

Chapter 7

Russian Federation (Rossiyskaya Federatsiya)

Chapter Preview

People

Vladimir Putin, Romanovs, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Nicholas II, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mikhail Gorbachev

Places

Ural Mountains, Arctic Circle, Bering Strait, St. Petersburg, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Siberia, Moscow, Caucasus Mountains, Mount Elbrus, Volga River, Ukraine, Grand Principality of Muscovy

Terms

czar, hydroelectric power, deforestation, Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station, serfs, Bolsheviks, Federal Assembly, Federation Council, State Duma, corruption, protectionism, ruble (₽), Bilateral Presidential Commission

Top: The Catherine Palace, south of St. Petersburg, was the summer residence of the czars. **Background:** St. Basil's Cathedral is the centerpiece of Red Square in Moscow.

Vast, diverse, and powerful are just a few words that describe Russia. The country spans two continents and is almost twice the area of the United States, China, or Canada. The country is a world leader in military and economic strength. There are over 150 different ethnic groups in the country, which stretches from Eastern Europe across the entire northern half of Asia. The large land area is rich in natural resources that help to fuel the country's economy.

Russia is known for its beautiful, often cold, landscapes. Its onion-domed churches are icons of the country that can be found in both small villages and large cities. Other symbols of the country include Moscow's Kremlin, Saint Basil's Cathedral, and Red Square. Matryoshka, or Russian nesting dolls, and the Russian bear are also symbols of Russia. In sports, Russian athletes have set many world records, and their teams are often ranked among the best in the world. In art, literature, and dance, Russia has a remarkable culture. Its ballet dancers are among the world's finest. The Bolshoi Ballet, in fact, is as old as the United States, having been founded in 1776.

Russia is also known for its history. In the 20th century, it was a key player in both world wars. It became a nuclear power, which was a part of its growth as a military superpower. Russia was the largest of the republics in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or Soviet Union. Its size in the Soviet Union matched its influence. From 1947 to 1991, the Soviets' rivalry with the United States dominated many world events. The Soviets worked to expand their version of communism while the United States worked with Western European countries to spread and strengthen democracy and capitalism. Though a traditional war did not happen, the Cold War was real, and many endured the threat of what would happen if war did occur.

In the 21st century, Russia has emerged as a world power beyond the Soviet Union. Leaders such as Russian President Vladimir Putin continue to work to improve the economy of the country and the lives of its citizens. As with any country, there are challenges. Russians have had to work hard to replace their aging technology and infrastructure from Soviet times and join the modern world in these areas.

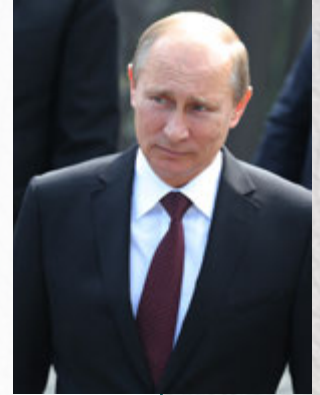
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Indeed, Russia and the U.S. were allies during the two tragic conflicts of the Second and the First World Wars, which allows us to think there's something objectively bringing us together in difficult times, and I think—I believe—it has to do with geopolitical interests and also has a moral component.

-Vladimir Putin

Right: The Russian bear is a symbol of the Russian Federation.

PASSPORT



Official Name: Russian Federation

Capital: Moscow

Form of Government: semipresidential federation

Head of Government: Premier appointed by the President

Head of State: President

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Currency: Ruble (₽)

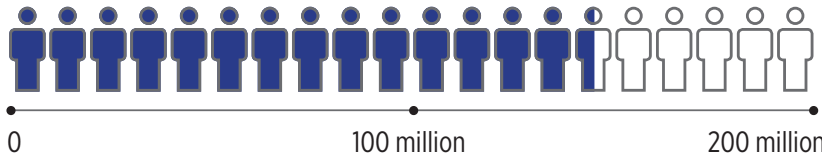


Top: Flag of the Russian Federation.

Above Right: In 2018, Vladimir Putin was elected to a 4th six-year term as president. **Middle Left:** The Moscow International Business Center. **Middle Right:** The White House, center of Russian government. **Right:** Russian banknotes and coins.

CULTURE CONNECTION

POPULATION

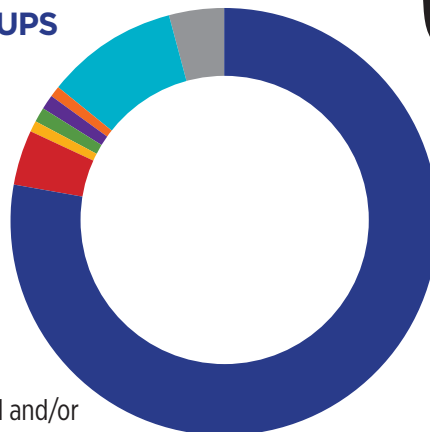


Russian Federation
144,096,812 (est. 2015)
Population Rank 9

United States
324,386,000 (est. 2017)
Population Rank 3

ETHNIC GROUPS

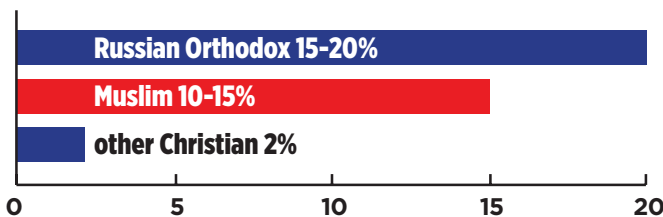
- Russian 78%
- Tatar 4%
- Ukrainian 1%
- Bashkir 1%
- Chuvash 1%
- Chechen 1%
- other 10%
- unspecified 4%



Note: Nearly 200 national and/or ethnic groups are represented in Russia's 2010 census.

RELIGION

Note: Estimates are of practicing worshipers. Russia has large populations of nonpracticing believers and nonbelievers. Russia officially recognizes Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism as traditional religions.



FUN FACTS

Basketball, ice hockey, and football (soccer) are popular sports in Russia.

Official Language:
Russian

Words different from American English

- Hello** – Здравствуйте (Zdrastvooyte)
- Goodbye** – До свидания! (Da svedaneeya)
- Good morning** – Доброе утро (Dobraye ootro)
- Good afternoon** – Добрый день (Dobriy den')
- Thank you** – Спасибо (Spaseeba)
- You're welcome** – Пожалуйста (Pazhalooysta)
- Yes** – да (Dah)
- No** – нет (Nyecht)

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average 70.4 years
Male 64.7 years
Female 76.57 years

EDUCATION

Literacy 99%
Education Expenditures 4.1% of GDP
Rank 110

Top Left: Vladimir Lenin came to power in 1917 and reorganized Russia into the Soviet Union. **Middle:** Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and US President Ronald Reagan worked to ease tensions between their two countries. **Bottom:** Russia hosted the Winter Olympics in 2014 in the city of Sochi. **Background:** Simskaia Station of the Samara-Zlatoust Railway, which is part of the Trans-Siberian Railway.

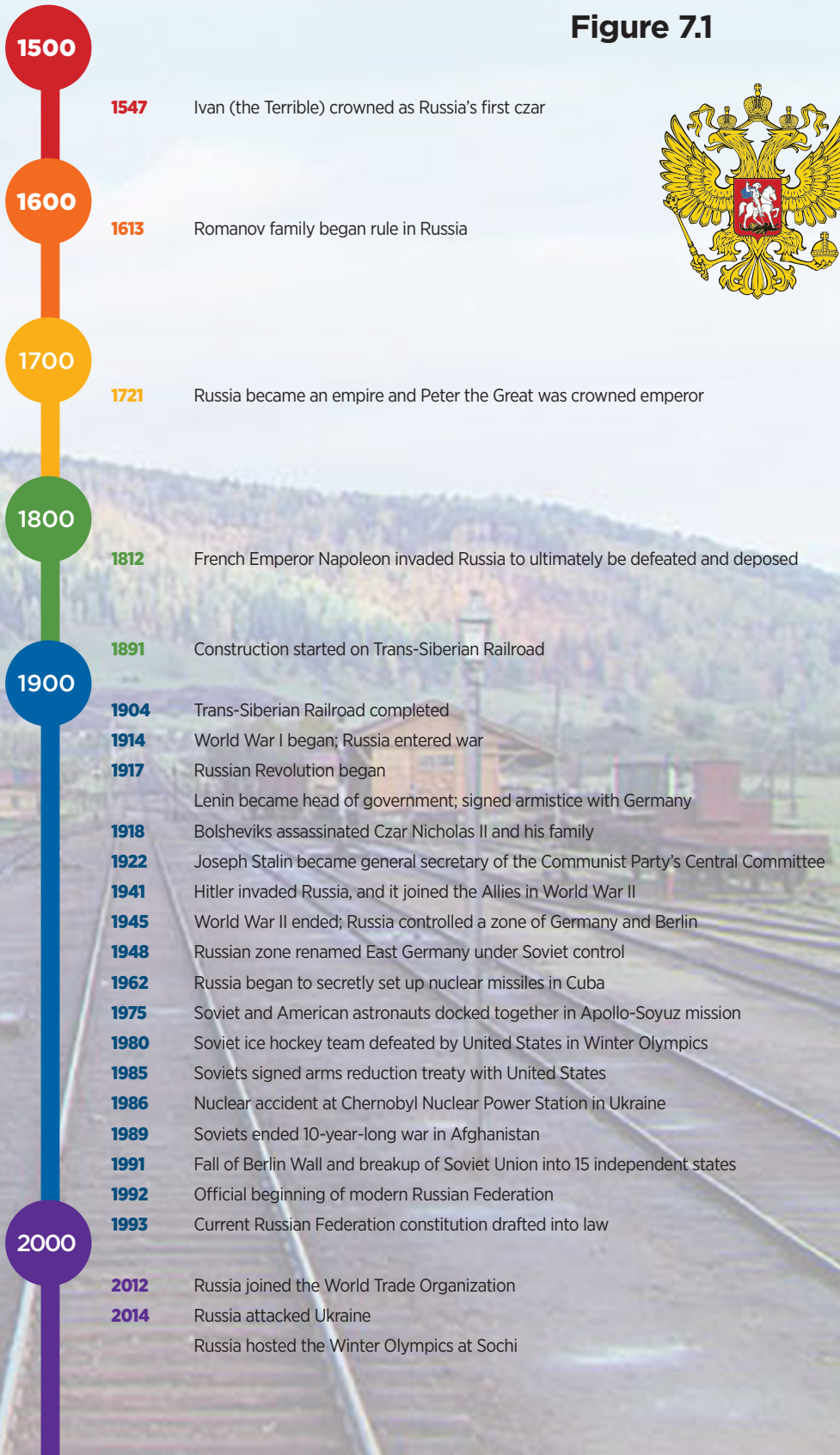


TIMELINE

OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION HISTORY



Figure 7.1





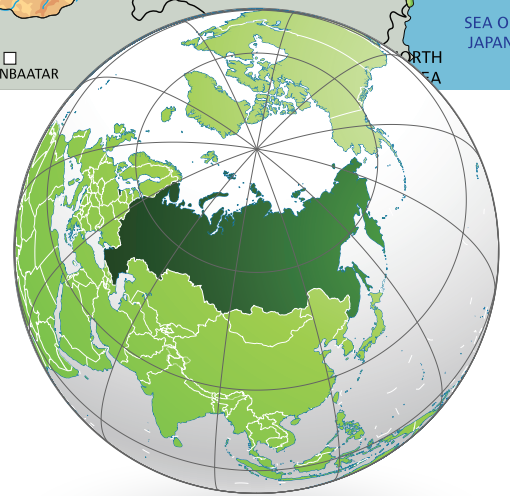
Area: 6,601,668 square miles

Area Rank: 1

Natural Resources: many natural resources including major deposits of oil, natural gas, coal, minerals, reserves of rare earth elements, timber

Note: Obstacles of climate, terrain, and distance hinder use of natural resources.

Environmental Issues: air pollution from heavy industry, emissions of coal-fired electric plants, and transportation in major cities; industrial, municipal, and agricultural pollution of inland waterways and seacoasts; deforestation; soil erosion; soil contamination from improper application of agricultural chemicals; scattered areas of sometimes intense radioactive contamination; groundwater contamination from toxic waste; urban solid waste management; abandoned stocks of obsolete pesticides



Map 7.1

Russian Federation

Map Skill: St. Petersburg was a planned city. Why was its location a strategic one for its builder, Peter the Great?



Section 1

The Geography of Russia


 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ the continents where Russia is located;
- ▶ problems caused by a location in northern latitudes;
- ▶ how climate and geography affect where people live in Russia;
- ▶ problems caused by the Chernobyl accident;
- ▶ terms: **czar, hydroelectric power, deforestation, Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station.**



DID YOU KNOW?

Some geographers consider the landmasses of Europe and Asia as one continent called Eurasia.

Location and Size of Russia

Russia is the largest country on Earth, by far. It is found in the northern and eastern hemispheres. The eastern one-third of Europe is claimed by Russia along with the northern portion of Asia, the world's largest continent. The Ural Mountains divide the European and Asian portions of Russia. The Arctic Circle crosses Russia's northernmost lands for about 4,800 miles. At its greatest length, Russia is about 1,800 miles from north to south. Much of its 23,000 miles of coastline is not usable for shipping and trade because of freezing temperatures and frozen water.



Russia is bordered by 14 countries and two oceans. The boundary with China is its largest international border at about 2,600 miles. One of its most important borders has been the 1,200-mile border with Ukraine. Russia has argued with Ukraine about the exact location of the boundary line, and the two countries have had military skirmishes due to the dispute. On the northern side of the country is the Arctic Ocean. The Pacific Ocean lies to the east. The narrowest distance between mainland Russia and mainland Alaska is approximately 55 miles across the Bering Strait.

European Russia is almost landlocked, with much of the country's land far from the sea or frozen most of the year. The cities of Murmansk and St. Petersburg are exceptions. Murmansk is on the Barents Sea, a part of the Arctic Ocean, near Norway. Here, the Gulf Stream keeps the port warm enough to stay open all year. Other ports on the Arctic Ocean must be cleared with icebreakers. Further south, St. Petersburg is a port city on the Baltic Sea. This port has access to some of Europe's most important markets on the North Sea and Atlantic Ocean. Russia's busiest port in terms of weight of goods is Novorossiysk on the Black Sea.

Climate of Russia

Because Russia is so large, it has a variety of climates. However, because it is spread across the northern part of the northern hemisphere, cold weather is a big part of its climate. The great size means that much of the country is far from the sea. This produces a relatively dry continental climate with hot summers and cold winters. In general, it is colder in the north and toward the eastern part of the country. On average, the country has less than 25 inches of rain each year in most locations.

Siberia, the large region to the north and east, has sub-Arctic temperatures for most of the year that make much of this area challenging for people to live. Dry conditions mean that there is not necessarily snow, but there is bitter cold during long winters. The ground can be permanently frozen. This permafrost covers more than 4 million square miles. At the extreme is the settlement of Oymyakon. Here the weather station once recorded a temperature of -96°F . However, a temperature as high as 94°F has been recorded in summer.



DID YOU KNOW?

The United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million.



DID YOU KNOW?

Two small islands in the Bering Strait are interesting. Big Diomedes is owned by Russia while Little Diomedes is owned by the United States. The stretch of water between these two islands is only about 2-1/2 miles wide. If the water there freezes in winter, a person could walk from the United States to Russia.

Above: There are more than 20 ski resorts in the Ural Mountains. **Left:** The Middle Urals are the lowest of the Ural Mountains, rising only about 3,000 feet.



Top: Mount Elbrus, Russia's highest mountain at over 18,000 feet, is in the Caucasus Mountains. **Middle:** Big Diomedede Island is one of the closest points in Russian territory to the United States.

A person living in the capital city, Moscow, located at the eastern end of the European Plain, would expect to have dreary winters with gray skies and snow on the ground for four to five months. In summer, winds from the south bring welcome warmer temperatures, but not much rain. The European Plain is dry, but the lands bordering the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea are exceptions. They have more rainfall and warmer temperatures. The area around the Black Sea is considered subtropical, and it is a popular summer resort area. About 73 percent of the Russian population lives in European Russia, where the weather is tough, but not as severe as the Asian Plains and Siberia.

Distribution of People in Russia

While it is largest in area, when it comes to population Russia has about 146,600,000 people, which is less than half the population of the United States. People live mostly on the western side of the Ural Mountains in European Russia because the improved climate and better soil make this region more desirable. Manufacturing and business in this portion of the country have greater access to the wealthy markets of the European Union. This region also has rivers that can be used to ship goods to warm-water ports that are open all year for trade.

Russia is so large it spreads across 11 time zones; however, most of the country is not densely populated. On average, there are only 22 Russians per square mile of territory. The United States is nearly four times denser at 84 people per square mile. The state of Georgia seems crowded in comparison at about 170 people per square mile.

The area around Moscow is the most densely populated. The city has over 10 million people, and its population density is over 12,500 people per square mile. St. Petersburg follows in second place with about 5 million people. This city was home to the **czars** (rulers) of Russia and was the capital city of Russia for over 200 years. It has beautiful canals, gardens, and palaces. Today, St. Petersburg is a major center for trade. A network of railroads brings goods into the city for shipment around the world. Its port on the Baltic Sea is the busiest in Russia in terms of number of containers exchanged on and off ships. Since the 1990s and the fall of the Soviet Union, tourism has become another growing industry for the beautiful city.



Natural Resources of Russia

Russia has great amounts of natural resources. Deposits of gold, aluminum ore, coal, and iron are found in the Ural Mountains, which border the eastern side of the European Plain. Also, Russia is a major exporter of metals and machinery. Many of the factories that process iron and other metals are located in this Ural Mountain region. There are many large cities in this region that have progressed from assisting the region's mining facilities to producing machinery in factories that were left behind.

Although it is the largest country by area, less than 8 percent of the land is arable. The land overall lacks proper types of soil and climate (either too dry or too cold) to grow crops well. Nearly half the country is covered by forests, however, which allows for a large timber industry.

Oil and gas are among the most important natural resources found in Russia. They are found mostly in Siberia and in Asian Russia. In fact, two-thirds of Russia's oil is found in Western Siberia. Russia's economy is very influenced by oil prices. When prices are high, the economy of the entire country benefits. When prices are low, the country's economy suffers.

Physical Features of Russia

The European Plain extends into Russia from its western border eastward to the Ural Mountains for over 1,000 miles. The plain stretches over 1,500 miles from the Arctic Circle in the north to the Caucasus Mountains in the south. The land here is fertile and good for farming. However, its openness has made it a target for invasion by other countries.

The Ural Mountains form a rugged wall dividing Europe and Asia. This range begins at the Arctic Ocean and runs southward to Russia's border with Kazakhstan for about 1,300 miles. The mountains block moisture moving from the west. Western slopes may see up to 40 inches of rain per year while the eastern side gets only one-fourth that amount.

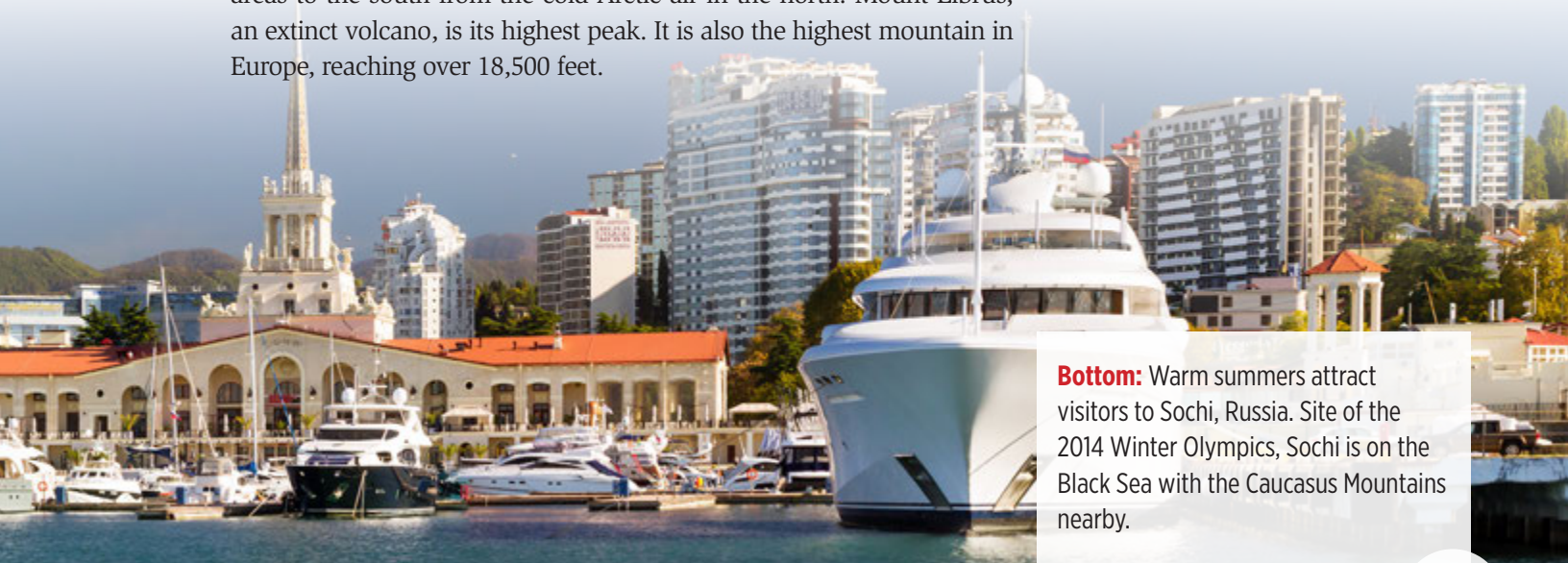
The Caucasus Mountains in southern Russia are important because of their location separating the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea where Europe and Asia meet. The countries of Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia claim land in the Caucasus. This range is 750 miles long and helps protect areas to the south from the cold Arctic air in the north. Mount Elbrus, an extinct volcano, is its highest peak. It is also the highest mountain in Europe, reaching over 18,500 feet.

DID YOU KNOW ?

One of Russia's wealthiest cities is a cold one. The Russian city of Tyumen is oil rich, but winter temperatures can drop to -22°F .

DID YOU KNOW ?

Georgia's highest peak is Brasstown Bald located in Towns and Union Counties. At 4,784 feet, it is over 13,000 feet lower than Russia's Mount Elbrus.



Bottom: Warm summers attract visitors to Sochi, Russia. Site of the 2014 Winter Olympics, Sochi is on the Black Sea with the Caucasus Mountains nearby.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Russia's Lake Baikal is the world's deepest lake. It is estimated to hold one-fifth of the world's fresh water.

DID YOU KNOW ?

A meteor fell over the Chelyabinsk region of Russia on February 15, 2013. Its impact caused windows to shatter and walls to crack, and it sent over 1,200 people to the hospital. The largest chunk found weighed over 1,400 pounds.

Of the world's 20 longest rivers, 5 are in Russia. One of the most important rivers is the Volga—Europe's longest river. It is a source of **hydroelectric power** (power created by water) for industry and a waterway to ship manufactured goods. With a length of over 2,200 miles, the Volga and its tributaries connect Moscow and 10 of Russia's largest cities. The river drains southward into the Caspian Sea. The Volga-Don Canal connects the Volga to the Don River, which flows to the Black Sea. This man-made canal gives ships on the Volga access to world markets by the Black Sea, to the Mediterranean Sea, and then to the Atlantic Ocean.

Environmental Issues of Russia

Under the former Soviet system, environmental issues did not always get much public attention. Because the communist national government controlled news sources, and because the government owned all businesses, any environmental damage caused by a business might make communist leaders look bad. Therefore, there was little or no news coverage of problems that might embarrass a government leader or the Communist Party. Because the Communist Party was most interested in developing the country's industry, environmental problems were often overlooked.

Today, Russia faces the results of some of the poor planning of the Soviet era. **Deforestation** (clearing an area of forests) has contributed to a massive loss of habitat. The timber industry is important to the economy, but the country has been slow to protect habitat and begin reforestation. The use of older machinery and vehicles that use fossil fuels contributes to high air pollution. Winds spread the polluted air throughout Northern Europe. This has been especially damaging to forests in Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway, and Sweden). The country's waterways have been polluted by industry. Many of the rivers retain their pollution because of dams that keep the water from flowing freely as it once did.



Bottom: Cargo ships must deliver supplies to polar settlements in the Arctic during brief periods of thaw in the summer.



Russia's nuclear disasters have been especially damaging. The first accident occurred in 1949, the second in 1957, and the third in 1967. These three accidents occurred in the area of Chelyabinsk in the southern Ural Mountains at locations used as a part of Russia's nuclear weapons program. Radiation contaminated over a half million people. According to the US government, these accidents were kept secret until 1989 and were not declared an emergency disaster until 1991.

The most famous of Russia's nuclear accidents occurred in 1986 in Ukraine, which was a part of the Soviet Union. The **Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station** experienced a disaster that exposed approximately one million people to unsafe levels of nuclear radiation.

Reviewing the Section

1. On which continents is Russia located?
2. Why is Russia's northern shoreline not useful for shipping and trade?
3. How do climate and geography determine where people live in Russia?
4. **Deeper Thinking:** The climate of northern Russia is extreme. Why do you think people risk their lives to live and work in such a desolate, extreme area? What type of work do they do?



DID YOU KNOW ?

Even 30 years after the Chernobyl disaster, cleanup workers are only allowed to work in one area for a maximum of three hours to reduce the chance of radiation poisoning. Workers must be scanned for high radiation exposure as they enter and as they leave the area.

Top: Industrial pollution in Russian cities like Novokuznetsk is a problem for both air and water environments.

Above: This Center of Asia Obelisk is located in the city of Kyzyl. **Left:** The Volga River, viewed near Ulyanovsk, is Russia's (and Europe's) longest river at nearly 2,300 miles.

special Feature

The Chernobyl Nuclear Accident

During the 1960s and 1970s, many countries, including the Soviet Union and the United States, spent billions of dollars developing nuclear power plants. These plants were predicted to create electric energy for the country at a very economical price once construction of the plants was complete. However, the danger of radiation exposure made the use of nuclear power plants controversial. The controversy increased after an event in April 1986.

The event occurred near Chernobyl, a city in Ukraine that lies about 60 miles north of Kiev. The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station was about ten years old and generated enough power to serve over a half-million homes. On April 25, 1986, one of the reactors exploded. Tons of radioactive material surrounded the plant, poisoning the land and the water. Even more radioactive material entered the air, falling on Northern Europe.

Drinking water was unsafe for months after the accident, and fish in the rivers of Ukraine and neighboring regions were not safe to eat for years. Nearby pine forests turned brown and died. Many animals died. People in a 30-mile radius around the power station were evacuated. This area became known as the “exclusion zone.”



Top Right: Map of Ukraine showing location of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station. **Above Right:** Chernobyl power plant damage. **Bottom:** A view of the Chernobyl power plant taken from the roof of a building in the city of Pripjat, Ukraine.



Hundreds of thousands of workers set about moving over 340,000 people from the region and beginning the cleanup and containment of radiation. The faulty reactor was quickly buried in concrete by the Soviets, but the structure was not designed for long-term containment of the radiation inside.

The Chernobyl New Safe Confinement project is the most recent effort to contain the radiation. At a cost of over \$1.6 billion, this is just one part of a larger plan to contain and clean up damage from the accident. Taller than the Statue of Liberty, the Confinement structure replaces the previous Soviet containment building. It slid into place over the entire nuclear reactor on November 29, 2016.

It is difficult to determine the effects of this disaster on human life. Many people were scattered across the region as they relocated. Also, some people felt embarrassment at being one of the people who were labeled an “exposed person.” In the first months after the disaster, 28 emergency workers died from acute radiation sickness. Since the accident, the World Health Organization (WHO) has documented an increase in cases of thyroid cancer and leukemia in people who lived in contaminated areas. There has been an increase in death related to cardiovascular disease. Mental health issues due to stress and anxiety have contributed to a higher than average overuse of alcohol and tobacco by affected individuals. What do you think about the risk of using nuclear power to generate electricity?

Top Left: A radiation supervisor in protective clothing and a gas mask checks the level of radiation with a Geiger counter. **Top Right:** Radioactive steam plumes continued escaping from the damaged reactor for days after the initial explosion.

Background: This abandoned amusement park in Pripyat is a haunting scene in the exclusion zone. Pripyat became a “ghost town” after the nuclear disaster.

Right: The Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, home to the Russian monarchs for nearly 200 years. **Below:** A monument to Ivan the Terrible, czar of all Russia.

Section 2

A Brief History of Russia

Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ what life was like for Russians under the rule of Czar Nicholas II;
- ▶ events that led to the Russian Revolution and the start of the Soviet Union;
- ▶ how the world wars led to the Cold War;
- ▶ changes that brought an end to the Soviet Union;
- ▶ terms: **serfs**, **Bolsheviks**.

In *Other* Words

The sovereign of the Russian Empire was called the tsar or czar, a form of Caesar, which was the title for emperors of the ancient Roman Empire.



From Grand Principality to Empire

Modern Russia has its roots in the 13th-century Grand Principality of Muscovy (or Moscow). The city was an ideal one for trade in the region. This trade allowed its princes to grow in wealth and power. By 1547, a prince known as Ivan was crowned as the first czar. Ivan expanded his territory and created a strong unitary (centralized) government as an authoritarian ruler. Ivan took property from his enemies and often had them killed by his black-horsed police force. He expanded his power by the use of secret police. In the end, he became known as Ivan the Terrible. His death led to years of instability until the Romanov family took charge.

The Romanov family ruled Russia from 1613 until the Russian Revolution in 1917. Following some of Ivan's groundwork, the Romanovs passed laws that bound the people to the land as workers. The workers were known as **serfs**. They were peasants bound to work the land for the estate of the lord in charge of the region. This system is referred to as a feudal system, and it created classes of people who were unable to move from the social and economic level in which they were born. In Russia, this meant that millions of serfs were bound to remain poor farmers with a low social status.

In 1682, Peter (later Peter the Great) became czar. He believed that Russia's economy would improve if he could increase trade and other connections to the powerful countries of Western Europe such as England, France, and Spain. He moved the capital west to the coast of the Baltic Sea where ships could transport goods and people more easily to the West. This new capital was known as St. Petersburg, and its style was similar to cities such as London and Paris. New industry was started, and educational opportunities increased for children of the ruling families.

In 1721, Russia was proclaimed an empire, and Peter the Great became its first emperor. Every ruler after him held the title of emperor or empress until the Bolsheviks shot Nicholas II in 1918.

The next ruler, Catherine the Great, continued the connection with the West and increased funding for the arts such as architecture, painting, music, opera, and ballet. She also expanded Russia's territory by winning wars against the Ottoman Empire in the south. These victories gave Russia lands on the Black Sea with warm-water ports that did not freeze in winter. With these new resources, Russia had the potential to trade at sea in a way that was similar to other powerful European countries.

There were problems during Catherine's reign. Some Russians had a distrust of Western Europeans. Russia was officially Eastern Orthodox Christian, while the West was mostly Roman Catholic and Protestant. Also, Catherine did not work to improve the lives of the serfs. After her death, Russia continued to expand but was invaded by France's Napoleon in 1812. This was a brutal conflict. As Napoleon's army advanced, Russian troops were forced back eastward across the European Plain toward Moscow. Along the way, the Russians burned everything in their path, leaving nothing the French troops could use. In the end, snow, freezing temperatures, a lack of supplies, and joint efforts of local fighters and regular troops turned back the French and had an important role in the defeat of Napoleon. The Russian Empire had survived.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Napoleon entered Russia with about 600,000 troops in June 1812. Freezing weather and a lack of supplies cut that number to less than 10,000 by November.

DID YOU KNOW ?

To connect his vast empire, Russian Czar Alexander III began the Trans-Siberian Railroad in 1891. Completed in 1904, the railroad spans over 5,700 miles from Moscow to the Pacific Ocean.



Top: Peter the Great, shown in this Paul Delaroche portrait, was “great” in height as well as power. At 6 feet, 8 inches, he stood head and shoulders above most people of that period. **Left:** Czar Nicholas II inspects his troops during World War I.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Wars have been devastating for the Russian people. They lost over 280,000 in 1812 in war with France; 8 million in the Russian Civil War from 1917 to 1922; 2 million in World War I; and over 20 million in World War II.

The Soviet Years

In 1917, Russia was an autocracy with one powerful person in charge. Czar Nicholas II was the absolute ruler. During World War I, millions of people were killed, wounded, or missing. Most Russian citizens did not have enough food. Soldiers did not have enough clothes, shoes, or weapons. Germany seemed to be winning the war, and the hope of the Russian people was failing.

The czar ignored the signs that people were unhappy, hungry, and desperate for change. He did not see that changes were needed in the way his country was run. In early 1917, there were riots in the streets. Women, factory workers, and farmers shouting for change outnumbered police. The military could not keep the peace and were eventually overpowered by the angry citizens. Many in the czar's army turned against the rulers and began to fight on the side of the peasants. The czar and his family were captured. A temporary government was set up to try and return order to the country. However, there were too many problems.

Later in the year, there was another revolution. Communists, the rising new political party led by Vladimir Lenin, took control. This group believed that all political power and the means of production in the economy should be in the hands of the government, working for the citizens. Lenin's group, called **Bolsheviks**, executed the czar and his family. Lenin reorganized the country and renamed it the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or Soviet Union. The new Soviet Union signed a peace treaty with Germany, ending Russia's involvement in World War I. As a result, the Soviets gave up a large amount of land to Germany. This land was good for farming and had many valuable natural resources,

but the Soviets had little choice. Their country was falling apart around them.

Between 1922 and 1991, the history of Russia is the history of the Soviet Union. The approach to building socialism, however, varied over different periods in Soviet history. There was a mixed economy and diverse society and culture of the 1920s, a command economy and dictator-style rule of Joseph Stalin from 1922 to 1953, and an "era of stagnation" in the 1980s. From its first years, government in the Soviet Union was based on the one-party rule of the communists.



Top Right: Nicholas II was the last czar of Russia. He and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918.

Above: As leader of the Communist Party, Vladimir Lenin took control of Russia in 1917. He reorganized it as the Soviet Union in 1922. **Right:** Joseph Stalin ruled the Soviet Union from 1922 to 1953.

The rise of the Communist Party could be described as a critical period in Russia's history. By renaming the country the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Lenin and his followers were creating a new image for former Russia. The communists believed the massive country could be self-sufficient, so the Communist Party frowned upon capitalism and international business. The government was solely in charge of making decisions for the people of the Soviet Union.

When Joseph Stalin came to power, he built Russia into a major industrial and military power, but his dictatorship brought many decades of hunger and fear. Stalin ruled with an iron fist and politically destroyed anyone who was brave enough to speak out against him or his ideas. In 1941, when Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, Stalin sided with the Western Allies in World War II. Russia paid a high price for the war, with over 20 million people dead and many more injured. As the Soviet army drove the Nazis back to Berlin, many countries in Eastern Europe came under direct Soviet control.

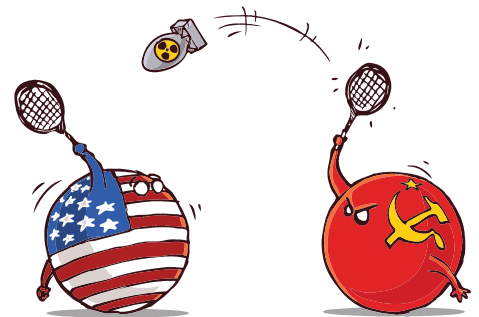
The rivalry and distrust between the United States and the Soviet Union during this period led to the Cold War. Although huge amounts of money were spent to build up the military on both sides, war never broke out. In 1962, Russia began to secretly set up nuclear missiles in Cuba, one of its fellow communist countries. These missiles would have been able to easily hit targets in the United States. President John F. Kennedy demanded the removal of the missiles, and the Soviets removed them as it became clear that war with the United States was about to happen.

By the mid-1980s, the weaknesses of the Soviet economic and political structures became overwhelming. Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, started major reforms. However, the reforms could not save the economy. At the same time, US President Ronald Reagan was pushing the Strategic Defense Initiative, nicknamed "Star Wars." The concept was to build a group of space-based weapons that could destroy nuclear missiles fired at the United States. If the expensive project was successful, the Soviets' nuclear missiles would be useless against the United States. Some believed Star Wars was a kind of economic Cold War attack, forcing the Soviets to spend even more money on their military when money was already in short supply. In 1985, the Soviet Union signed a treaty with the United States agreeing to reduce the size of their military. They began an era of less government control and more individual freedom. By 1989, the Soviets ended their 10-year-long war in Afghanistan. The new openness spread quickly into Eastern Europe, and by the end of 1989, Soviet power over the other Eastern Bloc countries was fading. On November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall in East Germany fell. Within a few short months, each of the "socialist republics" became an independent country, with Russia being the largest.



DID YOU KNOW ?

One high point of the Cold War was the Apollo-Soyuz mission in 1975. Soviet and American astronauts docked their ships together orbiting Earth as a symbol of easing tensions between the two countries.



Top: A German in Berlin throws stones at a Soviet tank to protest communist control of the country. **Above:** The Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union as viewed by a political cartoonist.

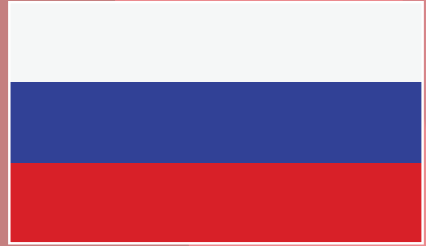
special Feature

Mikhail Gorbachev and the End of the Soviet Union

The last leader of the Soviet Union was Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He came to power in 1985 and was seen as a younger, more energetic leader who might have the vision to turn around the struggling economy of the Soviet Union. However, he came to power at a challenging time. The people of the Soviet Union realized they were living with a lower standard of living than most people in Western Europe. The communist countries under Soviet control in Eastern Europe were feeling the same pressure. The people also did not enjoy as much freedom as people in the West.

The Cold War cost billions of dollars in military spending that was draining the Soviet economy. US President Ronald Reagan's Star Wars plan was seen as expensive in the United States, but it shocked the Soviet Union with how much they would have to spend to defeat it if it were successful. As a result, Gorbachev worked with Reagan to reduce the number of Soviet and American nuclear missiles. Tensions eased on both sides, and Gorbachev and Reagan were viewed as world leaders working in cooperation with each other.





Gorbachev had two ideas for improving his country: perestroika and glasnost. The idea of perestroika, or restructuring, was that the Soviet Union needed to increase the efficiency of their manufacturing, increase the use of automation, and end the central planning that found it difficult to understand world markets. Another element of perestroika was the introduction of the secret ballot and the ability for multiple candidates to run against one another for the same office. Glasnost, or openness, included the idea of loosening government control of business and citizens' lives. Glasnost also meant an increase in information available to all citizens and the right to openly criticize the government.

As perestroika and glasnost expanded, the communist countries of Eastern Europe began to elect their own representatives. By 1989, citizens were voting out their communist leaders. As the communist leaders lost power, the new governments demanded the withdrawal of the Soviet military. Gorbachev did not try to stop the democratic movement, and by 1990, he agreed to allow East and West Germany to be reunited. A year later, Gorbachev resigned as president of the Soviet Union as the country itself ceased to exist. The Soviet Union was broken apart and became 15 separate countries with Russia as the largest and most powerful.

In 1990, Mikhail Gorbachev won the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel committee stated, "During the last few years, dramatic changes have taken place in the relationship between East and West. Confrontation has been replaced by negotiations. Old European nation states have regained their freedom. The arms race is slowing down and we see a definite and active process in the direction of arms control and disarmament. ... These historic changes spring from several factors, but in 1990 the Nobel Committee wants to honor Mikhail Gorbachev for his many and decisive contributions. The greater openness he has brought about in Soviet society has also helped promote international trust." Do you think the Nobel Prize committee made a good choice?

Opposite Page, Top: Mikhail Gorbachev spoke to the 20th Congress of the Communist Party's youth organization. **Opposite Page, Bottom:** Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and US President Ronald Reagan signed a treaty to limit nuclear weapons in 1987. **Top Right:** The "hammer and sickle" flag of the Soviet Union was replaced by the flag of the Russian Federation in December 1991.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1980, the US men's Olympic hockey team beat the Soviet team for the gold medal. The Soviets had won gold for the previous six Winter Olympic Games. This "miracle on ice" was celebrated as one of the top sports moments of the 20th century.

Russia Today

The history of the modern Russian Federation that exists today officially began January 1, 1992. The Russian Federation followed the Soviet Union as a world leader. However, Russia lost its superpower status. It faced serious challenges in its efforts to reform its political and economic systems. The Russian government had to do away with the command economy system that had been in place since 1917 and build an economy based on market-driven capitalism.

Within the country, Russia has had to deal with a number of revolts by ethnic groups. One of the most important was in the southwestern region called Chechnya. This region wanted to gain independence from Russia, but the Russian government did not believe that was the best choice. Russian troops began fighting Chechen rebels in the early 1990s, and fighting continued into the 21st century.

Reviewing the Section

1. What was life like for most Russian citizens under Czar Nicholas II?
2. Who was the leader of the Russian Revolution? What political party did he represent?
3. What change took place in the history of Russia beginning in 1922?
4. How did the ongoing Cold War lead to the fall of the Soviet Union?
5. Deeper Thinking: How difficult do you think it is for a country that was politically destroyed to rise to power again? Is Russia as strong as it once was? What obstacles must the country overcome?

Bottom: A winter view on Arbat Street in Moscow. Although many Russians have found prosperity, many others are still adjusting to the change to a market economy.



Section 3

The Government of Russia



As you read, look for

- ▶ the type of government used in Russia;
- ▶ a comparison between the power of the Russian president and the US president;
- ▶ the level of citizen participation in the government of Russia;
- ▶ terms: **Federal Assembly, Federation Council, State Duma.**

Structure of Government

Russia today operates under a modified presidential democracy. It is referred to as the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation is governed under a constitution that was drafted into law in December of 1993. Since then it has been modified by the present day **Federal Assembly** (the legislature) to meet the changing needs of the country. The head of state is the president, who is directly elected by the people. The president then selects the prime minister and directs the military and security forces. The president has the power to disband the Federal Assembly.



Above: The State Duma, the lower house of the Federal Assembly, meets in this State Duma building in central Moscow.



The Federal Assembly is divided into two parts: the Federation Council and the State Duma. The **Federation Council** has two representatives from each of the states. The states appoint the council's members for five years, so they are not elected directly by the citizens. The Council represents the government of the states. One of the Council's important duties is to approve the president's choices of people to fill different government jobs.

The **State Duma** is larger than the Council. It has 450 members who are elected by the citizens. This group controls the budget and makes the laws. Members of the State Duma approve the president's choice for prime minister. The day-to-day running of the government is split between the prime minister and the president of Russia.

Citizen Participation

Russia's constitution guarantees human and civil rights for its citizens. All people are equal in the eyes of the law. Russians have the right to life and dignity, freedom of speech, and privacy. Once 18 years of age, Russian citizens may vote for the office of president. Most other governmental positions are then appointed by the president.

Reviewing the Section

1. Under what type of government does Russia operate?
2. Who is the head of state for Russia, and how is the person chosen?
3. To which house of the legislature do the people elect representatives? Who appoints representatives to the other house?
4. In what ways does Russia's president have more power than a US president?
5. How involved are the Russian citizens in choosing their government leaders?
6. Deeper Thinking: Why do you think the president has the power to dissolve the Federal Assembly? How would that power affect the way the government is run? Would the individual citizens have any representation if that were to happen?

Top Left: A voter places her ballot in the ballot box during an election of deputies to the State Duma. **Right:** On February 4, 2012, over 120,000 Russian citizens exercised their right to protest against government actions in Moscow.



Section 4

The Economy of Russia

As you read, look for

- ▶ the type of economy in Russia today;
- ▶ how Russia's modern economy is different from the economy under the Soviet Union;
- ▶ goods exported by Russia;
- ▶ the standard of living of Russia's people;
- ▶ the currency used in Russia;
- ▶ terms: **corruption, protectionism, ruble (₽).**

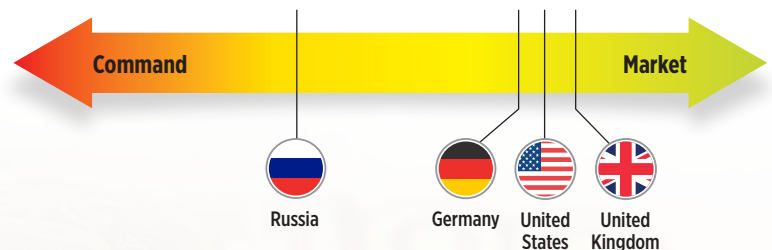


Economic System Today

In the days of the USSR (Soviet Union), there was a centralized command economy. The government owned all businesses and farms. Government planning groups made basic economic decisions. They determined such things as which goods and services to produce, the prices for the goods, and the wages to be paid to workers. Individuals and corporations did not own businesses or farms. Workers in businesses were told what to produce and how much to produce in a given time (quota). The expectation was that, when all workers met all quotas, everyone in the country would be able to have the goods they wanted when they wanted them.

Figure 7.2

Economic Systems in Europe



Above: The ruble is the currency of the Russian Federation.

Below: A ship with a cargo of oil is docked at the oil terminal in the port of Nakhodka. This city, in extreme eastern Russia on the Sea of Japan, is an important center for exports, the base of a fishing fleet, and the terminus of a passenger ferry to Yokohama, Japan.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Russian Federation moved toward a market system. Today, however, Russia is still less economically free than other countries in Europe. The government maintains control of large businesses and has strict limits on private ownership. Reforms from the 1990s to give business owners more freedom have stalled, and there is a high concentration of wealth in government officials' hands. Economic reforms in the 1990s privatized businesses. That is, the government-owned business was sold to private individuals. Decision-making power was moved to the business owners instead of the government planners. However, there were exceptions such as businesses related to energy, banking, transportation, and defense. These were still controlled by the government.

Another problem is the level of **corruption** (dishonest behavior) of government officials. This has created an issue of trust and prevents private businesses from being successful. There is no clear rule of law that is being consistently enforced throughout the country. The judicial system is also a part of the corruption so it does not always work to apply laws that could offer some protection. This environment is not good for entrepreneurs—people who innovate and take risks in developing a business or product. They are discouraged from investing if they feel they could lose their investment because of corrupt government officials or a poor judiciary (court system) that does not protect their rights and property.

Trade

Trade is the voluntary, nonfraudulent exchange of goods and services between people and countries. Trade occurs when buyers and sellers freely and willingly engage in market transactions and both parties benefit. In today's society, countries specialize in products or services produced from the resources found in their country. For example, Russia has an abundance of natural resources. However, the harsh, cold climate and the lack of infrastructure such as roads make it difficult to get these natural resources out of the ground and to the marketplace. In areas where workers can reach the resources like coal, natural gas, and oil, the resources are mined for export.



In the western and southern areas where the climate is mild, products are manufactured in order to trade. Besides the natural resources of petroleum and petroleum products, Russia exports metals, wood, chemicals, and military products. Some of the countries that buy Russia's exports are the Netherlands, China, and Germany.

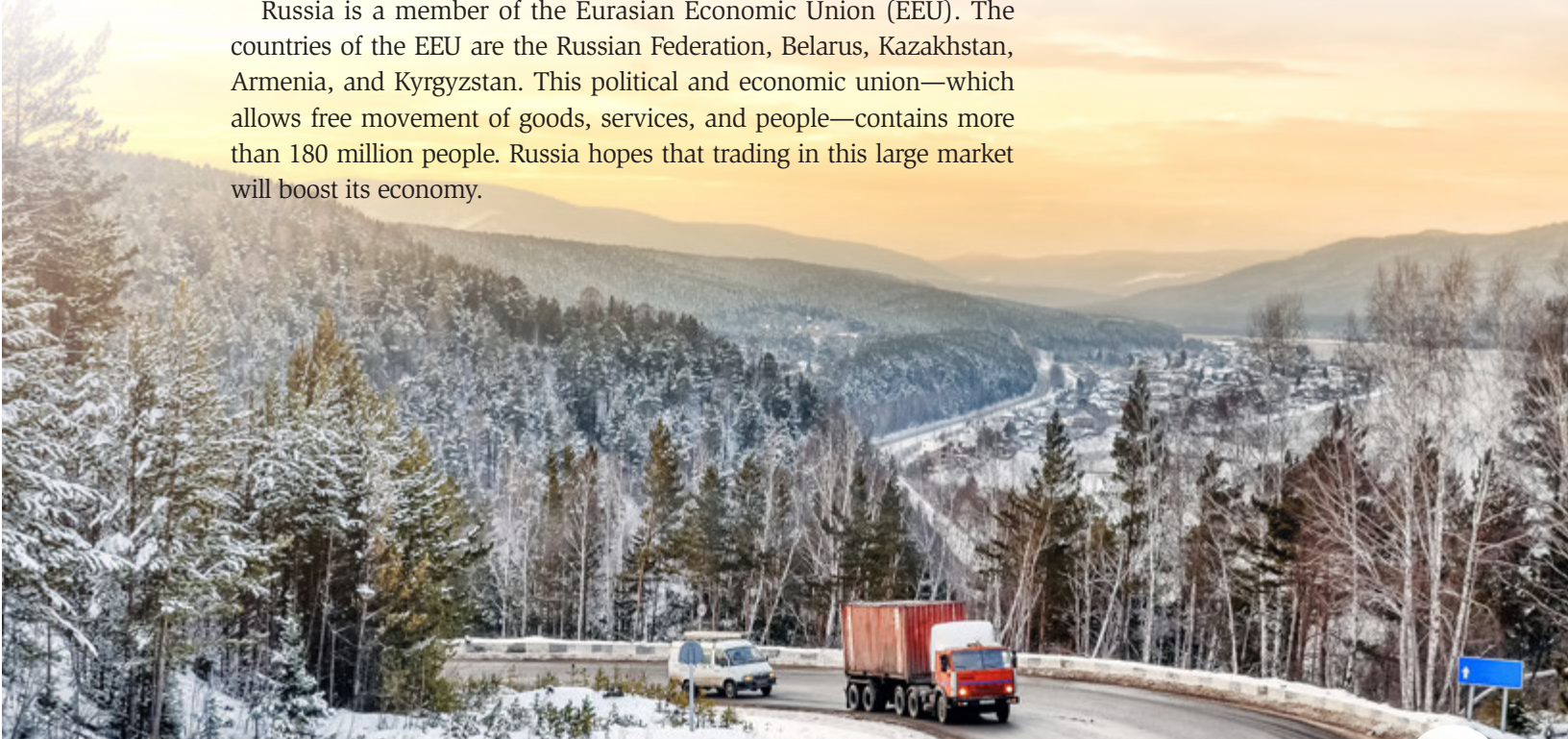
Importing is also an important aspect of trading. By importing vehicles, pharmaceutical products, meat and fruit, as well as medical equipment, Russia can better provide for the daily needs of its people. This establishes trading relations with countries such as China, Germany, and the United States.

Although Russia is partly in Europe, the country is not a member of the European Union (EU). The European Union is a free-trade zone, so there are no barriers to trade among the European countries in this zone. This means EU members can buy goods for a lower price. In Russia, there are tariffs on many imports. The Russian government hopes the tariffs will encourage Russians to buy goods made in Russia rather than goods from other countries. The tariffs are there to help Russian workers and companies get more business and compete against corporations of other countries. If a high tariff is placed on apples imported from Germany, Russian families might choose to buy apples grown by Russian farmers.

Protectionism, or government protection of a country's industries from foreign competition, works both ways. For instance, Russia produces a lot of steel. Steelmakers in the EU may worry that, if too much of the less expensive Russian steel comes into the EU, steel-producing businesses in EU countries will be hurt because they might have trouble earning enough profit to stay in business. The EU could put a quota on steel imports from Russia to stop the flow of most Russian steel into EU countries. This would keep the prices stable in the EU; however, Russia might decide to put a quota on imports from the EU into Russia as punishment to the EU. These are examples of how quotas are a barrier to free trade.

Russia is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). The countries of the EEU are the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan. This political and economic union—which allows free movement of goods, services, and people—contains more than 180 million people. Russia hopes that trading in this large market will boost its economy.

Below: Natural gas is one of Russia's valuable resources. It can be burned in plants such as this one in the city of Adler to generate electricity. **Bottom:** Russia has the largest amount of forestland of any country in the world. This forest is in the remote region of Siberia.



Standard of Living

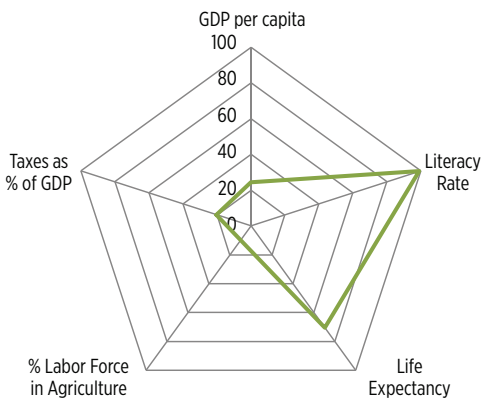
In the days of the Soviet Union, a person's path in life was planned out by the government. From school to jobs, there was little freedom of choice. Today, Russian citizens have the freedom to go to college and apply for the jobs they want. It is important to be able to read and write. Russia holds one of the highest literacy rates in the world at 99 percent. This means that almost everyone over the age of 15 can read and write. But even with the high literacy rate, Russia still has a low Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and high poverty levels. The Russian government is spending large amounts of money to train workers and to educate youth so they will have more opportunities to be successful in the economy.

The Russian people also put great importance on receiving additional education after finishing high school. Good education and job skills are important for finding a job. Once they enter the workforce, Russians are able to choose their field of work. The people must show they are skilled and valuable to the business in order to keep their jobs. Over 60 percent of Russians work in a service-related field. These jobs include banking and customer service jobs. Other professions in Russia are in industry and agriculture.

The availability of natural resources and skilled labor make Russia a good place to have a business. Russia also has many entrepreneurs who are willing to start their own business. Even though laws have made it easier than it used to be to own a business and many are getting rich, the government is not very good at protecting the rights of businesspeople.

Russia is one of the world's leading producers of oil and natural gas, and is also a major exporter of metals such as steel and aluminum. Russia's manufacturers are not competitive in world markets, so they focus on producing goods for use in Russia. Russia's economy is vulnerable to changes in global prices paid for their exports. For example, the Russian economy, which had averaged 7 percent growth during 1998-2008 as oil prices rose rapidly, was one of the hardest hit by the 2008-2009 global economic crisis when oil prices dropped. In 2014, economic growth declined more after Russia attacked Ukraine. By the second half of 2014, the Russian **ruble** (₽), the country's currency, lost about half of its value. Falling oil prices, lack of government economic reforms, and sanctions placed on Russia by other countries have contributed to Russia's economic decline.

Figure 7.3
Russia Spider Graph



Bottom: The bulk of production from the Tuapse Refinery in the Krasnodar region is exported.

Currency

Currency is the money people use to make trade easier. The United States uses US dollars (USD or \$) to buy goods and services. Russians use the ruble (₽). This currency has not been stable in the past. For instance, one dollar bought ₽5.96 in January 1998; a dollar could buy ₽83.59 in January 2016.

A business that exchanges a lot of money will pay many fees. Imagine an olive farmer in Greece. The farmer pays his workers in euros. He uses euros to buy fertilizer and pesticides to help him have a good crop. He pays for water and machinery in euros. When the olives are ripe, a store in Russia wants to buy them. The Russian storeowner has rubles to spend. In order to make the trade, the Russian storeowner exchanges his rubles for euros. The bank where he makes the trade charges a fee to make this exchange. The olive grower gets money for the olives in euros. The Russian store gets the olives.



Reviewing the Section

1. What type of economic system existed in the Soviet Union?
2. What type of economic system exists today in Russia?
3. How does Russia's climate impact what items are imported and exported?
4. Why does Russia place tariffs and other types of trade restrictions on its imports?
5. Why is the ruble a less desirable currency to own than some others in the world?
6. Why can Russia's manufacturing businesses not compete worldwide?
7. Deeper Thinking: In most cases, a higher literacy rate means a higher standard of living. In Russia, although the literacy rate is high, the GDP is low in comparison. There are also high levels of poverty. What is the cause for this drastic difference in literacy rate and the standard of living? What do you think the government could do to ensure Russians increase their standard of living?

Above: Ruble banknotes of the Russian Federation.

Section 5

US-Russia Relations


 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

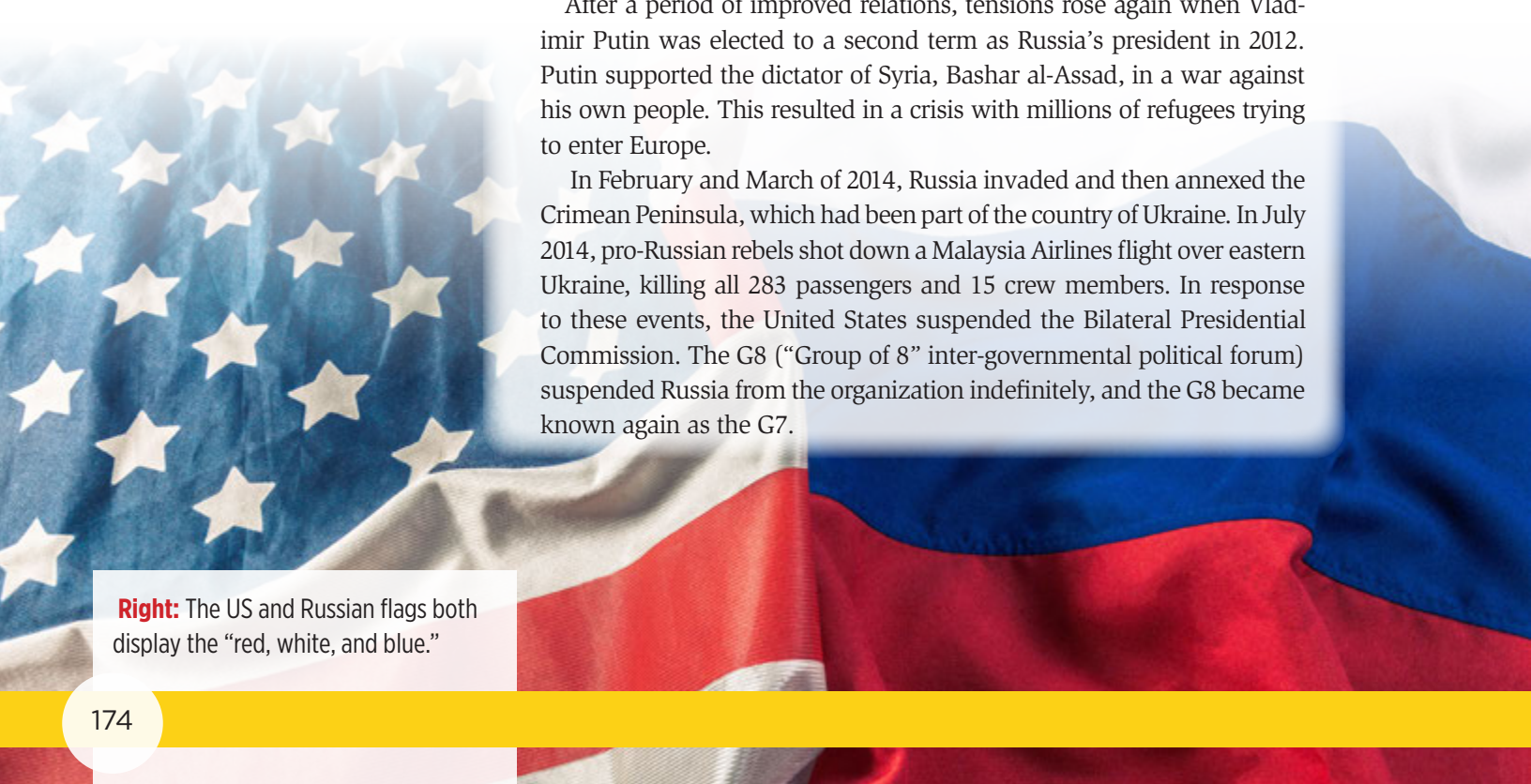
- ▶ reasons for the declining relationship between Russia and the United States;
- ▶ the effect of Russia's militant actions on the US, Russian, and global economies;
- ▶ the amount of trade between Russia and the United States;
- ▶ term: **Bilateral Presidential Commission.**

A Cautious Relationship

By the end of 2008, US-Russia relations were tense. When US President Barack Obama took office in January 2009, both sides had an opportunity to change the tone of the relationship and cooperate in areas of mutual interest. President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev first met in 2009 to address the global financial crisis. Later that year, they met for another summit where they reached agreements on nuclear security and other subjects. They also agreed to create a **Bilateral Presidential Commission** to improve organization between the two countries, identify areas of cooperation, and work on joint projects to strengthen stability between the countries.

After a period of improved relations, tensions rose again when Vladimir Putin was elected to a second term as Russia's president in 2012. Putin supported the dictator of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, in a war against his own people. This resulted in a crisis with millions of refugees trying to enter Europe.

In February and March of 2014, Russia invaded and then annexed the Crimean Peninsula, which had been part of the country of Ukraine. In July 2014, pro-Russian rebels shot down a Malaysia Airlines flight over eastern Ukraine, killing all 283 passengers and 15 crew members. In response to these events, the United States suspended the Bilateral Presidential Commission. The G8 ("Group of 8" inter-governmental political forum) suspended Russia from the organization indefinitely, and the G8 became known again as the G7.



Right: The US and Russian flags both display the "red, white, and blue."

Since 2014, the United States and our European and G7 partners have imposed sanctions (penalties that act as incentives for following laws and rules) on Russia for its aggressive actions in eastern Ukraine, occupation of Crimea, attempts to interfere in US elections, and damaging cyberattacks.

In February 2022, Russia launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine. President Putin tried to justify the invasion by questioning Ukraine's right to statehood. He also demanded that NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) stop expanding eastward and that it permanently bar Ukraine from joining NATO.

As a result of Russian attacks on their cities and civilians, millions of people have had to leave Ukraine and find refuge in other countries. The United States has joined many other countries in imposing new, harsher sanctions on Russia and providing humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine. The people of Ukraine have fought back boldly against the overwhelming Russian forces.



Bilateral Economic Relations

In 2021, the United States exported nearly \$6.3 billion in goods to Russia and imported over \$29.6 billion in goods from Russia. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, major US companies—like ExxonMobil, Apple, Ford Motor Company, and Boeing—have suspended their operations in Russia. These major suspensions are sure to have an effect on future US trade with Russia.

In 2012, Russia joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). This group has 164 member countries including the United States. Adding Russia to the group was a major accomplishment because it brought the largest economy outside the WTO into the organization and bound it to a set of rules governing trade.



Reviewing the Section

1. Which leaders created the Bilateral Presidential Commission. What was its purpose?
2. What two events of 2014 strained US-Russia relations?
3. Deeper Thinking: How has Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 affected Russia's economy? How is it likely to affect the US and world economies in the years to come?

Top: Tensions have risen between US leaders and Russian President Vladimir Putin in recent years. **Above:** Boeing's sale of aircraft, including this 777, to Aeroflot was a major business success for the American company. In 2022, Boeing suspended the sale of aircraft and spare airplane parts to Russian airlines after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: The Geography of Russia

- Russia is the largest country on Earth and therefore has a variety of climates. It spans the continents of Europe and Asia and is spread across 11 time zones.
- Although Russia has little arable land, it has large deposits of oil, gold, and coal—which are exported and used in manufacturing.
- Russia’s physical features include the Ural Mountains, which form a geographic divide between Europe and Asia, and the Volga River, which is the longest river in Europe.
- Because the Communist Party prioritized industry over conservation, Russia now has polluted rivers and dwindling forests and is still cleaning nuclear disaster areas.

Section 2: A Brief History of Russia

- Modern Russia had its roots in the Grand Principality of Muscovy (Moscow). It grew into an authoritarian empire that was ruled by the Romanov family for over 300 years.
- The harsh policies of the Romanov family eventually led to riots that replaced the rule of the czars with the new Communist Party led by Vladimir Lenin.
- After Lenin reorganized the country in 1922, Russia became known as the Soviet Union (USSR) until the modern Russian Federation was created in 1992.
- Lenin was followed by the dictator Joseph Stalin who, after World War II, began the Cold War with Western powers.
- By the 1980s, the Soviet Union was falling apart despite policy changes, and the Berlin Wall fell in 1989.

Section 3: The Government of Russia

- Russia is a modified presidential democracy that has both a president and prime minister.
- The Federal Assembly is Russia’s bicameral legislative body made up of the Federal Council, whose members are appointed by the state, and the State Duma, whose members are elected by the people.
- Russians can vote for the president, but most other positions are appointed by the president.

Section 4: The Economy of Russia

- During the 1990s, Russia moved away from the centralized command economy of the Soviet era but still places many restrictions on business.
- The economy is easily influenced by changes in the price of oil.
- Russia focuses on making products for domestic consumption because the harsh climate, lack of infrastructure, and economic barriers make it harder to export goods.
- Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has motivated major US companies to suspend operations in Russia. The United States and other countries have given aid and support to Ukraine and have imposed harsher sanctions against Russian companies and leaders.

Section 5: US-Russia Relations

- US-Russia relations improved under US President Obama and Russian President Medvedev, but tensions rose when Vladimir Putin was again elected Russia’s president in 2012.
- In 2014, Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula, and pro-Russian rebels shot down a Malaysia Airlines flight over eastern Ukraine. These events escalated US-Russia hostilities.
- Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has motivated major US companies to suspend operations in Russia. The United States and other countries have given aid and support to

Ukraine and have imposed harsher sanctions against Russian companies and leaders.

Activities for Learning



Reviewing People, Places, and Things

Write a paragraph about Russia using at least six of the words and names below. Underline each word as you use it.

Soviet Union
Cold War
czar
Siberia
ruble
EEU
serf

Understanding the Facts

1. Where is Russia's population most dense?
2. What is the "exclusion zone"?
3. Why was the Romanov family overthrown?
4. Who were the Bolsheviks?
5. What was the Cold War?
6. Does the Russian president or prime minister have more power?
7. What is the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)?
8. Who was Ivan the Terrible?



Developing Critical Thinking

1. Today Russia is facing the consequences of poor environmental decisions made during the Soviet era. Give three examples from the text and explain how Americans can learn from these mistakes to avoid similar problems here.
2. Russia's current government is built upon a constitution drafted after the end of the Cold War. Compare and contrast the governments of Russia and the United States. Do you think Russians incorporated Western political ideas while forming their government? Explain why.

Writing across the Curriculum



When the Soviets took over Russia and formed the USSR, they were opposed to international trade. They believed the country could be self-sufficient. Using your knowledge of economics from Chapter 3, write a short report explaining why it is difficult for a country to succeed if it does not trade. How does this policy hurt international relations?

Applying Your Skills



Create a chart of four different rulers from various times in Russia's history. Summarize their time as leader, including important events they oversaw.

Exploring Technology




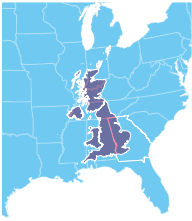
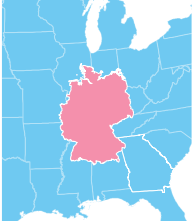
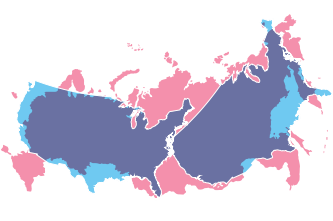


Use Google Maps to better understand the size and geography of Russia. Be sure to look at the political map and satellite images. Use the interactive features of the maps including street view to locate and view the following: (a) Moscow, (b) St. Petersburg, (c) Ural Mountains, (d) Volga River, (e) Caspian Sea, and (f) Siberia.



Above: There are more than 500 McDonald's restaurants in the Russian Federation, with new ones opening every year.










Physical Geography

	United Kingdom	Germany	Russia
Area Comparison	94,058 sq mi 80th largest	137,847 sq mi 63rd largest	6,601,668 sq mi 1st largest
Location			
Relative Size			
Natural Resources	coal, petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, tin, limestone, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, potash, silica sand, slate, arable land	coal, lignite, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, uranium, potash, salt, construction materials, timber, arable land	wide natural resource base including major deposits of oil, natural gas, coal, and many strategic minerals, reserves of rare earth elements, timber Note: formidable obstacles of climate, terrain, and distance hinder exploitation of natural resources
Environment	continues to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; by 2005 the government reduced the amount of industrial and commercial waste disposed of in landfill sites to 85% of 1998 levels and recycled or composted at least 25% of household waste, increasing to 33% by 2015	emissions from coal-burning utilities and industries contribute to air pollution; acid rain, resulting from sulfur dioxide emissions, is damaging forests; pollution in the Baltic Sea from raw sewage and industrial effluents from rivers in eastern Germany; hazardous waste disposal; government established a mechanism for ending the use of nuclear power by 2022; government working to meet EU commitment to identify nature preservation areas in line with the EU's Flora, Fauna, and Habitat directive	air pollution from heavy industry, emissions of coal-fired electric plants, and transportation in major cities; industrial, municipal, and agricultural pollution of inland waterways and seacoasts; deforestation; soil erosion; soil contamination from improper application of agricultural chemicals; scattered areas of sometimes intense radioactive contamination; groundwater contamination from toxic waste; urban solid waste management; abandoned stocks of obsolete pesticides

Cultural Geography

	United Kingdom	Germany	Russia
Ethnic Groups	white 87% black/African/Caribbean/black British 3% Asian/Indian 2% Asian/Pakistani 2% mixed 2% other 4%	German 91.5% Turkish 2.4% other 6.1%	Russian 78% Tatar 4% Ukrainian 1% Bashkir 1% Chuvash 1% Chechen 1% other 10% unspecified 4% Note: nearly 200 national and/or ethnic groups are represented in Russia's 2010 census
Religion	Christian (includes Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 60% Muslim 4% Hindu 1% unspecified 7% none 26%	Protestant 34% Roman Catholic 34% Muslim 3.7% Jewish 0.2% unaffiliated/other 28.3%	Russian Orthodox 15-20% Muslim 10-15% other Christian 2% Note: estimates are of practicing worshipers; Russia has large populations of nonpracticing believers and nonbelievers; Russia officially recognizes Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism as traditional religions
Population	64,430,428 Ranks 22nd	80,722,792 Ranks 18th	144,096,812 Ranks 9th
Life Expectancy	average: 80.7years male: 78.5 years female: 83 years	average: 80.7 years male: 78.4 years female: 83.1 years	average: 70.4 years male: 64.7 years female: 76.57 years
Literacy	About 99% of adults	About 99% of adults	About 99% of adults
Education Expenditures	5.8% of GDP Ranks 36th	4.9% of GDP Ranks 74th	4.1% of GDP Ranks 110th

Government

	United Kingdom	Germany	Russia
Government Type	constitutional monarchy and Commonwealth realm	federal republic	federation
Capital City	London	Berlin	Moscow
Suffrage	18 years of age; in Scotland 16 years of age for Scottish Parliament and local elections; universal	18 years of age; universal	18 years of age; universal
National Flag			
Political Map			
Currency	Pound sterling 	Euro 	Russian ruble 

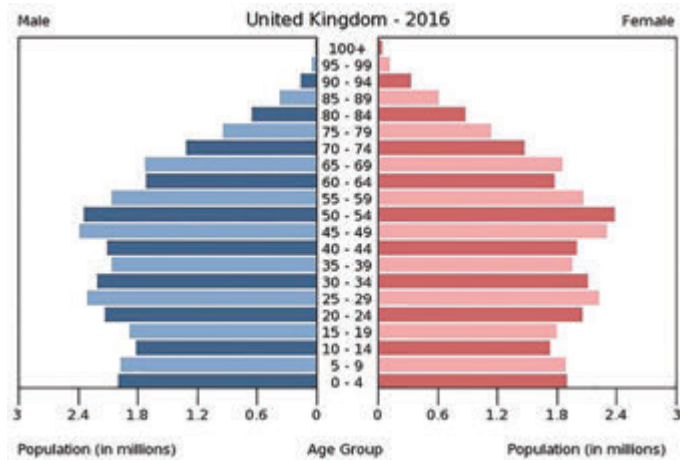
Economy

	United Kingdom	Germany	Russia
GDP	\$2.950 trillion	\$3.874 trillion	\$1.861 trillion
GDP per capita	\$39,800 (2014 est.) \$38,700 (2013 est.) \$38,000 (2012 est.)	\$46,200 (2014 est.) \$45,500 (2013 est.) \$45,300 (2012 est.)	\$24,400 (2014 est.) \$24,300 (2013 est.) \$24,000 (2012 est.)
GDP end use			
Household spending	65%	55%	54%
Government spending	20%	20%	20%
Business spending	18%	19%	19%
Exports/Imports	-3%	+6%	+7%
GDP by sector			
Agriculture	.6%	.7%	4.2%
Industry	19.9%	30.4%	35.8%
Services	79.5%	68.9%	60.0%
Labor Force by occupation			
Agriculture	1.3%	1.6%	9.7%
Industry	15.2%	24.6%	27.8%
Services	83.5%	73.8%	62.5%
Taxes	31.7% of GDP	44.4% of GDP	20.3% of GDP
Budget	revenues: \$936.2 billion expenditures: \$1.106 trillion	revenues: \$1.721 trillion expenditures: \$1.696 trillion	revenues: \$377.7 billion expenditures: \$386.4 billion
Imports	manufactured goods, machinery, fuels, foodstuffs	machinery, data processing equipment, vehicles, chemicals, oil and gas, metals, electric equipment, pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs, agricultural products	machinery, vehicles, pharmaceutical products, plastic, semi-finished metal products, meat, fruits and nuts, optical and medical instruments, iron, steel
Exports	manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals, food, beverages, tobacco	motor vehicles, machinery, chemicals, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, pharmaceuticals, metals, transport equipment, foodstuffs, textiles, rubber and plastic products	petroleum and petroleum products, natural gas, metals, wood and wood products, chemicals, and a wide variety of civilian and military manufactures
Import Partners	Germany 14.9% China 9% Netherlands 2.8% US 6.5% France 6.1% Belgium 5.2% Italy 4.1%	Netherlands 13.8% France 8% China 6.6% Belgium 6.3% Italy 5.4% UK 4.8% Poland 4.6% Czech Republic 4.4% Austria 4.3% Switzerland 4.1%	China 17.8% Germany 11.5% US 6.6% Italy 4.5% Belarus 4.1%
Export Partners	Germany 10.8% US 10.4% Netherlands 8.1% Switzerland 7.2% France 6.5% Ireland 6.4% Belgium 4.5%	France 9.6% UK 7.9% US 6.9% Netherlands 6.9% China 5.8% Austria 5.3% Italy 5.1% Poland 4.5% Switzerland 4.3%	Netherlands 13.7% China 7.5% Germany 7.5% Italy 7.2% Turkey 5%
Value of Imports	\$802 billion	\$1.2 trillion	\$308 billion
Value of Exports	\$481 billion	\$1.5 trillion	\$498 billion

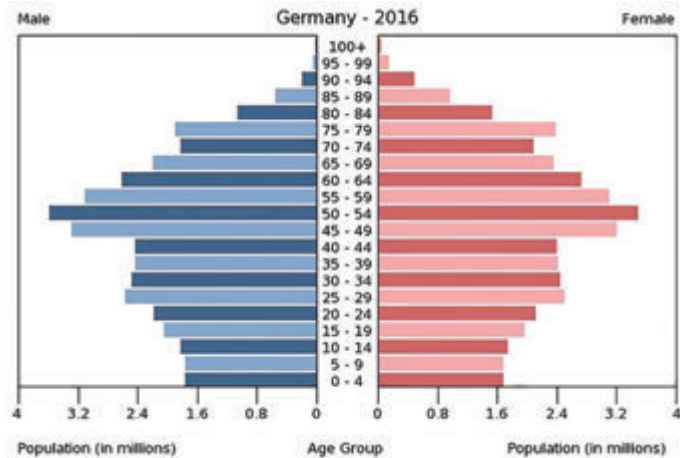
Population Pyramid

A population pyramid illustrates the age and sex structure of a country's population and may provide insights about political and social stability, as well as economic development. The population is distributed along the horizontal axis, with males shown on the left and females on the right. The male and female populations are broken down into 5-year age groups represented as horizontal bars along the vertical axis, with the youngest age groups at the bottom and the oldest at the top. The shape of the population pyramid gradually evolves over time based on fertility, mortality, and international migration trends.

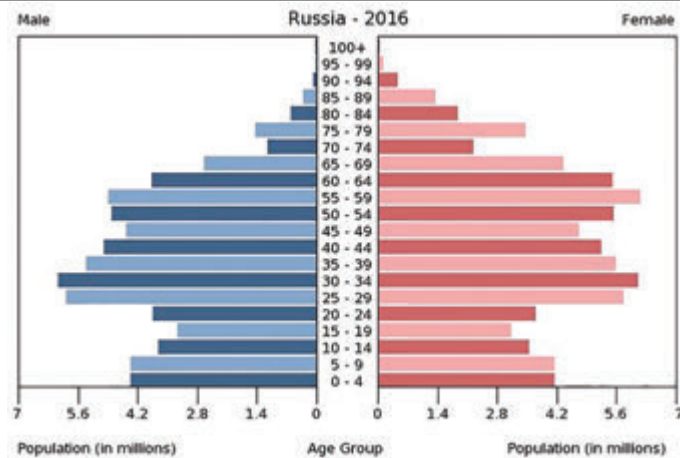
United Kingdom



Germany



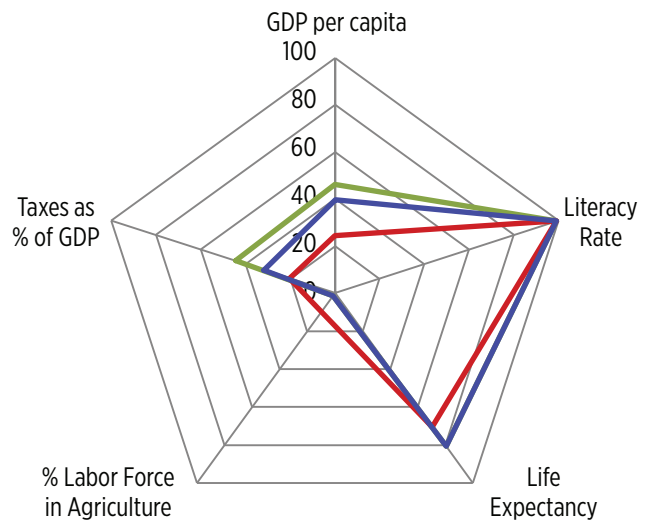
Russia



Spider Graph

A spider graph consists of plotting data on a series of spokes, called radii, with each spoke representing one variable (for example: GDP per capita, literacy rate, life expectancy). The length of each spoke from the center of the graph is proportional to the other spokes. A line is drawn connecting the data points for each spoke. This gives the graph the look of a spider web. The spider graph can be used to answer such questions as: Which characteristics are most similar between countries? Are there outliers?

- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Russia



Comparisons 1 Questions

Use the data tables, population pyramids, and spider graph to complete each item comparing the three focus countries.

1. Which country is the largest in land size?
2. Which country is the most ethnically diverse?
3. Which country has the greatest variety of natural resources?
4. Which country has the lowest standard of living?
5. Which country has the highest percentage of farmers?
6. Which country has the healthiest citizens?
7. In which country does industry contribute least to the GDP?
8. Which country or countries have a negative trade balance?
9. Which country or countries have a positive trade balance?
10. Which country has the highest tax rate?
11. With which of these countries does the United States have the strongest trade relationship?
12. According to the spider graph, on which point of comparison are the countries most alike?
13. Challenge: Compute the dollar amount spent per year, per person, educating the population in each country. Assume that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the population is in school and round off decimals to the nearest whole number, as needed.

Hint: You will need the GDP, percentage of GDP spent on education, and population of each country to complete the task

United Kingdom

Germany

Russia