Russia
(Chapter #8 & #9)
Climate & Geography
A Vast Expanse

- World’s largest country
- Almost twice size of U.S.
- “Eurasian” country: Russia lies on both Europe & Asia
- Borders 14 countries—
- 11 time zones
Russia’s Land

Western Russia

- **Climate:** Humid Continental, with warm rainy summers and cold snowy winters.

- **Movement/Travel:** They have more roads than the East but still rely heavily on the rivers, canals, and railroads as a major source of transportation.
Facts:

• 75% of all Russians live here.

• Home to the country’s capital **Moscow**.

• Most of the farming for the country is done here.

• Home to most of the businesses and industries in the country.
Facts

• The North European Plain is the most important area in Russia.

• Home of most of the shipping and transportation centers.
Russia’s Land

• Eastern Russia

**Climate:** Short cool summers, **LONG COLD** snowy winters.
Movement/Travel

- Russians rely heavily on the rivers, canals, and railroads as a major source of transportation within their country. The railroads are the most important source of transportation because the rivers stay frozen for many months during the year. They have over 54,000 miles of train tracks.
Facts:

• Includes about 80% of all of the land area in Russia.
• Home to some of the coldest climates in the world. (Siberia)
• Permafrost covers 40% of Russia.
• Home of the worlds largest forest The Taiga. It is around 4,000 miles long and 1,000-2,000 miles wide.
• One of world’s most rare and endangered Tigers can be found here, the Siberian Tiger. A single skin can sell for as much as $20,000.
• On the Kamchatka Peninsula you can find active volcanoes as well as earthquakes.
The Russian Water

- The Black Sea is used for shipping.

- The Caspian Sea is the size of California and the world’s largest inland lake. (It is salty)

- Lake Baikal is the world’s deepest freshwater lake.

- It holds 20% of the world’s unfrozen freshwater. It is also the oldest lake in the world believed to be around 30 million years old.
The Russian Water

- The Volga River is the longest in all of Europe.

- The Lena, Yenisei, and Ob Rivers are some of the largest in the world. They start in the mountains of Southern Siberia and run to the Arctic Ocean.

- The Caspian Sea & Black Sea form natural borders between southwestern Russia & Western Europe
Russian Water

- The Lena River
- The Yenisei River
- The Ob River
Russian Water

• To the North: Is the Arctic Ocean

• To the East: Is the Pacific Ocean
Lake Baikal in Siberia is world’s largest freshwater lake holding 20% of world’s unfrozen freshwater. (oldest lake in the world)
The Volga River is the longest river in Europe & a vital transportation route.
Climate

- Four climate zones: steppe, humid continental, sub arctic & tundra
- Western Russia: summers are warm/rainy; winters are cold/snowy
- Eastern Russia: summers are short/cool; winters are long/snowy
- Most of their ports are closed parts of the year due to ice
Europe or Asia?

Ural Mountains

North European Plain

Siberia
In two places at the same time...

- Russia lies on two continents
- Ural Mountains act as a separation between two continents:
  - Europe
  - Asia
North European Plain: European Russia

- Mild climate
- Good farmland (the steppe)
- Caucuses Mountains are found down around the southern border with Georgia & Azerbaijan
Caucasus Mountains
Siberia (Asia)

- Located east of Ural Mountains

Northern Siberia: Tundra & permafrost cover 40% of Russia; taiga in the south
  - Fishing, hunting seals & walruses, herding reindeer
  - Few people

Southern Siberia: Plains, plateaus & mountains
  - Home to Siberian Tiger (endangered), bear, reindeer, lynx, wolf, elk, etc.
Endangered Siberian Tiger
Kamchatka Peninsula

• Mountainous
• Over 120 volcanoes (20 active)
• Part of “Ring of Fire”

(zone of active volcanoes that forms the western, northern, and eastern edges of Pacific)
Kronotsky volcano, an 11,975-foot volcanic peak.
A Koryak reindeer herder teaches his son to use the lasso.
Kievan Rus

- ca. 800 AD group of Slavs built a civilization around Kiev (capital of Ukraine)
- By 1000 the leader of Kievan Rus accepted Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- This tied Kievan Rus to the Byzantine Empire in Constantinople
  - Led to adoption of the Cyrillic alphabet
  - Caused more separation from Western Europe
Muscovy

- 1200s Mongols conquered Kiev
- Muscovy became new Slavic territory
  - Moscow was center of Muscovy
- 1480 Ivan III, (“Ivan the Great”) a prince of Muscovy helped to drive out the Mongols
Ivan III

- “Ivan the Great”
- Drove out Mongols
- Expanded Muscovy
- Reunified all of the Russian lands
- Remodeled and expanded the Kremlin
- One of the longest ruling leaders in Russian history
Ivan IV

- “Ivan the Terrible”
- First to use title of “Tsar”
- Ruthless, cruel, and suffered from paranoia
- Used secret police to monitor and control his people
- Spent years wasting time, money, and men on unsuccessful wars against Sweden and Poland
- Encouraged the arts and writing
Muscovite Russia at its largest extent
What is a “Czar”? 

- *Czar comes from “Caesar” meaning “king or emperor”*
- Caesar was the Latin term that Roman emperors used, ex. Caesar Augustus
- German king known as “Kaiser” comes from same word
- Sometimes written as “Tsar”
- Wife of Tsar: Tsarina or Tsarista; Son: Tsaravitch; Daughter: Tsarevna
Rule of the Czars

• Czars ruled Russia from 1500s-1917
• Expanded Russia’s borders (page 246)
• Westernized and modernized almost every part Russia’s society
• Built a Navy and expanded and improved the Russian Army
• Took control over the Orthodox Church

Peter the Great (1625-1725)
St. Petersburg:

• “Venice of the North”
• Served as capital of Russia until 1917
• Second largest city in Russia
• Located at the mouth of the Neva river and Gulf of Finland
• Was also known as Petrograd from 1914-1924 and Leningrad from 1924-1991 before getting its original name back
Catherine the Great (1729-1796)
• Longest ruling female ruler

• She revitalized the Russian economy and under her rule it became recognized as one of the true powers of Europe

• Created many new cities and towns all over Russia

• Under Catherine as the population grew rapidly it came to rely more and more on serfs for its existence.

• Rebellions from the serfs began

• She continued Peter’s modernization policies
War with France

- Napoleon Bonaparte (leader of France) invaded Russia June 24, 1812
- Russians retreated past Moscow
- “Scorched-earth” policy (even released prisoners in Moscow)
- Eventually, the Russian winter forced Napoleon & his men to retreat
- Began with almost 600,000 men, returned to Paris with only 27,000
"Mountains of red, rolling flames," Napoleon recalled later, "like immense waves of the sea. Oh, it was the most grand, the most sublime, and the most terrifying sight the world ever beheld."

- on the burning of Moscow
Napoleon's retreat from Moscow in 1812.
Serfs

- Farm laborers at bottom of society
- Could not own land
- Suffered under rule of czars
- Lived in poverty
- Could not read or write
- Owned by nobility until freed by Czar Alexander II in 1861… but still very poor and uneducated
Russian serfs liberated by Czar Alexander II, known as “Czar-Liberator.”

Russian serfs in the 1860s.
Russia industrializes

- In the late 1800s Russia continued to expand & industrialize
- Industrialization: economy relies on manufacturing (rather than farming)
The Soviet Era

• 1914 WWI affects all of Europe
• Food shortages blamed on Czar
• Led to Russian Revolution in 1917
The 300-year-old Romanov dynasty ended on June 17, 1918 when the entire royal family was murdered. Nicholas II was the last czar of Russia.
Communism

- Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the Russian Revolution, set up a Communist state
- The capital was moved to Moscow (fear of invasion)
- **Communist state:** strong gov’t control of economy & society
Soviet Union

• Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
• Formed in 1922
• 15 republics (including Russia)
Yellow area: Russia/Green areas: former Soviet Union
Joseph Stalin became leader after Lenin died in 1924.

**USSR under Stalin:**

- Ended private business ownership
- Collectivization: farms combined into larger farm owned by gov’t
- Command Economy: factory managers told what to make and how to make it
- Those opposed sent to prison camps in Siberia
Cold War

• 1940- late 1980s

• *After WWII, Stalin set up Communist gov’t in neighboring Eastern European countries:* Poland, Eastern Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania & Bulgaria

• *Became satellite nations controlled by USSR-said to be behind an “iron curtain.”*

• *US & USSR engage in competition for world influence without any fighting (ex. Space Race)*
Ronald Reagan versus the Soviets
Collapse of Soviet Union

• Lack of competition in economy caused gov’t-owned factories to be inefficient & produce poor-quality goods
• Gov’t spent too much money on military causing scarcity (not enough) of food
• Many different ethnic groups resent/dislike Russian control of gov’t
Last chance

• Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader in 1985
• Introduces changes
• Perestroika: “restructuring”; loosened gov’t control of economy
• Glasnost: “openness”; people allowed to speak freely
End to Communism

• Gorbachev’s reforms only cause more distrust of communist gov’t
• Late 1980s: protests erupt in satellite nations
• By 1991 USSR collapses & all 15 republics declare independence from Soviet Union
• Russia emerges as largest & most powerful of all republics