

RUSSIA

I. Critical Historical Junctures

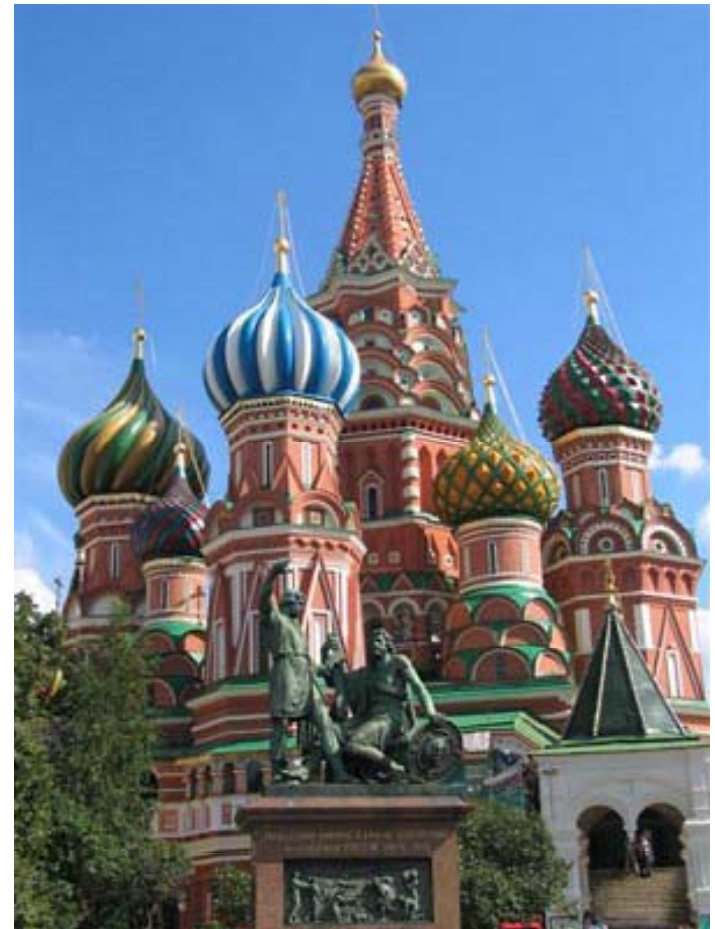
**II. Governance and
Policy-Making**

**III. Representation and
Participation**

IV. Political Economy

V. Political Culture

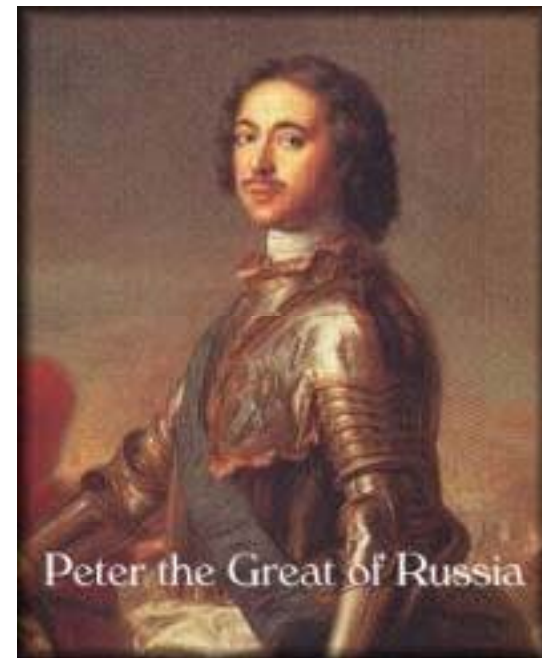
**VI. Russian Politics in
Transition**



I. Critical Historical Junctures

TSARIST RUSSIA:

- Peter the Great (1695-1725)
 - Construction of St. Petersburg
 - ‘Westerners v. Slavophiles’
- Problems of Tsarist Empire
 - Feudalism and Autocracy
 - Economic Backwardness
 - Ethnicity
- 1905 Revolution
- World War I and Collapse



Communist Russia under Lenin

- March Revolution (1917)
 - Alexander Kerensky and the Provisional Government
 - Bolsheviks and ‘Bread, Land, Peace’
- October (Nov.) Revolution (1917)
 - Government and Soviets
- Russian Civil War (1918-21)
- Lenin and the NEP



Communist Russia under Stalin

- ❑ Joseph Stalin (Joseph Dzhugashvili)
- ❑ Collectivization
 - Industry and Agriculture
- ❑ Purges
 - 10-20 million killed
- ❑ Foreign Affairs
 - Isolation
 - Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939
 - German Invasion of 1941
 - Around 27 million killed



Communist Russia Bureaucratized

- Nikita Khrushchev (1956-64) and De-Stalinization
 - ‘Secret Speech’ (1956)
- The Soviet ‘Party State’
 - Centralized Bureaucracy (‘apparatchiks’)
 - Dual Party-Government Structure (‘nomenklatura’)
 - Police State
- Leonid Brezhnev (1964-82) and Bureaucratized Communism
 - Problems in the Soviet Economy



Communist Russia Reformed

- Mikhail Gorbachev (1985-91) and Reform
 - New Thinking in Foreign Policy
 - *Glasnost* ('openness')
 - *Perestroika* (economic restructuring)
- Fall 1989: Protests and the Berlin Wall
- August 1991: Failed coup and the end of the USSR



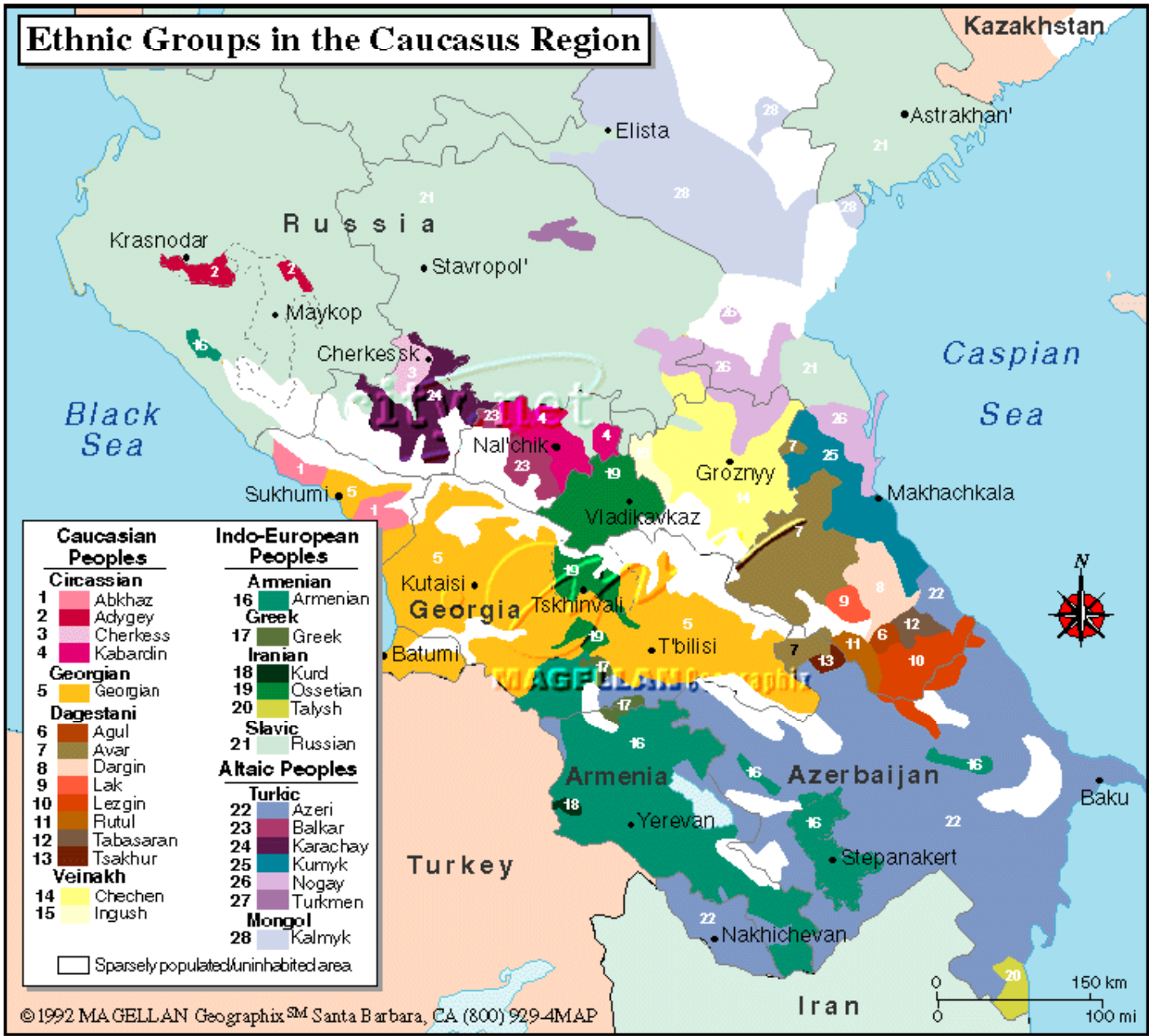
Democratic Russia

- ‘Shock therapy’ and resistance
- The ‘Near Abroad’ and Chechnya
- 1996 Presidential Election and the 1998 Financial Crisis
- Putin becomes Prime Minister
 - Renewed assault on Chechnya
- Yeltsin’s resignation (1999) & Putin’s election (2000) and re-election (2004)
- Medvedev handpicked by Putin
 - Wins 2008 election



Medvedev and Putin
Who’s really in charge?

Ethnic Groups in the Caucasus Region





II. Governance and Policy-Making

- The Constitution
 - ‘Super-presidentialism’ and Popular Sovereignty
- Federalism
 - 49 regions (*oblasts* - largely subsets of Russian parts of Russia)
 - 21 republics (e.g., Chechnya, Ingushetia, Tartarstan -- generally ethnically based)
 - 10 autonomous regions
 - 2 federal cities (Moscow and St. Petersburg)
 - 7 other territorial entities (e.g., Kaliningrad)
- Practical decentralization and Putin’s move to exert greater control



II. Governance and Policy-Making

- Executive
 - President directly elected on two-round system (Dmitry Medvedev)
 - PM appointed by the President and approved by the Duma (currently Vladimir Putin)
- Legislature (Federal Assembly)
 - *State Duma*: 450 members (proportional representation with 7% threshold)
 - *Federation Council*: 178 deputies (2 each from Russia's 89 republics and regions; appointed by governments in those areas)



III. Representation and Participation

- Political Parties
 - LEFT: Communists (Gennady Zyganov)
 - CENTER/ESTABLISHMENT: United Russia (Mevedev/Putin)
 - RIGHT: Yabloko [Apple] (Grigory Yavlinsky) and Union of Right Forces (Nikita Belykh)
 - FAR/NATIONALIST RIGHT: Liberal Democrats (Vladimir Zhirinovskiy)
- Corruption and Oligarchs

IV. Political Economy

- ❑ Problems of the Soviet Command Economy
- ❑ Shock Therapy and Economic Dislocation
- ❑ Privatization, Oligarchs and Organized Crime
- ❑ The Curse of Oil



**Too much of a
good thing?**

V. Political Culture

- Weak foundation for Democracy
 - Lack of Civil Society
 - Weak Support for Democratic Ideals
 - Support for ‘Strong Leadership’
 - Minimal Support for Free Markets

- Nationalism
 - Not just ethnic based
 - Anti-Western elements



V. Russian Politics in Transition

- The Erosion of Democracy
- The Bleeding Wound of Chechnya
- Russian Energy and Russian Power
- Strained Relations with the Near Abroad
 - Winter 2008 gas dispute with Ukraine

