



UNIT

5

Russia and Northern Eurasia



*St. Basil's Cathedral,
Moscow*

Chapter **17** *Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus*

Chapter **18** *Central Asia*

CONNECTING TO *Literature*

THE WORLD I LEFT BEHIND

by *Luba Brezhneva*



Luba Brezhneva

(1943–), the niece of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was born in Russia and lived there until 1990. In *The World I Left Behind* she tells the story of her life in the former Soviet Union. Here Brezhneva writes about when she and her husband, Mischa, moved from Moscow to live in the rural village of Korovino. She also provides some insights into the culture of rural Russia.

The bath, with its steam and heat, was a true haven for body and soul. . . . Yakov Maksimovich [Brezhneva's father] and his son, Ilya, would whip each other with hot birch twigs (to open the pores) and raise volleys of steam by sprinkling herbal broth on the stove. Climbing in turn to the top bunk, where it was hottest—"so the heat will enter the bones"—they stayed in the steam room till they were woozy and as red as lobsters. Then they would run to the pond—"to cast off the heat." And then they would begin again. Finally came an unhurried conversation as they lay on benches in the dressing room. "You've gotten mighty thin, Ilya," Yakov once said as he examined his son's slim body. "The city is eating you up."

On Saturdays, while the men heated the stove, brought water, and bathed, the women would be in the house hastily finishing their domestic chores,



baking pies, and cleaning. The Brezhnev men used the bathhouse before the women. . . .

Saturdays also meant scrubbing the wooden floor of the house, a time-consuming ritual that began in the morning. It would first be

swept, then doused with hot water and ashes. While still warm, it would be scraped with a knife until the wood glowed a tawny yellow brown. Then it would be rinsed. Finally patchwork rugs would be laid down. The furniture was washed in the same way, since it was made of unpainted wood.

Illness in the family also meant it was time to heat the bath. The patient was steamed in the bath and whipped with birch twigs, then smeared with goat fat and forced to drink a hot broth of bitter herbs. Finally he or she was wrapped in an old sheepskin coat and laid out on the stove to sleep, assured that "you'll be fit as a fiddle by morning."

Analyzing the Primary Source

- 1. Analyzing Information** What kind of climate do you think is typical in Korovino? What clues do you find in the passage about how much life has changed in the village over time?
- 2. Summarizing** According to Brezhneva, what is life like for women in rural Russia?

The World in Spatial Terms

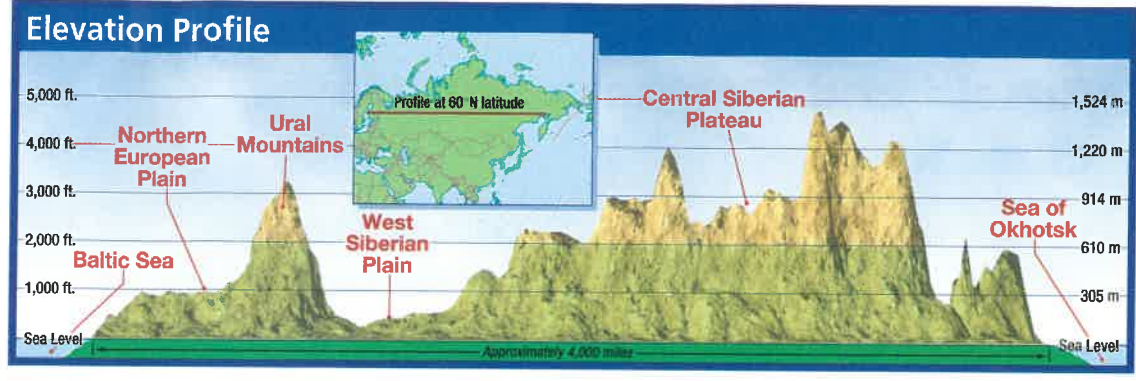
Russia and Northern Eurasia: Political

- Places and Regions** Compare this map to the physical map. Which countries in the region are largely mountainous?
- Places and Regions** Compare this map to the climate map. Which countries in the region have large areas with an arid climate?

Critical Thinking

- Making Generalizations** What do the names Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan all have in common? How do you think the names of these countries might relate to the ethnic groups that live there?





Russia and Northern Eurasia: Physical



Russia and Northern Eurasia: Climate

- 1. Places and Regions** Compare this map to the political map. What are Russia's major climates?
- 2. The World in Spatial Terms** Compare this map to the physical map. What climate types are found near the Black Sea?

Critical Thinking

- 3. Making Generalizations** Why do you think cold climates cover so much of Russia?



Russia and Northern Eurasia: Precipitation

- Physical Systems** How are precipitation patterns different near the Black Sea and Caspian Sea?
- Environment and Society** Compare this map to the political and population maps. How are population density and precipitation patterns in Russia related?

Critical Thinking

- Making Generalizations** Why might the eastern part of the region receive little precipitation?



Russia and Northern Eurasia: Population

- Places and Regions** Which Russian metropolitan areas have more than 2 million inhabitants?
- Environment and Society** Compare this map to the climate map. Which climate types do the most densely populated areas in the region have?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the physical map. How are rivers and lakes in Siberia related to population density?



Russia and Northern Eurasia: Land Use and Resources



- 1. Environment and Society** Compare this map to the climate map. What is the main economic activity in areas with tundra and arid climates?
- 2. Environment and Society** How have Russians adapted Siberian rivers to produce energy?

Critical Thinking

- 3. Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the climate map. How do you think farmers have adapted to environmental conditions in arid areas? How can you tell?



Time Line: Russia and Northern Eurasia

330 B.C.	A.D. 600	700	800	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	1991
 330 B.C. Alexander the Great invades Central Asia.	A.D. 600s Turkic-speaking peoples establish kingdoms in Central Asia.	700s Arabic speakers invade Central Asia, bringing Islam with them.	800s The city of Kiev becomes an important center for trade between the Mediterranean and Baltic Sea areas.	1218 Mongols, led by Genghis Khan, begin a long period of rule over Central Asia.			1547 Ivan IV crowns himself czar of all Russia.	late 1700s Catherine the Great rules Russia.	 The Bolsheviks overthrow the Russian government in what becomes known as the Russian Revolution.	1800s Russians spread into the Caucasus and Central Asia.	1917 The Bolsheviks overthrow the Russian government in what becomes known as the Russian Revolution.	1991 The Soviet Union collapses.
							1682–1725 Peter the Great takes over lands along the Baltic Sea and expands Russian control into what are now Belarus and Ukraine.				1941 Germany invades the Soviet Union during World War II.	

Comparing Standard of Living

COUNTRY	LIFE EXPECTANCY MALE (at birth, 2006)	LIFE EXPECTANCY FEMALE (at birth, 2006)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 births)	LITERACY RATE	DAILY CALORIC INTAKE (per person)
Armenia	68.2	76	22.5	98.6%	2,357
Azerbaijan	59.8	68.1	79.0	98.8%	2,727
Belarus	63.5	75	13.0	99.6%	2,885
Georgia	72.8	79.9	18.0	100%	2,646
Kazakhstan	61.6	72.5	28.3	98.4%	2,858
Kyrgyzstan	64.5	72.7	34.5	98.7%	3,173
Russia	60.5	74.1	15.1	99.6%	3,118
Tajikistan	62	68	106.5	99.4%	1,907
Turkmenistan	58.4	65.4	72.6	98.8%	2,840
Ukraine	64.7	75.6	9.9	99.7%	3,054
Uzbekistan	61.2	68.1	70.0	99.3%	2,312
United States	75.0	80.8	6.4	99.9%	3,754

The United States and Russia and Northern Eurasia



internet connect

GO TO: go.hrw.com
KEYWORD: SW3 Almanac
FOR: Additional information and reference sources

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, CIA World Factbook, Food and Agriculture Organization

Fast Facts: Russia and Northern Eurasia



FLAG	COUNTRY Capital	POPULATION	POPULATION DENSITY	AREA	PER CAPITA GDP (in US \$)	ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION (kilowatt hours per person)	TELEPHONE LINES (per 100 people)
	Armenia Yerevan	2,976,372	258.7	11,506 sq. mi. 29,800 sq km	\$ 5,300	1485.0	15.3
	Azerbaijan Baku	7,961,619	238.0	33,436 sq. mi. 86,599 sq km	\$ 4,700	2543.5	12.3
	Belarus Minsk	10,293,011	128.5	80,155 sq. mi. 207,600 sq km	\$ 7,700	2884.5	32.2
	Georgia Tbilisi	4,661,473	173.3	26,911 sq. mi. 69,699 sq km	\$ 3,300	1851.3	13.5
	Kazakhstan Astana	15,233,244	14.5	1,049,155 sq. mi. 2,717,299 sq km	\$ 8,800	3449.7	16.2
	Kyrgyzstan Bishkek	5,213,898	68.1	76,641 sq. mi. 198,499 sq km	\$ 1,800	1684.0	8.2
	Russia Moscow	142,893,540	21.8	6,592,767 sq. mi. 17,075,188 sq km	\$ 10,700	5679.1	27.5
	Tajikistan Dushanbe	7,320,815	132.6	55,251 sq. mi. 143,099 sq km	\$ 1,200	2055.8	3.8
	Turkmenistan Ashgabat	5,042,920	26.7	188,456 sq. mi. 488,099 sq km	\$ 6,100	1754.9	7.7
	Ukraine Kiev	46,710,816	200.5	233,090 sq. mi. 603,700 sq km	\$ 6,800	3278.3	25.2
	Uzbekistan Tashkent	27,307,134	158.0	172,742 sq. mi. 447,400 sq km	\$ 2,000	1774.3	6.7
	United States Washington, D.C.	298,444,215	84.4	3,717,810 sq. mi. 9,629,084 sq km	\$ 42,000	12251.8	60.6

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, CIA World Factbook, Energy Information Admin., International Telecommunication Union

*Traditional wedding,
Tashkent, Uzbekistan*



Russia and Northern Eurasia