meaning of freedom, in our interpretation of it, and in our willingness to defend it. In short, the essential difference profoundly affects the private and public lives of us both, Americans and Europeans.