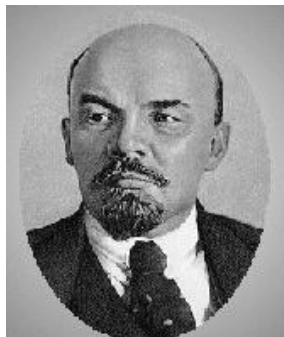


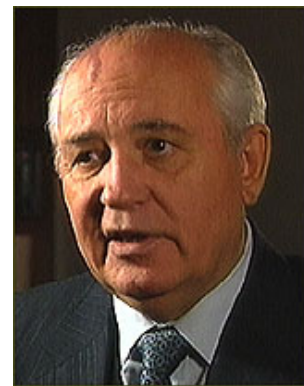
Russia and the Independent Republics

5:1 Russia

- Land and Resources: thick forests, broad grasslands
 - Continental climate (Siberia is sub-arctic)
 - Forest and steppe
 - Largest forest region in the world in central, eastern Russia
 - Grasslands: Russia, Ukraine, Kazakstan; fertile soil
 - Rich resources: more natural resources than any country on Earth (timber, oil, gold, silver, diamonds)
- Transportation
 - Great size and climate make it difficult
 - Rivers: mostly frozen
 - Railroads: 90,000 miles of track
 - Trans-Siberian Railroad: Moscow to Sea of Japan (5,700 miles)
 - Cheap and practical
 - Politics and Economy
 - Soviet system
 - V.I. Lenin, and Stalin: communist dictators



- Command economy: central authority decides what goods will be produced
 - People remained poor with no personal freedoms
 - People resisted were sent to labor camps or executed
- Industry and agriculture
 - State and collective farms
 - Few incentives for people to work hard
 - Heavy industry: machines and steel
 - Consumer goods scarce (clothing, soap, shoes, etc.)
- Environmental impact
 - Depleted resources, hurt the environment
 - Spills, pollution
- Change and Challenge
 - Gorbachev: began a series of reforms
 - Glasnost: “openness”
 - Economic reorganization
 - Perestroika: command economy to private ownership
 - Farmers granted long-term leases on land
 - People allowed to set up businesses



- A new world
 - 1991, first free election, Yeltsin elected
 - Republics declared themselves independent
 - Commonwealth of Independent States
- Building the Future
 - No real political organization
 - Goods not as scarce, but unaffordable
 - Lost jobs
 - Boris Yeltsin reelected
- Life in Russia Today
 - Urban areas crowded
 - Black Sea: vacation spot
 - Entertainment important



5:1 Independent Republics

- The Baltic States: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia
 - Flat terrain, marshy lowlands, fertile plains
 - Lithuania/Latvians: similar languages
 - Estonians/Latvians: Lutheran
 - Established after World War I; forcibly annexed by Soviet Union
 - First to seek independence
 - Promising future
 - Pollution from Soviet Union
- European Border Nations: Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova
 - Ukraine
 - Kiev
 - Past control by neighbors
 - “Breadbasket” of Russia
 - Chernobyl nuclear disaster
 - Belarus: Slavic and Orthodox Christians
 - Wants to reestablish close ties to Russia
 - Chernobyl contaminated one-fifth of farmland
 - Route between southern Europe and Asia



- -The Caucasus: ethnic and religious differences lead to conflict
 - Georgia
 - Mountainous with fertile soil
 - Warm, subtropical climate
 - Close ties to Russia
 - Armenia
 - Painful history; many victims of genocide at outbreak of WWI
 - Azerbaijan
 - Rich deposit of petroleum
 - 83 percent Islam
 - Violent conflicts between Azerbaijanis and Armenians
- Central Asia: Kazakstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
 - Mixture of ethnic groups
 - Changes in economy
 - Soviets wanted to build industry in this region
 - Most still live in rural villages
 - Farmers and herders
 - Environmental impact
 - Soviets ignored ecological effects of development
 - Aral Sea was over used for irrigation and has lost 2/3 of its volume
 - Aspheran Peninsula: one of most ecologically damaged regions in the world

