

Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 7: Russian Federation Quick Notes



Section 1: The Geography of Russia

➤ Essential Question:

- How does Russia's northern climate and geography affect where people live?

Section 1: Geography of Russia

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- czar
- hydroelectric power
- deforestation
- Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station

Chapter 7: Russian Federation Quick Notes

Location and Size of Russia

- Russia is the largest country on Earth, stretching to 1,800 miles north to south at its widest point.
- It is found in the northern and eastern hemispheres.
- The Ural Mountains divide the European and Asian portions of Russia.
 - European Russia is almost entirely landlocked.
- Much of its coastline is dominated by freezing temperatures and ice.
- Russia is bordered by 14 countries and two oceans, with China's boundary as its longest international border.

5

Climate of Russia

- Because of its size, Russia has a variety of climates.
 - Its northern latitude makes cold weather very common.
- Siberia, a region of Russia, has sub-Arctic temperatures most of the year and near-permanent frozen ground, making it challenging for people to live there.
- Those who live east of the European Plain experience dreary, wet, and snowy winters and warm, dry summers.
 - 73% of Russia's population live in European Russia.
 - The areas around the Black and Baltic Seas experience warmer weather and higher rainfall than the rest of the European Plain.

8

Distribution of People in Russia

- Despite its size, Russia's population is only about 146,600,000 less than half the population of the United States.
- People tend to live in European Russia because of the improved climate and the better soil, while also having better access to trade with the European Union.
- The area around Moscow is the most densely populated, with 10 million people living in the city. St. Petersburg is second with 5 million.
 - While no longer the home of the **czars**, St. Petersburg is a large center of trade, as well as beautiful architecture.

9

Chapter 7: Russian Federation
Quick Notes

Natural Resources of Russia

- Russia has large amounts of mineral resources like gold, aluminum ore, coal, and iron.
 - These resources make Russia a major exporter of metals and machineries.
- Despite less than 8% of the land being arable, nearly half the country is covered by forests, allowing a large timber industry.
- Oil and gas are both important resources found in both Siberia and Asian Russia.
 - The country is very sensitive to oil prices; when prices are high, the economy climbs, but when prices are low, the economy plummets.

10

Physical Features of Russia

- The European Plain extends into Russia to the Ural Mountains for over 1,000 miles.
 - The land is fertile and great for farming, but it tends to be an area of invasion from other countries.
- The Ural Mountains bisect the country and block moisture from entering the Asian half, causing it to be much more dry.
- The Caucasus Mountains in the south protect southern countries from the cold in the north.
- Five of the world's 20 longest rivers are in Russia, making it a great resource for **hydroelectric power** and trade routes.

11

Environmental Issues of Russia

- In the Soviet system, many environmental issues were overlooked.
- Today, though, Russia faces the issues the Soviet era ignored.
- **Deforestation**, which is the clearing of forests, has caused a massive loss of natural habitats.
 - Timber has been an important resource to the economy, but the country has been slow to protect the forests.
- Older machinery and vehicles that use fossil fuels are a major contributor to high air pollution.
- Waterways have also been polluted by industry.
- Russia's Soviet-era nuclear weapons program has also had its effect on the environment, with three accidents in the Chelyabinsk area creating a huge radioactive zone.
 - The most famous of Russia's nuclear accidents was at the **Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station**, where nearly one million people were exposed to lethal radiation.

12

Chapter 7: Russian Federation Quick Notes

The Chernobyl Nuclear Accident

- During the Cold War, many countries spent billions on developing nuclear power plants, with high hopes that these could be a high-energy/low-cost solution for a country.
 - There was controversy about the radiation levels in the area of a nuclear power plant.
- In 1986, one of the reactors at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine exploded, resulting in a flood of radiation that poisoned the land and water, and the radiation in the air spread across Northern Europe.
- Trees withered and died, drinking water was unsafe for months, fish were unsafe to eat for years, and many animals succumbed to the radiation poisoning.
- Due to the sheer levels of radiation in the area, people in a 30-mile radius were evacuated from what became known as the "exclusion zone".
- The Russians have tried to contain the radiation, first using concrete and recently placing a containment unit over the source.

[Return to Main Menu](#)

13

Section 2: A Brief History of Russia

- Essential Question:
 - How did the world wars lead to the Cold War?

14

Section 2: A Brief History of the United Kingdom

- What terms do I need to know?
 - serfs
 - Bolsheviks

15

Chapter 7: Russian Federation

Quick Notes

From Grand Principality to Empire

- As a major trade center for the region, the 13th Century Grand Principality of Muscovy allowed its princes to grow in wealth and power.
- In 1547, a prince named Ivan was crowned the first czar.
 - He created a strong centralized government and expanded his territory through brutal means, earning him the nickname Ivan the Terrible.
- After his death, there was much instability until the Romanov family took charge in 1613.
 - Following some of Ivan's ideas, they passed laws that bound people to land as workers, called **serfs**, under a feudal system.
- In 1682, Peter (later Peter the Great) became the czar.
 - He sought to improve the economy, so he moved the capital to St. Petersburg for trade and styled the city after London and Paris in hopes of attracting European business.

16

From Grand Principality to Empire (cont.)

- In 1721, Russia was proclaimed an empire, with Peter the Great as the first emperor.
- The next ruler, Catherine the Great, continued the connection to the West by funding creative outlets like art and music.
 - She also expanded Russia's territory by winning wars against the Ottoman Empire in the south.
- Some Russians had a problem with Catherine's reign, believing she was too trusting of Western Europeans and wanting her to improve the lives of the serfs.
- Russia continued to expand after Catherine's death but was invaded by France's Napoleon.
 - A combination of weather, supply shortages, and tactics by the Russian people and troops forced the French to retreat from their campaign.

17

The Soviet Years

- In 1917, Russia was an autocracy with Czar Nicholas II as the absolute ruler.
- During World War I, the czar ignored the signs that people were unhappy, hungry, and desperate for change.
- After the lower class revolted and captured the royal family, a temporary government was set up, but it couldn't help the country.
- Another revolution occurred later in the year, led by the Communist Party, where they took over and executed the royal family.
 - The Communists, led by Lenin and his **Bolsheviks**, believed the government should work for the direct benefit of the people.
- The new Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or Soviet Union, made peace with Germany and set about making their changes to the country.

18

Chapter 7: Russian Federation

Quick Notes

The Soviet Years (cont.)

- The Communist Party frowned upon capitalism and international business since they believed the country could provide for itself.
- Stalin focused his efforts on industry and military power, but it left many hungry and in fear.
- When the Soviet Union joined the Allies in World War II, they took many countries back from Nazi Germany.
 - Despite their common fight against the Nazis, the distrust between the United States and Soviet Union caused the Cold War.
- Though no direct conflict ever broke out, there was a lot of nuclear and military build up between the two countries.
- In the 1980s, Mikhail Gorbachev attempted to save the failing economy, but by the end of the decade, the Soviet Union had dissolved.

19

Mikhail Gorbachev and the End of the Soviet Union

- Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, came to power during a time when citizens realized they enjoyed less freedoms and had a lower standard of living than the West.
- To try and alleviate the costs of the Cold War, Gorbachev worked with Ronald Reagan to reduce the number of weapons each side was making.
- Gorbachev introduced two ideas to improving the country:
 - Perestroika meant reworking their industry to be more efficient while also introducing more options for elections.
 - Glasnost meant that the government would loosen their grip on the lives of the citizens.
- Soon citizens began voting out their communist leaders, and Gorbachev did not try to stop the growing democratic movement.
- By 1991, Gorbachev resigned his position and the Soviet Union dissolved into 15 separate countries.

20

Russia Today

- The Russian Federation's history officially began January 1, 1992.
- It faced many challenges in its efforts to reform its political and economic systems, now using a market-driven capitalism that the Soviet Union despised.
- Russia has had to deal with a number of ethnic group revolts.
 - The people of the Chechnya region wanted to gain independence from Russia, but the government would not allow this.
 - The Chechen rebels have been fighting Russian troops since the 1990s.

21

Chapter 7: Russian Federation
Quick Notes

Section 3: Government of Russia

- Essential Question:
 - What is the level of citizen participation in Russian government compared to the past?

22

Section 3: Government of the United Kingdom

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Federal Assembly
 - Federation Council
 - State Duma

23

Structure of Government

- Russia has a modified presidential democracy.
- It has a constitution that is modified by the **Federal Assembly** to meet the changing needs of the country.
- The president is head of state, is elected by the people, selects the prime minister, and directs military and security forces.
- The Federal Assembly is divided into two parts:
 - The **Federation Council** has two representatives from each state, who are appointed rather than elected for 5-year terms.
 - The **State Duma** has 450 elected members who control the budget and make the laws.
- Both the prime minister and the president run Russia together.

24

Chapter 7: Russian Federation
Quick Notes

Citizen Participation

- Russia's constitution guarantees human and civil rights for its citizens, with all people equal in the eyes of the law.
- Citizens have a right to life and dignity, freedom of speech, and privacy.
- Citizens may vote for the office of the president once they reach the age of 18, but most other governmental positions are chosen by the president.

25

Section 4: Economy of Russia

- Essential question:
 - How does Russia's modern economy differ from the Soviet-era economy?

26

Section 4: Economy of Russia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - corruption
 - protectionism
 - ruble (₽)

27

Chapter 7: Russian Federation

Quick Notes

Economic System Today

- In the USSR, there was a centralized command economy, where the government dominated all aspects of production and sale.
- After the collapse of the Soviet Union, some freedoms were allowed as the country moved to a market system.
- However, there are still many restrictions and hurdles private businesses have to deal with, and **corruption** from government officials is always one of them.
 - The courts are full of corruption, too, so there is never any guarantee that business owners will get fair treatment.

28

Trade

- Russia's abundance of resources are difficult to trade because of the climate and lack of infrastructure to transport them to market.
- In the west, where the climate is mild, Russia manufactures many goods for trade and exports metals, wood, chemicals, and petroleum.
- Russia imports vehicles, foods, and medical supplies to better provide for its people.
- **Protectionism** is government protection of a country's industry by foreign competition.
 - Russia may put a tariff on European products to encourage their citizens to buy domestic goods.
- Russia is part of the Eurasian Economic Union, a political and economic union, in hopes of boosting their economy.

29

Standard of Living

- Since the fall of the Soviet Union, freedoms like attending college and choosing jobs they want are things Russian citizens experience.
- Literacy rates are some of the highest in the world, but Russia's GDP is still low with high levels of poverty.
- The available resources and skilled labor force make Russia a great place to start a business, but the government is not very good at protecting a business's rights.
- Because of the sensitivity of Russia's economy, its standards of living can fluctuate greatly with the world prices on goods and the current value of their ruble (₽).

30

Chapter 7: Russian Federation
Quick Notes

Currency

- Russia’s ruble is not very stable, with the ruble currently sitting at nearly ₪84 equaling one US dollar.
- Because they do not share a currency with the European Union, there are fees in exchanging rubles for euros and vice versa.
 - This exchange can cut into profits drastically.

[Return to Main Menu](#)

31

Section 5: US-Russia Relations

- Essential question:
 - What is the relationship between the United States and Russia currently like?

32

Section 5: US-United Kingdom Relations

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Bilateral Presidential Commission

33

Chapter 7: Russian Federation
Quick Notes

A Cautious Relationship

- By the end of 2008, US-Russia relations were tense.
- In 2009, both President Obama and Russian President Medvedev worked to address the global financial crisis.
 - Later that year, they would attend a summit where they came to agreements on many things, like nuclear security and cooperation in Afghanistan.
- The two agreed to make the Bilateral Presidential Commission, which was dedicated to improving the relationship between the countries.
- Tensions have been back on the rise recently.
 - Actions such as shooting down a Malaysia Airlines flight and a recent investigation into whether Russia tried to interfere with the US presidential election have led to declining relations.

34

Bilateral Economic Relations

- The United States has begun to invest in Russian companies and to strike economic deals.
 - One of these deals is to explore the Arctic for more oil and gas.
- The United States also imports and exports many things with Russia, though trading between the two countries has been shown to be on a slight decline.

[Return to Main Menu](#)

35