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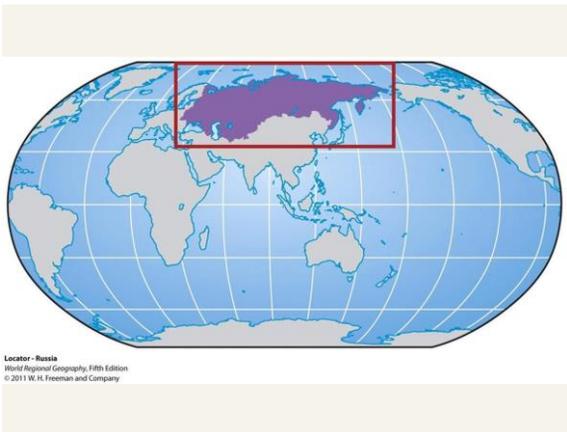
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## Post-Soviet Russia: *Russia's Changing Political Geography*

- Problem of realm's scale:
  - Territorial size, vast distances and remoteness:
    - **Distance decay**: how increasing distances between places tends to reduce interactions among them
    - Difficulty of Moscow's location in the far west
  - Considerable variation in size of administrative units:
    - Territorially smallest in the Russian core area
    - Largest are in the far east
- Population sizes vary:
  - Largest populations in the west
  - Sparsely populated in the east

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## *Russia Permanently on Daylight Saving Time...*

- Drastic differences in daylight at high latitudes:
  - In Moscow, daylight varies between January and July by 11 hours.
- Stress related to switching back and forth:
  - Medvedev argued that switching clocks twice a year was detrimental to people's health.
  - Russian study found that after time changes, many adverse health-related phenomenon increased.
- 60 percent of all Russians supported this decision.

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## Post-Soviet Russia: *Russia's Changing Political Geography*

### The Soviet Legacy

- Soviet-era complex administrative structure
    - 83 entities in all
    - Varying degrees of power and autonomy from federal government
  - Post-1991 government and Russian Federation Treaty
    - Soviet entities used to old system of privilege and authoritarian rule
- Needed quick transition or risked chaos
    - Democratization, market economy, privatization and more




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## Post-Soviet Russia: Russia's Changing Political Geography

### Unitary versus Federal Options

- Organizing political territory:
  - **Unitary state system:** centralized government and administration exercising power equally across the state
  - **Federal system:** national government represents common interests, yet allows entities to have their own laws, policies and customs in certain areas
- Russia chose a federal system:
  - Shares power with Republics and Regions
  - Allows elected regional leaders to represent their region's interests in Moscow

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## Post-Soviet Russia: Russia's Changing Political Geography

### Russia's New Federal Structure

- 1992 signing of the Russian Federation Treaty:
  - Republics committed to cooperation in new federal system.
  - Some units refused to sign, but most eventually did.
  - Chechnya's refusal to sign led to military intervention.
- 2000 Putin created new geographic framework:
  - Enhanced the power of Moscow over its regions and combined 83 units into 8 Federal Districts.
  - Regional governors would also be appointed.

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## Post-Soviet Russia: A Shrinking Population

- **Population implosion:** population declines as death rate exceeds birth or immigration rates.
- Reasons for shrinking population:
  - Post-Soviet uncertainty affects birth rates.
  - Death rate has skyrocketed:
    - Life expectancy has declined; especially for men.
    - Alcoholism, AIDS, smoking, suicide, accidents, and murder have all increased.

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## Post-Soviet Russia: A Shrinking Population

- Regional differences
  - Migration within the realm
    - Worsens decline in some Districts
    - Lessens decline in other Districts
  - End of Soviet population policies
    - People can leave difficult environments
    - Drawn to prosperous locations



### Map Analysis Activity: Population Change

1. In what districts is population decline the greatest? Why?

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## Post-Soviet Russia: A Volatile Economy

- Emerging markets:
  - Increase in private property, upstarts, trade, foreign investment and stock exchanges
  - One of the **BRICs**, along with Brazil, India, and China
- Economically precarious:
  - Uneven economic patterns of foreign investment and benefits to society
  - State corruption and collusion with organized crime
  - Growth impacted by global financial crisis

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## Among the Realm's Great Cities: Moscow

- Heart of Russia's core
  - Focus of realm's urban, political, economic and transportation systems
- Centered on old Moscow
  - Sprawl beyond the center as a legacy of Soviet urban development
  - Transformation into a global free market center:
    - Added a new architectural skyline
    - Increased expense of Moscow's residential areas




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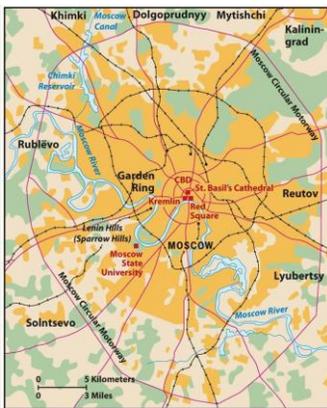
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## The Russian Core

- Core area extends from western border of the realm to the Ural Mountains in the east.
- Including historical and industrial core cities:
  - Moscow
    - Megacity hub of commodity producers and exporters
  - St. Petersburg (Leningrad)
    - Russia's second city, distant from domestic market and resources

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## The Russian Core: Central Industrial Region

- Oriented toward Moscow, the historic focus of the state
- Moscow maintaining its **centrality**:
  - The urban center “reaches” into the surrounding region.
  - Roads and railroads converge in Moscow from all over the realm.




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## The Russian Core: *Povolzhye: The Volga Region*

- Povolzhye extends along Volga River valleys:
  - Industrialization of the region took off in WWII.
  - Canal links the Volga with Don River and Black Sea.
  - It has significant oil and gas reserves.
  - More canals, rail and road connections built to link the region to the Baltic.




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## The Russian Core: *The Urals Region*

- ❑ Mountains not high enough to be an obstacle to east-west surface transport
- ❑ Storehouse for metallic mineral resources
- ❑ Well-suited for industrial development
- ❑ Well-connected to Volga and Central Industrial regions




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## The Southeastern Frontier

### *The Kuznetsk Basin (Kuzbas)*

- ❑ Primary region of heavy manufacturing:
  - ❑ **Double complementarity** at work as coal was sent west to the Urals and iron ore sent east to Kuzbas.
  - ❑ Iron ore deposits were found nearby and industry took off.

### *The Lake Baykal Area (Baykaliya)*

- ❑ Dominated by isolation:
  - ❑ Activity is clustered around the railroads.
  - ❑ Mining, lumbering and some farming.
  - ❑ Surrounded by rugged, remote and forbidding country.

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## The Russian Far East

- Largest territorial Federal District
  - In Soviet period, settled as a result of incentives
  - Experiencing significant regional out-migration
  - Abandoned by Moscow and no real international trade connections
- Oil and natural gas supplies
  - Opens potential trade with China and Japan



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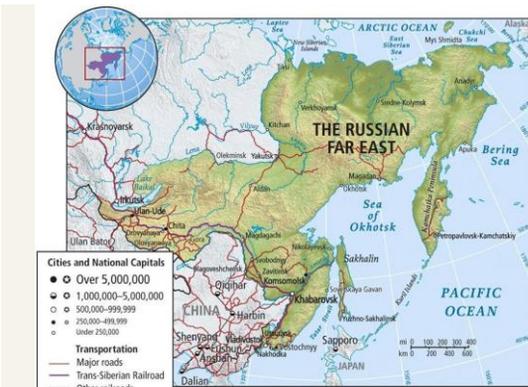


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## The Southern Periphery: Russia's Internal Periphery

- Minority groups within the Russian state:
  - Eight ethnic republics
- Disadvantaged periphery:
  - Subjugated by the core
  - Lagging in social progress
- Physiographic transition zone:
  - Plains to mountains
  - Refuge for anti-Russian rule
    - Long history of resistance in Chechnya as Russian "terrorism"



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## Transcaucasia: Russia's External Periphery

### Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia

- Struggle for Russia to maintain influence and stability:
  - Georgia's violent conflicts with Russia
  - Azerbaijan's recalcitrant rerouting of its oil exports westward
- Territorial conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia
- Armenia surrounded by historically rooted tension



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### Transcaucasia: Russia's External Periphery: *An Uncertain Future*

- Russia's high price for stability:
  - Terrorism in the Russian Core
  - Problematic for the rest of Russia's mostly immigrant Muslims
- Politically and culturally polarizing:
  - Increase in vigilante and xenophobic groups targeting immigrants



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