

Chapter 16 Guided Notes Answer Key

Russia and the Republics: A Diverse Heritage

- Russia's aggressive expansion between 1500 and 1900 created a vast nation with a diverse, and often turbulent, mix of peoples and cultures.
- Russia and the Western Republics
 - From modest beginnings, Russia expanded to become the largest country in the world.
 - The rise and fall of the Soviet Union affected the world's political geography.

A History of Expansion

Russia and its Neighbors

- Expansion adds variety of people, cultures, languages, and religions.
 - includes Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and the Baltic Republics—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

Birth of an Empire

- 9th-century Vikings settled near Kiev, and adopted Slavic customs.
 - The settlement expanded between the Baltic and Black seas.
- In 1200s, Mongol warriors called the Tatars, invaded, and sacked Kiev.
 - Tatars controlled the region until Ivan the Great expelled them in the 1500s.
- Russia expanded to the east until the empire reached the Pacific ocean in 1700.

Russia Lags Behind Western Europe

- Russia's rapid territorial growth was not matched by technological advancement.
- The Czar, or emperor, Peter the Great (1682-1725) modernized Russia.
 - He moved the capital from Moscow to St. Petersburg, a city located on the coast of the Baltic sea.
 - St. Petersburg provided sea access to Europe and was called the “window to the West.”
- Russia was still slow to industrialize, and trailed Europe by half a century.
 - The eventual industrialization brought harsh working conditions and low wages.
 - The peoples' unrest and anger with the czars grew.

The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union

- The Russian Revolution of 1917 ended the reign of the czars.
- V.I. Lenin's Communist Party took over the government and economy of Russia.
- The Communist Party organized the diverse peoples of Russian empire and formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
- Joseph Stalin took over the USSR, and led the fight against Germany in WWII.
 - Relations between the USSR and its WWII Allies (including the U.S. and U.K.) worsened after the war.
 - The relations were strained further by pro-Soviet governments being installed in Eastern Europe.
- In 1940s tensions grew as U.S. feared a worldwide Communist expansion.

- These tensions became the Cold War, a U.S. and USSR conflict that never becomes open warfare.
- In the 1980s, Mikhail Gorbachev allowed more economic and political freedom.
 - This led to the collapse of Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War in 1991.
- The USSR divided into 15 independent republics.
 - Russia is the largest and most powerful republic.
 - The new Russian government has a popularly elected president and a two-chamber Federal Assembly.
- Building a Command Economy

An Economic Dream

- In 1917, Communists followed the ideas of Karl Marx, a German philosopher.
- Marx felt that capitalism was doomed because few people are wealthy and many are poor.
- Marx predicted that communism, or shared property and wealth, would replace capitalism.

A Harsh Reality

- Soviet leaders adopted a command economy.
- In this system the central government makes major economic decisions and controls the nation's wealth including all of the land, mines, factories, banks, and transportation systems.
- The central government decides what products and crops are produced and sets the prices of goods.
- Under a command economy, the USSR increased its industrialization, including farming.
- Farming was done collective farms, which are large teams of laborers gathered to work together.
- Thousands were moved to farms and by 1939 90% of farms were collectives.

A Harsh Reality

- Millions of citizens starved in famines caused, in part, by collectives.
- In reality, only a few individuals benefited from the economic changes. But, Stalin's police punished any protest.
- Some estimate Stalin caused over 14 million deaths.
- In the 1990s, Russia tried to put economic control back into private hands.
- A Rich Culture

Ethnicity and Religion

- A rich variety of ethnic groups live in this area due to centuries of expansion.
- Russia has the greatest diversity, 80% are Russian, while 70 other peoples also live in Russia including the Finnish, Turkic, and Mongolian.
- Most Russians are Orthodox Christian.
- Persecution caused many Jews to emigrate to Israel and the U.S..

Artistic Genius

- Orthodox art and architecture included onion-shaped domes and large painted icons.
- A cultural golden age began after Peter the Great opened communication to West.
- Several successful Russian emerged during the 1700–1800s. These included Aleksandr Pushkin, Feodor Dostoyevsky.

- Russian composers include Peter Tchaikovsky, Igor Stravinsky, along with Russian ballet companies the Kirov and Bolshoi.
- The Communist Party dictated an official style of art called socialist realism. This type of art promoted Soviet ideals and showed citizens working for socialist society
- Socialist Realism
- Tradition and Change in Russian Life

A More Open Society

- Since the collapse of the USSR, this region is more open to outside influences.
- There are more social and cultural opportunities in Moscow and St. Petersburg including books, periodicals, movies, music, clothes, and international foods.
- Native traditions and grain-based foods still survive, like eating rye bread and kasha, and drinking vodka (from rye or wheat).

Dachas and *Banyas*

- Only 1/4 of Russians live rurally, but visits to the countryside are cherished.
 - 30% of people spend weekends and vacations in dachas (country homes).
 - These are small, plain houses, often with vegetable gardens.
- Banyas (bathhouses) are also popular.
 - The cleaning ritual starts with a 200-degree sauna, and then a steam room, with birch twigs. The last steps are a plunge into ice-cold water, followed by drinking hot tea.

Transcaucasia

- Transcaucasia has been a gateway between Europe and Asia.
- The Caspian Sea's oil and gas reserves have given the region great economic potential

A Variety of Cultures

- Transcaucasia includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.
- This area is the historical migration route between Europe and Asia.
- Trade routes near the Black Sea lead to the Mediterranean, while routes from Caspian Sea lead to Far East.
 - Due to these routes, more than 50 different peoples live in this region today.
 - This area has a variety of language families including Indo-European, Caucasian, and Altaic.
 - Arab geographers call area *Jabal Al-Asun*, or "Mountain of Language."

Migration Brings Religions

- Most people in this area are Christian or Muslim due to the proximity to southwest Asia.
- Armenia and Georgia are among oldest Christian states in the world.
 - Armenia's King Tiridates III made his state Christian in A.D. 300.
- Muslims invaded the southern Caucasus mountains in the 600s, and today Azerbaijan is mostly Muslim.

Conflict

- Ethnic tensions, in check under rigid Soviet rule, erupted after 1991.

- These included a Georgian civil war, and a territorial war between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- A History of Outside Control

Czarist and Soviet Rule

- The Russian Empire invaded the region in the 1700s.
- In 1763 Peter the Great's armies took Baku, Azerbaijan's capital.
- In 1801 Russia annexed Georgia.
- By 1828 Russians controlled the Armenian territory on the plain of Yerevan.
- Transcaucasia was part of the Russian Empire by late 1870s.

Czarist and Soviet Rule

- The region was briefly independent after the 1917 Revolution, but by the early 1920s, it was controlled by the Red Army, the Soviet military
- This region suffered painful economic and political changes under USSR.
 - Many died in famines triggered by farm collectivization.
 - Others perished due to their political beliefs.
- The area became independent after 1991, but the republics struggled to rebuild the economies.
- Economic Potential

Agriculture and Industry

- Despite the mountains, this area has a lot of agriculture.
- Humid subtropical lowlands yield tea, fruits, and grapes (Georgian wines).
- Soviet-era factories still produce iron, chemicals, and consumer goods.
- Azerbaijan is oil-rich and pipelines are needed across Armenia and Georgia.

Land of Flames

- Azerbaijan means "land of flames" because fires seem to magically erupt from underground oil and gas deposits

Dividing the Caspian Sea

- After the Soviet breakup, five countries claimed the land on the oil-rich Caspian Sea.
 - Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Iran.
- Ownership of the oil depends on whether the body of water is considered a lake or sea.
 - If it's a sea, each country owns resources on its own section of sea bed.
 - If it's a lake, all countries share most of the lake's oil wealth equally.
 - Azerbaijan has large offshore oil reserves, so it says it's a sea.
 - Russia has few offshore oil reserves, so it says it's a lake.
- Modern Life in Transcaucasia

An Educated People

- Soviet educational programs raised the region's literacy rate to 99%.
 - The population was mostly illiterate before 1917.
 - Workers were educated in order to perform modern industrial tasks.

Hospitality

- A supra is a Georgian dinner party (the word means "tablecloth").
- This includes cold dishes, hot courses, fruit, and dessert.

- Diners make many toasts during dinner!
- Central Asia
- Soviet officials drew borders in Central Asia that are making it difficult for the region's new leaders to establish stability.
- Central Asians have preserved many cultural traditions despite decades of colonization.
- A Historical Crossroads

The Silk Road

- Central Asia today is five independent republics
 - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
- Around 100 B.C. caravans began crossing this region on horses and camels along the Silk Road.
 - The Silk Road was a trade route to the Mediterranean from China.
 - Caravans carried silk, gold, ivory, jade, spices, linens, and perfumes on a 4,000-mile journey through cities like Samarqand and Bukhoro.
- In the 14th century, cheaper sea routes replaced the use of Silk Road.

The Great Game

- In the 1800s Britain and Russia competed to control this area, and this period became known as the Great Game.
- Britain wanted to protect its Indian colony from Russian expansion.
- Young officers on both sides traveled region in disguise, making maps and trying to win local leaders over to their side.
- By 1900, Russia controlled Central Asia, and the USSR controlled the region from the 1920s until 1991.
- An Uncertain Future

Nuclear Testing

- Areas in Kazakhstan were used for nuclear testing from 1949 to 1989.
 - Over 470 nuclear devices were set off at the “Polygon” site.
- Residents' exposure to radiation causes long-term health problems like leukemia, thyroid cancer, and birth defects.

Petroleum and Prosperity

- There is potential oil and gas wealth in the Caspian Sea, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.
- A new “Great Game” emerged as foreign nations competed for oil profits.
- The term “Great Game” is still used to describe how world events affect Central and Southwest Asia.
- Cultures Divided and Conquered

Soviets Form Nations

- The USSR made 5 nations out of the Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Tajiks, Turkmen, and Uzbeks.
- Soviets drew borders to deliberately create ethnic minority groups in each new republic.
- The Soviets encouraged ethnic tensions in order to prevent opposition to Soviet rule.
- For example, today Uzbeks form 24% of Tajikistan, while the Uzbek cities Samarqand and Bukhoro have large Tajik populations.
- If the groups fought each other, they wouldn't be fighting the Soviets!

Language and Religion

- Most are people in this area are Muslim and speak languages related to Turkish.

- Many still speak Russian, the former official language of the USSR .
- The Russian Alphabet
- The Survival of Tradition

Nomadic Heritage

- Some people in Central Asia are Nomads, or people with no permanent home and often few possessions.
- Nomads move themselves and their animals with the seasons to seek food, water, and grazing land.
- Soviets forced most of the region's nomads into collective farms.
- Some nomads remain in Central Asia's grasslands
- In the summer, herders set up tents near Lake Song-Köl, Kyrgyzstan.

Yurts

- Yurts are light, portable tents that are made of felt with wood frames used by nomads.
- The interiors are decorated with woven reed mats, wooden saddles, and daggers.
- The hand-woven carpets carried by nomads are famous for their designs and colors.

Preserving Traditions

- As the nomadic lifestyle fades, some Kyrgyzstan shepherds house tourists who pay to experience nomadic lifestyles and traditions.
- Doing this gives the shepherd's families a new source of income.