

Unit 5: Russia and the Republics

Human Geography

Russia and the Western Republics

History

- 9th century: Vikings came to take advantage of the river trade between the Baltic and Black seas
- Viking settlement began to expand until Mongolian invaders—Tartars—attacked between 1237 and 1240
- Mongols controlled the region until the 16th century
 - Ivan the Great reclaimed Russia



History



- Ivan the Great expanded the Russian empire
 - 17th century: territory went from Moscow in Europe all the way to Pacific Ocean
- Population was of conquered peoples
 - Many different ethnicities, languages, beliefs, etc.

History

- Russia Falls Behind
 - European territories, although not covering as much land as Russia were growing in other ways
 - Culture, technology, science
 - Peter the Great-czar (emperor)
 - St. Petersburg new capital, “window to the West:
 - Russia didn’t industrialize until the end of the 1800s—much later than Western Europe.



History

- Soviet Union
 - WWI—Russia left the allied side when the Russian Revolution began
 - Ended the czars ruling
 - Russian Communist Party took control
 - 1922—Communist Party had organized the different peoples and created the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
 - USSR
 - Capital=Moscow



History

- Soviet Union
 - WWII—Stalin now in power of the USSR
 - USSR damaged the Nazi expansion, however, tensions between USSR and its allies made things difficult
 - After the war, Stalin established pro-Communist governments in the territories newly created in Eastern Europe.
 - The US and allies wanted pro-democracy governments, relationships worsened



History



- Soviet Union
 - Cold War—USSR vs. USA
 - Arms race: nuclear weapons
 - Long period of tension, fear, suspicion
 - By the late 1980s, Soviet leader Gorbachev lightened up on political and economic freedom.
 - Berlin Wall fell, Cold War officially over in the early 1990s.



Post-Cold War World

- After the fall of the Soviet Union, region divided into 15 independent republics
 - Today: Russia has a popularly elected president
 - Corruption???
 - Legislature (Federal assembly) divided into 2 chambers
 - Federation council
 - State Duma

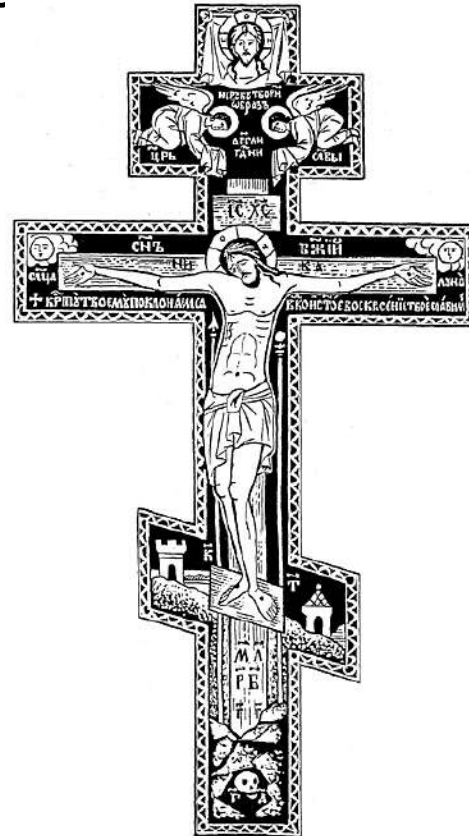


Economic Shifts

- Communism and Karl Marx
 - Ideals?
- Command Economy-central gov. makes all important economic decisions
- Collective Farms-large teams of laborers gather and work together
- Millions starved to death
- Harsh rule, prison/death for those opposing the government
- Post-Cold War: moving towards some capitalist beliefs

Culture

- Ethnicity and Religion
 - Diversity due to early invasions of different areas
 - Russians
 - Finnish
 - Turkic
 - Mongolian
 - Orthodox Christianity
 - Buddhism
 - Islam
 - Judaism



Culture

- Art
 - Architecture
 - Regional culture (folk) and popular culture of Europe
 - Famous composers and music



Changes in Russian Life

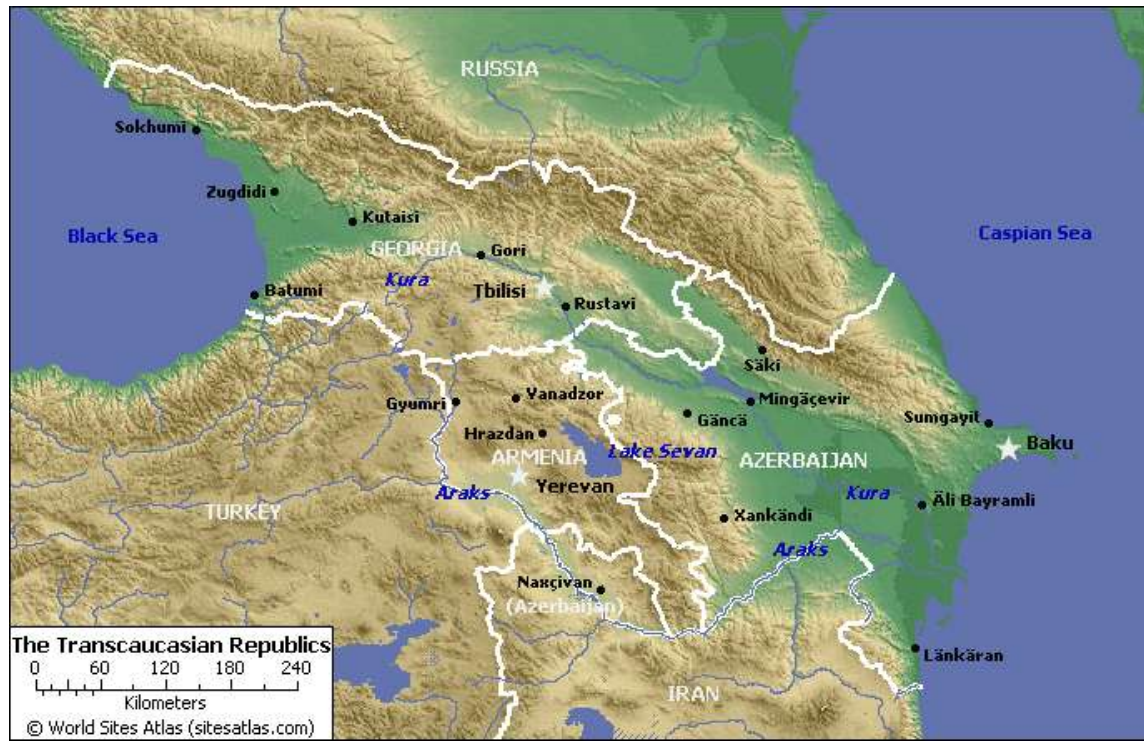
- More social, cultural, and economic opportunities available in large cities
- Exposure to outside world: books, magazines, newspapers



Transcaucasia

Migration

- Located between Europe and Asia
- Between the Black and Caspian seas
- Lots of trade routes



Migration

- Due to trade routes, many different peoples and cultures moved through the areas
 - Language
 - Religion
 - Mostly Christian or Islamic
- Conflict:
 - Tensions grew and violence often erupted due to differences
 - Soviet rule
 - Post-USSR: civil wars, and wars between nations over territory

History

- Czarist and Soviet Rule
 - 18th century troops invaded and took over the area
 - Peter the Great had taken control of Azerbaijan and they soon annexed Georgia
 - Late 18th-early 19th centuries
 - Transcaucasia experienced the same social, economic, and political difficulties as the rest of Russian territory

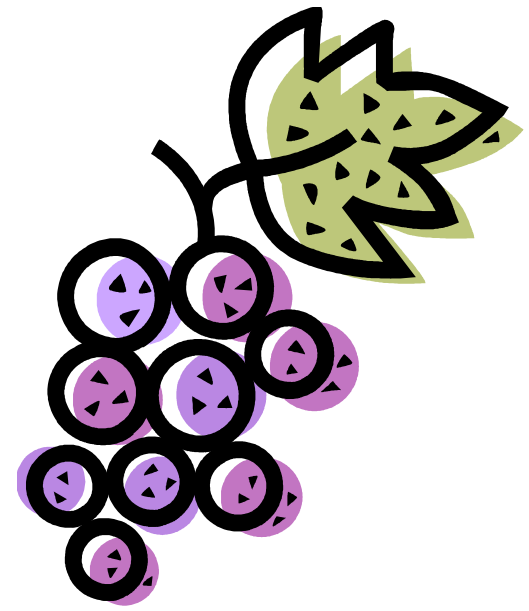


Economics

- Agriculture and Industry

- Humid subtropical lowlands and foothills good for tea and fruits

- Industrial centers handle iron, steel, chemicals, and crude oil



Economics

- “Land of Flames”
 - Azerbaijan
 - Fires that would erupt from waters and rocks
 - Underground oil and gas deposits



Economics

- Dividing the Caspian Sea

- Lake or Sea???

- After the Soviet Union fell, countries needed to decide how resources from the sea would be divided
 - Sea: each country has legal rights to resources
 - Lake: resources and wealth must be shared



Modern Life

- Education
 - Soviet Union programs had a mostly positive effect
 - Literacy rates nearly 99%
 - Best in the world
- Hospitality
 - Traditions and food: supra (dinner party)



Central Asia

History

- Central Asia:
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Tajikistan
 - Turkmenistan
 - Uzbekistan

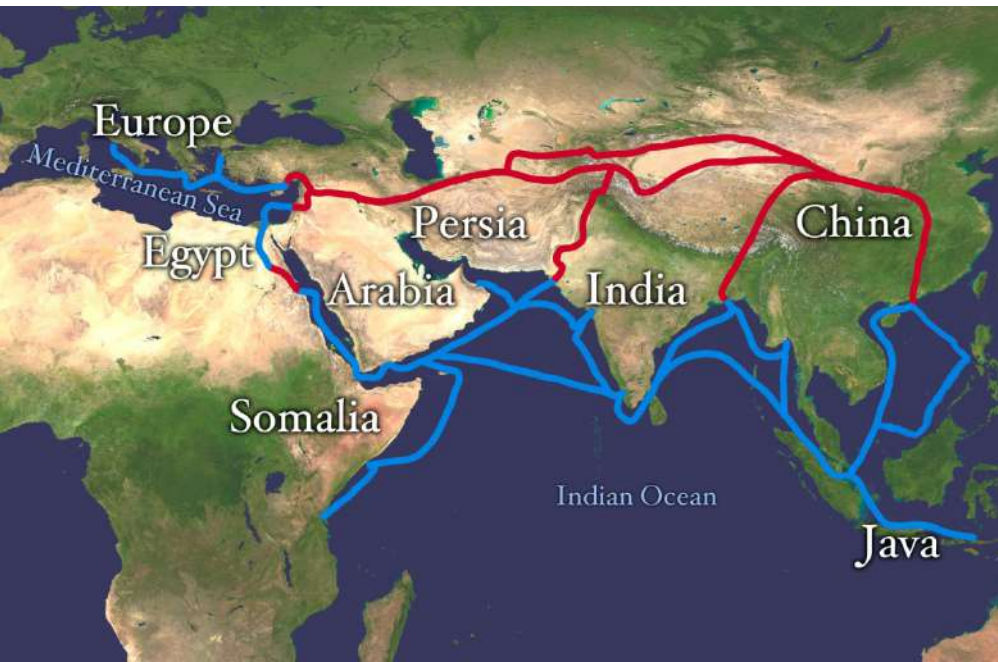
Map of Central Asia

www.uzngos.uzsci.net



History

- Silk Road-trade routes
- Great Game
 - Great Britain and Russian Empire wanted control of the region
 - Used young soldiers as spies; main job: create maps of the region and get leaders of the area to commit to their side





“SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS!”

Future of the Economy

- Nuclear Testing
- Petroleum and Wealth



Culture and Tradition

- Soviet Manipulation
 - As they took control of the region, used differences among peoples to gain authority
 - Broke the region up according to the 5 major ethnic groups
 - Left large numbers of others to cause instability
- Language and Religion
 - Islam
 - Turkish, Russian



Culture and Tradition

- Nomadic Heritage
- Yurts

