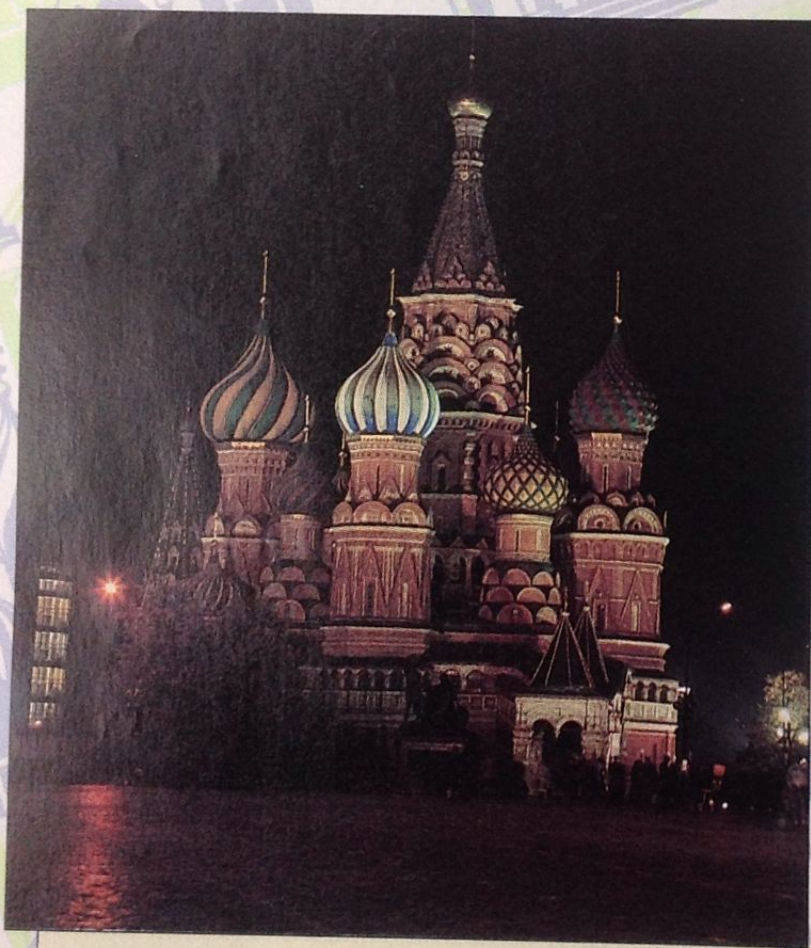


# GEOGRAPHY AND HERITAGE OF RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE



**St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow** This ornate structure, consisting of one central church and nine smaller ones, was built in the mid-1500s. Eight of the smaller churches commemorate military victories of the Russian Empire, which stretched across Asia to the Pacific.

**Interdependence** What benefits did the Russian Orthodox Church and the czar's government gain by working together?

## CHAPTER OUTLINE

- 1 Geographic Setting
- 2 Early Traditions
- 3 Patterns of Life
- 4 Dynamics of Change
- 5 Growth of Nations in Eastern Europe

**T**he Neva River has again flooded St. Petersburg. Eugene, a poor clerk, goes mad when he discovers that his future bride has drowned. As Eugene wanders the streets, he comes upon a large bronze statue of Peter the Great, who had commanded this city to be built near the sea.

“ [Eugene’s] blood boiled up. Somber, he stood before the arrogant statue. . . . ‘Good! wonderworking builder!’ With quivering hate, he hissed. ‘You’ll reckon with me yet!’ ”

In “The Bronze Horseman,” Alexander Pushkin, one of Russia’s greatest writers, creates a tragic drama that touches on important themes in Russian history. Ambitious rulers like Peter the Great sought glory for themselves and their country. Yet, their policies

brought pain and suffering to the common people. Always present were the forces of nature, which added to the people's suffering.

## CHAPTER PERSPECTIVE

From its small beginnings more than 1,000 years ago, Russia grew into the largest country in the world. By the 1800s, the Russian Empire stretched from Eastern Europe across much of Asia and included many ethnic, religious, and cultural groups.

As you read, look for these chapter themes:

- ▶ Severe climates, ethnic diversity, and the absence of natural barriers affected Russia's development.
- ▶ Early Russia absorbed Byzantine influences. Much later, western ideas had a major impact on Russia.
- ▶ Czarist Russia was an autocratic state built on inequality.
- ▶ In the 1800s, Russia experienced unrest as it tried to become a modern world power.
- ▶ Powerful empires competed for control of Eastern Europe, while the peoples of the region sought to maintain their independence.

### Literature Connections

In this chapter, you will encounter passages from the following works.

Alexander Pushkin, "The Bronze Horseman"

Nicholas Gogol, *Taras Bulba*

*The Russian Primary Chronicle*

Anton Chekhov, "The House With the Mansard"

For other suggestions, see Connections With Literature, pages 804–808.

1

## GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

### FIND OUT

How has geography influenced Russia and the other republics that once were a part of the Soviet Union?

Why has Russia had difficulty developing its many resources?

How has ethnic diversity affected the republics of the former Soviet Union?

**Vocabulary** permafrost

“The whole of the country was a vast green wilderness. Never a plow had passed over its measureless waves of wild grass. . . . The whole of the surface of the earth was like a gold and green sea, on which millions of flowers of different colors were sprinkled.”

With these words, the Russian writer Nicholas Gogol described the huge, open plain, often called the steppe, that stretches across parts of Ukraine and Russia. The steppe is one of many geographic regions that influenced the development of Russia.

### Russia Reemerges

For most of this century, the world's largest country was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or the Soviet Union. It sprawled 6,000 miles (9,700 km) across Europe and Asia, from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean. In area, it was more than twice the size of the United States. The Soviet Union included 15 republics ruled by a central government in Moscow, the nation's capital.

In 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist after the republics, one by one, declared independence. You will read about the breakup

of the Soviet Union in Chapter 34. The chart on page 709 shows the size, population, and climate of the nations that emerged out of the Soviet Union.

Russia was by far the largest republic in the Soviet Union. It had half the country's population and about three fourths of its territory. Today, Russia, or the Russian Federation as it is known officially, remains the largest and most powerful nation in the region. If you rode the Trans-Siberian Railroad across Russia, you would cross 11 time zones.

Although the other republics operate in the shadow of Russia, they are seeking to carve out their own independent course. From tiny Estonia on the Baltic Sea to Kazakhstan in central Asia, each has its own government and pursues its own policies.

## Landforms

The major landform of Russia and neighboring republics is the huge plain that stretches from the middle of Europe into Central Asia. In Europe, it is part of the North

### MAP STUDY

The Russian Federation includes lands in both Europe and Asia. To the south and west lie other independent republics that once were part of the Soviet Union.

- 1. Region** (a) What landform dominates much of this region? (b) Name three major mountain ranges.
- 2. Interaction** (a) List the main rivers and bodies of water in the region. (b) How do you think they have helped the development of the economy?
- 3. Forecasting** Which former Soviet republics would probably be most influential in a regional organization? Why?

### The Former Soviet Union: Physical



## Nations of the Former Soviet Union

	Area in thousands of square miles	Area in thousands of square kilometers	Population in millions	Climate
Russia	6,590	17,080	148	Continental, subpolar, polar
Ukraine	230	600	52	Continental
Uzbekistan	170	450	22	Semiarid, desert
Kazakhstan	1,050	2,720	17	Semiarid, desert, highlands
Belarus	80	205	10	Continental
Azerbaijan	30	80	7	Semiarid, highlands
Georgia	30	80	6	Semiarid, highlands, savanna
Tajikistan	60	140	6	Semiarid, highlands
Kyrgyzstan	80	205	5	Semiarid, highlands
Moldova	10	30	4	Continental
Turkmenistan	190	490	4	Semiarid, desert
Armenia	10	30	4	Semiarid, highlands
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,530</b>	<b>22,110</b>	<b>285</b>	
<b>Baltic states</b>				
Lithuania	30	70	4	Continental
Latvia	30	60	3	Continental
Estonia	20	50	2	Continental
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>8,610</b>	<b>22,290</b>	<b>294</b>	

Sources: *Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1994 Book of the Year; Britannica Atlas, 1989.*

**Chart Skills** Today, 15 independent nations occupy the land of the former Soviet Union. Locate the former Soviet republics on the map on page 708. ▶ Using the information on the map and on the chart, identify the four nations with the largest population. What is the relative location of each?

European Plain. In Asia, it is called the West Siberian Plain.

In places, low hills break the seemingly endless plain. The low-lying Ural Mountains mark the division between Europe and Asia. The Urals do not form a real barrier, however. Throughout history, migrating peoples and invaders from Europe and Asia came into

contact on the plain. Invaders caused great suffering among those in their paths. They also brought knowledge and ideas that deeply influenced the lands they crossed.

**Plateaus and mountains.** South and west of the plain are plateaus and mountains. The Caucasus Mountains lie between the Black and Caspian seas in the republics of Georgia,

Armenia, and Azerbaijan (az uhr bī JAHN) and separate Russia from Turkey and Iran. Farther east, the towering Pamir Mountains separate several Central Asian republics from Afghanistan and China. The Pamirs and other mountains block moisture from the Pacific and have created the deserts in these republics.

**Seas, lakes, and rivers.** Large inland seas and lakes provide nearby peoples with water, transportation routes, and food. The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland sea. To the east, the Aral Sea is shrinking because the rivers that feed it have been diverted to irrigate farmland. In Siberia, Lake Baikal holds more water than the Great Lakes of North America combined.

Rivers were important to the development of Russia. In Europe, the first Russian state emerged at Kiev on the Dnieper (NEE puh-r) River. Farther east, the Don and the mighty Volga rivers were busy highways of trade. In Asian Russia, the great rivers of Siberia, such as the Ob, Yenisei, and Lena, became important sources of hydroelectric power.

## Climate, Vegetation, and Resources

Most of the republics of the former Soviet Union lie above 49° N latitude—the same line that marks the border between the United States and Canada. Because they are located so far north, the republics have a cold continental climate. Winters are long and bitterly cold, while summers are short and hot.

Because most of the republics are located inland, they do not benefit from ocean winds that carry moisture and moderate the extremes of heat and cold. Only the republics of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia in the Caucasus region have mild climates.

Harsh winters hurt the economy. They limit the growing season for crops, increase demands for energy, and create transportation problems. In Siberia, **permafrost**, a layer of soil below the surface that remains permanently frozen, makes building homes and factories both expensive and difficult.

Climate and location have influenced Russia's relations with other nations. Because its

northern ports freeze during the winter, Russia has sought warm-water ports to the south—especially seaports on the Black Sea that have access to the Mediterranean. Over the centuries, this has led to several wars with neighboring states.

On some occasions, cold winters have helped Russia. In 1812, "General Winter" destroyed the armies of the French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte after he invaded Russia. During World War II, "General Winter" helped out once more when German troops tried to overrun the Soviet Union.

**Vegetation zones.** Six vegetation zones stretch across the former Soviet Union. In the Arctic north is the frozen tundra, which supports only mosses and lichens. South of the tundra is the taiga, a huge belt of evergreen forests that is larger in size than all 48 states of the continental United States. Still farther south, the taiga merges into another forest zone with broad-leaved trees such as maples, birches, and elms.

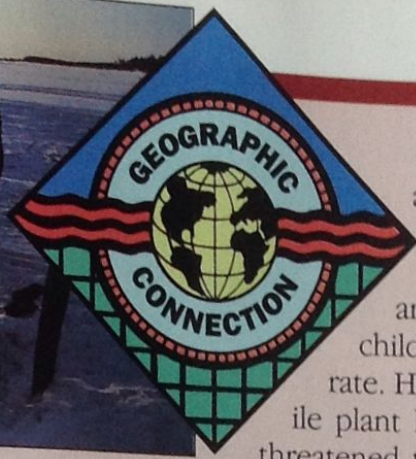
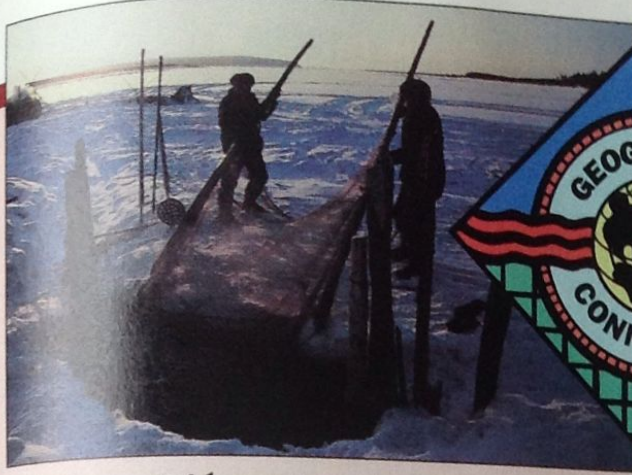
The fourth zone is the steppe, which stretches from Ukraine to Kazakhstan. With its rich black soil, the fertile steppe is the region's "breadbasket." There, farmers raise wheat, rye, barley, and potatoes. Although the steppe is similar to the American prairies, it receives less rainfall and often requires irrigation.

South and east of the steppe is the desert region of Central Asia. A sixth zone, in the mild, moist Caucasus region, supports subtropical crops such as tea, fruit, and nuts.

**Resources.** The republics of the former Soviet Union have a great variety of natural resources, although Russia has the greatest share. Russia has huge forests; fertile soil; enormous deposits of oil, coal, iron ore, and natural gas; and valuable minerals such as gold, platinum, and chromium.

Unfortunately, these resources are generally hard to exploit. Many mineral deposits lie in remote parts of Siberia. The best soil for farming is in regions that get only light rainfall, or even in the desert of Central Asia.

Until this century, Russia remained a relatively poor country despite its great potential. Using modern technology, the Soviet Union



## Can Siberia Be Saved?

Galya Pavlikova climbs into a green van and sets out from the northern Siberian town of Norilsk, driving across the tundra. Stopping near a park, she holds a metal tube outside the van window and then checks the dials on a machine. "The air quality is acceptable," Pavlikova announces.

Pavlikova's job is to take pollution readings at 13 locations around Norilsk. Valuable metal ores were discovered there in the 1920s, and the government built factories to process them. Today, the smelting plant still pours chemical wastes into nearby rivers and its chimneys rain sulfuric acid on the tundra. On windless days, the air in Norilsk smells very much like rotten eggs. Breathing scorches the lungs.

Norilsk's environmental problems are not unique in Siberia. Sprawling across 4 million square miles (10 million sq km), Siberia is one of the world's richest storehouses of mineral wealth, including gas, oil, coal, precious metals, and metals that are of strategic importance to the military. The Soviet Union built factories and sent workers to Siberia to exploit these rich resources. But while development boosted the Soviet economy and helped meet the country's vast energy needs, it devastated the Siberian land.

exploited its natural resources more fully. However, the rush to modernize has damaged the environment. For example, paper mills built to exploit Siberia's forests have polluted Lake Baikal.

Many Siberian cities rank among Russia's 70 most polluted urban centers. In some areas, lung cancer levels soared and respiratory infections among children occurred at an alarming rate. Heavy vehicles destroyed the fragile plant life of the tundra, and oil spills threatened to pollute lakes and rivers. One official complained, "They are poisoning us."

By the late 1980s, the people of Siberia had begun to protest. Residents of smoke-stack cities rallied to demand clean air. They called on the government to close down the worst sources of pollution. They opposed attempts to build new industries. The government made efforts to clean up the pollution, but progress was slow.

Today, the Russian Federation still faces the challenge of Siberia. Russia's new leaders must find a way to exploit Siberia's natural resources without destroying its environment.

1. What environmental problems does Siberia face?
2. **Making Decisions** What steps might the Russian government take to reduce pollution in Siberia? Explain the possible cost of such steps.



## Peoples

Before its collapse, the Soviet Union was a truly multinational nation, with people of more than 100 nationalities. Most had their own languages, cultures, and traditions. In



**Ukrainian Dancers**  
The peoples of Eastern Europe have preserved their distinctive cultures. Ukrainians like those shown here are proud of their culture, including traditional music and folk dances. **Culture**  
How does a society benefit from cultural diversity? How can it be harmed?

fact, the demands of national groups for independence helped cause the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The nationalities that live in the republics include Slavic peoples such as Russians, Ukrainians, and Belorussians. Armenians, Georgians, and Azeri live in the Caucasus. Kazakhs, Kyrgyzis, Mongols, Turkmen, and Uzbeks are among those who live in the Central Asian republics.

People in the republics follow a variety of religions. Christians include members of the Russian Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, Protestant, and Roman Catholic churches. Thousands of Jews live in Russia and other republics. In addition, many people in the Central Asian republics are Muslims.

Today, each of the republics has a dominant ethnic group, but diversity still remains. In the Russian Federation, for example, about 80 percent of the people are Russians. The other 20 percent belong to a variety of ethnic groups.

Tangled tensions among ethnic and religious groups have led to conflict. Battles have erupted in Moldova, Tajikistan, Georgia, and other republics.

## SECTION 1 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) Russia, (b) North European Plain, (c) West Siberian Plain, (d) Ural Mountains, (e) Caspian Sea, (f) Dnieper River.
- 2. Identify:** (a) tundra, (b) taiga, (c) steppe.
- 3. Define:** permafrost.
- 4.** (a) What is the major landform of the former Soviet Union? (b) How have landforms affected Russia in the past?
- 5.** (a) How has climate affected the Russian economy? (b) Why did Russia seek access to ports on the Black Sea? (c) How has climate helped Russia in the past?
- 6.** (a) What are Russia's chief resources? (b) What problems does it face in exploiting these resources?
- 7. Synthesizing Information** List two geographic reasons why Russia is likely to dominate relations with neighboring countries that were once part of the Soviet Union.
- 8. Writing Across Cultures** Write a paragraph comparing the climate of your region with the dominant climate of Russia. (See the map on page 778.)

## EARLY TRADITIONS

### FIND OUT

How did the Byzantine Empire influence Kievan Russia?

What were the effects of the Mongol conquest?

How did the princes of Moscow build a powerful state?

What reforms did Peter the Great introduce in Russia?

**Vocabulary** czar, autocrat

According to an early history of Russia, Prince Vladimir wanted a new religion for his people. He sent delegates to learn about Islam and Judaism as well as the Roman and Byzantine forms of Christianity. His ambassadors visited Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire. They returned with this report on Byzantine houses of worship:

“ We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. For on earth there is no such splendor or beauty, and we are at a loss how to describe it. We only know that God dwells there, and that their service is the best of all lands. ”

The report convinced Vladimir to adopt Byzantine Christianity. His decision, which was made more than 1,000 years ago, had major consequences. It led Russia to absorb both the religion and the culture of the advanced Byzantine civilization. By adopting Byzantine traditions, Russia would develop differently from Western Europe.

### Kievan Russia

The first Russian state emerged during the late A.D. 800s in present-day Ukraine. There, Vikings from Scandinavia conquered

the local Slavic people and ruled over a loose confederation of city-states. The ruler of each city-state shared power with local nobles and a city council. In time, the Vikings adopted Slavic customs and were absorbed into the local population.

This early Russian state was called Kiev, after its most important city. Because of its location on the Dnieper River, Kiev flourished. Kievan traders carried fur, honey, and farm products to the busy markets of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, as well as to other trading centers.

**Byzantine influences.** As trade expanded, Kievan Russia absorbed ideas from the Byzantine Empire, which was the most powerful and advanced civilization in Europe at the

**St. George Slays the Dragon** The rich colors and formal style of Byzantine art mark this work by an unknown Russian artist in the 1400s. Note the sun on St. George's shield. Pre-Christian religious beliefs in Russia focused on the sun and the forces of nature. **Interdependence** What were the two most important Byzantine influences on Russia?





time. Perhaps the two most important Byzantine contributions were a system of writing and the Christian religion.

In about 860, two monks, Cyril and Methodius, set out from Constantinople to spread Christianity to the Slavic peoples of Eastern Europe. At the time, the Slavs had no written language and therefore could not read the Bible and other Christian texts. To solve this problem, the monks devised an alphabet based on Greek and Hebrew letters. It was later called Cyrillic (suh RIHL ihk), after Cyril. Today, Russia and many other Slavic countries still use a form of the Cyrillic alphabet.

By 988, the efforts of missionaries as well as trading contacts convinced the ruler of Kiev, Prince Vladimir, to convert to Byzantine Christianity. As you have read, Vladimir was greatly impressed by the wealth and beauty of Byzantine civilization. He also noted that in the Byzantine Empire the emperor, not the pope, headed the Church. With Christianity, Kievan Russia also absorbed Byzantine art and architecture.

**Split in Christianity.** When Vladimir converted, serious disagreements divided Roman and Byzantine Christians. In 1054, Christians split into the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. This split in Christianity created bitter rivalries and helped cut the Russians off from developments in Western Europe. In time, the Russian church became independent of Byzantine Christianity as well, and evolved into the Russian Orthodox Church.

## Mongol Rule

In the 1200s, Mongols from Central Asia conquered a huge empire that stretched from China to Eastern Europe. In 1240, a group of Mongols, called Tatars by the Russians, destroyed Kiev and other Russian cities. The invaders killed or enslaved large numbers of people.

For nearly 250 years, the Mongols controlled Russia indirectly. Russian princes acted as their agents and collected the heavy tribute, or taxes, that the Mongols forced the Russians to pay. Anyone who refused to pay

the tribute was brutally punished. In general, the Mongols had little influence on Russian culture, although some Russian princes modeled themselves on the all-powerful Mongol ruler.

Although Mongol rule resulted in some trade with other Asian lands, the tribute system placed a huge economic burden on Russia. Mongol rule also reduced Russia's ties with the Byzantine Empire and Western Europe. Today, some scholars think that the terrible experience with the Mongols left the Russians with a lasting suspicion and fear of foreigners.

## The Rise of Moscow

By the 1300s, the city of Moscow gained importance as Mongol power slowly declined. The princes of Moscow grew rich by keeping a share of the taxes they collected for the Mongols. Also, Moscow's location near several important rivers helped it to profit from trade. Moscow also gained in power and prestige when the head of the Russian Orthodox Church moved there from Kiev.

**Ivan the Great.** Ivan III, a prince of Moscow who ruled from 1462 to 1505, took steps to create a strong, unified Russian state. He conquered other lands and in 1480 ended Mongol rule by refusing to pay any more tribute. By then, the Mongols were too weak to challenge Ivan.

Ivan the Great, as Ivan III was later called, built a strong government based on Byzantine traditions. In 1472, he married Sophia, the niece of the last Byzantine emperor.\* He then used the title **czar** (zahr), a Russian word for Caesar, or emperor. Ivan saw himself as the heir to the ancient Roman and Byzantine civilizations. Like Byzantine emperors, he was an **autocrat**, or a ruler who had unlimited power. He undermined the power of the nobles and destroyed the councils that had once helped rule the cities of Russia.

**Ivan the Terrible.** Ivan's grandson, Ivan IV, who was crowned czar in the mid-1500s,

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\* The Byzantine Empire ended in 1453, when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks. (See Chapter 26.)

worked to strengthen the autocracy. He created a secret police force and conducted a reign of terror against powerful, independent nobles to crush them. His brutal actions earned him the nickname Ivan the Terrible. Despite his harsh rule, Ivan introduced reforms, including a new law code. He also expanded Russia's borders and renewed contact with Western Europe.

Ivan IV encouraged the growth of feudalism in Russia. He gave fiefs to loyal nobles to strengthen their bonds to him. He issued laws that bound peasants to the land. As a result, serfdom took root in Russia at a time when it was declining in Western Europe.

## A Window on the West

Despite the efforts of its rulers, Russia lagged behind the West in technology and military power, especially after the Renaissance and the expansion of Europe into the Americas, Asia, and Africa. In the late 1600s, an energetic young czar, Peter I, set out to introduce western ideas to Russia.

Peter the Great, as he is known to history, hired western engineers, shipbuilders, and other technical experts to modernize Russia's army and navy as well as build modern industries. He set up schools to teach the scientific theories being taught in the West. He introduced reforms to make his government more efficient and to increase his authority over the Church.

Peter even built a new capital, St. Petersburg, on the Baltic Sea. For him, it was "a window on the West," a city that would reflect modern European civilization rather than traditional Russian ideas. (📖 See Connections With Literature, page 808, "The Overcoat.")

Many conservative Russians resisted Peter's efforts at westernization. He overcame their opposition with force and terror. When Russian nobles at court refused to shave their beards, Peter seized a pair of scissors and did it for them. He insisted that women, who had been kept in isolation, attend public entertainments. He also forced men and women to dress in western-style clothing.



**Peter the Great** Eager to master modern technology, Peter the Great spent 15 months visiting Western Europe. In Germany, he studied how guns were made, and in Holland he worked as a ship's carpenter. Peter disguised himself as an ordinary citizen. However, his seven-foot height often gave him away. **Technology** Why do you think Peter the Great was selective about what he studied in each country?

Peter's reforms strengthened Russia, but they did not close the technology gap with the West. Later rulers, such as Catherine the Great, continued Peter's reforms. Catherine encouraged Russians to adopt French culture and learning, including the ideas of the Enlightenment. (See Chapter 30.) She viewed herself as an "enlightened" ruler and even dreamed of ending serfdom. When Enlightenment ideas conflicted with her autocratic rule, however, she ignored them.

## SECTION 2 REVIEW

- 1. Identify:** (a) Kievan Russia, (b) Cyrillic alphabet, (c) Russian Orthodox Church, (d) Ivan the Great, (e) Ivan the Terrible, (f) Catherine the Great.
- 2. Define:** (a) czar, (b) autocrat.
- 3.** How did the adoption of Byzantine Christianity affect Russia's development?
- 4.** Why did Moscow come to dominate Russia?
- 5.** (a) Why did Peter the Great want to westernize Russia? (b) What steps did he take to achieve his goal?
- 6. Analyzing Ideas** Autocratic rulers helped Russia make many advances. Do you think that great accomplishments justify autocratic rule? Explain.
- 7. Writing Across Cultures** "Some scholars think that the terrible experience with the Mongols left the Russians with a lasting suspicion and fear of foreigners." Write a paragraph explaining what experiences in American history might have helped shape our attitudes toward foreigners.

### 3

## PATTERNS OF LIFE

### FIND OUT

- How was Russian society organized?  
How did religion support the social system?  
What daily activities shaped peasant life?

**Vocabulary** icon, mir

“**T**he peasants are oppressed by work from morning till night, and are all ill from overwork. . . . They fade early, age early, and die in filth and stench. Their children grow up and it's the same story and so it goes on for hundreds of

years, millions of people living worse than animals—in constant dread, and all for a mere crust of bread.”

Anton Chekhov, a great Russian writer, gave that description of peasant life in his homeland in the 1890s. For centuries, Russia's peasants lived in misery, producing barely enough to pay taxes and feed their families. At the other extreme, wealthy nobles enjoyed a life of luxury and regarded the peasants as ignorant at best. The gap between rich and poor created discontent, but the rich used their power to crush any threat to their way of life.

## Russian Society

In the late 1700s, when the Enlightenment had sparked reform in Europe and America, the upper class in Russia became increasingly European. Nobles spoke French rather than Russian. They dressed in the latest French fashions and read the latest French books. Yet, Russia did not experience the revolutionary changes—improvements in farming, growth of manufacturing, and political reforms—that were paving the way for modern industrial societies in the West.

In Russia, the autocratic rule of the czars prevented any real reform. The small class of nobles owned the land. A tiny middle class existed, but it had little power. The majority of people were serfs, or peasants, who worked the land but had almost no rights. They were the property of the nobles who owned the land on which they were born.

**Serfs.** Nobles exercised almost absolute control over their serfs, buying and selling them as needed. Serfs who ran away faced harsh punishment if they were caught. Revolts broke out from time to time, but they were brutally crushed.

Serfdom had a deadening effect on the Russian economy. Many nobles were absentee landlords, who owned estates but did not live on them. They had no interest in improving farming tools or methods as long as they collected the rents from their estates. As a result, crop yields were small and serfs remained desperately poor.

**Nobles.** Wealthy families lived in comfort. They spent winters in Moscow or St. Petersburg, where they may have had as many as 100 serfs as servants. Guests arrived almost every night. Female serfs prepared meals, while male serfs served the food at dinner. Often, there were dancing parties at which serfs played music late into the night.

In summer, noble families traveled to their country estates, where more serfs attended them. In the country, serfs made everything from furniture and harnesses to clothes and shoes. Nobles maintained strict discipline by beating and flogging serfs who displeased them.

## The Russian Orthodox Church

The Russian Orthodox Church supported the political and social order. By the time of Peter the Great, the Church had become a servant of the czar. The government appointed Church officials and gave them financial support. In return, the Church closely allied itself with the autocracy. In the 1800s, priests reported anyone suspected of disloyalty to the police. Members of the secret police even dressed as priests and heard confessions in attempts to get information.

Yet, the Church was a source of great comfort to both rich and poor. Peasants were baptized as infants, married according to Church law, and received the Church's blessings as they lay dying. Every peasant's home had an **icon**, a religious painting of Jesus, Mary, or a saint. Peasants prayed before the icons for miracles to relieve their suffering. Priests assured peasants that though their lives on Earth were hard, they would be rewarded in heaven.

Peasants welcomed holy days, and Church festivals and religious music provided some happiness. Peasants celebrated Christmas and Easter with great joy. Trinity Week, for example, marked the return of spring and the beginning of the planting season. In autumn, St. Peter's Day marked the start of the harvest, the hardest work period of the year.

## Peasant Life

The life of the serf centered on the village, which was often just a few rows of houses along a road or river. Many peasants never traveled more than a few miles from the village in which they were born.

**The mir.** In most places, the **mir** (meer), or village commune, regulated village life. The mir was run by a council of men who

### Rest During the Harvest

The peasants in this painting look more prosperous than most actually were in real life. Most serfs on the mir lived in poverty. Since the land was redistributed from time to time, serfs had little reason to improve their strips of land. **Fine Art** Why do you think this artist, Alexander Morosov, painted such an idealized picture of peasant life?



were the heads of families. It controlled the village land and divided it among the villagers. Each family received scattered strips of land rather than an individual plot to farm. This gave them a certain amount of good farmland on which to grow enough crops to pay their taxes. This form of agriculture had disappeared in Western Europe hundreds of years earlier.

The mir was part of the system by which the government controlled the peasants. The mir was responsible for collecting taxes and providing recruits for the army. Young men drafted into the army served for 25 years. When a boy became a soldier, his family mourned him as if he had died. If he survived to return home, he would be an old man.

**The family.** Russian peasants lived in patriarchal, extended families. The oldest male headed the family, and his word was final. Women had lower status than men, and only men could inherit a share of the family land. Women were responsible for household chores as well as for tending the garden and the farm animals.

Middle-class parents, as well as those of the nobility, arranged marriages for their children based on property. Among poor peasants, property was not important because most peasants had none. A landlord, however, might either force or forbid a serf's marriage. After marriage, the couple lived with the young man's parents.

**The home.** A typical peasant family lived in a small wooden house that included a single large room and one or two small storage rooms. In one corner of the main room stood an enormous stove that was used for heating and cooking. In winter, older members of the family slept closest to the stove.

Peasants ate a few basic foods. The most important of these by far was dark bread, with porridge, cereal or meal boiled in water, ranking next. Cabbage, onions, and cucumbers were the main vegetables in the peasants' diet. On special occasions, peasants ate meat. From time to time, dairy products or fish caught in local lakes and streams reached the table. In the 1800s, peasants began growing potatoes, and they also added tea to their diet.

- 1. Define:** (a) icon, (b) mir.
- (a) What were the main social classes in czarist Russia? (b) How did serfdom limit economic progress?
- How did the Russian Orthodox Church support the government?
- (a) How did the mir regulate village life? (b) What traditions shaped family life?
- 5. Analyzing a Quotation** "Do not spare your child any beating, for the stick will not kill him but do him good. When you strike the body, you save the soul from death." This advice was taken from a Russian manual for parents. What values does it support?
- 6. Writing Across Cultures** List three important events that marked the Russian calendar. Then list three events that mark the year in the United States. Write a generalization about the role of special occasions in people's lives throughout the world.

## 4

## DYNAMICS OF CHANGE

## FIND OUT

How did the Russian Empire grow?

What were the causes of discontent in Russia in the 1800s?

How did the government respond to demands for reform?

How did industrialization affect Russia?

**Vocabulary:** pogrom

In 1862, Nicholas Chernyshevsky, a Russian revolutionary, summed up the government's programs in this way:

“Russia's policies until recently have been directed mainly toward expan-

sion, and this task, which has been carried out very successfully, has weakened the real strength of our people. . . . Materials needed for plows and sickles have always been used to forge swords and spears, and that is why up to now we have not been able even to cultivate our land properly. ”

For centuries, czars had concentrated on building a strong military and conquering new territories. They used their successes abroad to cover up their failures at home. In the 1800s, under pressure from all sides, the government finally took a few long-overdue steps toward reform.

## Russian Expansion

From earliest times, Russian rulers followed a course of expansion. In the late 1500s, Ivan IV opened the way into Siberia. Russian explorers and fur traders pushed eastward as far as the Pacific, and by the 1680s, Russia controlled all of Siberia.

This vast frontier region was a source of fur, farmland, and mineral resources. It also became a place of punishment. Russian rulers sent political prisoners and criminals into exile in this distant land, using their labor to develop its rich resources.

**Expansion in Europe.** Russia also expanded into Europe. It lacked a warm-water port

until Peter the Great won territory from Sweden on the Baltic Sea. The territory included the present-day independent countries of Estonia and Latvia.

Catherine the Great gained even more lands in the west. In the late 1700s, she joined Austria and Prussia in dividing Poland. (See Section 5.) Catherine also acquired the lands of present-day Belarus and Lithuania. She won a warm-water port in the south by defeating the Ottoman Empire and gaining territory on the Black Sea.

**Effects of expansion.** Expansion turned Russia into a multinational empire in which ethnic Russians made up less than half of the population. The new empire faced conflict among the many nationalities that lived within its borders.

In the 1800s, Russia expanded into Central Asia. Along with Western European powers, it also carved out a sphere of influence in China. Russian expansion alarmed other European powers, creating tension and eventually triggering war.

## Revolt and Repression

By the early 1800s, discontent had grown at every level of Russian society. Serfs wanted their freedom and their own land to farm. At the other end of the social scale, a few nobles supported the ideas of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution. They wanted an

**A Military Review** Russia's autocracy was supported by the czar's police and by the army. A wide gulf separated officers like these from the troops they commanded. Most soldiers were uneducated and poorly paid. They were forbidden to enter taverns and restaurants, and they received very harsh discipline.

**Political System** Why were a strong army and police force important to the czar?



end to autocracy. Some called for a limited monarchy like Britain's. Others wanted a republic.

As education spread, people who belonged to the tiny middle class and the working classes in the cities gained knowledge of life in the West. As a result, they demanded even faster and more radical changes than those the nobility sought.

**The Decembrist Revolt.** A small group of nobles and army officers tried to overthrow the czar's government in December 1825. They hoped to set up a constitutional monarchy. Czar Nicholas I quickly crushed the uprising, which was known as the Decembrist Revolt. He executed five leaders and exiled hundreds more to Siberia. Despite the Decembrists' failure, they became heroes to later generations of revolutionaries.

**Reaction.** Czar Nicholas I responded to the Decembrist Revolt with brutal repression. He imposed strict censorship, banned books from the West that might contain liberal ideas, and targeted schools and universities as centers of unrest. His secret police spied on students, teachers, and even government officials. More than 150,000 people were accused of treason and exiled to Siberia.

Nicholas did make reforms in the legal system. He also tried to improve the lot of the serfs by limiting their owners' power. He made no real change in his government, however. Instead, he enforced Russian nationalism and loyalty to the autocracy and the Russian Orthodox Church. By promoting these goals, he tried to unite his vast multinational empire.

**Anti-Semitism.** The nationalistic policies of the czar encouraged anti-Semitism. Jews had lived in Russia in large numbers since the mid-1500s, but they suffered legal discrimination. Laws forced them to live in certain areas and limited their access to education and jobs. Jews who lived in cities were often restricted to a single neighborhood, called a ghetto.

The government's anti-Jewish attitude contributed to **pogroms**, or organized acts of violence against Jews. The government tried to distract people from the real source of their poverty by blaming the Jews for it. A ris-

ing tide of violence forced many Jews to leave Russia in the 1800s. Many moved to Germany, where they were able to attend universities and pursue professional careers.

## Limited Reform

Despite the efforts of Nicholas I to prevent change, many Russians realized that their political and economic system had slowed their nation's industrial growth. By the mid-1800s, European nations were industrializing and growing more powerful. In Russia, serfdom slowed such development. Factory owners could not find enough workers because so many people were serfs. Even conservative Russians realized that Russia had to change in order to become a modern world power.

In 1861, a new czar, Alexander II, emancipated, or freed, the serfs. The freed serfs gained a few political rights and were allowed to keep their homes and tools. Instead of being given land, however, they had to buy it at high prices. Burdened with debt and high taxes, most peasants continued to live in terrible poverty. Alexander II introduced other reforms. He relaxed censorship, encouraged the building of schools, and improved health care.

## Effects of Industrialization

In the late 1800s, industry expanded. Peasants flocked to the cities, where new factories sprang up. In Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other cities, the middle class grew. Education spread as schools and universities were built in many parts of the country.

Despite the reforms that were made, life did not improve for most people. With better health care and more food, the population in the countryside soared. As a result, peasants had less land than they did before. For many, the standard of living became even worse.

For city workers, conditions in factories were similar to those in Western Europe during the early Industrial Revolution. Men, women, and children worked long hours under dangerous conditions for very low pay. If they protested, they were fired or punished. There were few laws to protect workers, and

the laws that existed were seldom enforced. Workers formed trade unions even though these unions were forbidden by law. By the early 1900s, unions were organizing strikes to demand better pay and working conditions.

## Revolutionary Movements

By the mid-1860s, some Russians had become frustrated by the slow pace of change. They turned to revolutionary action. Most revolutionaries came from Russia's small but growing educated classes. They wanted to overthrow the czar and establish socialism in Russia.

At first, Russian socialists tried to enlist the support of peasants in a great revolution that would end inequality and do away with private ownership of property. When efforts to win popular support failed, radical groups turned to terrorism. They killed prominent officials and even assassinated the czar, Alexander II. Alexander III, who succeeded his father, resorted to repression to stop the revolutionaries.

Despite the crackdown, unrest increased. By the 1890s and the reign of Czar Nicholas II, a new form of socialism had become popular among revolutionaries. It was called Marxism, after the German philosopher Karl Marx. (See Chapter 30.) According to Marx, factory workers, not peasants, would lead the socialist revolution. Although there were very few Marxists in Russia, they organized and slowly won support from members of the working class.

### Up Close

#### Bloody Sunday

In 1904, conflict with Japan over Korea and Manchuria led to the Russo-Japanese War. The war resulted in a stunning defeat for Russia and increased economic hardships at home.

**A peaceful march.** As the crisis at home worsened, a young priest, Father Georgi Gapon, planned a peaceful march of factory workers to the czar's palace in St. Petersburg.



**Bloody Sunday** Father Gapon, his arms upraised, leads workers into a square near the Winter Palace one Sunday afternoon in 1905. The demonstrators numbered between 50,000 and 100,000. Outraged by an unprovoked attack on them by soldiers, they shouted "Murderers! You ran away from the Japanese, but you shoot at your own people." **Change** How were Russian workers trying to bring about change?

There, the workers would present a petition to Nicholas II, asking for better working conditions and some political freedoms. Father Gapon and the marchers believed that if the czar—whom the people called their "little father"—heard their pleas, he would respond.

On a snowy Sunday afternoon in 1905, thousands of unarmed men, women, and children joined Father Gapon. They carried banners bearing pictures of the czar and his



wife. Singing the czar's hymn, "God Save Thy People," they slowly moved forward.

**A massacre occurs.** As the group headed toward the palace, soldiers appeared. "Surely, they would not dare to touch us," Father Gapon thought as he saw the soldiers' rifles glinting in the winter sun. He signaled the marchers to move on.

Suddenly, shots rang out.

"Down, down!" Father Gapon shouted to the frightened marchers. "What are you doing?" he cried to the soldiers. "How dare you fire on the portrait of the czar?" But the firing continued.

When the gunfire ended, Father Gapon rose. "Stand up!" he shouted to the marchers. Many obeyed, but many others remained on the ground. "Why do they lie there?" Father Gapon wondered. Then, as he saw the blood seeping into the snow, he understood. More than 100 marchers lay dead. Hundreds more were severely wounded. Father Gapon later recalled:

“Horror crept into my heart. The thought flashed through my mind. ‘And this is the work of our Little Father, the Czar.’ Perhaps this anger saved me, for I now knew in very truth that a new chapter was opened in the book of the history of our people.” ■

### Revolution of 1905

The events of Bloody Sunday, as the massacre was called, horrified Russians and sparked the Revolution of 1905. Riots and strikes swept the cities. In the countryside, peasants looted and burned the homes of landowners.

To end the violence, Czar Nicholas II finally agreed to set up an elected assembly called the Duma and to make other minor reforms. The Duma had little power, however, and the reforms failed to resolve Russia's basic problems. Since an autocratic ruler was in power, inequality and repression remained. Discontent simmered among many groups, including peasants, national minorities, middle-class liberals, and factory workers.

- 1. Locate:** (a) Siberia, (b) Baltic Sea, (c) Black Sea.
- 2. Identify:** (a) Decembrist Revolt, (b) Marxism, (c) Russo-Japanese War, (d) Bloody Sunday, (e) Revolution of 1905, (f) Duma.
- 3. Define:** pogrom.
- What areas did Russia add to its empire between the 1500s and 1900?
- (a) Which groups sought to make reforms in Russia? (b) Why did some Russians turn to revolution to achieve these reforms?
- (a) Why was Russia slow to industrialize? (b) How did industrialization affect Russia?
- 7. Applying Ideas** "Discontent only grows the more when it is repressed," warned the revolutionaries who assassinated Czar Alexander II. How does this statement reflect conditions in Russia in the 1800s?
- 8. Writing Across Cultures** Write a dialogue between a Russian peasant and an American farmer in the 1800s in which they discuss ways to bring about political change.

## 5

### GROWTH OF NATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE

#### FIND OUT

- How has geography influenced the history of Eastern Europe?
- What empires competed to dominate Eastern Europe?
- What role did nationalism play in Eastern Europe?
- How did the two world wars shape developments in this region?

**T**he opening lines of Poland's national anthem reflect the nation's long battle to protect its freedom.

“Poland is not yet lost  
While still we live.”

Polish nationalists first sang these words in the early 1800s. By then, their homeland had come under the domination of powerful foreign empires. The Poles, like other peoples of Eastern Europe, have had a long history of struggle to preserve their independence against invaders from the east and west.

## Geographic Setting

Eastern Europe refers to the region that lies between the former Soviet Union and Western Europe. Between 1945 and 1990, the region included East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Albania. In 1990, East Germany was reunited with West Germany, and the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania won their independence. In 1992, Yugoslavia splintered into separate states, triggering a brutal war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By peaceful means, Czechoslovakia divided into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Eastern Europe has no clear geographic borders. It is part of the vast North European Plain that begins in Western Europe and continues into Asia as the West Siberian Plain. Its most clearly defined boundaries are the Baltic Sea in the north, the Adriatic Sea in the southwest, and the Black Sea in the southeast.

**Ethnic diversity.** The lack of physical barriers has contributed to conflicts in Eastern Europe. Since ancient times, migrating peoples and invaders have moved across the region. Huns, Slavs, Magyars, Ottoman Turks, and many other peoples settled there, giving the region a diverse population.

Today, Slavs make up the majority of people in Eastern Europe. However, Slavic peoples, such as Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Bulgarians, and Serbs, each have their own history and traditions. Other groups, such as the Hungarians, are non-Slavs. Today, as in the past, conflicts among different nationalities pose problems for nations in Eastern Europe.

As new nations emerged in Eastern Europe, they struggled to protect their borders from powerful empires. The Russian, Austri-

an, and Ottoman empires expanded into Eastern Europe. The Germans, too, sought to control the region.

### MAP STUDY

Most of Eastern Europe was dominated by the Soviet Union between 1945 and 1990.

- Place** (a) Name three mountain ranges in Eastern Europe. (b) In which countries are they located?
- Location** (a) Describe the relative location of Poland. (b) Give the relative location of Albania.
- Making a Generalization** Write a generalization about the geography of Eastern Europe.



**Religious diversity.** Location influenced the religions of Eastern Europe. During the Middle Ages, missionaries from Rome and Constantinople sought to convert the Slavs. The westernmost people, like the Poles, became Roman Catholics. Peoples farther east accepted Byzantine Christianity, which became the Eastern Orthodox Church. Albanians, who lived under Ottoman rule for centuries, adopted Islam.

## Poland

In A.D. 966, the Slavic people of Poland converted to Roman Catholic Christianity and adopted the Roman alphabet. Roman Catholicism set Poles apart from other Slavic peoples, such as the Russians, who used the Cyrillic alphabet and followed Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Religious differences as well as other conflicts contributed to lasting hostility between Poles and Russians.

**A large empire.** The Poles first formed a unified state in the 900s. Over the centuries, Poland expanded and contracted as its rulers fought German invaders from the west or Mongols, Russians, and Ottomans from the east.

In the 1300s, Poland built a strong empire that stretched from the Baltic Sea almost to the Black Sea. As trade flourished, its cities grew. The University of Cracow became an important center of learning. There, Nicolaus

Copernicus (koh PER nih kuhs) helped revolutionize astronomy in the early 1500s by showing that the planets revolved around the sun.

**Partition.** During the 1600s and 1700s, Poland's power declined. Because its ruler shared power with his nobles, he had never built a strong central government. In time, rivalry among nobles created chaos.

While Poland grew weaker, neighboring Prussia, Austria, and Russia grew stronger. Between 1772 and 1795, these strong powers partitioned, or divided, Poland among themselves. Polish leaders like Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kosciuszko (kahs ee UHS koh) tried without success to save their country, and Poland ceased to exist as an independent state.

**Nationalism.** During the 1800s, Polish nationalists sought to regain independence. In 1830 and 1863, Russia crushed uprisings in Poland.

A "new" Poland was born in 1919 after World War I. It survived for only 20 years. In 1939, German armies poured across the Polish border, and independent Poland vanished once more. (📖 See Connections With Literature, page 808, "A Song on the End of the World.")

## Hungary

Like Poland, Hungary has a long history. Hungarians are descended from Magyars (MAG yahrz), who migrated into Europe from the



**Defeat of the Poles** The histories of Poland and Russia have long been intertwined. In the early 1600s, the king of Poland negotiated to have his son become czar of Russia. Although the plan had the support of some Russian nobles, others gathered a force and drove the Poles out of Moscow. **Power** How did the Russians' form of government give them an edge over Poland in the 1700s?

area of the Ural Mountains. According to tradition, Stephen I of Hungary converted to Roman Catholicism on Christmas Day in the year 1000. Religion, language, and struggles against their neighbors helped Hungarians forge a distinct identity.

Hungary suffered during the Mongol invasions of the 1200s, but, unlike Russia, it was not occupied for long. During the Renaissance, Hungary's greatest ruler, Mathias Corvinus, made the country an important European power.

In the 1500s, disaster struck as the Ottomans and Austrians divided most of Hungary between themselves. By 1699, the Austrians had defeated the Ottomans and gained control of Hungary.

Despite centuries of foreign domination, Hungarians maintained their cultural identity. By the 1800s, nationalists were calling for independence. In 1848, Louis Kossuth led an unsuccessful uprising against Austrian rule.

Finally, in 1867, Austria gave in to Hungarian demands. It created the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a dual monarchy that united Austria and Hungary under a single ruler but gave Hungarians their own constitution and parliament. Hungary gained complete independence after World War I.

## Struggles in the Balkans

The Balkan Peninsula lies in southeastern Europe. The dominant ethnic groups in the region are Slavs, including Bulgarians, Croats, Serbs, Slovenians, and Macedonians. The non-Slavic groups include Greeks, Turks, Romanians, and Albanians.

For 1,000 years, the Slavic peoples of the Balkans were influenced by the powerful Byzantine Empire. In 1453, the Ottomans conquered the last remnants of the Byzantine Empire and extended their rule over the Balkans. As a result, Turkish Muslims also settled in the region. By the 1800s, Austria had won control of parts of the Balkans from the Ottomans.

Throughout the 1800s, nationalist revolts erupted in the Balkans. Eventually, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania broke free of Ottoman rule. Austria-Hungary, however, ruled many Serbs, who also sought independence. A

Serbian nationalist assassinated the Austrian archduke in 1914, triggering World War I.

## The Impact of Two World Wars

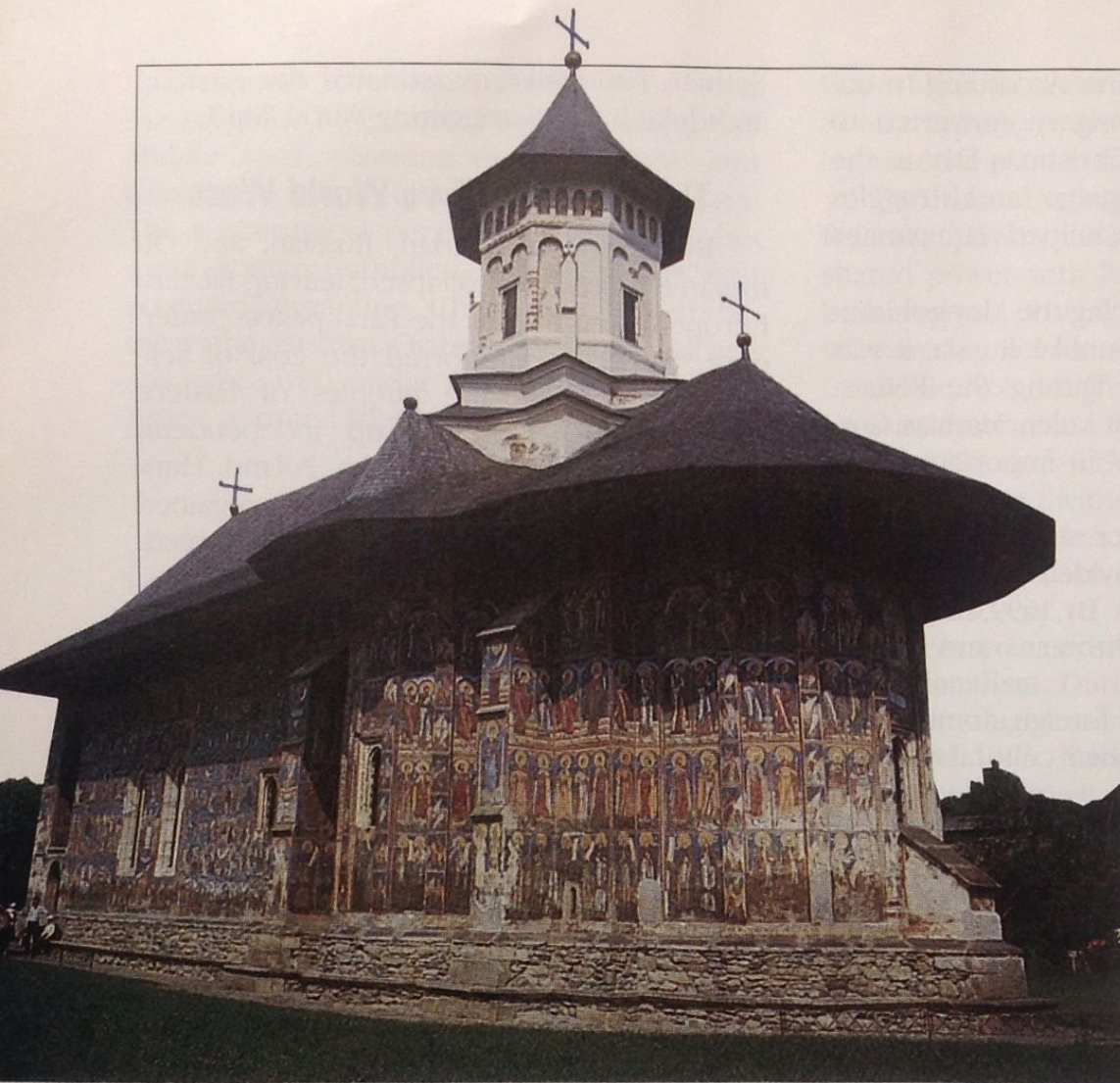
By 1918, the Austrian, Russian, and Ottoman empires had collapsed, leaving Eastern Europe in turmoil. At the Paris peace conference, the Allies supported the goal of self-determination for the peoples of Eastern Europe and helped set up independent, democratic states in the region. Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia regained their freedom. Two new states emerged. Czechoslovakia included Czechs and Slovaks, who had been ruled by Austria for centuries. Yugoslavia united Serbs, Croats, and several other Slavic groups.

**Postwar problems.** The new nations of Eastern Europe faced many problems. Border disputes created immediate tensions. Also, in many countries, the dominant ethnic group discriminated against national and religious minorities. Jews again suffered persecution in Poland, Hungary, and elsewhere. In addition, the Great Depression that struck in 1929 contributed to political and economic instability there and throughout the world.

Having little experience with democratic traditions, the new nations of Eastern Europe were poorly equipped to deal with economic hardship and unrest. Most of them turned to fascist dictators who promised to restore order. During the 1930s, only Czechoslovakia retained a democratic form of government.

**World War II.** By the late 1930s, the German dictator, Adolf Hitler, had embarked on a course of expansion into Eastern Europe. Hitler seized control of Czechoslovakia and in 1939 signed an agreement with the Soviet Union to divide Poland. The German invasion of Poland in September 1939 triggered World War II.

During the war, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania joined the Axis powers. Germany occupied some of the other Eastern European countries, including Poland and Czechoslovakia. People organized resistance groups against the Germans, but the war heightened tensions among various ethnic groups. In many Eastern European countries,



### A Romanian Monastery

The outer walls of this monastery are adorned with many fine religious frescoes, or wall paintings. Once the home of an order of monks, this building is part of Romania's cultural heritage. **Culture** Why would buildings like this one be important to nationalists?

local people joined the Germans in carrying out the atrocities of the Holocaust against the Jews.

In 1945, Soviet armies helped to free Eastern European nations from German occupation. However, peace brought a new threat to the freedom of these nations. For the next 45 years, the Soviet Union would dominate Eastern Europe.

## SECTION 5 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) Poland, (b) Hungary, (c) Czechoslovakia.
- 2. Identify:** (a) Casimir Pulaski, (b) Thaddeus Kosciuszko, (c) Stephen I, (d) Mathias Corvinus, (e) Louis Kossuth.
- (a) What is the major geographic feature of Eastern Europe? (b) How has this feature affected the history of the region?
- (a) What important contribution did Copernicus make during the Renaissance? (b) How did Poland lose its independence in the 1700s?
- Describe the role of nationalism in each of the following regions during the 1800s: (a) Poland, (b) Hungary, (c) the Balkans.
- (a) How did World War I affect Eastern Europe? (b) What problems did the nations of Eastern Europe face after that war?
- 7. Applying Ideas** Why do you think border disputes have plagued the nations of Eastern Europe for so long?
- 8. Writing Across Cultures** Imagine that you are a journalist after World War I. Write an editorial for an American newspaper supporting self-determination for the nations of Eastern Europe. Give reasons to support your point of view.

# CHAPTER 32 REVIEW

## Understanding Vocabulary

Match each term at left with the correct definition at right.

- |               |                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. permafrost | a. religious painting            |
| 2. czar       | b. absolute ruler                |
| 3. autocrat   | c. permanently frozen ground     |
| 4. icon       | d. title of Russian ruler        |
| 5. pogrom     | e. acts of violence against Jews |

## Reviewing the Main Ideas

1. What ethnic and religious groups live in republics that were part of the Soviet Union?
2. (a) Describe the reforms of Peter the Great. (b) What effect did they have on Russia?
3. What role did the Russian Orthodox Church play in people's lives?
4. How did each of the following rulers respond to demands for reform: (a) Nicholas I, (b) Alexander II, (c) Nicholas II?
5. Why did the Decembrist Revolt and Bloody Sunday become important symbols to revolutionaries in Russia?
6. How has location contributed to ethnic and religious diversity in Eastern Europe?
7. Describe three examples of how ethnic diversity has influenced events in Eastern Europe.

## Reviewing Chapter Themes

1. Geography has had a major impact on Russia. Describe two geographic features that have affected its development.
2. Russians absorbed both Byzantine and western ideas. Give two examples and discuss how each affected Russia's development.
3. Czarist Russia was built on autocracy and inequality. (a) Describe the structure of Russian society. (b) Explain how the czar and the nobles maintained their power.
4. In the 1800s, revolutionary movements increased in Russia. (a) Describe the griev-

ances of Russian revolutionaries in the 1800s. (b) Discuss the goals and outcomes of one uprising in this period.

5. For centuries, the peoples of Eastern Europe were dominated by foreign empires. Choose one Eastern European nation and discuss its struggle for independence.

## Thinking Critically

1. **Understanding Causes and Effects** Describe the cause-and-effect relationship between (a) growth of industrialization/end of serfdom, (b) Russo-Japanese War/Revolution of 1905, (c) Decembrist Revolt/repression.
2. **Making Global Connections** In the late 1700s, Polish nationalists Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kosciuszko came to America to help the colonists fight for independence. Why would nationalists from Eastern Europe support the colonists' cause?

## Applying Your Skills

1. **Reading a Map** Locate the United States and Russia on the world map on pages 776–777. (a) What is the location of each country? (b) Based on this information, make a generalization about their climates.
2. **Using Your Vocabulary** Use the Glossary on pages 794–803 to review the meaning of the following terms: *latitude*, *topography*, *vegetation*, *plains*, *climate*. Use each term in a separate sentence about the geography of Russia and Eastern Europe.