Why It Matters

Russia’s population of more than 100 ethnic groups includes Slavic, Turkic, and Caucasian peoples. A study of the cultural geography of Russia will explore the ethnic diversity of this region and describe the ways in which the different populations influenced Russia’s culture throughout its long history.

Section 1: Population and Culture

Culture influences people’s perceptions of places and regions. Europeans, Asians, and other peoples have shaped the cultural geography of Russia.

Section 2: History and Government

The characteristics and distribution of cultures influence human systems. Russia’s various ethnic groups and cultures influenced the country’s tumultuous history and changes in government over time.

Women in traditional clothes dance to celebrate the coming of spring in Moscow.
Organizing Information  Make a Three-Tab Book to help you organize information about the cultural geography of Russia.

Reading and Writing  As you read the chapter, use your Foldable to take notes about the population patterns, culture, and history and government of Russia.
Many of Russia’s cultural traditions date back centuries. Maslenitsa began long ago as a folk holiday celebrating the coming of spring. It has since been absorbed into the Eastern Orthodox religion.

**Voices Around the World**

“This . . . is the Russian version of Mardi Gras. All over the country people celebrate the last period of merrymaking before the Great Fast preceding Easter. The festival starts February 5, and for the next four days Russians—many in traditional costumes—build bonfires, enjoy sled rides, try to avoid injury during mock fistfights, . . . and eat pancakes, which symbolize the sun. The best places to take part in maslenitsa are . . . to the northwest in the Golden Ring, a region of old Russian cities offering fine examples of Russian culture, traditions, and architecture dating back to the 12th century.”

Population Patterns

**MAIN Idea** Ethnic groups, migrations, and invasions have shaped population patterns in Russia.

**GEOGRAPHY AND YOU** How has the ethnic diversity in your town or city changed over the years? Read to learn about the factors that have shaped Russia’s population.

Russia today is home to one of the widest varieties of ethnic groups in the world—there are more than 70 distinct groups. An ethnic group shares a common ancestry, language, religion, customs, or a combination of these things.

**The People**

Over the centuries Russia grew from a territory to a multiethnic empire that stretched from Europe to the Pacific Ocean. In the process, many non-Russian ethnic groups came under its control. During the Soviet era—the period between 1922 and 1991 when Russia was part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)—regional political boundaries often reflected the locations of major ethnic groups, or nationalities.

In 1991, after the fall of the Soviet Union, several of these larger republics, including Russia, became independent countries. Although Russia is ethnically very diverse—32 ethnic groups have their own republics or administrative territories within Russia—about 80 percent of the population is ethnic Russian.

**The Slavs** Ethnic Russians are part of a larger ethnic group known as Slavs, a linguistic and ethnic branch of Indo-European peoples that also includes Poles, Serbs, Ukrainians, and other eastern Europeans. The Russian Slavs have dominated the country’s politics and culture.

**Caucasian Peoples** Another large group of diverse peoples is classified as Caucasian because they live in the Caucasus region of southwestern Russia. Caucasian groups include the Chechens, Dagestanis, and Ingushetians.
Turkic Peoples  Turkic-speaking peoples live in southwestern Russia in the Caucasus area and in the middle Volga area. The Turkic peoples of Russia include the Tatars, Chuvash, Bashkirs, and the Sakha. The most numerous of these groups are the Tatars, about one-third of whom live in Tatarstan (ta•tuhr•STAN), a western republic. Russia has ruled Tatarstan since the mid-1550s. However, the republic, like other Russian republics, does have a limited amount of sovereignty (SAH•vuh•ruhn•tee), or self-rule.

The Sakha are a combination of local groups and Turkic peoples who originally settled along the middle Lena River. Formerly seminomadic, the Sakha in southern Siberia have expanded into northeastern Russia.

Density and Distribution

About 75 percent of all Russians live in western Russia. This is due in part to the rich soil, waterways, and a milder climate than that in eastern Russia. Densely settled western Russia includes the country’s industrialized cities. The major industrial city is Moscow, Russia’s capital. Since 1990, urban population growth in many industrialized centers has leveled off or decreased.

Population is more dispersed east of the Ural Mountains. Only 25 percent of Russia’s population lives in Siberia, an area that accounts for about two-thirds of the country’s land area. Frozen tundra, mountains, and forests make most of this part of Russia unsuitable for farming.

During the earlier years of the Soviet era, many ethnic Russians migrated to non-Russian republics of the Soviet Union. In the 1970s, however, this trend began to reverse. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, more ethnic Russians have returned to their homeland. Most have settled in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and southwestern Russia. Because of this trend, the number of people moving into the country has been greater than the number of Russians leaving the country.

Human-Environment Interaction

Why do most people live in western Russia?
Culture

MAIN Idea The policies of the Soviet government have had lasting effects on Russia’s culture.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU How has religion influenced culture in the United States? Read to learn about the influence of religion in Russia.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, millions of Russians are rediscovering their faiths and traditions and expressing themselves creatively.

Language and Religion

Although more than 100 languages are spoken in Russia today, Russian is the country’s official language. Ethnic Russians generally speak only this language, while people belonging to other ethnic groups are bilingual and speak their own language and Russian. The Altaic family of languages is spoken by the Turkic peoples of western Russia. The primary languages spoken in eastern Russia are Russian and the Turkic languages spoken by the Sakha.

The Soviet government strictly discouraged religious practices and discriminated against certain groups. It actively promoted atheism (AY•thee•ih•zuhm), or the belief that there is no God or other supreme being. In the late 1980s, however, the government began to relax its restrictions on religion.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the influx of many foreign missionaries from Western Christian denominations prompted lawmakers in 1997 to place restrictions on the activities of newly established religious groups. Only Russian Orthodoxy, Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism were allowed full liberty as traditional religions of Russia.

Christianity The Eastern Orthodox Church had been central to Russian culture for a thousand years before the Communist revolution in 1917. In 988 Prince Vladimir, leader of Kievan Rus, adopted Eastern Orthodox Christianity as Russia’s official religion. By 1453 the Byzantine Empire, the center of the Eastern Orthodox Church, had fallen, and Russia asserted its claim as leader of the Orthodox Christian world.

Today, most Russians who claim a religious affiliation belong to the Russian branch of the Orthodox Church. Many of the churches that were looted or destroyed during the Soviet era have been repaired and rebuilt. Other Christian groups, including Roman Catholics and Protestants, have also reemerged.

Islam Islam is the second-largest religion in Russia and also enjoying a rebirth. The majority of people who practice Islam in Russia live in the Caucasus region and between the Volga River and the Urals. Most Russian Muslims follow the Sunni branch, which is practiced in most Arab countries as well as in Turkey and Afghanistan.

Judaism People practicing Judaism in Russia have long been persecuted. In czarist times, Jews could settle only in certain areas, could not own land, and were often the targets of organized persecution and massacres known as pogroms. Yet Jewish communities managed to thrive in many of Russia’s cities.

Events in the twentieth century took a tragic toll on Russia’s Jews. As a result, many Jews migrated to Israel or the United States. Despite lingering prejudice, Jewish communities in Russia are restoring their religious practices.

Buddhism The republics of Tuva, Buryatia, and Kalmykia (kal•MIH•kee•uh), near the Caspian Sea, have a large number of Buddhists, giving the religion traditional status in the country. A small number of Buddhists live in the larger cities such as St. Petersburg and Moscow, where they have access to urban Buddhist centers and facilities.
Education and Health Care

During the Soviet era, education was free but mandatory. The emphasis was on math, science, and engineering rather than on language, history, and literature. This produced generations of technology-focused government officials. They, along with prominent educators, writers, and artists, made up the Soviet intelligentsia (in•tel•luh•JEHN•sec•uh), or intellectual elite.

The curriculum changed dramatically after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Schools began to emphasize a more balanced approach, including language, history, and literature. Today, students have a choice of different types of schools, but the country’s unstable economy has limited school budgets. Teachers often abandon teaching because of the low pay and low morale. In addition, students focus on earning money rather than getting an education.

Russia is experiencing a demographic decline as the quality and availability of health care have worsened. Average life expectancy has declined to 66 years, 12 years shorter than in the United States. The infant mortality rate, or the number of deaths per 1,000 births, is 12 compared to the U.S. rate of 6.6. Since 1992 the Russian death rate has exceeded the birthrate, resulting in negative population growth.

Disease, lifestyle choices such as smoking tobacco and drinking alcoholic beverages, and inefficient health-care systems all threaten the well-being of Russia’s people. Additionally, an aging population, rising infertility, and increasing rates of infectious disease, including HIV and AIDS, have put a strain on an already struggling health-care system. The clinics and hospitals that are still run by the government are often inefficient and lose capable medical staff because of poor pay.

The Arts

The arts in Russia were often inspired by religion. For example, churches were crowned with onion-shaped domes that symbolized heaven in the Russian Orthodox tradition. Russian art changed its focus to nonreligious themes in the early 1700s when Peter the Great introduced European culture. By the early 1800s, Russia had entered an artistic golden age that lasted into the 1900s.
Russian arts are characterized by a list of well-known artists. Painters such as Viktor Vasnetsov and composers such as Pyotr (Peter) Tchaikovsky contributed to the richness of Russian culture. The works of poets Aleksandr Pushkin, Boris Pasternak, and Anna Akhmatova, and novelists Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoyevsky have made Russian literature famous.

The Soviet government limited individual artistic expression and believed that it was the artists’ duty to glorify the government’s achievements in their works, an approach known as socialist realism. Artists who did not follow these guidelines were punished, as is evident in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s book The Gulag Archipelago.

Beginning in the mid-1980s, activity in the arts renewed as loosening government controls allowed the printing of previously unpublished works and new materials. During the height of Soviet repression, some works had been smuggled from Russia and printed in other countries.

Family Life and Leisure

Living conditions in Russia affect family life. Due to a housing shortage, most families live in large apartment blocks. The apartments are usually very small—a bedroom, living room, kitchen, and bathroom—for a family of four. Extended family members often live together. For example, many newly married couples have to live with their parents until they can afford a home of their own. Grandmothers, or babushkas, may live with their adult children and grandchildren. Babushkas help with cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the children.

Attending concerts, the ballet, and the theater all provide popular entertainment. Sports, both amateur and professional, are popular with all age groups. Russia’s tennis, track and field, and ice hockey athletes have had remarkable success in international events, as have figure skaters and gymnasts.

Today Russians observe May Day more as a spring festival than as a workers’ holiday. Traditional religious holidays have also reemerged. In 1991, Christmas, celebrated by Eastern Orthodox Christians on January 7, became an official holiday in Russia for the first time since 1918.

Regions

What contributed to a resurgence of the arts in the 1980s?
Problem: Since the beginning of Russian occupation, the Chechens have sought independence from foreign rule.

**Occupation** Russian occupation is part of everyday life in Chechnya. These Russian soldiers talk as Chechen women travel through the rubble of Grozny, Chechnya’s capital.

**Protest** Chechens long for autonomy and continue to protest Russian occupation.

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### Important Dates in Chechen History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>USSR collapses; Chechnya declares independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1994</td>
<td>Russians invade; First Chechen War begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1996</td>
<td>Russia withdraws; First Chechen War ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1999</td>
<td>Russians invade; Second Chechen War begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Referendum approves new constitution giving Chechnya more autonomy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Anticwar protesters in Moscow

(Backg)Yuri Kadobnov/CORBIS, (br)Oleg Nikishin/Getty Images
Chapter 15

377

History of Tensions

Chechnya has historically been occupied by other powers. First controlled by the Turks and then by the Russians, Chechens have long strived for independence.

What is the history of the conflict? Although Russia has long controlled Chechnya, the republic has maintained its cultural heritage. Chechens have their own language and are predominately Sunni Muslim, and these differences have fueled the Chechens’ desire for independence. Whenever internal or external conflict has weakened the Russian government, Chechen rebels have attempted to fight for autonomy, but their efforts have been unsuccessful. The Russian government has several reasons for maintaining Chechnya’s status as a republic of the Russian Federation. Several oil and gas pipelines vital to the Russian economy run through Chechen territory. Also, if Russia were to grant Chechnya independence, it would likely face uprisings by other ethnic groups and republics within the Russian Federation.

What is the current political climate? In May 2000, Russian president Vladimir Putin established direct rule of Chechnya to try to stop the rebels. In 2003 a new constitution was passed in a referendum. Under this new constitution, Chechnya is still a republic within the Russian Federation, but it has been given a significant amount of autonomy. The new Chechen government is now struggling to quell the violence waged by the Chechen rebels still fighting for independence and to bring stability and peace to Chechnya and its people.

Solution:

Integrating Chechen representation into the Russian government may be the only solution to the ongoing animosity between the two groups.

Putin (center) and Chechen leaders meet in Moscow in an effort to ease tensions between the two regions.

THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY

1. Human Systems Research the conflict in Chechnya in more depth, and then write an essay detailing the diplomatic measures taken to try to bring stability to the republic.

2. The World in Spatial Terms How might Chechnya’s location contribute to Russia’s unwillingness to grant the republic its independence?
History and Government

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, Russians have struggled to move beyond this dark period of their past. Although difficult, the country is making steps toward democracy and a market economy.

Voices Around the World

“A decade has passed since the U.S.S.R. ceased to exist, and during that time the Russian people have been subjected to nothing less than an economic and social revolution. Three-quarters of state enterprises have been fully or partly transferred to individual owners in a corrupt privatization drive. . . . [A]s a seven-week trip around Russia earlier this year showed, shoots of new life are springing up throughout the country.”

—Fen Montaigne, “Russia Rising,” National Geographic, November 2001

Guide to Reading

Section Preview
Russia’s various ethnic groups and cultures have influenced the country’s tumultuous history and changes in government over time.

Content Vocabulary
• czar (p. 379)
• serf (p. 379)
• Russification (p. 380)
• socialism (p. 380)
• Bolshevik (p. 381)
• communism (p. 381)
• satellite (p. 381)
• Cold War (p. 381)
• perestroika (p. 382)
• glasnost (p. 382)

Academic Vocabulary
• acquire (p. 380)
• policy (p. 380)
• aid (p. 381)

Places to Locate
• Moskva River (p. 379)
• St. Petersburg (p. 380)
• Vladivostok (p. 380)

Reading Strategy
Sequencing As you read about Russia’s history, complete a time line similar to the one below by recording major events in the country’s history.

1533 1700 1861 1945

1633 1921 1985

Signs of modern technology at an Internet café

RICHARD NOWITZ/National Geographic Image Collection
Russia’s historical roots go back to the A.D. 600s, when Slav farmers, hunters, and fishers settled near the waterways of the Northern European Plain.

Kievan Rus

During the 800s, Scandinavian warriors called the Varangians settled among the Slavs living near the Dnieper and Volga Rivers. Within a century the Varangians had adopted the Slav language and many Slav customs. The Slav communities were eventually organized into a loose union of city-states known as Kievan Rus. Ruled by princes, the leading city-state, Kiev, controlled a prosperous trading route, using Russia’s western rivers to link the Baltic and Black Seas.

Eventually, fighting among the city-states weakened Kievan Rus. In the early 1200s, Mongols invaded Kiev and many of the Slav territories from their foothold in Central Asia. Although the Mongols allowed the Slavs self-rule, they continued to control the area for more than 200 years.

The Rise of Russia

Many Slavs fled the Mongol invasions and later settled along the Moskva River. One of their settlements grew into the city of Moscow, the center of a territory called Muscovy (muh-SKOH-v)vee), which was linked by rivers to major trade routes and surrounded by lands good for farming and fur trapping.

Muscovy’s princes kept peace with the Mongols for about two centuries, but the peace did not last. Muscovy’s Prince Ivan III then brought many Slav territories under his control, thus earning the nickname “the Great.” Ivan’s expanded realm eventually became known as Russia. In Moscow, Ivan built a huge fortress called the Kremlin and filled the city with churches and palaces. Russia’s government today, the Russian Federation, uses the Kremlin as its executive headquarters.

In 1533 Ivan the Great’s grandson, Ivan IV, became Russia’s first crowned czar (ZAHR), or supreme ruler. He crushed all opposition to his rule and expanded his realm’s borders into non-Slav territories, earning the name Ivan the Terrible.

After Ivan’s reign, the country faced foreign invasion, economic decline, and social upheaval. When the Romanov dynasty came to power in 1613, the government gradually tightened its grip on the people. By 1650 many peasants had become serfs, a virtually enslaved workforce bound to the land and under the control of nobility.
Romanov Czars and the Empire

While Russia struggled, western Europe moved forward and left Russia behind. Then in the late 1600s, Czar Peter I—known as Peter the Great—came to power, determined to modernize Russia. Under Peter I, Russia enlarged its territory, built a strong military, and developed trade with western Europe. To acquire seaports, Peter I gained land along the Baltic Sea from Sweden.

A new capital—St. Petersburg—was carved out of the wilderness along the Gulf of Finland, providing access to the Baltic Sea and giving Russia “a window on the West.” Since most of Russia’s other ports were icebound for almost half the year, St. Petersburg became a major port.

During the late 1700s, Empress Catherine the Great continued to expand Russia’s empire and gained a long-sought-after warm-water port on the Black Sea. The Romanov expansion also brought many non-Russians under its rule. As the Russian nobility was adopting western European ways, a cultural gap developed between the nobility and the serfs. The serfs followed traditional Russian ways and faced poverty.

Beginning in 1891, under Czar Alexander III, Russia expanded into Siberia with the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Nearly 6,000 miles (9,700 km) long, it connects Moscow to Vladivostok. Once completed in 1916, the railroad opened Russia’s interior to settlement.

**Reading Check** Location How was St. Petersburg important to the expansion of the Russian empire?

**Revolution and Change**

Discontent with inequality in Russian society led to revolution and freedom from generations of czarist rule.

**GEOGRAPHY AND YOU** What led to the American Revolution? Read to learn about the factors that led to the Russian Revolution and the rise of the Soviet Union.

A long cycle of halfhearted reforms, government repression, and the American and French Revolutions encouraged the desire among educated Russians to open up Russian society.

**The Russian Revolution**

Czar Alexander II’s limited reforms, such as freeing the serfs in 1861 without providing for their education, caused many former serfs to move to cities. There they faced the poor conditions and meager wages of factory work. Non-Russian peoples also faced prejudice when the government introduced the policy of Russification, which encouraged people to speak Russian and follow Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Those who refused were harshly persecuted, especially the Jews, who were often blamed for Russia’s problems.

This frustration and discontent led many Russian workers and thinkers to turn to socialism, a belief that calls for greater economic equality in society.

**History of the Soviet Union**

- **1917** Revolution forces Czar Nicholas II to abdicate the throne. Lenin becomes leader of Russia.
- **1919** The Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact gives the Soviet Union control of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and eastern Poland. Germany and the Soviet Union promise not to attack each other.
- **1922** The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is established.
- **1924** Vladimir Lenin dies. Joseph Stalin emerges as the new leader.
- **1941** Germany attacks the Soviet Union, drawing it into World War II.
One of its biggest proponents, the German philosopher Karl Marx, advocated public ownership of all land and a classless society with an equal sharing of wealth. This would occur after a revolution, led by the working classes, against the wealthy.

Increasing discontent caused strikes and demonstrations to break out in the early 1900s. Then in 1917, the hardships of World War I brought even larger numbers of workers and now soldiers into the streets, demanding “bread and freedom.” These actions forced Nicholas II to abdicate his throne, bringing czarist rule to an end. The following year, Czar Nicholas and his family were killed. Their murders signaled the demise of Europe’s last absolute rulers and the emergence of communism in Russia.

The Soviet Era

The weak representative government established in 1917 made it easy for the Bolsheviks, a revolutionary group led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, to seize control. The Bolsheviks believed in communism, a philosophy based on Karl Marx’s ideas that called for the violent overthrow of government and the creation of a society led by workers.

Promising the people “Peace, Land, and Bread!”, the Bolsheviks withdrew Russia from World War I, surrendering much territory to Germany. They used their complete political control to take over industry, direct food distribution, and establish an eight-hour workday. Civil war eventually erupted between the Bolshevik Red Army and the anti-Bolshevik White Army.

The Bolsheviks won the civil war in 1922, and established the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or the Soviet Union. The Soviets gradually regained Ukraine, Belarus, and large parts of the Caucasus region and Central Asia.

After Lenin’s death in 1924, Joseph Stalin became the leader of the Communist Party. Stalin took control of farms and factories as he made the USSR an industrial giant. He eliminated those who disagreed with him, and millions were either killed or died from hunger, physical hardships, or brutal conditions in labor camps.

A Superpower

The Soviet Union attained superpower status after World War II. The USSR controlled most of Eastern Europe at the war’s end. By 1949 most of the region’s countries had become satellites, countries controlled by the Soviet Union.

The next four decades saw the Soviet Union and the United States engaged in the Cold War, the struggle between two competing systems—communist and capitalist—for world influence and power. Although both countries built destructive nuclear weapons, the “weapons” used for this war were propaganda, the threat of force, and aid to developing countries.

**Graph Study**

**Regions** How did the size of Russia change after the Soviets gained control?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Germany is defeated in WWII. Postwar agreements give the USSR influence over eastern and southeastern Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Soviet astronaut Yury Gagarin becomes the first human to orbit the Earth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>The USSR is dissolved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Mikhail Gorbachev comes to power and proposes perestroika, a restructuring of the economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>The USSR is dissolved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Movements for Change

MAIN Idea New ideas about political and economic systems led to changes in Russia.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU Do you believe that there is enough political openness in the United States? Read to learn how political openness helped Russia transition from its Communist past.

The breakup of the Soviet Union required leaders to change their ideas about governing a superpower in an increasingly interconnected world.

The Fall of the Soviet Union

The Soviet Union’s weakening economy, along with great discrepancies between workers’ wages and the privileges their leaders enjoyed, led to the breakup of the Soviet Union. In 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev, a reform-minded official, assumed power in the Soviet Union. He instituted a policy of economic restructuring called **perestroika** (pehr•uh•STROY•kuh) and a policy of greater political openness called **glasnost** (GLAZ•nohst).

Many of the satellites had overthrown their Communist rulers in 1989. A failed coup in 1991 to overthrow Gorbachev collapsed, but all the republics had declared independence by year’s end. Twelve of the fifteen new countries became members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The three Baltic countries did not. Boris Yeltsin was elected the first president of the Russian republic and became the leader of a devastated Russia.

A New Russia

The new Russia began moving from a command economy to a market economy, closing outdated factories and restructuring agriculture. Such actions resulted in massive unemployment. By 2000, however, the economy was on the mend. After inflation reached 1,500 percent in 1992, it fell to below 20 percent by 1997.

Separatist movements and ethnic conflict also threatened the stability of Russia. Beginning in the 1990s, Tatarstan, Dagestan, and other ethnic territories demanded greater self-rule. Some demands have erupted into war. Boris Yeltsin’s successor, Vladimir Putin, inherited those conflicts when he became president in 1999. Putin helped stabilize the economy by instituting reforms in labor, banking, and private property. He also helped Russia get involved with NATO through the NATO-Russia Council. After winning reelection in 2004, Putin instituted changes that were seen by many as taking a step away from democracy.

READING Check Regions Which Soviet republics formed the Commonwealth of Independent States?

Vocabulary

1. Explain the significance of: czar, serf, Russification, socialism, Bolshevik, communism, satellite, Cold War, perestroika, glasnost.

Main Ideas

2. How did the Bolsheviks use their complete power to create the Soviet Union?
3. How did Mikhail Gorbachev help the transition away from communism?
4. Using a graphic organizer like the one below, list the key events in Russia or in the Soviet Union during each of the following time periods: Kievan Rus, Russian Empire, Soviet Union, and Russia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Era</th>
<th>Dates and Key Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical Thinking

5. How did the migration of the Slavs and their interactions with other groups influence the history of Russia?
6. Determining Cause and Effect What led to the breakup of the Soviet Union? Write a paragraph explaining your answer.
7. Analyzing Visuals Study the map of Mongol invasions on page 379. How many miles separate Karakorum and Moscow?

Writing About Geography

8. Expository Writing Write a paragraph explaining why you agree or disagree with the following statement: “The Soviet Union was a 74-year-long experiment that failed.”

Geography ONLINE

Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com and click on Study Central.
**People and Ethnicity**
- Russia is ethnically diverse.
- Most Russians are Slavic in origin.
- The diversity of people in Russia has led to many ethnic groups demanding greater self-rule or independence.
- In some places, like Chechnya, the groups have resorted to violent methods, such as terrorism.

**History and Government**
- In Russia’s early years it was ruled by czars, who were selected by birth.
- During the Soviet era, leaders were selected by a small group of Communist Party insiders.
- Democratic reforms were established in Russia following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- Today Russia has free elections, but many fear that their president is moving away from democracy.

**Changing Economic Systems**
- Under the czars, the economy was run by serfs bound to nobles.
- During the Soviet era, a command economic system was used.
- Capitalism was introduced to Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- When Russia switched economic models, it caused instability in the marketplace, with high inflation and unemployment.
- Reforms put into place by Vladimir Putin have helped to stabilize the economy.
Reviewing Vocabulary

Directions: Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence.

1. A people who share a common ancestry, language, religion, customs, or some combination is _______.
   A a soviet
   B a nation
   C an ethnic group
   D a race

2. _______ is a belief that there is no God or other supreme being.
   A Soviet
   B Atheism
   C Ethnicity
   D Turkic

3. The supreme rulers of Russia were known as ________.
   A czars
   B Muscovites
   C kings
   D emperors

4. Gorbachev’s economic restructuring plan was known as ________.
   A glasnost
   B communism
   C perestroika
   D Russification

Reviewing Main Ideas

Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

Section 1 (pp. 370–375)

5. Where do most Russians live?
   A western Russia
   B eastern Russia
   C the Ural Mountains
   D the Caucasus Mountains

6. After the fall of the Soviet Union, what happened to religious life in Russia?
   A The government continued to insist that everyone follow atheism.
   B The Roman Catholic Church became the predominant religion.
   C Most people became Protestant.
   D Most people who claim a religious affiliation have returned to the Russian Orthodox Church.

Section 2 (pp. 378–382)

7. What development opened Russia’s interior to settlement?
   A the Trans-Siberian Railroad
   B global warming
   C the conquest of a warm-water port
   D the defeat of the Mongols

8. Which group eventually gained power in Russia after the Russian Revolution?
   A White Russians
   B Socialists
   C Communists
   D Republicans
Critical Thinking

Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

9. Years of frustration led up to the Russian Revolution, but the event that finally brought it about was
   A a major famine in the countryside.
   B loss of freedom of the Russian Orthodox Church to practice its religion.
   C the killing of the czar and his family.
   D the suffering during World War I.

Base your answer to question 10 on the map and on your knowledge of Chapter 15.

10. What direction from Moscow were most of the newly acquired lands?
   A north
   B south
   C east
   D west

Document-Based Questions

Directions: Analyze the document and answer the short-answer questions that follow the document.

In the 1980s, Mikhail Gorbachev proposed perestroika, or restructuring, of the Soviet economic system. Here is his description of the reasons for the reforms from a book he wrote about the new system.

In effect, we have here a new investment and structural policy. The emphasis has been shifted from new construction to the technical retooling of enterprises, to saving the resources, and sharply raising the quality of output. We will still pay much attention to the development of the mining industries, but in providing the economy with raw materials, fuel and power, the emphasis will now be on the adoption of resource-saving technologies, on the rational utilization of resources.

The economy has, of course, been and remains our main concern. But at the same time we have set about changing the moral and psychological situation in society.

We have come to the conclusion that unless we activate the human factor, that is, unless we take into consideration the diverse interests of people, work collectives, public bodies, and various social groups, unless we rely on them, and draw them into active, constructive endeavor, it will be impossible for us to accomplish any of the tasks set, or to change the situation in the country.

—Mikhail Gorbachev, Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World

11. What does Gorbachev name as the major concern of the Soviet Union?
12. According to Gorbachev, what is essential to making perestroika successful?

Extended Response

13. Describe the changes in Russia since the fall of communism. How has the economy changed?
Just the Facts:

- The fall of communism in the Soviet Union led to Russian involvement in the International Space Station beginning in 1998.
- In 1794, the first Russian Orthodox Church in America was established in Alaska. Today the Orthodox Church in America has approximately 1 million members and 731 churches countrywide.
- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 706,242 Americans listed Russian as their spoken language.
- The Russian American population is estimated to be approximately 3 million people.
Making the Connection

Russian culture has influenced American culture through the arts, sports, religion, and space exploration. Russian influences, while not always obvious, have been significant.

Cold War Influences Russian cultural influence in the United States has in large part been based on the competition between the two nations as the result of the Cold War. Although never directly engaged in armed conflict, the United States and the Soviet Union were continually at odds and in competition with each other. This competition was exhibited through sporting events and the space race, each country striving to top the other.

Influencing the Arts Although ballet itself did not originate in Russia, the Russian ballet community made lasting changes to the art form and helped to popularize it throughout the world. Tchaikovsky (chy•KAWF•skee), a Russian composer who lived during the late 1800s, wrote several ballets that remain popular today. Most notable is *The Nutcracker*, a Christmas holiday favorite in the United States and around the world.

Sports Heroes—Russian Heritage Since the fall of communism, many Russian athletes have become popular American sports heroes. Russian influence is most notable in ice hockey and tennis. Some of the most recognizable of these Russian-born athletes are hockey players Sergei Fedorov and Alexander Ovechkin, and tennis player Maria Sharapova.

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### Russian Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>War and Peace</em></td>
<td>Leo Tolstoy (tawl•STOY)</td>
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<td><em>Anna Karenina</em></td>
<td>Leo Tolstoy</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Crime and Punishment</em></td>
<td>Fyodor Dostoyevsky (DAHS•tuh•YEHF•skee)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Doctor Zhivago</em></td>
<td>Boris Pastemak (PAS•tuh•NAK)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</em></td>
<td>Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (SOL•zhuh•NEET•suhn)</td>
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### THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY

1. **Human Systems** Research one of the Russian-born athletes mentioned above or one of your choosing. Describe the contributions that person has made to their sport.

2. **Environment and Society** Investigate Russian and American cooperative involvement with the International Space Station. What have both countries contributed to this project?