



# The Russian Domain

The policy of Russia is changeless. Its methods, its tactics, its maneuvers may change, but the polar star of its policy, world domination, is a fixed star.

Karl Marx

# Setting the Boundaries



- Maps of the Russian region were redrawn in 1990, after the disintegration of the USSR.
  - northern half of Eurasia
  - Includes Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and the Ukraine
- Russia is the largest state (in land area) on Earth; it spans 11 time zones.
  - rich in resources but one of the world's harshest climates
  - rapid political and economic change
  - persisting Russian influence in this region

# Setting the Boundaries



The Russian Domain has had extremely rapid political and economic change since 1990.

- from centrally planned economy to capitalism
- from authoritarian dictatorship to democracy
- region's economy is currently weak, commitment to democracy uncertain, nationalist movements threaten stability
- Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine must all work on global relationships.

# Physical Setting: Demanding



European West

Ural Mountains  
and Siberia

taiga

permafrost

Russian Far East

Caucasus and  
Transcaucasus



# Physical Setting: Demanding



- **The European West**

- European Russia, Ukraine and Belarus on eastern European Plain

- **The Ural Mountains and Siberia**

- The Ural Mountains separate European Russia from Siberia: low mountains with cold, dry climate.
- Siberia - thousands of miles, cold climate, little precipitation
  - Lake Baikal (world's largest freshwater lake - 400 mi. long, nearly a mile deep, with unique species)
  - tundra, taiga and permafrost



Lake Baikal

# Physical Setting: Demanding



- **The Russian Far East**

- about same latitude as New England (in North America), with conifers, taiga, Asian hardwoods

- **The Caucasus and Transcaucasia**

- Mountains form Russia's southern boundary between the Black and Caspian Seas.
- good, but arid, soils

Sochi, Russia, Sea Passenger Terminal  
with Caucasus in background



# Physical Setting: Demanding



- good farmlands, metal, petroleum
- high latitude, continental climate, temperature extremes
- cold climate, rugged terrain limits settlement and agriculture

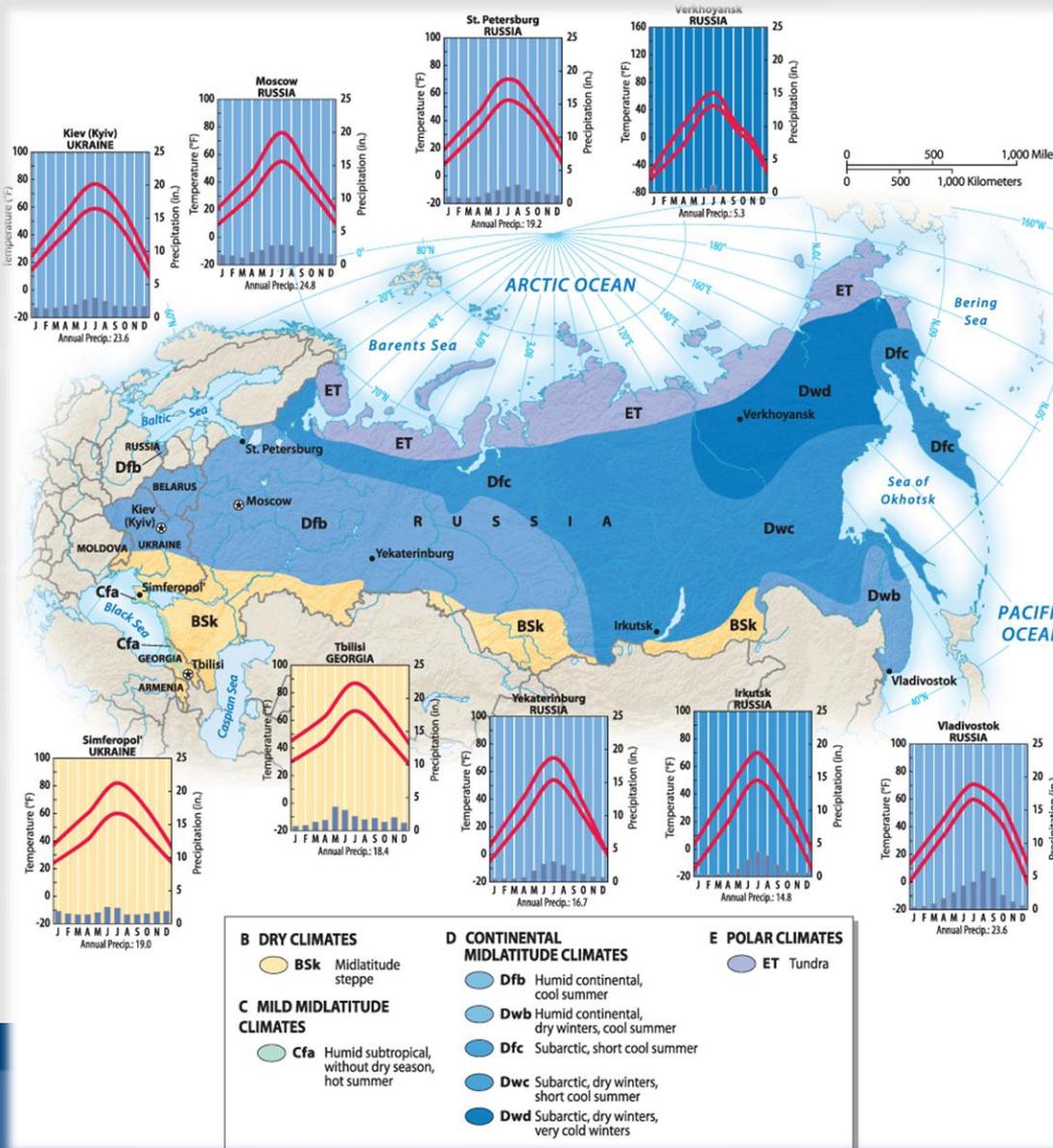


taiga in Northwest Russia



subtropical agriculture in Georgia

# Physical Setting: The Russian Domain's Climate



The climate of Russia is formed under the influence of several determining factors. The enormous size of the state and the remoteness of many areas from the sea result in the dominance of a continental climate, which is prevalent in European and Asian Russia except for the tundra and the extreme southeast. Mountains in the south obstructing the flow of warm air masses from the Indian Ocean and the plain of the west and north makes the state open to Arctic and Atlantic influences.

# Physical Setting: The Russian Domain's Climate



- **Armenia's** climate is highland continental, dry with four seasons. Temperatures can vary considerably between seasons. The summer is generally pleasant but winters can be quite cold.
- **Belarus** is in the transitional zone between continental climates and maritime climates.
- The climate of **Georgia** is extremely diverse, considering the nation's small size. There are two main climatic zones, roughly corresponding to the eastern and western parts of the state - a transitional climate from humid subtropical to continental and a humid subtropical zone. The Greater Caucasus Mountain Range plays an important role in moderating Georgia's climate and protects the state from the penetration of colder air masses from the north. The Lesser Caucasus Mountains partially protect the region from the influence of dry and hot air masses from the south.

# Physical Setting: The Russian Domain's Climate



- **Moldova**'s proximity to the Black Sea gives it a mild and sunny climate. It is moderately continental: the summers are warm and long and the winters are relatively mild and dry. Annual rainfall can vary greatly; long dry spells are not unusual.
- **Ukraine** has a temperate continental climate with cold winters and warm summers. Ukraine's climates are influenced by the humid air from the Atlantic Ocean.



Ukraine

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Russian Domain



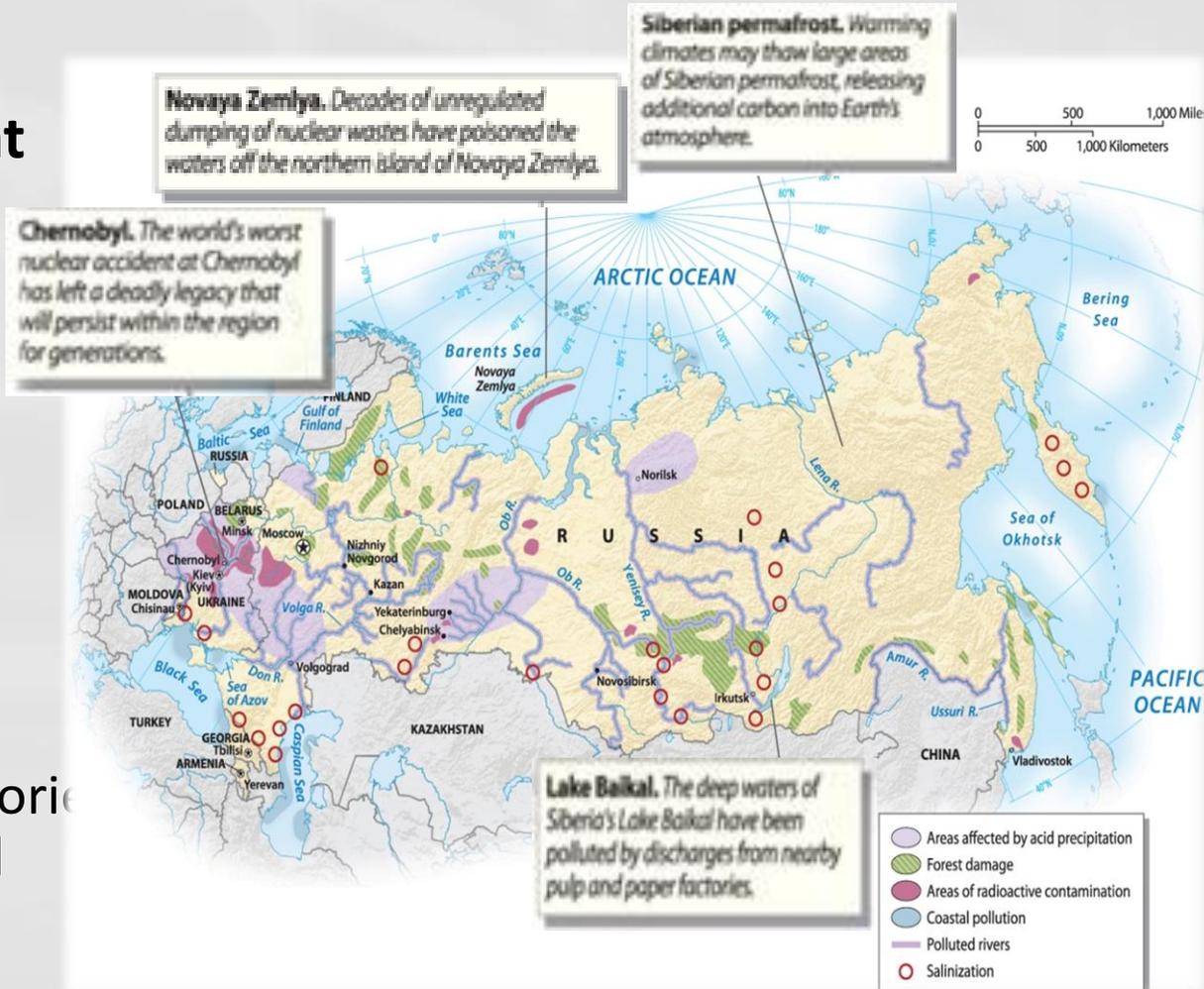
## A Devastated Environment

### Air Pollution

- clustered factories
- few environmental controls
- low quality coal

### Water pollution

- industrial waste
- raw sewage
- oil spills
- pulp and paper factories
- polluted Lake Baikal (1950s-60s)



# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Russian Domain

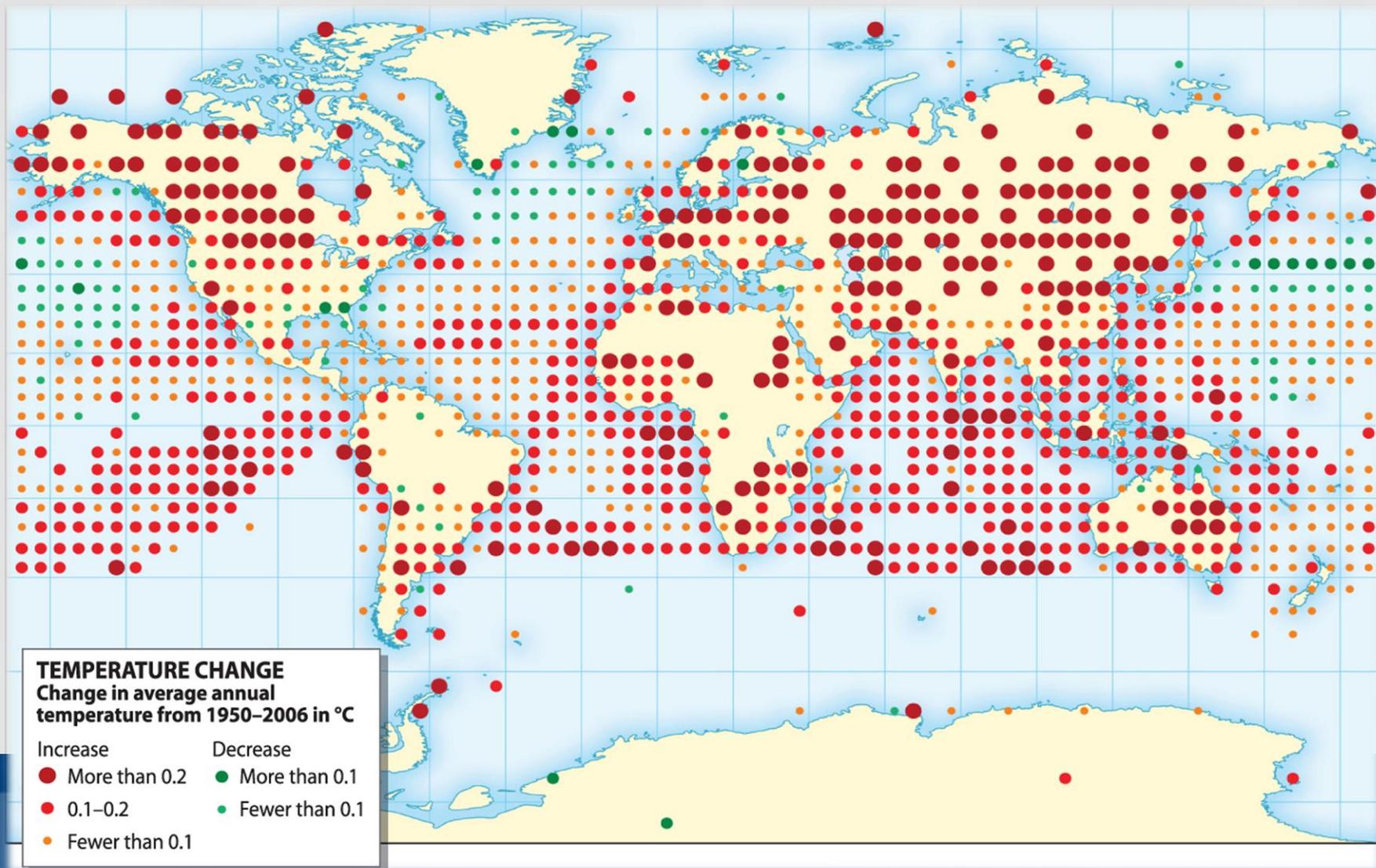


- Soviet industrialization
  - reckless development and environment exploitation
- Present day concerns
  - increased environmental awareness
- Diverse physical setting
- Global warming
  - potential benefits and hazards



new oil pipeline construction  
near the Caspian Sea

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Russian Domain



# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Russian Domain



## The Nuclear Threat

- Former USSR nuclear weapons, energy production caused pollution.
  - fallout from above-ground testing; nuclear waste dumped
  - nuclear bombs for seismic experiments, oil exploration, dam building
  - Russia has many old nuclear reactors.
  - major nuclear accidents: 1986 meltdown in Chernobyl (Belarus); previous one in 1956

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Russian Domain



- construction of new nuclear plants
- possibility of warehousing international nuclear wastes



Soviet Nuclear-Tipped Warhead

# Physical Setting: Environmental Issues in the Russian Domain

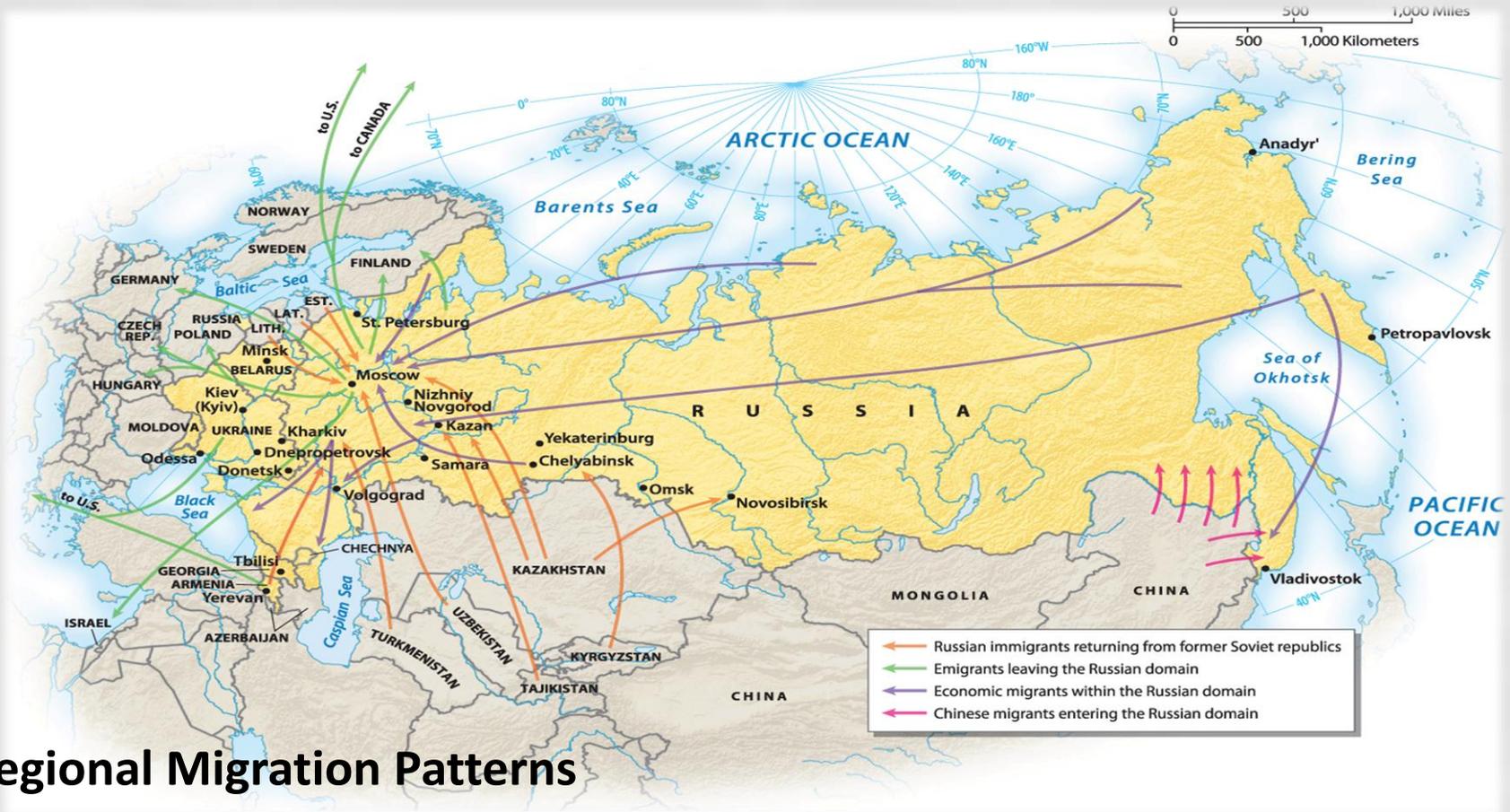


**Mir Mine** is a former open pit diamond mine, now inactive, located in Mirny, Eastern Siberia, Russia.

The mine is 1,722 feet deep (4th in the world), has a diameter of 3,900 feet and is the second largest excavated hole in the world. The hole is so big that airspace above the mine is closed for helicopters because of incidents in which they were sucked in by the downward air flow. The mine was permanently closed in 2004.



# Population and Settlement : Regional Migration Patterns



## Regional Migration Patterns

- Eastward Movement (1860-1914)

# Population and Settlement : Regional Migration Patterns



- **Eastward Movement (1860-1914)**
  - Trans-Siberian Railroad encouraged eastward flow
- **Political Motives**
  - infill Siberia
  - political dissidents sent to Siberian **gulags** - forced labor camps in the USSR
  - **Russification**: Soviet policy moved Russians into non-Russian portions of USSR to increase Russian dominance in those areas. Russians are a significant minority in the former Soviet republics.

# Population and Settlement : Regional Migration Patterns



- **New International Movements**

- Russification was often reversed in post-Soviet era.
  - citizenship, language requirements encourage Russians to go
- movement to other regions
  - **brain drain** to other states
  - Jewish Russians move to Israel or US.
  - Mail-order Ukrainian brides move to the US.

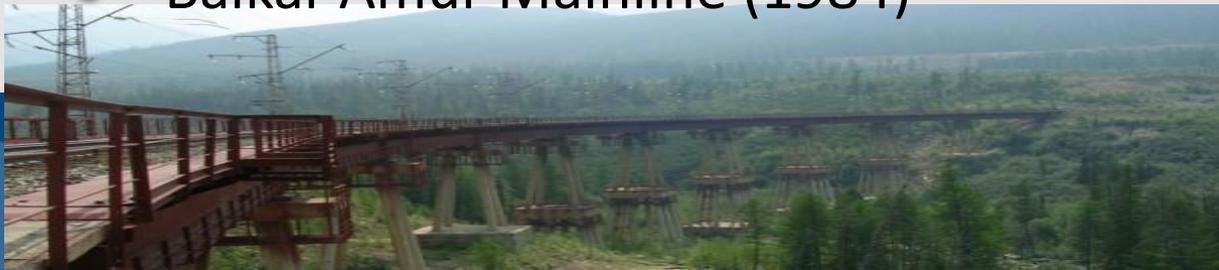
- **The Urban Attraction**

- Marxist philosophy of Soviet planners encouraged migration to cities.
- Soviets planned cities, limited population levels and regulated migration.
- In the post-Soviet era, Russian citizens have greater freedom of movement; many older industrial areas are now losing population.

# Population and Settlement : An Urban Domain

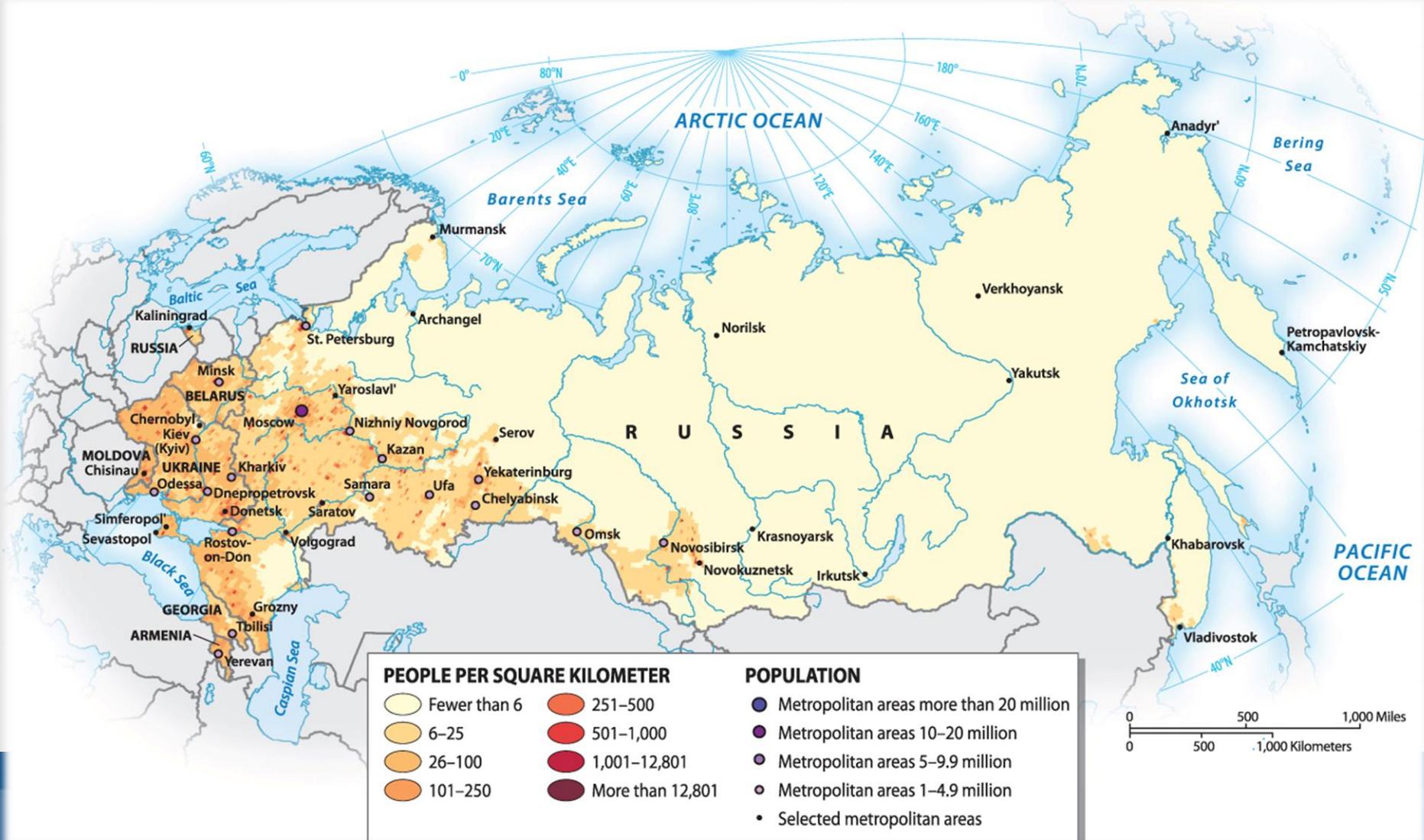


- more than 200 million residents, most in cities
- Population Distribution
  - **European Core**
    - 110 million people
    - Belarus, western Russia, Ukraine
    - Russia's largest cities, biggest industrial centers, farms
    - higher population density
  - **Siberian Hinterlands**
    - sparse settlement
    - industrial cities along Trans-Siberian railroad (1904)
    - Baikal-Amur Mainline (1984)



Baikal-Amur Mainline Railroad

# Population and Settlement : An Urban Domain



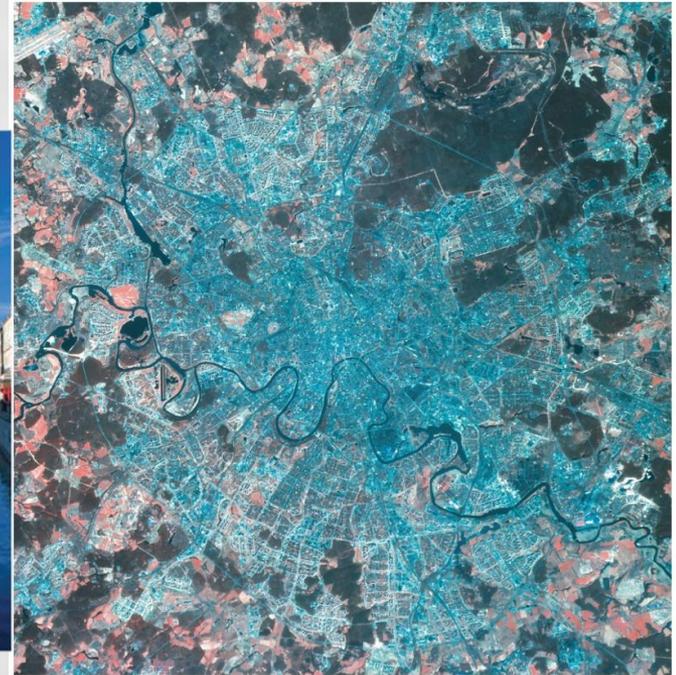
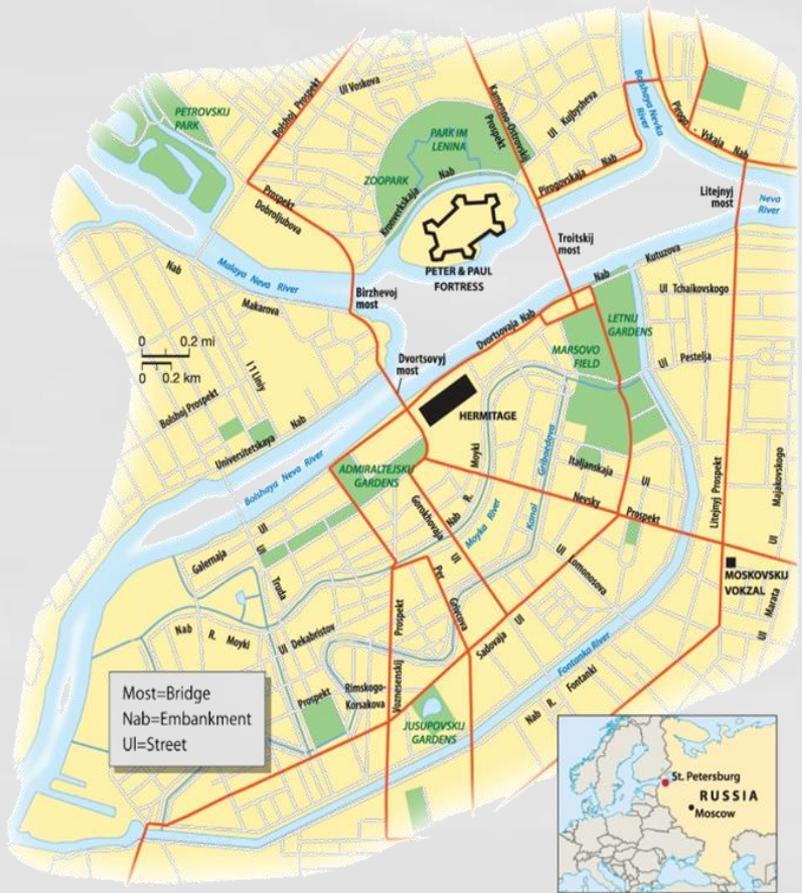
# Population and Settlement : An Urban Domain



## Inside the Russian City

- Russian cities are **carefully planned** in form and function, with circular land-use zones.
  - mix of **imperial, socialist and post-communist** influences
  - **sprawl and decentralization**
  - **Core** has superior transportation, best stores and housing.
    - Core predates Soviet era.
    - **sotzgorods**: work-linked housing (including dorms)
    - **chermoyuski**: apartment blocks from 1950s-60s
    - **mikrorayons**: self-contained housing projects of 1970s-80s
    - **dachas**: country houses available only to the elite

# Population and Settlement : An Urban Domain



Metropolitan Moscow  
Moscow housing



Downtown Moscow



# Population and Settlement : The Demographic Crisis

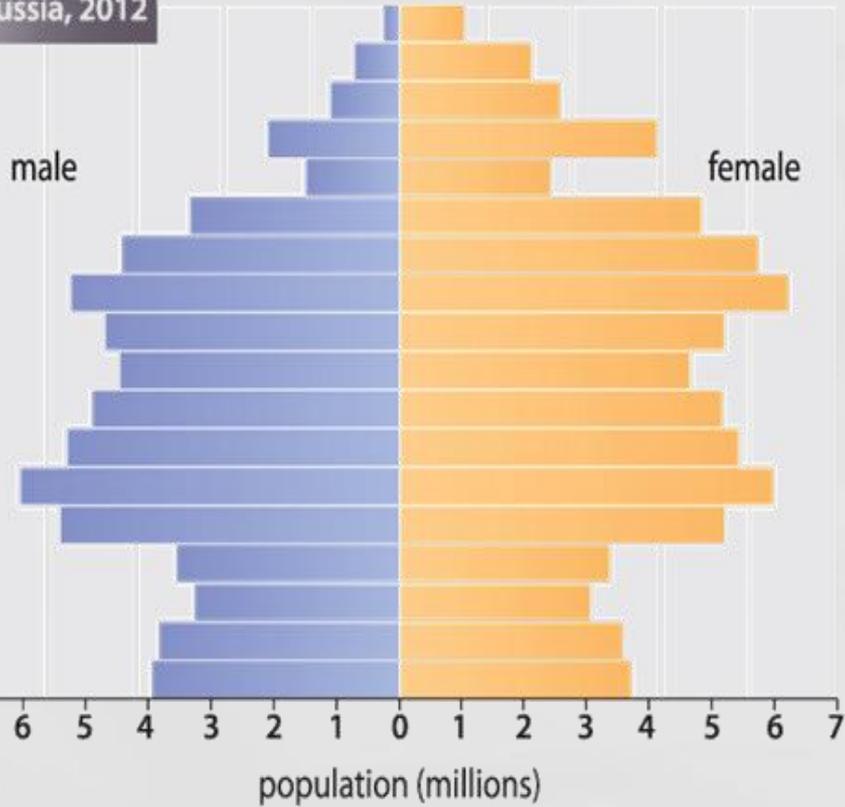


- General **population decline** caused by low birth rates and rising death (mortality) rates, especially among middle-aged males.
- *Causes:*
  - fraying social fabric
  - economic uncertainty
  - declining health among women of child-bearing age
  - stress-related diseases
  - rising murder and suicide
  - toxic environments
- Russia's population could fall by 45 million by 2050.
  - new program to encourage higher birthrates

# Population and Settlement : The Demographic Crisis



Russia, 2012

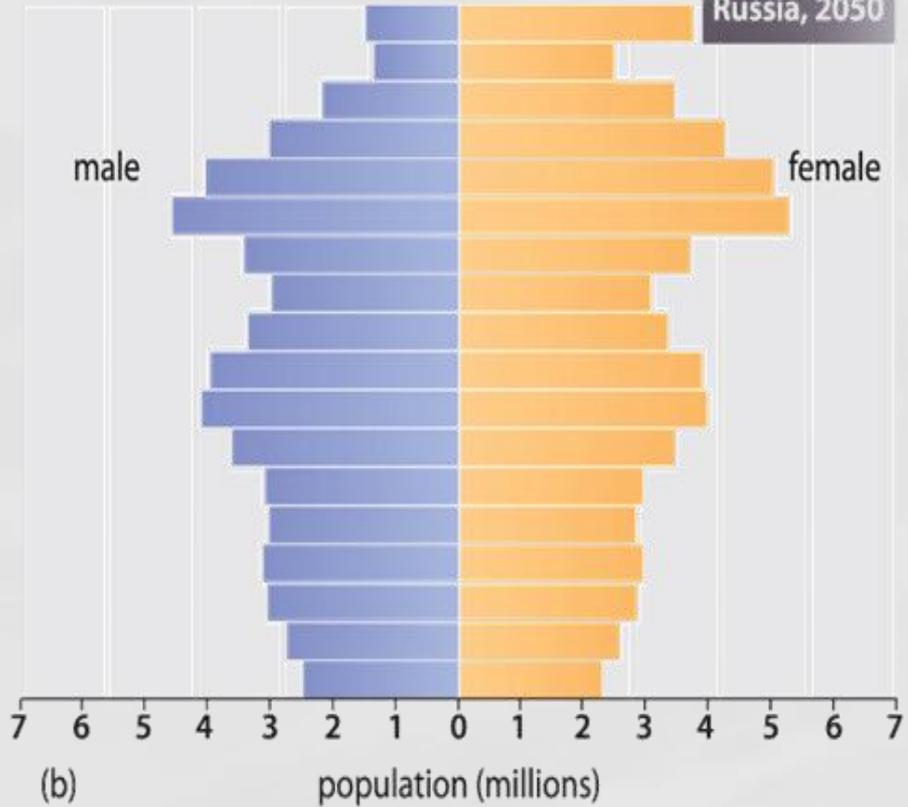


(a) population (millions)

age

- 85+
- 80-84
- 75-79
- 70-74
- 65-69
- 60-64
- 55-59
- 50-54
- 45-49
- 40-44
- 35-39
- 30-34
- 25-29
- 20-24
- 15-19
- 10-14
- 5-9
- 0-4

Russia, 2050



(b) population (millions)

# Population and Settlement : Population Indicators



## POPULATION INDICATORS

| Country | Population (millions) 2012 | Population Density (per square kilometer) | Rate of Natural Increase (RNI) | Total Fertility Rate | Percent Urban | Percent <15 | Percent >65 | Net Migration (Rate per 1000) 2010–15 <sup>a</sup> |
|---------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Armenia | 3.3                        | 110                                       | 0.5                            | 1.7                  | 64            | 17          | 10          | -3.2   |
| Belarus | 9.5                        | 46  | -0.3                           | 1.5                  | 76            | 15          | 14          | -0.2   |
| Georgia | 4.5                        | 65  | 0.2                            | 1.7                  | 53            | 17          | 14          | -5.8   |
| Moldova | 4.1                        | 122                                       | 0.0                            | 1.3                  | 42            | 16          | 10          | -9.0   |
| Russia  | 143.2                      | 8   | -0.1                           | 1.6                  | 74            | 15          | 13          | 1.2  |
| Ukraine | 45.6                       | 75  | -0.4                           | 1.5                  | 69            | 14          | 15          | -0.2   |

<sup>a</sup>Net Migration Rate from the United Nations, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision Population Database*.

Source: The United Nations, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision Population Database*.

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: The Legacy of Slavic Dominance



## The Heritage of the Russian Empire

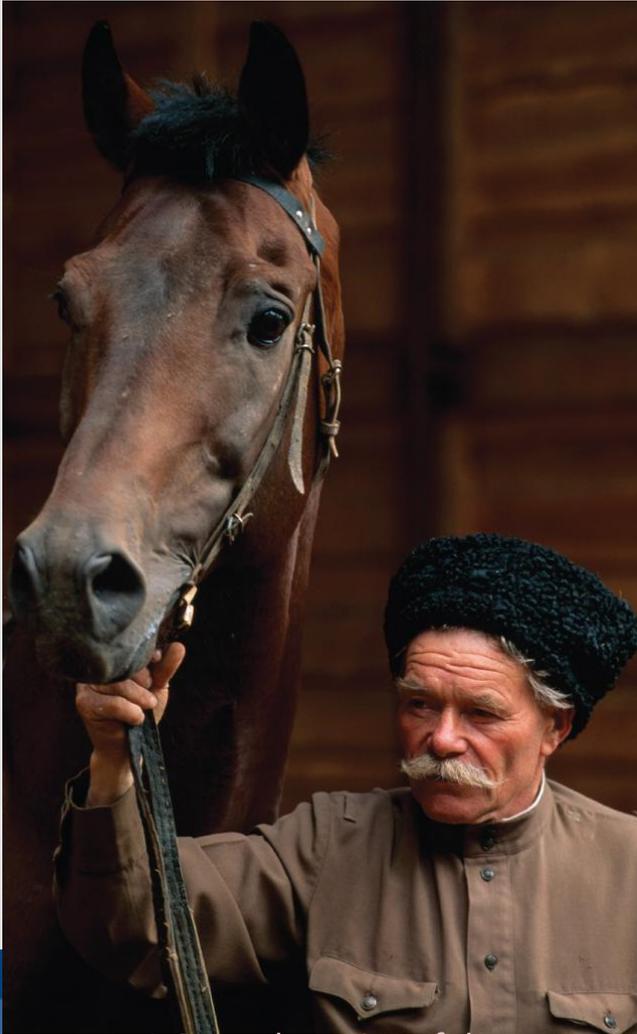
### ● Growth of the Russian Empire

- **Slavic Rus** in power from 900CE around Kiev.
- **Eastern Orthodox Christianity** came in 1000CE.
- By 1400s, new and expanding Russian state where Tatar and Mongol had ruled.
- **Expansion** was eastward in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries; westward expansion was slower.
- Final expansion of Russian Empire was in 19<sup>th</sup> Century in Central Asia.
- By 1900, Russians were found from St. Petersburg (on the Baltic) to Vladivostok (on the Sea of Japan).

A Cossack,  
native of the Ukrainian  
and Russian steppe



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: The Legacy of Slavic Dominance



A Cossack, native of the Ukrainian and Russian steppe

- The region is dominated by **Slavic** peoples.
- However, there are many non-Slavic peoples, too. Russia is a **multi-national state** with over 185 ethnic groups designated as nationalities.
  - There are many different indigenous groups in Siberia.
  - The Caucasus are culturally complex.
- Russian 77.7%, Tatar 3.7%, Ukrainian 1.4%, Bashkir 1.1%, Chuvash 1%, Chechen 1%, other 10.2%, unspecified 3.9%

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Language



Of all the languages of Russia, **Russian is the only official language** at the national level. There are 35 different languages which are considered official languages in various regions of Russia, along with Russian.

There are over 100 minority languages currently spoken in Russia. About 80% of Russia's people are ethnic Russians so Slavic languages dominate in the Russian Domain. The Slavic languages are the Indo-European languages native to the Slavic peoples, originally from Eastern Europe.

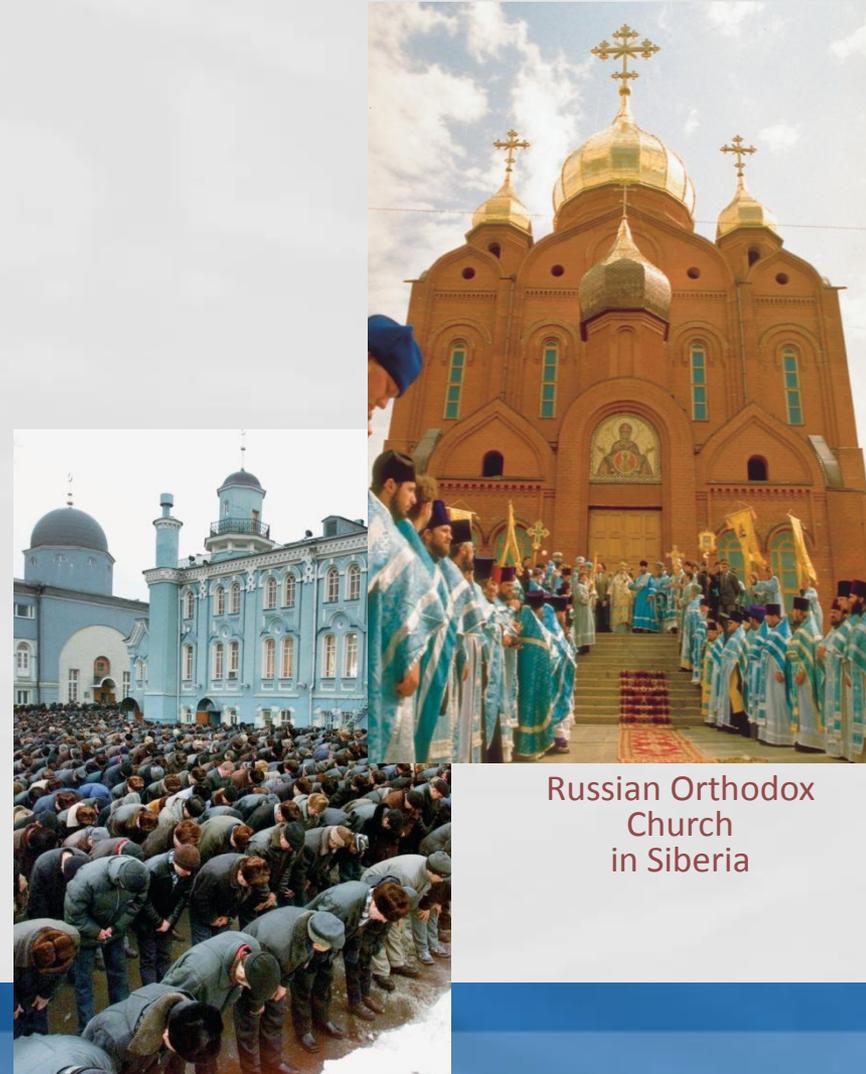
# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Language



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Religion



- **The Soviets prohibited religion.** With the demise of the Soviet system, religious revival underway in Russia.
- **Eastern Orthodox Christianity** is most common.
  - Other forms of Western Christianity
- **Non-Christian religions**
  - 20-25 million Sunni Muslims live in the North Caucasus.
  - There are over 1 million Jews, mostly in larger western cities.



Russian Orthodox Church in Siberia

Moscow Mosque

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Heterogeneity



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Heterogeneity



The complex cultural geography of the subtropical in southern Ukraine includes ethnic Russians, Ukrainians and Turkish-speaking Tatars.



Crimean Peninsula

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: The Russian Domain in Global Context

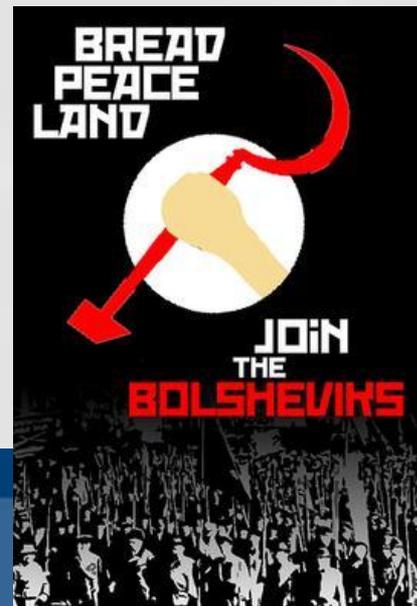


- **Strong traditions, influenced by Western Europe**
- **Soviet Era**
  - Soviets promoted **social realism**: a style devoted to the realistic depiction of workers harnessing the forces of nature or struggling against capitalism.
- **Turn to the West**
  - Young Russians adopted consumer culture in the 1980s.
  - In the post-Soviet era, globalism and consumerism came to Russia from the West and elsewhere (India, Hong Kong, Latin America).
- **The Music Scene**
  - American and European popular music is gaining fans.
  - Home-grown music industry is evolving.



# Geopolitical Framework: Structure of the Former Soviet Union

- **Collapse of Russian Empire**
  - The Russian Empire collapsed abruptly in 1917.
  - Briefly, a broad-based coalition of business people, workers and peasants replaced the tsars.
  - Soon, **Bolsheviks** (a faction of Russian Communists representing the interests of the industrial workers), led by Lenin, centralized power and introduced communism (economic system).



Bolshevik Propaganda



# Geopolitical Framework: Structure of the Former Soviet Union

- **The Soviet Republics and Autonomous Areas**
  - Soviet leaders designed a geopolitical solution to maintain the country's territorial boundaries, and theoretically acknowledge the rights of non-Russian citizens by creating Union Republics.
  - **autonomous areas**: minor political sub-units designed to recognize the special status of minority groups within existing republics
- **Centralization and Expansion of the Soviet State**
  - Communism did not eliminate ethnic differences.
  - In 1930, Soviet leader Stalin centralized power in Moscow, limiting national autonomy.



# Geopolitical Framework: Centralization and Expansion

- Land added
  - Sakhalin, Kuril Islands from Japan; Baltic republics
  - Occupation of Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia
  - Exclave (outside Russia's contiguous land) added from Germany
- **End of the Soviet System**
  - Union republics encouraged ethnic identification.
  - **glasnost**: greater openness; **perestroika**: economic restructuring
  - 1991: all 15 Union Republics gained independence

# Geopolitical Framework: Centralization and Expansion



As the Russian Empire expanded so did its cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity.



# Geopolitical Framework: Russia and the Former Soviet Republics

- **Russia and the Former Soviet Republics**
  - Formed Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) - a looser political union that includes all but three of the former republics; has no power, and is mostly a forum for discussion.
  - **denuclearization** - The return and partial dismantling of nuclear weapons from outlying republics to Russian control was completed in the 1990s; tactical nuclear weapons moved to Kaliningrad exclave.
  - Military, political and ethnic tensions remain in parts of the region.
- **Geopolitics within the Russian Federation**
  - **devolution**: more localized political control in Russia
  - Russian leaders fear other areas will secede.

# Geopolitical Framework: Regional Tensions



## Regional Tensions

- Chechnyan Republic seeking independence.
  - Russians sent military.
  - Chechnya has metals and oil.

## The Shifting Global Setting

- boundary issues between Russia and China
- dispute with Japan over Kuril Islands
- Expansion of NATO concerns Russian leaders.
- Russia recently joined the Group of Seven (G-7).
  - Other members: U.S., Canada, Japan, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy



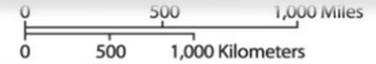
Russian soldiers patrol streets of Grozny, Chechnya

# Geopolitical Framework: Issues in the Russian Domain



**Kaliningrad.** Recent Russian suggestions that advocate moving tactical nuclear weapons into Kaliningrad produced strong protests from western Europe.

- Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
- Internal Republics of the Russian Federation



**Troubled Georgia.** Relations between Georgia and Russia remain tense. Several insurgent movements within Georgia also threaten political stability within the region.

**Chechnya.** Chechnya demanded independence from Russia following the breakup of the Soviet Union. After violence broke out in the mid-1990s, Russian authorities moved in large numbers of troops to reassert their control.

**Kuril Islands.** The Russians and Japanese have yet to resolve their dispute over the southernmost Kuril Islands. Japan demands return of the islands, which were seized by the Russians at the end of World War II.

# Geopolitical Framework: Issues in the Russian Domain



- **Post-2000 political resurgence**
  - regional geopolitical dominance
  - increasing visibility in global affairs

# Economic and Social Development: An Era of Ongoing Adjustment



- After economic decline of 40% in the 1990s, Russia's economy stabilized in 2000 and 2004; higher oil and gas prices help Russia.
- **The Legacy of the Soviet Economy**
  - Communists came to power in 1917, and instituted **centralized economic planning**: a situation in which the state controls production targets and industrial output
  - Soviets nationalized agriculture, but it was inefficient.
  - Soviets expanded industrialization and transportation.
    - Industrialization more successful than collectivized agriculture.
    - Trans-Siberian Railroad, canal system
  - Economic and social problems increased in 1970s-80s.

# Economic and Social Development: An Era of Ongoing Adjustment



- **Soviet industry more successful than its agriculture.**
  - Soviets added major industrial zones, many near energy sources and metals.
  - Moscow had fewer raw materials, but had some of Russia's best infrastructure, a large pool of skilled labor and demand for industrial products.
- Soviets developed a good transportation and communication infrastructure.
- Soviets had a massive housing campaign in the 1960s.
- Soviets made literacy virtually universal, health care readily available and eliminated the worst of the poverty.



# Economic and Social Development: The Post-Soviet Economy



## The Post-Soviet Economy

- The region has replaced its communist system with a mix of **state-run operations and private enterprise**.
- **Redefining Regional Economic Ties**
  - Independent republics negotiate for needed resources with Russia and each other rather than accept centralized control.
  - Russia continues to dominate the region's economy.

# Economic and Social Development: The Post-Soviet Economy



## ● Privatization and Economic Uncertainty

- Russia removed price controls in 1992; sold state-owned business to private investors in 1993.
- Higher prices, lack of legal safeguards created problems.
- Agriculture still struggles, in part due to harsh climate, landforms.
- Many people see little economic gain from changes.



Agriculture in Russia

# Economic and Social Development: Major Natural Resources and Industrial Zones



# Economic and Social Development: Russia's Expanding Pipeline



# Economic and Social Development: Agricultural Regions



Harsh climates and poor soils limit agricultural productivity.



# Economic and Social Development: Social Issues



## • The Russian Mafia

- Russian Interior Ministry estimates that the Russian mafia controls 40% of the private economy and 60% of the state-run enterprises; 80% of banks in Russia may be under mafia influence.
  - result: protection money, corruption
- Russian mafia has gone global.
  - Money laundering (Russia, UK, US); gambling (Sri Lanka); drugs (Colombia); legitimate Israeli high tech companies

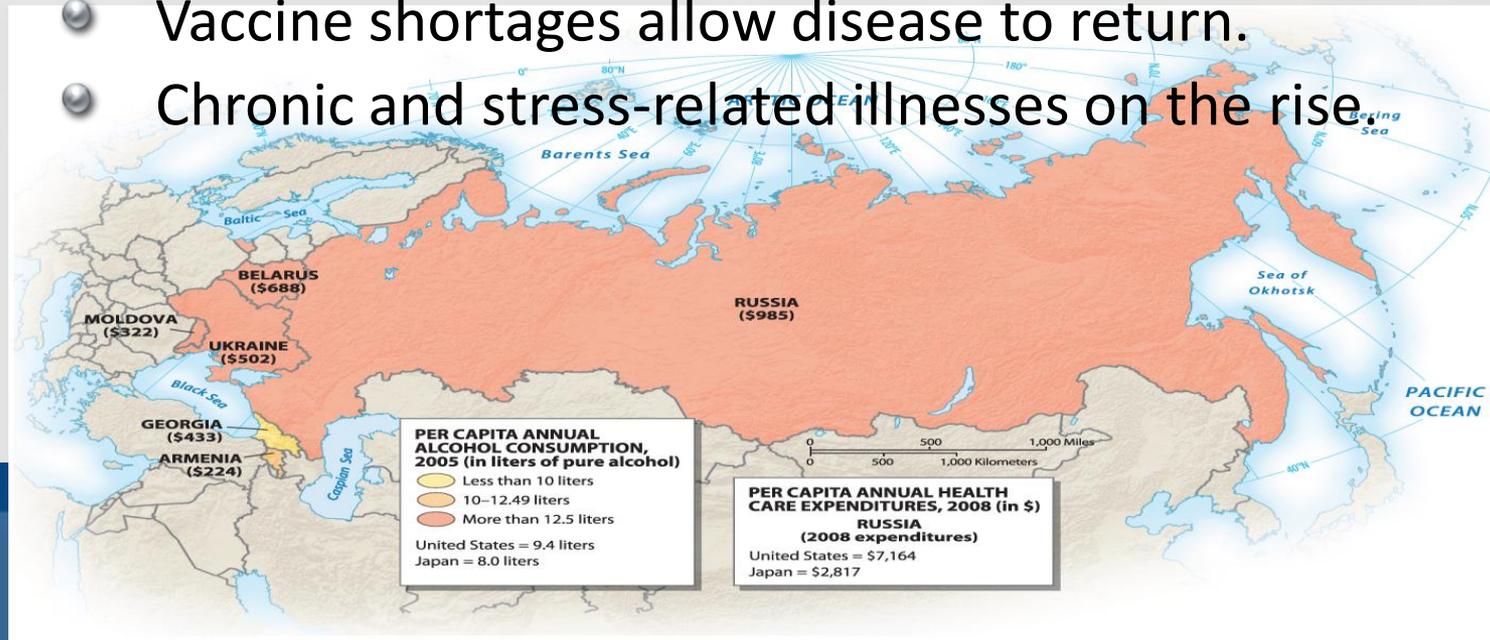
# Economic and Social Development: Social Issues



## ● Social Problems

- high unemployment, rising housing costs, lower welfare spending
- divorce and domestic violence increasing; prostitution increasing
- health care spending dropping

- Vaccine shortages allow disease to return.
- Chronic and stress-related illnesses on the rise.



# Economic and Social Development: Growing Globalization



- **Growing Economic Globalization**
  - Starting in 1970s, Soviets exported fossil fuels, imported food; ties now stronger.
  - A New Day for the Consumer
    - Western consumer goods available (eg, McDonald's, Calvin Klein; even some luxury items).

# Economic and Social Development: Growing Globalization



- **Attracting Foreign Investment**
  - Region struggles to attract foreign investment.
  - Most investment from US, western Europe (especially Germany, UK).
    - fossil fuels, food, telecommunications, consumer goods
  - Foreign investment growing by more than 14% annually.



Russian Natural Gas Pipeline

# Economic and Social Development: Growing Globalization



- **Globalization and Russia's Petroleum Economy**
  - Russia has 35% of the world's natural gas reserves.
    - mostly in Siberia
    - world's largest gas exporter
  - Primary destination for Russian petroleum products is western Europe.
    - Former USSR republics depend on Russia's energy.
    - foreign investment in new pipelines, other technology

# Economic and Social Development: Growing Globalization



- **Local impacts of globalization**
  - vary from place to place
    - investment in Moscow, Siberia (oil)
    - pro-business Nizhny Novgorod and Samara attract investment
    - local economic declines in older, uncompetitive industrial areas

# Economic and Social Development: Development Indicators



## DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

| Country | GNI per capita, PPP 2010 | GDP Average Annual % Growth 2000–10 | Human Development Index (2011) <sup>1</sup> | Percent Population Living Below \$2 a Day | Life Expectancy (2012) <sup>2</sup> | Under Age 5 Mortality Rate (1990) | Under Age 5 Mortality Rate (2010) | Adult Literacy (% ages 15 and older) | Gender Inequality Index (2011) <sup>3,1</sup> |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Armenia | 5,660                    | 9.2                                 | .716  | 12.4                                      | 74                                  | 55                                | 20                                | 100                                  | 0.343   |
| Belarus | 13,590                   | 8.0                                 | .756  | <2  | 70                                  | 17                                | 6                                 | 100                                  | —   |
| Georgia | 4,990                    | 6.9                                 | .733  | 32.2                                      | 74                                  | 47                                | 22                                | 100                                  | 0.418   |
| Moldova | 3,360                    | 5.2                                 | .649  | 4.4                                       | 69                                  | 37                                | 19                                | 98                                   | 0.298   |
| Russia  | 19,240                   | 5.4                                 | .755  | <2  | 69                                  | 27                                | 12                                | 100                                  | 0.338   |
| Ukraine | 6,620                    | 4.8                                 | .729  | <2  | 70                                  | 21                                | 13                                | 100                                  | 0.335   |

<sup>1</sup>United Nations, *Human Development Report, 2011*.

<sup>2</sup>Population Reference Bureau, *World Population Data Sheet, 2012*.

<sup>3</sup>Gender Inequality Index—A composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labor market that ranges between 0 and 1. The higher the number, the greater the inequality.

Source: World Bank, *World Development Indicators, 2012*. © World Bank. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0.

# Economic and Social Development: Future Uncertainty



- The Russian Domain has seen great change, from empire through revolution and break-up.
- Ethnic and cultural differences continue to shape this region.
- The Russian Domain is rich in natural resources, but has limited agricultural potential and lingering economic difficulties.
- Massive readjustments have grown from the political and economic upheavals of the 1990s and continue to affect the area.
- Environmental devastation in the region and its effects continue to cause social and health problems.

# Economic and Social Development: Future Uncertainty



- More uncertainty lies ahead for the people of the Russian Domain.
- Economic development has been uneven.
- Russia is a major player in the global economy.
  - Status is due to large supplies of oil and natural gas.
  - Unpredictable world prices mean an uncertain future.
- There is a difficult economic future to predict.



# Economic and Social Development: Future Uncertainty



- The legacy of the Soviet era has left many challenges for both the people and environment of the Russian Domain.
- Declining and aging populations are part of the sobering reality for much of the region.
- The region's underlying cultural geography, formed centuries ago, continues to complicate the scene today.
  - Global influences often clash with traditional values.
- Much of the region's political legacy is rooted in the Russian Empire.
- Russia's growing visibility on the international stage signals its reemergence as a truly global political power.
- The region's future economic geography, particularly in Russia, remains tied to the unpredictable global energy economy.

# The End

