

Eastern Europe

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Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States. Macedonia has proclaimed independent statehood, but has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States. Other boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

-Known as a cultural crossroads, a place where various cultures cross paths, interact

-Since ancient times, nomads, migrants, and armies moving between Europe and Asia have passed through this region

History of Eastern Europe

-After World War II, the Soviet Union (region of what is today known as Russia) took over various regions of Eastern Europe in order to create Communist government

-These areas were called satellite nations (nations dominated by another country)

-Countries such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria

History of Eastern Europe

-During the late 1980s-early 1990s, these countries gained their independence from the Soviet Union

-This change from Communist to more democratic governments was difficult to adapt to after 40+ years of Communist rule

Economy of Eastern Europe

-In the Soviet Union the government owned all factories and controlled what they produced

-Because of government control, factories had little incentives to please customers (leads to lack of customer service)

-Machines in the factories became outdated, caused pollution

Economy of Eastern Europe

-Economies in these countries changed to market economies (economies based on supply and demand) when Communism began to collapse

-Industries produced goods people wanted/“demanded”

-Took a period of adjustment for many countries to get used to the new economic system

Culture of Eastern Europe

-Many different languages are spoken and religions are practiced in this region

-Religions: Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox, Islam, and Judaism

-Folk art: art created by rural people with traditional lifestyles instead of professional artists

-Produced in large amounts throughout Eastern Europe



Eastern European Culture

-Ethnic conflict still exists in many areas throughout Europe

-anti-Semitism: discrimination against Jewish people

-Gypsy people (largely from Romania) face discrimination because of their nomadic lifestyle



Eastern European Culture

-It will still take many years for the negative effects of Communism to be removed from these regions