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**Ю – 91 Countries. Regional geography and area studies.**

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...скому языку включает в себя материалы  
Основная цель пособия – углубить знания  
экономики, образования, культуры и быта  
соседних стран. Предназначено для  
...щихся лингвострановедением.  
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## Предисловие.

Настоящее учебное пособие предназначено для студентов, изучающих английский язык. Основной целью пособия является дать обширные знания в различных областях географии, науки, экономики, образования, культуры и быта нашей республики и зарубежных стран. Языковой материал в текстах соответствует уровню знаний студентов и их интересов.

Учитель должен не только ориентироваться на организацию обучения, но и заботиться о процессе самообразования. Данное пособие будет способствовать расширению кругозора, всестороннего развития личности. Студенты будут информированы о странах, говорящих на английском языке.

Материалом для данного пособия послужили: «World Book», книги и учебники. Обязательные и необходимые качества для учителя 21 века – это гибкость, умение принимать самостоятельные решения, критически оценивать предмет обучения, оперативно обновлять и изменять учебный план. Вода под лежащий камень не течет, а из этого следует: «Держать, творить и двигаться вперед!».

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## KYRGYZSTAN

The sovereign state of the Kyrgyz Republic was formed on August 31 1991. Now Kyrgyzstan is an independent Republic. Kyrgyzstan is located in the north – eastern part of Central Asia. Its territory of 198,5 000 square km. The population is 5 million people. Kyrgyzstan is bordered on China, Tadjikstan, Kazakstan and Uzbekistan. There are seven oblasts in Kyrgyzstan. They are: Chui, Naryn, Talas, Djalal-Abad, Batken, Osh, Issyk-Kul.

The Republic's mountain relief covers almost all types of landscape: semidesert, steppe, meadow – steppe, sub-alpine, tundra and glacial. There are many lakes and rivers in Kyrgyzstan.

The largest lake is Issyk-Kul. The most important river is Naryn.

The state flag of the Kyrgyz Republic is a red planet with a sun disk in the center. Surrounding the sun forty golden rays stretch outward.

Bishkek is the capital of our republic. Bishkek is the center of the national culture with state opera, ballet and dramatic theatres, puppet theatre, cinemas, libraries and museums.

Bishkek is one of the finest cities in Central Asia. There are more than twenty parks and squares in the city and the nature park and reservoir have been created outside of town.

The constitution was adopted on May 5, 1993 and the Kyrgyz Republic is a single sovereign, democratic republic in Central Asia.

The official languages are Kyrgyz and Russian.

The highest legislative organ in Kyrgyzstan is the Jogorky Kenesh. There are 105 delegates in it.

The Government is the highest executive and administrative body in the Republic. It is headed by the Prime Minister. Included in the Government are Ministers, Vice Prime Minister, and the chairmen of republican State Committees. In Kyrgyzstan, all are equal before the law.

## ECONOMY.

Long - standing economic relations have connected Kyrgyzstan with its neighbors. Ties between the Republic and its neighbors are expanding. External commercial interaction is being carried out with 6 countries of Europe, Asia and the Americas. One of Kyrgyzstan's main commercial partners is China. The countries main export products are fertilizers, cotton, wool, ferrous metals and non -ferrous metals and trucks. Kyrgyzstan imports mainly grain and food products. In Kyrgyzstan there is a strong legal foundation for foreign investment. The break up of the Soviet Union has caused breaks in the production of specific manufactured products. Measures are being taken to overcome this crisis. A governmental reform program has been developed. It is designed to stabilize production and create conditions favorable to economic growth by encouraging competition, prohibiting monopolism, speeding up privatization, increasing the proportion of market prices, reduction of government pressure in the economy, providing conditions for foreign investment. Kyrgyzstan has access to many different energy recourses: hydroelectric power, coal, oil, gas and etc. The coal, oil and gas industry is developing slowly, having begun in the 1930's. The Republic has a hydroelectric power reserve of 554.5 billion kwh annually. Electric power is an extremely profitable sector of Kyrgystan's economy. It was developed through the construction of large heating and hydroelectric plants (the Bishkek Heating Complex, Toktogul Hydroelectric Plant and the Kurpsai Hydroelectric Plant, among others). In future, these centers will produce up to 14 million kw/h of electric power. The machine-building complex is made up of nearly 20 branches, putting out all kinds of industrial goods from agricultural machinery to complex scientific and medical apparatus. The mining industry is based on the extraction and enrichment of rare and ferrous metals. A gold prospecting industry is also in the process of formation, and tin ore mining is also underway. Large firms in the Chui valley are working on the extraction and refining of rare

metals. The Kyrgyz Republic has a very well-developed construction industry as well. The Republic's territory is rich in natural resources used in the production of building materials: clay, sand, granite, marble, and limestone. They can be found in all regions. Large factories have been opened to produce cement and construction steel, bricks and glass. Pig -breeding has also been developed to a significant degree. Farms in Kyrgyzstan also specialize in the raising of yaks, bees, fowl, silkworms, and other animals. One of the most productive branches of agriculture is the raising of crops. There is only 1.3 million hectares, of which 1.03 million are presently under cultivation. All sorts of cultivated crops, vegetables and berries are grown on irrigated land. The most widespread crops are winter and summer wheat, barley and corn. Crops raised for processing in industry include tobacco, sugar-beets and oil-producing crops, potatoes, melons, fruits and berries. Agricultural production is mainly directed toward food supply. Agricultural industrial complexes have been built in meat processing, wool refining, fur production, milk processing, silk manufacturing and grain processing. The Republic's sheep-breeding and wool-producing industries produce fine and semi- fine wool. Less than half of the total output of washed wool is used in the Republic's local industry, the rest is shipped out the country. The main element of the milk-production industry is milk-cattle breeding. 1,131,400 tons of milk are produced annually. The development of the leather and fur industry promises to be important to the future of the Republic's economy. Only 14 percent of sheepskins produced in the Republic are locally processed, the remaining skins are exported. A large sheepskin and fur processing enterprise is being built jointly with the Turkish firm "Promota", which will have a capacity of 1 million sheepskins annually.

At present, the industrial complex of Kyrgyzstan is in the throes of an economic crisis, which has led to a sharp drop in production, and shortages of almost all consumer goods. The destruction of intersectoral and interregionalities with the break up of the Soviet Union has caused breaks in the production of specific manufactured products. This in turn has disrupted the balance of

economic resources, reduced export operations and construction activity, stalled the completion of housing and cultural and social-protection centers, and caused a general freeze in consumer freight transport.

Measures are being taken to overcome this crisis. A governmental reform has been developed. It is designed to stabilize production and create conditions favorable to economic growth by encouraging competition, prohibiting monopolism, speeding up privatization, increasing the proportion of market prices, reduction of government pressure in the economy, structural changes to establish an external trade balance and provide conditions for foreign investment.

The oil and gas industry is also developing slowly, having begun in the 1930's. Predictions point towards large oil reserves. For the time being, however, a large proportion of the Republic's gas and oil is imported.

The wood processing and furniture industries work almost exclusively with imported raw materials.

One of the most productive branches of agriculture is the raising of crops. There is relatively little arable land in the Republic. The most widespread crops are winter and summer wheat, barley and corn.

The meat processing industry is extremely promising. There are 13 meat factories and 3 slaughterhouses operating in various regions of Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan is one of the largest producers of aromatic tobacco in the former Soviet Union. Tobacco fields cover parts of the Osh, Djalal-Abad and Talas districts. The Bishkek tobacco processes only 2 percent of the harvested tobacco leaves, while the rest is exported for processing at a great material cost.

The Republic's cotton fields cover 25,900 hectares, with a harvest density of 2,450 kilograms per hectare. The republic houses cotton cleaning and oil-extraction facilities, but the expansion of tobacco cultivation has led to significant reduction in cotton production. Factories in Osh and Bishkek produce cotton fabric.

Airlines connect Kyrgyzstan's capital to many cities of the former Soviet Union. Agreements on air travel have been signed with China, Turkey, and other countries. The capital is connected by air to all district and some regional centers of the Republic.

There are active oil lines between Mayli-Sai, Dlalal-Abad, Kara-Suu, Osh, Bukhara, Tashkent, Bishkek and Almaty.

### **Kyrgyz Museum of sculpture in the open air.**

The Kyrgyz land... It is inexhaustible! What the artists say of it now is rather weightily and artistically cogent. The idea to create an open air museum in Bishkek's Oak Park, which emerged in early 1980's testifies in this. The idea to create a gallery of artistic images in natural environment was offered by a well known sculpture, professor Turgunbai Sadykov, the People's Artist of the USSR and the Kyrgyz Republic, holder of Lenin Prize and the State Prize called Toktogul, Member of the USSR'S Academy of Arts academic of Kyrgyzstan's National Academy and the Hero of the Socialist labor. Significant steps in the development of the Republic's fine arts, particularly sculpture, are associated with his name. The art, social role and significance of sculpture were upgraded by this master.

The open air museum basically included about eighty bronze sculptures by the USSR'S well-known artists: "Alexander Blok" by S.Konyonkov, "Chopin" by E.Balashova, "Gagarin" by. Kerbel, "Portrait " by O.Kamov and others, presented as a gift by the Artist's Union of the USSR and the Russian Federation and the USSR and Ministry of Culture.

The museum's opening was dedicated to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kyrgyz Republic. In 1984, the first all-Union Symposium of sculpture was held involving artists from Moscow, Leningrad, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Kalmykia, Yakutia and Uzbekistan. It was conducted under the slogan "Peace and Labour" and tuned to international friendship, allying around big ideas and further approachment of different natinal cultures.



One all-Union, five international and nine republican symposiums were held between 1984 and 1996, which involved 87 sculptors who created and installed 188 works.

### **Yurta –style of Life.**

On the right of the entrance, there is a corner separated for “women’s work”, the eptcehi jak, it serves to keep utensils and wash dishes. The part that is separated for men the ar-jak, is located on the left hand side.

Yurta for the Kyrgyz is more than merely a comfortable dwelling. It was developed thousands years ago. Today it’s hard to say which of the nomadic tribes in the ancient history gave rise to the idea of this unique residential structure. Nowadays it remains part and parcel of the Kyrgyz chaban or shepherd. Although modern times have altered the appearance of big cities and small villages in outlying regions, one cannot even imagine that this ingenious creation of early architecture might sink in oblivion in our days. The tyunduk is partly covered with a felt coat which in the daytime and in clear weather is folded back while in the cold or in a rainy season it shuts tightly the top hole thus preventing the wind or rain from penetrating inside. The yurta encompasses the Kyrgyz from his birth to the last day of his life. Although most Kyrgyz nowadays live in high rise apartment blocks, every kyrgyz on his son’s or parent’s birthday will certainly set a yurta to invite guests to the dastarkhan, a holiday table. The yurta is also a place where the Kyrgyz gather for the funeral of their relatives. Today, the yurta provides for the Kyrgyz a philosophical understanding of the beginning and the end of life.

### **Youth of Kyrgyzstan: optimistic view for Tomorrow.**

What currently Kyrgyzstan can really boast is the great number of its students and universities. As you pass by the universities or colleges in Bishkek, your eye is instantly caught by mixed groups of young people cheerfully chatting outside their Alma Mater during the breaks.

Slim girls coguettishly trimming up their short “of the latest style” skirts and with a heavy sigh moving their cumber some backpacks from one shoulder to another. The depths of their cloth or leather bags contain a wealth of knowledge materialized in the form of weighty volumes entitled “Economics”, “Basics of Marketing” or “International Law”.

I have late seen my friend Asel hurrying somewhere in a business – like manager. It turned out she was heading to her classes. “Asel is 26 years old. She is still single. She has a younger sister and a brother. Her parents were laid off and are now out of work. She has a whole family to support while she tries to look as good as her colleagues”.

The clothes she buys are relatively cheap, but fashionable and high quality. It’s not in her family’s way to complain of trials and tribulations. All are trying to gain a footing as soon as possible to hold their heads high. Perhaps, it’s really good to build your own happiness and independence with your own hands and feel proud at seeing the final result. It’s a long dream of Asel to have a business of her own. The previous administration is incapable of working efficiently in the new free-market environment. Most of the old administrators think in the socialist lines. However, she is determined to continue to work until she completes her education. Seeing her face and dare in her eyes you really do believe these “ambitious and brave” young people will succeed in changing Kyrgyzstan’s future for better.

### **The Flight of the Kyrgyzs Cosmonaut is on its way!**

There is sector where Kyrgyzstan is catching the level of big countries: SPACE!

And this is proved by the space flight of our compatriot Salijan Sharipov. Even in their daring dreams, Salijan and Nasiba, which grew up together in the same street and graduated from the same school in Uzgen, could not have dreamed about standing on the other side of the world. Little that they knew that his dream was coming true.

Ten years ago, Salijan had told his spouse that he wanted to become a Cosmonaut, while he was giving flight lessons to foreigners in Tokmak.

The Cosmonauts and Astronauts were honored by the memorable monogram of the Russian Military Air Forces, the monogram of the 40<sup>th</sup> year in space and many other prizes. The president Yeltsin gave a gun to the Captain of the crew. In the meeting, the spacemen explained how they have re-activated the station. Sharipov participated in two space expeditions. It is not a coincidence that he received not only the Russian awards, but also the NASA's prestigious medal; "Space Research Medal".

### **OSH. A TOWN FROM THE LAST ERA.**



The sun rise in this place differs greatly from that of the Russian flatlands or the fords of Scandinavia, it is not like that of the deserts of Africa nor of the Kazakh steppes. It yields a different power than that of the slow sunrise that rises out of the horizon lighting the summits, trees and grass. Here, it bursts into the sky, crashing down from the giant Pamir Mountains with bright and warm rays that fill the valleys with the light of life.

Osh is one of the oldest towns in Central Asia, located on the southeast edge of the Ferghana Valley at the northern foot of the Pamir-Alai mountain range. Nestled in green slopes, Osh lies on both sides of the Ak-Bura River, at an altitude of 940-1070m above sea level.

The age old the city can be judged from the rock drawings and inscriptions found on the northern slope of the four headed Suleiman Mountain. This mountain is located in the center of Osh and is a unique historical and architectural monument. The mountain was a natural defense from enemies as well as from the elements, and its presence governed the unusual lay out of the ancient city of Osh.

The legends of Osh are evidence of its ancient origin. According to one of the many stories concerning its beginning, the city was founded by Alexander the Great, another states that the prophet Solomon founded the city, while yet another says that Osh was founded by Adam. The most popular legend however, is that of solomon, of the Bible, drove oxen hitched plow on front of his advancing army, and when the oxen came to the famous mountain, Solomon said: "Knosh!" (That's enough!), and hence the origin of Osh.

One of the most sensational discoveries was made by Elena Drujinina in 1976. She discovered a Bronze Age settlement on the slopes of Suleiman Mountain. According to Drujinina and Zadneprovskiy, the settlement existed from the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC until the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.

These ancient settlement encircle the central summit of the mountain. A total of 15 terraces were discovered as well as tools that prove that the inhabitants were involved in agriculture, catle-breeding, poultry, stone processing and the making of metal instruments.

Radiocarbon analysis or the coal taken from the Osh settlement confirms that Osh has indeed existed for 3000 years. In addition, on the southern edge of town, the ruins of an ancient fortress city called Ak-Burinskaya (1<sup>st</sup> century BC to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD) have been found. This fortress defended the Osh oasis on its southern side. On the eastern side, the oasis was defended by the Maidy Fortress, the ruins of which may still be seen 12km from Osh.

From 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, various Chinese and Arabic written sources. Ibn Haukal, Ali Istarhi, Abdul-Kasym Hordadbek, Al Mukadasi and others,

describe Osh as an important political and trading center of the Fergana Valley, with only two other centers being larger, Aksakent and Kuve.

Geographically located at the foot the Pamir mountain range, Osh held a special position in the system of caravan routes that made up the Silk Road. Osh was located at the crossroads of several branches of caravan trails, and was an important staging post in transit trade.

The Osh caravan inns welcomed tired travelers, and in return, its market was supplied with exotic items from abroad: precious thin silk from China, lazurite from Badakhstan, sweets and dyes from India, handmade silver goods from Iran, etc.

The main trading place in Osh has always been the market, which has changed over its more than 2000 years of existence, though always remaining in the same locale.

French ethnographers Bourdon and Unfalvi de Liso-Coveed, and the English and Russian explorers Marten, Uvachev, Novitski and Markov have all made colorful descriptions of Osh bazaar in their notebooks, reports and journals. Tourists are attracted today to the bazaar in Osh with its distinct oriental colors and the aromatic smells of spices and fruits.

Annually, thousands of tourists from all over the world come to visit. Osh market, in addition - an important historical location, plays a significant role in the development of tourism.

Another feature of Osh is the Sulaiman Mountain with an inclined plate of marble limestone shining at its summit. The tales of the Shahs tell that the stone has shined ever since Solomon himself once sat there. According to legend, if you roll down the inclined slope, the holy stone will heal you of all your illnesses and give you good luck. Up until the 16<sup>th</sup> century the mountain was called Bara-Kuh (Beautiful Mountain). It received its new name of That-I-Sulaiman ("Throne of Sulaiman") when the Moslem prophet Sulaiman was buried at the foot of the mountain; Since this time people have considered the mountain a holy place.

According to historic literary sources, by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century dozens of believers had visited the mountain on Moslem holidays. A small mazar was built on the southeastern slope of the mountain, and was named Kichik-Mekka ("Small Mecca") where the Moslems of the Fergana Valley would come to pray. Osh became their second Mecca.

Osh, due to its position as a gateway to the Pamir mountain range, is known as a city of travelers. Any expedition to Pamir includes a panoramic view of the Pamir-Alai mountains, the Fergana valley and Osh.

Kyrgyzstan's government has decided to celebrate Osh's 3000 year anniversary in the year 2000. A great deal of restoration is planned, including the ancient drawings on Sulaiman Mountain, archeological ruins, architectural monuments as well as museum collections. There will also be a complex of ethnographical open-air museums built. At the foot of Sulaiman Mountain part of ancient Osh shall be reconstructed – "Street of Handicrafts".

Next to the "Street of Handicrafts" will be a block of restaurants and cafes featuring national cuisine where tourists may taste the national dishes and beverages served in ancient Osh.

## PEOPLE AND COUNTRIES.

### City and Countryside.

People live in different places: settlements, villages, towns and cities. Some people prefer to live their whole life in one and the same place. Others prefer to move from one place to another. It's their mode of life. Country people leave peaceful hills, mountains, fields, rivers and streams for the busy world of streets, buildings, traffic and crowds.

There are many reasons for it. One of them is looking for a job. Towns or cities appear around new big factories or plants. These enterprises need workers. The families of these workers need schools, hospitals and shops, so more people come to live in the area and the city grows.

In every large city, there is a business part where big companies have their offices. This area is usually situated in the city center (downtown).

There are some more advantages that attract people to towns and cities. People prefer to live in central heating, gas, electricity, cold and hot water, a lift, a chute and an air conditioner. Certainly they make people's life easier and more comfortable.

Besides, in a city one can find many places to have a good time. Museums, cinemas, theatres, restaurants, cafes and bars, dancing halls can very often be found in the neighbourhood.

At the same time cities may have features which are far from being pleasant. Most of the cities and even towns are overcrowded and very noisy. It is next too impossible to enjoy peace and privacy in a town. That is why some cities have actually become smaller in the last ten years.

Today many people who work in downtown live in the suburbs of the city, far away from the industrial area and the city center. They travel a long way to work each day, because most suburbs are very pleasant with nice houses and big gardens. There are usually parks for children to play in and large department stores where you can buy all you need.



## GREAT BRITAIN.

The official name of Great Britain is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and northern Ireland. It occupies the territory of the British Isles. The British Isles lie to the north-west of Europe and consist of two main islands (Great Britain and Ireland), and over five hundred small islands.

Great Britain and Ireland are separated by the Irish Sea. The north-west and west of Great Britain is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. In the east the country is washed by the Atlantic Ocean. In the east the country is washed by the North Sea, in the south it is separated from France by the English Channel. The Strait of Dover is 32 kms wide and is the narrowest part at the Channel. There are four parts in the UK: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. London is the capital of England and the UK. The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh; the capitals of Wales and Northern Ireland are Cardiff and Belfast.

Scotland is a mountainous country, especially in the north. Here the main chain of mountains is called the Grampians, the highest peak is Ben Nevis. The northern part of Scotland is called the Highlands (the poem by R. Burns), the southern part is known as the lowlands. In Wales there are the Cambrians, the highest peak of which is Snow don in North Wales.

The rivers of Britain are short. The longest river is the Severn. The most important river is the Thames. The chief river in Scotland is the Clyde. Many of the English and Scottish rivers are joined by canals, so that it's possible to travel by water from one end of Great Britain to the other.

The UK has many beautiful lakes in Scotland and, North-west of England. Many Scottish valleys between the hills are gilled with lakes, called lochs, the largest of them are Loch Neigh, Loch Lomond and Windermere. The best known is Loch Ness where as some people think a large monster lives. The Lake District in Northern England with its lakes, mountains and valleys is a favorite holiday resort.



There are no great forests in Great Britain today. Historically, the most famous forest is Sherwood Forest, the home of Robin Hood. It is to the north of London.

The most important industrial cities and towns are London, Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Coventry, Sheffield and others.

Oxford and Cambridge are the University cities. Stratford-upon-Avon is the town where Shakespeare was born.

There are four main nationalities in the U.K. the English, the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish. Each of them has its own language and culture.

The U.K. is a constitutional monarchy. The queen is the head of the state, but the power in the country belongs to Parliament. The British Parliament consists of the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

## MASS MEDIA

Getting information is one of daily necessities of a human being. That is why the mankind can't do without mass media: press, radio and television.

Press denotes newspapers were printed in Italy in the XVI-th century. The first newspaper in Russia appeared at the beginning of the XVIII-th century.

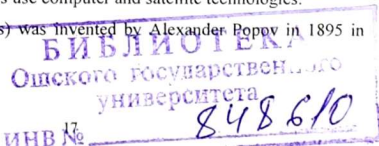
In Great Britain there are about 130 daily and Sunday newspapers, over 2000 weekly newspapers and some 7000 periodical publications.

Press usually comments on matters and events of public interest. In the UK newspapers are almost always financially independent of any political party. So they can reflect home and foreign developments (events) objectively and openly.

Newspapers in the United States also became significant shapers of public opinion. Among the most prominent are: the "Washington Post", the "Los Angeles Times", the "Boston Globe", the "Christian Science Monitor".

Today all the newspapers use computer and satellite technologies.

The first radio (wireless) was invented by Alexander Popov in 1895 in Russia.



Television was born at the end of the XIX-th century and opened a new era in the development of mass media.

At present radio and television are considered to be one of the major sources of information in the world. It allows everybody to follow the events in far-away countries in good time without visiting them.

In Great Britain there are Public bodies responsible for television and radio services:

- the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
- the Independent Television Commission (ITC)
- the Radio Authority

The first one (BBC) broadcasts television and radio services. The second and the third bodies license and regulate these services.

The BBC operates two national television channels and five national radio services. BBC world service transmits broadcasts in English and about 40 other languages worldwide.

Today in the USA there are four major networks and the following number of radio and television stations belonging to them:

ABC – American Broadcasting Company

CBS – Columbia Broadcasting System

MBS – Mutual Broadcasting System

NBC – National Broadcasting Company

Every city has its own radio-station, and larger cities have three or four. They are identified by their call letters, followed by the name of the city.

The USA has a lot of broadcasting stations abroad. Some of them are financed by Government, others by private companies.

One of the most powerful Foreign Radio Services is Voice of America.

## ENGLISH MEALS.

An Englishman's day begins when he sits down to breakfast with his morning paper. As he scans the headlines there is nothing he likes better than his favorite breakfast of cornflakes with milk and sugar, bacon and eggs, toast and marmalade, tea or coffee. It is really a big meal. Round about 11 in the morning some Englishmen who work have their tea or coffee break. Then at mid-day, say from 1 till 2, the city pavements are full of people on their way to cafes. This is lunch time in Great Britain. At lunch people seldom eat soup. Those who have lunch at home may eat chicken or clear soup but not always. They usually have a meat course and a sweet dish. Englishmen like steaks, chops, roast-beef, Yorkshire pudding or fish and chips. A meat course is served with plenty of vegetables: peas, beans or cauliflower. They call green cabbage leaves or lettuce salad. And eat it with the so called "salad-dressing", mixture of oil, vinegar, salt, pepper and mayonnaise. A sweet dish is perhaps fruit and pudding or a pie with tea to follow. Afternoon tea can hardly be called a meal. Tea drinking is quite a tradition with the English. 5 o'clock tea is not usually served at the table though Englishmen don't find it convenient. Each person has a cup and saucer and a spoon in his hands. Strong tea is mostly drunk with sugar and cream or milk. Such tea is known as English tea. Tea with lemon is called Russian tea in England.

The evening meal, when all the family gather round the table, after their working day, goes under various names: tea, high tea, dinner or supper. It is usually a meat course followed by tinned fruit or cake and tea. When outing, that is on a picnic, the English load their luncheon baskets with all sorts of hamburgers or sandwiches made of slices of bread and butter with ham, cheese, raw tomatoes, cabbage leaves in between.

On the whole, English cuisine is not the best in the world. Englishmen prefer just "good plain food".

## GOVERNMENT.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the political union of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is not a federation, but a unitary state, and its inhabitants elect members to represent them in a parliament that meets in London. Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, however, retain a degree of autonomy in Parliament.

In theory the queen functions as the supreme legislative authority through Parliament. In practice, however, the queen and Parliament rarely come together, except at the openings of Parliament sessions. Parliament consists of two houses the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The House of Commons consists of 650 members 523 from England, 72 from Scotland, 38 from Wales, and 17 from Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom is divided into a number of constituencies, each of which returns one member to Parliament. All persons over the age 18 are eligible to vote for a member from their local constituency. The number and size of constituencies occasionally change with variations in population. Members receive a salary and hold their seats for the duration of a Parliament. A general election for all members must be held at least every five years, but may be called at any time within that period. For example, a government may face a general election if it is defeated in some major issue by a vote in Parliament.

The speaker of the House of Commons is elected by the members and acts as the president of the House. Other elected and appointed officials look after the running of the House. Members of Parliament are controlled by their party whips, who round up members before a vote and organize debates in the Commons.

Members of the House of Commons belong to one of the British political parties. The party that wins the majority of parliamentary seats forms a government with the party leader as prime minister. Of the remaining parties, the one with the largest number of seats becomes the official opposition.

The party in power in the early 1990's was the Conservative party, led by John Major, who was selected in November 1990 to replace Margaret Thatcher as prime minister. Thatcher was the longest continuously serving prime minister in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Conservatives held power since 1979.

The head of the government is the prime minister. (The title of prime minister dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century). The prime minister is the leader of the majority party in Parliament and has the power to appoint and dismiss ministers. The prime minister is the main representative of the government and recommends the appointment of some senior judges and senior clergy of the Church of England. The prime minister also draws up the annual list of honors, which are usually awarded on New Year's Day.

The prime minister selects a Cabinet of ministers. The Cabinet develops the government's policies, which are presented as proposed legislation to Parliament, and exercises control over government departments. Meetings of the Cabinet are held in private, and strict secrecy is maintained. Some matters are discussed by Cabinet committees, which consist of the ministers involved. The Cabinet Office handles the records of Cabinet meetings and provides information to ministers. To maintain stability the cabinet must act as a collective group and issue unanimous statements and policies. If a minister does not agree with Cabinet policies, that minister must resign.

Ministers head government departments and are responsible for the work of those departments. The minister must be prepared to answer questions about their departments in the House of Commons. Ministers who sit in the House of Lords have a parliamentary secretary who answers questions raised in the Commons. This system of parliamentary control over government departments discourages inefficiency and irresponsibility.

There are many government departments of various sizes and complexity. Major departments include the Treasury, which handles the country's finances; the Ministry of Defense; the Ministry of Health, which operates the National Health Service; the Home Office, which controls the police and other law-and-

order institutions; the Foreign Office; and the Post Office. There are several Scottish and Northern Irish departments. A Welsh Department of the Ministry of Education deals with special aspects of Welsh education. Most of the work of government departments is carried out by members of the civil service. Because none of the positions held by civil servants is an elective or political appointment, a change in government does not affect a department staff.

## FACT SUMMARY

**Official name.** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Capital.** London, England.

**Coat of Arms.** Quartered shield with England represented by two of the quarters and Scotland and Ireland each represented by one quarter; supported by a crowned golden lion for England and a unicorn for Scotland; a garter encircles the shield. The Royal motto, Die et mon droit beneath the arms. Took present form in 1837.

**Anthem.** God save the King (Queen)

## NATURAL FEATURES

**Coastline.** Total 5, 130 miles (8, 257 km); **England and Wales** 2, 410 miles (3, 880 km); **Scotland** 2,500 miles (4, 023 km); **Northern Ireland** 220 miles (354 km).

**Natural Regions.** Scottish Highlands, Lowlands, and Uplands; Lake District; Antrim Plateau; Llyn Peninsula; Gower Peninsula.

**Major Ranges.** Brecon Beacons, Cambrian Mountains, Grampian Mountains, Mourne Mountains, Pennines, Sperrin Mountains.

**Notable Peaks.** Ben Nevis, 4, 406 feet (1, 343 meters); Snowdon, 3, 560 feet (1, 085 meters); Scafell Pike, 3, 210 feet (978 meters); Ben Lomond, 3, 192 feet (973 meters); Cader Idris, 2, 927 feet (892 meters); Slieve Donard, 2, 796 feet (852 meters); Plynlimon, 2, 468 feet (752 meters).

**Major Rivers.** Bann, Dee, Erne, Severn, Teifi, Thames, Towy, Trent, Tweed, Usk, Wye.

**Major Lakes.** Bala, Lomond, Lower Lough Erne, Neagh, Upper Lough Erne, Vyrnwy, Windermere.

**Climate.** Northern Ireland temperate, maritime; cool and humid conditions. England rainy and temperate; mild winters; cool summers. Scotland cool, rainy, windy, winds from the southwest make the climate warmer than it would otherwise be so far north; autumn and winter are the wettest season, west coast receives the most rainfall. Wales influenced by mountains and nearness to the sea; mild winters; cool summers; west coast has high rainfall; higher mountain regions can have cold winters with heavy snow.

## THE PEOPLE

**Population** (1987 estimate). 56, 878, 000; 603. 5 persons per square mile (233.0 persons per square km); 91.5 percent urban, 8.5 percent rural.

**Vital Statistics** (rate per 1, 000 population). Births 13. 3; 12.2; marriages 6.9

**Life Expectancy** (at birth). Males 71.4 years; females 77.2 years.

**Major Language.** English (official).

**Ethnic Groups.** White, Indian, West Indian, Pakistani, African, Chinese, Bangladeshi, Arab.

**Major Religion.** Protestantism.

## ECONOMY

**Chief Agricultural Products.** Crops apples, barley, flax, hops, oats, pears, plums, potatoes, rapeseed, raspberries, sugar beets, vegetables, wheat. Livestock and fish, beef cattle, dairy cows, pigs, poultry, sheep, freshwater fish and seafood.

**Chief Mined Products.** Basalt, chalk, china clay, clay, coal, copper, dolomite, granite, grit and conglomerate, gypsum, iron ore, lead salt, limestone, natural gas, petroleum, rock salt, sand and gravel, silver, tin ore, tungsten, zinc.

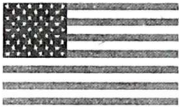
**Chief Manufactured Products.** Aircraft, automobiles, beer, chemicals, china, engines, helicopters, hovercraft, iron and steel, machinery, missiles, nonferrous metals, paper, refined petroleum, rope and twine, ships, space-exploration equipment, textiles.

**Chief Imports.** Metallic ores, except iron ore; food.

**Chief Exports.** China, automobiles and other vehicles, woolen goods, steel, electrical and mechanical machinery, tractors, scientific instruments, chemicals, petroleum.

**Chief Trading Partners.** United States, Germany, France, The Netherlands.

**Monetary Unit.** 1 pound sterling = 100 new pence.



## THE USA

USA is the third largest countries in the world in population, and it is the fourth largest country in area. China and India are the only countries with more people. Only Russia, Canada and China have larger areas. The US covers the entire midsection of North America, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the East, to the Pacific Ocean in the West.

It also includes Alaska, in the northwest corner of North America and Hawaii, far out in the Pacific. The US is often called the US, USA or America. This huge and beautiful country is rich in natural resources. It has great stretches, of some of the most fertile soil on earth, a plentiful water supply and excellent water routes and large stretches of forests. Huge deposits of valuable minerals, including coal, natural gas and petroleum, lie underground. Economically, the United States is one of the world's most highly developed and productive nations. No other country, equals the United States in the



production of goods and services. Its people enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living.

**Capital** – Washington; D.C.

**Form of government:** Republic

**Area:** 3, 615, 292 sq.m. (9.363 563 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Elevation:** Highest – Mount, McKinley in Alaska, 20, 320 ft (6, 194 m) above sea level lowest – in Death Valley in California, 282 ft (86 m) below sea level.

Physical features: Longest river – Missouri, 2540 m (4.090 km). Largest Lake within the US – Michigan, 22, 300 sq.m (57, 757 km<sup>2</sup>)

Largest island – island of Hawaii – 4. 038 sq.m (10, 458 sq m<sup>2</sup>)

**Population:** Estimated 1994 population – 258, 120.000 densely, 71 persons per sq.m. (28 per km<sup>2</sup>) Estimated distribution - 75 percent urban, 25 percent rural. 1990 census – 249, 632.692. Estimated 1999 population – 266. 247.000

**Chief products: Agriculture** – beef, cattle, milk, soybean, corn, hogs, chickens, wheat, cotton, eggs; Fishing industry – salmon, shrimp, crabs. **Manufacturing** – processed foods, motor vehicles and parts, industrial, machinery, fabricated metal products, printed materials, paper, gasoline and other refined petroleum products, airplanes and parts, plastics, clothing, steel, computers and computer parts.

**Flag:** Adopted June 14, 1777

**Motto:** In God we Trust, adopted July 30, 1956

**National anthem:** “The Star – Spangled Banner”, adopted on march 3, 1931

**Bird:** Bald eagle, adopted June 20, 1782

**Flower:** Rose, adopted October 7, 1986

**Money:** Basic unit – dollar

## POLITICAL DIVISIONS

The United States consists of 50 states and the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia is a piece of Land set aside by the federal government for the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. The United States has a federal system of government, which gives the states many powers that national governments have broad control over public education and the establishment of civic and criminal laws.

## REGIONS

The States of the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, are often divided into seven major regions. Each region is made up of states that have similarities in geography, climate, economy, traditions and history.

The regions are:

1. New England
2. The Middle Atlantic States
3. The Southern States
4. The Midwestern States
5. The Rocky Mountain States
6. The South-western States
7. The Pacific Coast States

**New England** – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

**Middle Atlantic States** – New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.

**Southern States** – Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

**Midwestern States** – Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

**Rocky Mountain States** – Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.

**Southwestern States** – Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

**Pacific Coast States** – California, Oregon, Washington.

**Population:** The US Census reported that in 1990 the country had the population of 249.632.692. Whites make up about 80% of the country's population. Blacks form the largest minority group. They account for about 12 percent of the population. About 3% of the population is of Asian descent. American Indians make up about 1% of the population. Other groups combine to make up the remaining 4 percent. About 51% of the people in the US are females. The US has one of the highest life expectancies of any country – 74,9 years old. Since 1945, the part of the US population that is over 65 years old has increased from 8% to 12%. Improvements in medical care have been the main reason for the increase.

## LANGUAGE

The US has never had an official language, but English has always been the chief language, spoken in the country. Immigrants from the British Isles – who included the nation's founders – spoke English. Many immigrants from other lands who spoke little or no English also came to the US. They learned enough English to be able to communicate with other Americans. Their children learned English in school.

Today, Spanish is the second most common language in the United States. The region that is now South-Western US was colonized by Spain in the 1500's. As a result, many people from the region speak Spanish. Since the 1950's many Spanish-speaking people have immigrated to the US from Mexico, Cuba and other places. Many of these people learned English. But others speak only Spanish. Many people believe every American should know English.

## URBAN LIFE

Urban areas, which range from giant cities surrounded by suburbs to small towns. Urban areas cover about 2 ½ percent of the land, they are the home of about three-fourths of the people. New York city, with about 7 million people is the largest US city by far. Los Angeles has about 3 ½ million people. Chicago has a population of about 2 ¾ million. Five other cities – Houston, Philadelphia, San Diego, Detroit and Dallas – each have more than 1 million people.

Urban economies provide jobs for a great variety of workers including office and factory workers, bankers, doctors, fire fighters, medical personnel, police officers, teachers, trash collectors and construction and transportation workers; Urban life has many other positive features. Because of their large populations, urban areas generally offer a wide variety of specialized services and shops. Urban dwellers can take advantage of an assortment of restaurants, recreation facilities and places of entertainment. Because of such facilities as art, galleries, libraries, theatres and concert halls, many cities are important cultural centers.

## EDUCATION

Education: has been an important factor in the economic development of the United States and in the achievements of a high standard of living for most Americans are among the best – educated people in the world. Schools, libraries, museums and other educational institutions in the country provide learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Schools: Today, about 75% schools are public schools. The rest are private schools by religious organizations or private groups. The US has about 77,000 elementary schools, about 23,000 high schools and about 8,000 contributed elementary and high schools. Many American children begin their schooling unrolling in the first grade. About 35 percent of all the children aged 3 and 4 attend nursery schools, and about 95 percent of all 5 year – olds attends Kindergarten. More than 99 percent of all US children complete elementary

school and about 75 percent of them graduate from high school. Adult education is an important of the school system in the United States. Millions of adults take courses at Universities, colleges, vocational schools, recreation centers or other institutions.

**Libraries:** provide the American people with access to books, periodicals, pamphlets and other printed matter. Libraries offer audio-visual materials, research services, lectures and educational exhibits. There are about 9.100 public libraries in the US. There are about 4.600 university and college libraries in the US, as well as thousands of libraries in elementary schools and high schools.

**Museums:** There are more than 6800 museums in the US. They include museums of art, history, natural history and science. The most famous museums in the US include the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Museum of science and industry in Chicago and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

## RELIGION

About 60 percent of all the Americans are members of an organized religious group. Among them, about 52 percent are Protestants, 38 percent Roman Catholics, 4 percent Jews, 3 percent Normans, and 3 percent are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches. A small numbers, of Americans belong to other faiths, such as Islam and Buddhism. Religion has played an important role in the history of the United States. All religion groups in the United States enjoy freedom.

Christian traditions have had a stronger influence on American life. The chief functions of Churches are to provide moral guidance and places for workshop.

## **FOOD**

Americans eat a wide variety of foods. A typical dinner consists of meat and potatoes, plus a lettuce salad or a vegetable, and sometimes rolls or bread. Favorite dinner meats include beef, steak, ground beef, dishes, chicken, ham and turkey. Fish, shellfish and such dishes as pizza and spaghetti also serve as main courses. Cake, cookies, pie and ice-cream are eaten as deserts and snacks. Other snack foods include chocolate, candy, potato and corn chips and fruits such as bananas, apples, oranges and grapes. Beverages are drink with meals and also at other times for refreshment. They also drink much coffee, milk, beer, fruit juice, tea and wine.

**America** was discovered by Columbus in 1492 but he thought it was the coast of India. A few years later another traveller named Amerigo Vecpucci proved that it was not India, but an unknown continent. In 1506 this continent was named America in honor of Amerigo.

The original inhabitants of North America were the Indians.

The country may be divided into five parts: the Atlantic and Gulf-coastal plain, the Appalachian Highland, the Interior Plain, the prairie that lies to the west of the Mississippi and the Cordilleran or Western Highland and the Pacific Slope including the Pacific valley and the Coast Ranges.

The USA has one of the longest rivers in the world –the Mississippi River. Its main tributaries are the Missouri and Ohio Rivers. The USA has different climatic regions: continental, subtropical desert climate and others. Large reserves of coal, oil, gas, iron, copper, form a solid base for the development of the US industry.

## **US states.**

**New England** comprising 6 states (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island) preserved a great many old

Colonial buildings and sights connected with the earliest history of the U.S. All the states have unofficial names or nicknames, for example:

**Vermont** is called “The Green Mountain State” as it lies in the Green Mountains.

**New Hampshire** is “The White Mountain State because the northern part of this state is in the White Mountains. Skiing is a major source of income. The capital of Massachusetts is Boston, the chief US wool market. It is famous for Harvard University, situated close to Boston. It is the oldest and most privileged US university. The largest states in territory are **Alaska** (The Great Land), **Texas** (Lone Star State) and **California** which is called the “Golden State” as it has gold mines on its territory. Gold-rush days made the state famous. The capital of the state is Sacramento. The motion picture capital is Los Angeles with its major centers in Hollywood. Another amazing city is San Francisco with its islands of exotic beauty. It’s a famous world vacation centre.

**New York State** is famous for New York, the industrial capital of the US.

**Pennsylvania** with its largest city Philadelphia, the first nation’s capital, is known for the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the drafting of the Constitution.

**North Dakota** is the exact geographic centre of North America.

**South Dakota** is famous for a memorial to 4 famous US. Presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, their heads are carved on a granite cliff of Mount Rushmore.

**Kansas** is the exact geographical centre of the US. Its nickname is “The Sunshine State” as it is in the centre of the cyclone zone of US.

**Wyoming** is called “The Equality State”, the first state to give women the right to vote.

**Colorado** is the highest state in the country there are 52 peaks there.

**Utah** is called “the Salt Lake State”.

**Nevada** is nicknamed "the Silver State" because rich deposits of gold and silver were discovered in 1859. Nevada's largest city, Los Vegas won fame after World War II for gambling casinos and night clubs.

**Arizona** is "The Grand Canyon State". the Grand Canyon, a gigantic chasm made by the Colorado River, rain, wind and frost is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the world. Four Indian tribes live in this region.

**Illinois** is called "The Land of Lincoln", who began his political activities there. The 2-nd largest city after New York, Chicago is in this State.

**New Mexico** is known for the Carsbad Caverns, a series of huge underground caves, some of which have not been explored yet.

**Oklahoma** is an Indian territory.

**Montana** is "The Treasure State" as in the middle of the XIX century gold was discovered there. Cold winters with considerable snowfall are typical for the climate of the state. There were seven Indian reservations.

**Minnesota** is called "The Bread and Butter State" or "The Wheat State"

**New Jersey** on the Atlantic Ocean is called "The Garden State"

**West Virginia** is known for its colorful covers.

**Virginia** is called "The Old Dominion of Mother of Presidents" was first settled by English colonists and named for Elisabeth I, Virgin Queen of England.

**Florida** is a resort area, it has unique beaches and is considered to be one of the best tourist centers.

**Pacific West:** Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii.

**Rocky Mountain States:** Idaho, Utah, Colorado.

**Midwest:** Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio.

**South:** Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina.

**Mid-Atlantic States:** Maryland, Delaware.



## THE STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT

The United States of America is a federation of 50 states which was established by the Constitution in 1787. Each state has its own government and its own capital city and within each state there are smaller subdivisions of local government such as counties, townships, cities and villages.

### *Federal Government*

The federal government of the United States is divided into three main branches: the legislative, the executive and the judicial.

The function of the legislative branch of the government is to make laws and to finance the operation of the government through gathering taxes and appropriating money requested by the executive branch of the government.

The judicial branch of the federal government consists of the Supreme Court of the United States and the system of federal courts. It has the responsibility of judging the constitutionality of acts of law.

### *The Legislative Branch.*

The legislative branch of the US Government is vested in the Congress. The Congress of the US is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The term of the Congress is for two years.

### *The Senate*

The US Senate has 100 members – two from each of the 50 states. Each Senator is chosen by a majority of voters in the entire state, and his job is to represent the whole state. Members of the Senate are elected to six-year terms.

The Constitution says that a Senator must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the US for nine years, and a resident of the state from which he is elected.

### *The House*

The US House of representatives has 425 members. The Constitution says that each state, no matter how small in population, must have at least one representative.

A Representative must be at least 25, a US citizen for seven years, and live in the state from which he is selected.

Each state, except the five which elect only one Representative for the whole state, is divided into Congressional districts. The Constitution, however, does not require the Representative to live in the Congressional district that elects him. Most do live in their districts.

## WASHINGTON

The capital of the United States is situated on the Potomac River in the District of Columbia. This area is not a state and is not in fact a municipality, but Federal land.

The nation's first president, George Washington, selected the site for the district. It is the first carefully planned capital in the world.

The center of the city is the Capitol Building, the seat of the Government. It is the highest building in the city that doesn't have any skyscrapers. Home of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, it contains some 430 rooms.

Topping the dome is the 19-foot bronze statue of Freedom. The 36 columns which surround the lower part of the dome represent the states in the Union at the time this impressive structure was designed.

The White House (1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW) has been the official residence of every American President except G. Washington. The original design of the "President's House" was drawn by James Hogan, an Irish-born architect. Burnt by the British in 1814 it was restored and painted white and thus got its current name.

It has a lot of beautiful rooms, each one has its own distinctive style. The largest is the East Room, which is used for the State balls, receptions, press-conferences and other events. The finest room is the Blue Room used by the President to receive guests. The Red Room is used for small receptions. It is a favorite room of First Ladies. The Capitol and White House are open to visitors daily.

## AMERICAN MEALS.

In the morning Americans have a bowl of cereal or bacon, eggs, toast with jelly and a cup of tea or coffee. They also like pancakes with maple syrup.

At approximately 9:30 a.m. those who work will have a coffee break; and then at noon most people break for lunch. Most offices, factories and stores allow employees time for this. During "lunch hour" which is from 12:00 to 1:00 a.m. all the city sidewalks are usually crowded with people looking for a place to eat. A lot of them stop at small "fast food" places.

The usual noon time meal consists of something light, and quick to eat. It could range from a hot dog or hamburger from a restaurant or something they have packed in a brown bag. This is called "brown bagging it". Americans seldom eat large lunches and don't enjoy very many "sweets".

After work people often have dinner at about 5:00 p.m.

It is usually the largest meal of the day. It consists of milk, vegetable and some type of meat. Often dinner is served with potatoes. Americans also enjoy carrots, peas, spinach, beets, tomatoes, green beans, squash and many other types of vegetables.

Americans seldom have dessert and if they do it is usually very light.

They seldom sit at the table and eat for very long; they "eat and run". But many people have different tastes and enjoy different foods.



## UNITED KINGDOM

**Capital** – London

**Official Language** – English

**Official name** – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**National anthem** – "God save the Queen" (or King)

**Largest cities** – London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool.

**United Kingdom's flag** is known as the British Union Flag or the Union Jack. It was officially adopted in 1801/

**Royal Arms** date from 1837 in their present form. The shield bears the symbols of England, Ireland and Scotland.

## LAND AND CLIMATE

**Land** – The United Kingdom lies in the northwest of Europe. It includes the island of Great Britain and the northeastern part of the island of Ireland. France lies across the English Channel; the republic of Ireland west across the Irish Sea; Belgium, Germany, Denmark and Norway east across the North Sea. Most of the Land is flat or rolling. The mountains are not very high.

**Area** – 94,267 sq.m (244, 154 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Elevation** - highest – Ben Nevis – 4, 406 (1, 343m) above sea level. Lowest. Great Holmes Fen 98t (2,7 m.) below sea level.

**Climate:** mild – winters are not very cold, and summers are not very hot.

**Government:**

**Form of government:** constitutional monarchy. In practice parliament are democracy.

**Head of state:** Monarch –Queen or King. (the Monarch). The monarch is the head of the executive and judicial branches of the government and is a part of the Legislative Branch.

**Head of government.** Prime minister, usually the head of the majority party in the House of Commons.

**Legislative:** Parliament of two Houses: House of Commons (631 members) elected by the people; House of Lords has about 1200 members. House of Commons is much more powerful than House of Lords.

**Executive:** Prime minister and Cabinet.

**Political divisions:** England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, united under one government. Each division has units of local government.

**People:**

**Population:** 58.287.000 (census 1999)

**Distribution:** 89% urban, 11% rural

95% - British or Irish descent.

5% - immigrants, mostly from former British colonies.

**Major religions:** 50% - Church of England;

10% - Roman Catholic;

4% - Church of Scotland,

and several other Protestants,

Muslims, Hindus, Jews.

**Money:** - pound

## UNITED KINGDOM

United Kingdom is a country in northwestern Europe. It consists of four political divisions - England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, which make up the island of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which occupies the North-Eastern part of the island of Ireland. The nation's official name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. When people refer to the country, most shorten its name to the United Kingdom, the UK, Great Britain or Britain. London is the capital and largest city. More than 70 countries are larger in size than the United Kingdom, and the country has only about 1 per cent of the world's people. But the United Kingdom has a rich story. The British started the Industrial Revolution, a period of rapid industrialization that began in the 1700's. They founded the largest empire in the world. They have produced some of the world's greatest scientists, explorers, artists and political leaders. The United Kingdom has magnificent old castles, and modern nuclear laboratories, snug villages (уютный) and sprawling (растянутый) cities and ancient universities and new factories.

The English Channel separates the island of Great Britain from France. This narrow stretch of water helped shape the character and history of the British people. It helped to protect Britain from invasion and gave the people a feeling of security.

## GOVERNMENT.

**National government.** The UK is a constitutional monarchy. Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state, but a cabinet of senior politicians called ministers actually governs the country. The prime minister is the head of the government. Parliament is the chief law making body. It consists of the monarch, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The constitution of the UK is not one document, as are the constitutions of many other countries. Much of it is not even in writing, and so the country is often said to have an unwritten constitution. Some of the written part of the country's constitution are laws passed by Parliament. Some written parts come from such historic documents as Magna Carta, which dates from 1215. Other written parts come from common law, a body of laws and judgements based on people's customs and beliefs and an ancient royal practice. The unwritten parts of the constitution include many ideas and practices that British society has developed over the years. They include the cabinet system of government and the relationship between the Cabinet and the monarch.

The monarchy in Britain can be traced back almost 12000 years: The monarch must approve (одобрять) all bills passed by Parliament before they can become laws. The monarch may reject (отклонять) a bill (законопроект), but no monarch has done so since early 1700's.

The prime minister is usually the leader of the political party that has the most seats in the House of Commons. The King or queen appoints the prime minister after each general election. The monarch asks the prime minister to form a government that is to select ministers to head governmental departments and to hold various offices. The prime minister selects about 100 ministers. From them, the prime minister picks a special group of about 20 ministers to make up the cabinet.

**The Cabinet** watches over the general conduct of the government and decides what steps will be taken to deal with matters of government. The Cabinet decides what new laws and what amendments (поправки) to existing

laws will be introduced to parliament. The Prime minister chairs the Cabinet. Ministers who head the most important government departments are always included in the Cabinet. These departments include the treasury, the Home office, the Foreign and Commonwealth office, the Department of Health and the Ministry of Defence. The Largest political party in the House of Commons, that opposes the party in power is called Her or (His) Majesty's opposition. The head of that party is the Leader of the opposition. The Leader is selected by his or her fellow party members, but is paid a salary from government funds. The opposition has the duty of criticizing the government in power and standing ready to set up a new government. For this reason, the leading members of the opposition party are popularly referred to as the Shadow Cabinet.

Parliament makes the Laws of the United Kingdom. The British Parliament has been called the Mother of Parliaments because many of the world's Legislatures have copied features from it. Parliament consists of two Houses: The House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The House of Commons has 651 members, elected from the four divisions that make up the United Kingdom. Each member represents a voting district called a constituency (избирательный округ). A member does not have to live in the constituency he or she represents. Members of the Commons have to fixed terms. They are chosen in a general election, in which the whole Nation votes. A general election may be called anytime by the prime minister.

The House of Lords, often called the Lords, was once the stronger house of Parliament, but today it has little power. It can delay (отсрочка), but not defeat (разгром) any bill (законопроект) that the Commons determined (определяющий) to pass (проводить). The House of Lords has about 1200 members. The people do not elect them. Nearly 800 members are dukes (герцоги), earls (графы), countesses and other hereditary (наследственные) peers and peeresses (пэров). Their right to sit in the Lords is handed down, with their title, usually to their oldest sons. The two archbishops (архиепископ) and 24 of the bishops of the Churches of England have seats in the House of Lords.

The members also include about 20 Law Lords, who are judges appointed for life to handle (управлять) legal matters that come to Parliament. The remaining members are life peers and peeresses, given the rank of baron or baroness in honour of some outstanding accomplishment (достижение). Their titles do not descend to their children.

**Politics.** The two largest political parties in the United Kingdom are the Conservative party and the Labor party.

The Conservative party developed from the Tory party, which began in the late 1600's. It has always been one of the main parties in Britain. The Labor Party began in 1900. Much of its support comes from Labor Unions, called trade unions. For many years, another party, called the Liberal Party, was the Conservative Party's chief opponent. It developed from the Whig Party, which emerged (возникать) in the late 1600's. But by the mid 1930's, the Liberal party had become much smaller than either the Conservative or the Labor Party.

In 1981, a number of members of Parliament in the moderate (средний) wing (фланг) of the Labor party quit (оставить) that party and established the Social Democratic Party. The Social Democratic Party and the Liberal Party formed an alliance. In 1988 the two parties officially merged (объединились) to form the social and Liberal Democratic party, now called the Liberal Democracy.

Other parties in Britain include nationalist parties favor independence from the United Kingdom.



## **AUSTRALIA.**

***Facts in brief***

**Capital – Canberra**

**Official Language – English**

**Official name – Commonwealth of Australia**



**Form of government** – *Constitutional monarchy*

**Head of State** – *Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, who is also queen of Australia*

**Head of Government** – *Prime minister, the Leader of the party or coalition of parties, holding a majority in the House of Representatives*

**Parliament** – *Senate – 76 members, House of Representatives – 148 members*

**Area** – *2,978,147 sq. m. = 7,713 364 km<sup>2</sup>, including 26,000 sq. m. (67,800 km<sup>2</sup>) for Tasmania*

**Elevation:** *Highest – Mounain. Kosciusko, 7,310 ft. (2228 m.) above sea Level.*

*Lowest – lake Eyre, 5287 (16 m.) below sea level.*

**Population:** *1999 census – 18.648.000*

**Chief products:** *Agriculture – apples, barley (ячмень), beef, cattle, chickens and eggs, grapes, milk, oats (obec), potatoes, rice. Sheep and Lambs, sugar – cane, wheat, wool.*

**Fishing** – *Lobsters, oysters, shrimp.*

**Forestry** – *eucalyptus, and pine timber, wood, pulp.*

**Manufacturing** – *automobiles, and other transportation equipment, chemicals iron, steel and other metals; household appliances; paper, clothing, shoes.*

**Mining** – *coal, coper, diamonds, gold, silver, natural gas, petroleum, uranium, zinc, zircon.*

**Anthems:** *“Advance Australia Fair” (national) “Good save the Queen (royal)”*

**Money** – *Basic unit – dollar*

Australia is the only country that is also a continent. In area it ranks as the sixth largest country and smallest continent. Australia lies between the South Pacific Ocean and The Indian Ocean. The part of the Indian Ocean South of Australia is called the Southern Ocean in the country.

The name Australia comes from the Latin word “australis” meaning southern. The country’s official name is the Commonwealth of Australia.

Australia is a dry, thinly populated Land. Only a few areas along or near the coasts receive enough rainfall to support a large population. The South-eastern coastal region has the most people by far. Australia's two largest cities – Sidney and Melbourne – lie in this region. Canberra, the national capital, lies only a short distance inland. The huge interior of Australia is mostly desert or dry grass land and has few settlements. The country as a whole averages only six persons per square mile (two per sq. km.). Australia is famous for its vast open spaces, bright sunshine enormous numbers of sheep and cattle and unusual wild life. Kangaroos, koalas, platypuses and wombats are only a few of the many unusual animals that live in Australia.

The country was once a group of British Colonies, and most of the Australian people are of the British ancestry. When people moved to Australia from Great Britain, they took many British customs with them. For example, Australians drive on the left side of the road, as do British drivers. Tea is the favorite hot drink in Australia, as it is in Britain. But Australians have developed a way of life all their own. Australia has a warm sunny climate. The people can spend much of their free time outdoors. Australians love outdoor sports and outdoor living in general.

Australia is one of the world's developed countries. It has busy cities, modern factories and highly productive farms and mines. Australia is the world's leading producer and exporter of wool and bauxite (from which aluminium is made). It also produces minerals and farm goods.

The income from these exports has made it possible for most of the people of Australia to have a high standard of living. In the past, Great Britain was Australia's most important trading partner. Today, Australia trades most with Japan and the United States.

The first Australians were a dark skinned people known today as Aborigines. They had lived in Australia for at least 40,000 years before the first white settlers arrived. Britain settled Australia as a prison colony in 1788. Since

then, the number of whites has steadily increased and the total number of Aborigines has declined. Today, the vast majority of Australians are white.

The Commonwealth of Australia is a federation of states. The nation is administered under a written constitution. The Australian constitution gives certain powers to the federal government and leaves all other government powers to the states.

Australia has six states. They are: 1) **New South Wales**, 2) **Queens land** 3) **South Australia** 4) **Tasmania** 5) **Victoria** 6) **Western Australia**.

Each state has its own government. Australia has two mainland territories. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. Each territory is responsible for its own administration. Australia has a parliamentary system of government. Under this system, the national government is controlled by the political party or the coalition (combination) of parties with a majority of seats in the Lower house of the parliament. The Leader of the majority party or the coalition heads the government as prime minister. Australia is a constitutional monarchy like Great Britain. The British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, is also queen of Australia and the country's head of state. However, the queen has little or no power in the Australia government.

She serves mainly as a symbol of the historical tie between the two countries.

Australia is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the association formed by Britain and a member of its former colonies that are now independent countries.

**The Federal government** of Australia is officially headed by a governor general on the recommendation of the Australian prime minister. The governor general's role, like the queen's is mainly symbolic.

**The Prime Minister**, Australia's head of government, is normally responsible only to the majority party or coalition. If the party or coalition chooses a new leader, that person becomes prime minister. The Prime Minister appoints members of Parliament to head the government departments.

The department heads up the Cabinet. The Cabinet establishes major government policies.

**The Federal Parliament** has an upper and a lower house. The upper house is called the Senate and the lower house is called the House of Representatives. Most bills (законопроект) are introduced in the House. The Senate reviews bills passed by the House and can reject them.

The Australian Senate has 76 members. Each state elected 12 senators and each main land territory elects 2.

Membership in the 148 – member House of Representatives is divided among the states and mainland territories according to the population. Senators are elected to six-year terms, and representatives to three – year terms. Elections for the House must be held at least every three years. All Australians 18 years of age or older must vote in parliamentary and state elections. Those who do not vote may be fined (штраф).

**Federal Courts.** The High Court of Australia decides constitutional questions. It also serves as the nations court of final appeals. Others federal courts deal with bankruptcy cases, family law, industrial disputes and violations of federal law.

**State and Local government.** Each Australian state has its own parliament, court system, head of government and governor. The heads of state governments are called premiers. The governor of each state represents the queen.

**Political Parties.** Australia has three main political parties – the Australian Labor Party, the Liberal Party of Australia, and the National Party of Australia.

**The armed forces of** Australia consist of the Australian Army. The royal Australian Navy, and the Royal Australian Air Force. The three services make up a united command called the Australian Defense Force. The Defense Force a total about 70 000 men and women. All military service is voluntary.



## IRELAND

Ireland is a small, independent country located in the northwestern of Europe. The country's official name is Ireland, but it is generally called the Republic of Ireland to distinguish it from Northern Ireland. Dublin is the capital and the largest city of Ireland. **Officials languages:** English and Gaelic. **Area:** 27.137 mi. (70.284 km<sup>2</sup>).

**Population:** estimated 1994 population: 3.863.000; density.

**Government** – Ireland is a republic with a president, a prime minister and a parliament. The government is based on the Irish Constitution of 1937. the president – Ireland's official head of state is elected by the people to a seven years term and may serve only two terms.

**The prime minister** is called the Oireachtas in Gaelic, consist of the president, the House of Representatives and Senate.

**Politics.** Ireland has four major political parties – Fianna Fail, also called the Republican Party; Fine Gael; the Labor Party and the progressive Democrats.

## PEOPLE

**Ancestry and population.** Most of the Irish people are descended from peoples who settled in Ireland during the past 7 000 years. These people included Celts, Vikings, Normans and the British. Today Ireland has a population - 4 million. About three-fifth of the people live in cities and large towns.

## LANGUAGE

Ireland has 2 official languages: English and Gaelic. All the people speak English and they have a soft accent. Gaelic is a form of the ancient Celtic language.

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

Irish cooking is simple. Principal foods include beef: bread, chicken, fruit, mutton, pork, potatoes and other vegetables. The favourite alcoholic drink in Ireland is beer. The Irish use barley to make Irish whiskey, a world famous liquor. A drink called Irish.

## **RELIGION**

The Irish people are Roman Catholics. The country's largest Protestant church is the church of Ireland. Other protestant churches in Ireland include the Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

## **CLIMATE**

Ireland has a mild, wet climate temperatures average about 41<sup>0</sup> F (5<sup>0</sup>C) in winter and about 59<sup>0</sup> F (15<sup>0</sup> C) in summer.

## **RIVERS**

Ireland's River Shannon is the longest river in the British Isles.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Ireland's chief natural resources are the soil and pastures of its lowlands. The country has deposits of lead, zinc and marble and other building stone.

## **MANUFACTURING**

Ireland has few heavy manufacturing industries. Small and medium sized factories and workshops produce most manufactured goods.

Many factories are in the Dublin and Cork areas. Its agricultural products include barley, beef and dairy cattle, hay, hogs, milk, potatoes, poultry, sheep, sugar beets and wheat. Its manufactured goods include alcoholic beverages, chemicals, clothing, computers and others.

## LITERATURE

A number of writers began their careers in the mid - 1900's and remained productive into the late 1900's. The most important Fiction on writers of this period include John Me. Gahern, Benedict Kiely, Brian Moore, and William Irevor.



### CANADA

#### Facts in brief.

**Capital** – *Ottawa*

**Official language** – *English and French*

**Area** – 9 970 610 km<sup>2</sup>

**Elevation** – *Highest – Mountain Logan – 5.951 on above sea level.*

**Population** – 28 897 000

**Chief products:** *Agriculture – beef cattle, milk, wheat, chickens, eggs*

*Fishing industry – cod (треска), lobster (омар), salmon (лосось, семга).*

*Forest industry – spruce (ель), pine (сосна) fir (ель)*

*Manufacturing – motor vehicles and parts, food products, aluminium, steel and other metals, electronic equipment, fabricated metal products, wood products, petroleum and coal products, printed materials, machinery. Mining – petroleum, natural gas, nickel, copper, gold, zinc, coal, iron ore, uranium.*

**National anthem** - "*O Canada*"

**National symbol** – *Maple leaf and beaver*

**National holiday** – *Canada day, July 1*

**Money** – *basic unit – dollar*

**Canada** is the second largest country in the world. Only Russia has a greater land area. Canada is slightly larger than the United States. About 80 percent live within 200 miles (320 km) of the southern boarder. Much of the rest

of Canada is uninhabited or thinly populated, because the country has rugged, terrain and a severe climate.

Canada is the land of great variety. Towering mountains, clear lakes and lush forests make the far west a region of great natural beauty.

Most of the nation's largest population and industrial centers are located near the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River in Central Canada. In the East, fishing villages and sandy beaches dot the country's Atlantic coast.

Canada's people are also varied. About 37 percent of all Canadians have some English ancestry. A small percentage of people in these groups have both English and French ancestry. The Canadian government recognizes both English and French as official languages. French Canadians most of whom live in the province of Quebec, have kept the language and many customs of their ancestries. Other large ethnic groups in Canada include German, Irish, and Scottish people. West Canada and Ontario have large numbers of Asians. Native people – American Indians and Inuit (Formally called Eskimos) – make about 2 percent of the nation's population. More than three – fourth of Canadian people live in cities or towns. Canada is a federation of 10 provinces and 2 territories. The nation's name probably comes from Kanata-Kon, an Iroquois Indian word that means to the village or to the small houses.

Today, maintaining a sense of community is one of Canada's major problems because of differences among the provinces and territories. Many Canadians in eastern and western areas feel that the federal government does not pay enough attention to their particular problems and interest.

French Canadians make up about 80% of the population at Quebec. The province has passed legislation aimed at protecting the French language and culture.

Canada is an independent, self – governing nation. But the Constitution Act of 1982 recognized the British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom as Queen of Canada. This position symbolizes the country's strong ties to Britain. Britain ruled Canada completely until 1867 when Canada gained



control of its domestic affairs. Britain continued to govern Canada's foreign affairs until 1931, when Canada gained full independence. Canada and the United States have had a relationship of cooperation and friendship since the 1800's.

Canada has six cultural and economic regions.

They are: 1. The Atlantic Provinces

2. Quebec

3. Ontario

4. The Prairie Provinces

5. British Columbia

6. The Territories

## ECONOMY

### Agriculture

Because Canada has such a small population in relation to its landmass, it is the second leading exporter of grain in the world even though it is not the second largest producer. Only approximately 5 percent, or 180,000 square miles (460,000 square kilometers), of the nation's land surface is cultivated, and fewer than 1 million Canadians actually are employed on farms. Nevertheless, agriculture is the country's most important economic activity.

In spite of the fact that the total number of farms and farmers has been in steady decline since World War II, the average size of farms has increased, and the total area in production has changed little. More and better farm machinery, better use of fertilizers, and more efficient farming methods combined to more than double agricultural production between 1941 and 1981, farm implement manufacturing, food processing, and transportation industries are important related economic activities.

Principally because of climate, almost all of Canada's cultivated land lies within 3000 miles (500 kilometers) of its southern border with the United States.

Unseasonable frosts or snowfalls, spring flooding, and summer drought are the principal hazards faced by the agricultural community.

There are four main types of farming in Canada grain farms that produce wheat, oats, flax, and canola (rapeseed); livestock farms that produce cattle, poultry and eggs, pork, and lamb; specialized farms that produce usually combine livestock and grain cultivation. The trend is to greater farm specialization. There are several distinct agricultural regions in Canada with regional specialties, but none is limited to single kind of farming.

## GOVERNMENT

Canada is an independent parliamentary democracy. Once a colony of Great Britain, it became independent in 1867 through the British North America Act. Provisions of this act made it necessary for the British Privy Council to approve any amendment to the constitution. In 1982 the act was amended and renamed the Constitution Act. It gave the Canadian people the right to change their constitution without further consultation or approval of the mother country. The British monarch is sovereign of Canada and is represented as head of state by a governor-general, who since World War II has always been a Canadian. Jeanne Sauve, appointed in 1984, was the first woman to hold the office. (See also Suave).

Although the role of the governor-general is largely ceremonial, it plays an essential part in Canadian government. No sitting of the House of Commons or Senate, not of any provincial legislature, may take place unless called by the governor-general or by the provincial lieutenant-governors. Elections are called by the governor-general or lieutenant-governors though usually only on the advice of the prime minister or the provincial premiers. No act of any government becomes law until given royal assent by the governor-general's deputy. Governors-general and lieutenant-governors are appointed by the monarch on the advice of the prime minister and the premiers for a term of approximately five years.

The Parliament of Canada is modeled on the British Parliament and has two chambers: the House of Commons, which is elected, and the Senate, whose members are appointed by the prime minister and who hold office until age 75. Representation in the Commons is based on population, with a minimum of four members from each province and a total of three from the territories. The 1988 elections were the first under the redistricting that increased House of Commons membership from 282 to 295. The 104 seats in the Senate are distributed by region. A set of 28 proposals for constitutional reform introduced by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in 1991 included the direct election of senators.

There is no basis in law for the office of prime minister to exist. But the leader of the party with the most members, or of the party able to gain the support of sufficient members of an opposition party to give it control in the Commons, is accepted as the leader of government, the prime minister provided that he or she has a seat in the Commons. The term of office for the federal government is a maximum of five years, but the prime minister may request an election at any time, it is felt advantageous to do so or if the government has been defeated or stalemated by the opposition on a money or a major policy bill. The provincial legislatures and the National Assembly in Quebec each have only one chamber and operate in the same fashion as the Commons.

Government policy is determined by the prime minister and the Cabinet, usually with the agreement of the party's members obtained in frequent meetings called the party caucus for every province to be represented in the Cabinet, but, when there is no member in the Commons of the party in power from a particular province, it is customary to appoint a senator to a Cabinet post. No senator may enter the Commons, however, so the prime minister or a delegate must represent such a senator in the House of Commons. Proceeding in the House of Commons are controlled by an elected speaker. The speaker of the Senate is appointed by the Cabinet. It is the custom in both houses to alternate French-speaking and English-speaking leaders.

The power to make laws is shared between the federal government and the provinces. Canada since its inception has been a centralized state. The Constitution Act provided for specific responsibilities for the provinces and reserved all other, specified or not, for the federal government. By custom some responsibilities are shared by both levels. The provinces have control over direct taxes for provincial purposes, natural resources, prisons (but not penitentiaries), hospitals, education, property, civil rights in the province, the creation of courts and administration of justice, and other purely local matters.

Court decisions since confederation in 1867 have substantially broadened provincial powers to include most responsibility for labor regulation. The federal government has the right to make laws for "peace, order, and good government" and has specific powers in direct and indirect taxation, regulation of trade and commerce, and such social programs as pensions, medical care, and higher education. The Post Office, the Bank of Canada, census and statistics, fisheries, shipping, air and rail transport, telegraph, broadcasting, immigration, criminal code, and many other areas of jurisdiction have been given explicitly to the federal government in 1875.

Municipal and regional governments and school board have been established under the authority of and regulation by provincial governments to care for strictly local matters. Mayors, reeves (local council presidents), and members of municipal or regional governments are elected to office. All members of other boards and commissions, police departments, and the judiciary are appointed by either federal, provincial, or local government bodies.

Canada is member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and of the United Nations (UN). Because of its reputation for seeking impartial settlements to international disputes, Canada has been called upon to make part in a number of UN peacekeeping missions.

Membership in the Commonwealth, composed of Britain and many of her former colonies, has tended to give Canadians a broader and more moderate view of the world than it might have had otherwise.

## POPULATION

In 1994 Canada had an estimated population of 27 932 000. Canadian's population has doubled since World War II. This rapid growth in population resulted from heavy immigration and a high birth rate. From 1946 through 1990 about 6 million people immigrated to Canada. Many came from Britain, other arrived from Germany, Greece, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Latin America. Canada has become a new home for many political refugees (беженцев). Thousands of Hungarians came to Canada after the 1956 revolution in Hungary. Between 1975 and 1985, Canada admitted about – 113 000 refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, and in the late 1980's and early 1990's many immigrants from Hong Kong came to Canada.

Ancestry. Almost all Canadians are of European descent. Indians and Inuit make up about 2% of the nation's population. About 45% of Canada's people have some British ancestry, which includes people of English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh descent (поколение). About 31% have some French ancestry, (предки, происхождение) which includes people of English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh descent. About 31% have some French ancestry. Other large ethnic groups include Germans and Italians. Other Canadians include Chinese people from India and Pakistan, and other Asians who make up about 9% of the population of British Columbia.

Many immigrants from China, India have settled in Toronto. Blacks from about 1% of Canadians.

## LANGUAGE

Canada has two official languages, English and French. About 69 percent of the Canadian people speak mainly English in the home and about 24% speak mainly French. About 6% of the Canadian people speak other languages, which include Italian, Chinese, German and Portuguese. Most of the French – speaking Canadians live in Quebec. As a result, Quebec's French – speaking citizens, called Quebecois consider themselves the guardians of the French language and

culture in Canada. Many Quebecois, especially young people, demanded the creation of an independent country. In 1968 several political movements favoring independence formed a political party called the Party Quebecois. In 1974, the Quebec Legislature adopted French as Quebec's official language. This act promoted (поощрять) French language instruction in schools and made French the language of business and government. However this act also made some English – speaking people of Quebec uncomfortable. As a result, some people and businesses left Quebec.

### **CITY LIFE**

Today about 77 percent of the nation's people live in urban areas. City people in Canada have a wide range of Cultural and recreational activities available. These include plays and concerts visits to parks and museums and many types of athletic events.

### **RURAL LIFE**

About 25 percent of Canadians people live in rural areas, but only 4 percent live in farms. In Canada most farmers own their own farms, and farming is largely a family activity. Modern machinery enables a family to do nearly all the work on their farm themselves.

### **EDUCATION**

Today each province and territory in Canada has it's own school system. The provincial or territorial department of education supervises every system.

The school systems of the most provinces have 12 grades. The system of Quebec has 11 grades, and that of Ontario has 13.

The federal and provincial governments of Canada provides funds for university education. Students must pay only a small portion of the cost of their education.

## RELIGION

Catholics are the nations largest religious group today. About 11 million Canadians belong to the Roman Catholic Church. Most other Canadians are Protestants. The largest protestant denominations are the United Church of Canada, which has about 3 ¼ million members and the Anglican Church of Canada with about 2 ½ million members. Other groups are Presbyterians, Lutherans, Baptists, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs.



## NEW ZEALAND

**Capital:** *Wellington*

**Official language:** *English*

**Area:** 269 057 sq km., North Island – 114 592 km<sup>2</sup>, South Island – 152 719 km<sup>2</sup>. the North and the South extend in a curve more than 1600 km long coast line about 5150 km.

New Zealand, an independent state and a member of the Commonwealth, is situated in the south-east of Australia. The country consists of three large islands, called North Island, South Island and Steward Island, and also many small islands.

New Zealand is a mountainous country. The mountains run from south-west to north-east throughout both the larger islands. The Southern Alps, the highest New Zealand mountains, lie near the west coast of South Island.

The main cities in North Island are Auckland, the largest city and port with 750 000 inhabitants, and Wellington, the capital. A little north of Wellington there is an important industrial area, now included in the city. The population of greater Wellington is about 350 000.

Christchurch and Dunedin are the most important towns in South Island, the cities and towns of the country resemble very much those of England,

especially Christchurch. Dunedin is more like Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. New Zealand is sometimes called "The Britain of the Pacific".

### POPULATION

The population of New Zealand is over three million people, more than two thirds of whom live in North Island. About 50 percent live in the four cities of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin.

The Maori people make up eight percent of the total New Zealand population. The Maoris are famous for their folk-songs, music and dance, they are very skilled in wood-work.

### GOVERNMENT

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy. The British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, is the monarch of New Zealand. She appoints a governor general to represent her, but the governor general has little power. The legislature, prime minister, and Cabinet run the national government. Britain gave New Zealand a constitution in 1852, when it was a British colony. But through the years, the New Zealand legislature has changed almost all its provisions. For all practical purposes, the nation today has no written constitution.

**Legislature.** New Zealand has a 97 – member House of Representatives, also called Parliament. The people in each of 97 electorates elect one member of parliament. A parliamentary election must be held at least every three years, but one may be held sooner. All citizens 18 years old or older may vote.

**Prime minister and Cabinet.** The leader of the political party that wins the most seats in a parliamentary election becomes prime minister. The prime minister appoints a Cabinet to run the various government departments. The Cabinet members, called ministers, are members of Parliament from the prime



minister's party. The prime minister and the Cabinet are called the Government. The party that wins the second most seats in an election is called the Opposition.

The main political parties are the Labor Party and the National Party of New Zealand.

**Language.** English is the official language of New Zealand and is spoken thorough out the country. Most of the people speak English with a New Zealand accent which resembles a British accent with a slightly nasal sound. Many Maoris speak their own language, Maori in addition to English. The Maori language belongs to the Malaya – Polynesian group of languages.

## ECONOMY

**Manufacturing.** Processed foods are New Zealand's most valuable manufactured goods. Milk is made into butter, cheese, and dried milk. Factories freeze lamb and beef for export, and process wool and weave woolen carpets. Other manufactured items include aluminium, chemicals, iron and steel, machinery, metal, products, textiles, and wood products. Auckland is the country's largest manufacturing center.

**Trade.** New Zealand's economy depends heavily on trade. The chief trade partners are Australia, Britain, Japan, and the United States. Butter, cheese, dried milk products, lamb, and wool make up about half of the value of New Zealand's exports. Exports of increasing importance include manufactured goods, fish products and forest products. Chief imports include iron and steel, machinery motor vehicles, petroleum, and telecommunication equipment.

## EDUCATION

New Zealand offers students a free elementary and secondary education up to age 19. the law requires children from 6 through 15 to attend school, but

most children enter school at 5, many children under 5 attend free kindergartens or play centers.

After completing elementary or intermediate school, most students go on to secondary school. Secondary school students may receive training in agriculture, home economics, technical subjects, and a wide range of other subjects.

### CLIMATE

New Zealand has a mild, moist climate like that of the Pacific Northwest Coast of the United States. But New Zealand lies south of the equator, and so its seasons are opposite those of the Northern Hemisphere. July is New Zealand's coldest month, and January and February are its warmest months. The country's mild climate results from ocean breezes that bring warmth to the land in winter and coolness in summer. Summer temperatures range from about 65° F to about 85° F. winter temperatures range from about 35° F to about 55° F.

The climate in New Zealand is warm and the greater part of country is well watered. The north of North Island is subtropical, but not too hot. The east and north of both islands have a lot of sunny days, but much rain falls on the west coast.

Most of North Island and the south-west of South Island have good forests of evergreen trees and large areas are rich grasslands.

New Zealand has very few native animals. The kiwi, a bird which lives in the forest and does not fly, it is found nowhere else in the world. The kiwi is the national emblem of New Zealand.

**Lakes, rivers and waterfalls** are found throughout New Zealand. Most of the lakes lie in the volcanic plateau of the North Island and in valleys near the Southern Alps of the South Island. The largest lake, Lake Taupe on the North Island, covers 234 square miles and a vacation area famous for fishing.

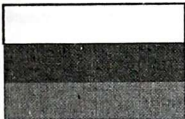
On both islands, the rivers rise in the mountains and flow down to the sea. Most of the rivers flow very fast and are difficult to navigate.

The Clothe River on the south Island carries the largest volume of water. The rapid flow of New Zealand's rivers makes them important sources of hydroelectric power.

New Zealand has hundreds of waterfalls. Sutherland Falls tumbles 1 904 feet down a mountain near Milford Sound on the South Island. It is the fifth highest waterfall in the world.

New Zealand's natural resources are not rich – timber, coal, natural gas, iron ore, building materials and fast rivers on which hydro-electric stations have been built. The country produces goods of different kinds both for her own and for export.

**Food and drink.** New Zealanders eat more butter and meat per person than do the people of any other country. Lamb is a favourite meat. Tea is the favourite drink of most New Zealanders. Beer and wine are the most popular alcoholic beverages.



## RUSSIA

**RUSSIA.** Formerly the preeminent republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Russia has been an independent nation since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. As part of the Soviet Union, it was called the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, or the Russian Federation.

With an area of 6,592,800 square miles (17,075,300 square kilometers), it is the world's largest country, almost twice the size of either China or the United State. Covering much of Eastern Europe as well as the whole of Northern Asia, Russia extends nearly halfway around the Northern Hemisphere. It stretches some 4,800 miles (7,700 kilometers) along the Arctic Circle and from 1,250 to 1,800 miles (2,000 to 2,900 kilometers) north to south. Its most characteristic landscape is a rolling to flat plain. Two such plains are divided by the Ural

Mountains that form the traditional boundary between Europe and Asia (see Ural Mountains). In contrast, eastern Siberia is hilly to mountainous table land. There are active volcanoes on the Kamchatka Peninsula and the Kuril Islands.

More than 80 percent of the 146 million people who live in the federation are ethnic Russians. There are also some 75 different ethnic groups. Seven out of ten people live in urban areas. The chief cities are St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Nizhni Novgorod, and the capital, Moscow, which was also, the capital of both the Russian Federation and the Soviet Union.

### **LAND**

Russia has the longest border of any country on Earth. In the west it borders Norway, Finland, the Gulf of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Belarus. (A small exclave of Russia, Kaliningrad formerly East Prussia borders the Baltic Sea on the west, Poland on the south, and Lithuania on the east and north). In the southwest Russia borders Ukraine, and in the south it touches the Sea of Azov, the Black Sea, Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Caspian Sea, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China, and North Korea. In the east and north it borders various branches of the Pacific and Arctic oceans respectively.

### **CLIMATE AND VEGETATION**

Because of its size Russia displays both monotony and diversity. As with its topography, its climates, vegetation, and soils span vast distances. The climates of both European and Asian Russia are continental except for the tundra and the extreme southeast. Great ranges of temperature are typical. In winter temperatures get colder both from south to north and from west to east. Summers can be quite hot and humid, even in Siberia.

Russia also has low annual precipitation that almost everywhere averages less than 20 inches (51 centimeters) and peaks in summer usually in July or August. The continental interiors are the driest areas.

From north to south the East European Plain is clad sequentially in tundra, coniferous forest (taiga), mixed forest, broadleaf forest, grassland (steppe), and semidesert (fringing the Caspian Sea) as the changes in vegetation reflect the changes in climate. Siberia supports a similar sequence but lacks the mixed forest. Most of Siberia is taiga. Soils vary from rich, black loams in the steppe to very acidic podzols in the taiga to bog types in the tundra and Siberian swamps.

## PEOPLE AND CULTURE

With a population of more than 148.5 million in the early 1990s, Russia ranks sixth in the world after China, India, the United States, Brazil, and Indonesia. Of all the 15 former Soviet Union republics, Russia has the greatest ethnic diversity, with about 75 distinct nationalities. Russians make up about 82 percent of the total, and only three others (Tatars, Ukrainians, and Chuvash) constitute more than 1 percent each. Language groups include Indo-European, comprising Eastern Slavic and Iranian tongues; Altaic, including Turkic, Mongolian, and Manchu - Tongues; Uralic, including Finn - Ugric and Samoyedic; and Caucasian, comprising Abkhazo-Adyghian and Nakho-Dagestani. In addition, there are several Paleo-Asiatic groups in far eastern Siberia.

As a whole, Russia's rate of population growth is well below that of previous decades, resulting primarily from a decline in the birthrate of the Russian majority. Rates among minority peoples continue to grow, particularly those with Muslim backgrounds. Migration from European Russia to Siberia and the Far East has resulted in regional variations.

## EDUCATION

During the Soviet period, education was highly centralized, and indoctrination into Marxist-Leninist theory was a major element of schooling. The end of Communism led to extensive curriculum revision.

Many preschool children attend creches, or nursery schools. They are not compulsory, and parents must contribute financially to them. Free, compulsory education begins when a child reaches the age of 7 and lasts for a minimum of eight years. More than 60 percent of students, however, attend for ten years. Minority children are taught in their own languages, but the study of Russian is required at the secondary level.

Entry to higher education is selective and highly competitive. Most undergraduate courses require five years. Higher education is almost entirely in Russian, though a few institutions mostly in minority areas use the local language as well.

## **ECONOMY**

Because of its great size, its natural resources, and its political domination, the Russian Federation played a leading role in the economy of the Soviet Union. In the years preceding the dissolution of the union in 1991, the economy of Russia and the union as a whole was in decline. In 1992, immediately after the dissolution, the Russian government implemented a series of radical reforms. Price controls were abolished as the beginning of a transition from a centrally controlled economy to a market economy. An immediate series of sharp price increases caused extreme hardships for the Russian people.

## **FUEL AND POWER**

Russia has by far the largest coal reserves among the former Soviet republics. It is also one of the world's leading producers of petroleum and natural gas. Extensive pipeline systems link producing districts to all parts of Russia and across the border to many European countries. Much of the country's fuel is converted to electricity, but about a third of the electricity is produced by hydroelectric plants. The largest of these are on the Volga, Kama, Ob', Yenisey, and Angora rivers. High-voltage transmission lines move large amounts of electricity from Siberia to the European part of the country.

## INDUSTRY

The country's machine-building industry satisfies most of Russia's requirements for electric generators, steam boilers and turbines, grain combines, electric locomotives, and automobiles. It also fills much of its demand for machine tools, instruments, and automation components. Major automobile factories are in Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod, Yaroslavl', Ul'yanovsk, Izhevsk, and Toliatti. There is a heavy truck factory at Naberezhnaya Chelny.

Chemical industries originally developed in areas that use mineral salts, coke oven and smelter gases, timber, and food products. Rubber factories were built in areas of large-scale potato crops (north and south of Moscow); sulfuric acid plants where there was nonferrous metallurgy (east of the Urals); and fertilizer plants near deposits of potassium salts and phosphoresces (the Urals and near the Belarus border). After the 1950s and the massive increase in the production of petroleum and natural gas provided new raw materials for the chemical industries. New plants were built both in the petroleum- and gas-producing areas in the Volga-Ural zone and the North Caucasus and in areas served by pipelines. Cellulose is produced in Siberia, where both timber and electricity are plentiful.

The textile industry is concentrated in the central part of the European sector of the country. Cotton textiles dominate, with raw cotton coming from the Central Asian areas. Between the Volga and Oka rivers there are some 30 cotton-textile producing centers. Such durable consumer goods as home appliances and electronic equipment are manufactured mainly in areas with a tradition of skilled workers, notably in and around Moscow and St. Petersburg.

## AGRICULTURE

Because of the harshness of the Russian environment, less than one sixth of the land is dedicated to agriculture. About three fifths of the farmland is used for growing crops, with the remainder devoted to pasture.

The grasslands have been converted to large collective and state farms, which produce mainly grains in winter and spring wheat, barley, rye, oats, and buckwheat. Sweet corn (maize), rice, and grapes are grown in the North Caucasus. Elsewhere corn is raised strictly as livestock silage and fodder. Millet and melons are grown along the lower Volga River. Sunflowers are widespread. Beef cattle and pigs are raised in the grasslands as well. Sheep, horses, and goats are raised east of Moscow and in the North Caucasus. Dairying is combined with the growing of rye and oats in the mixed forest zones, western Siberia, and on the outskirts of cities, where vegetables are also cultivated. Potatoes and flax are grown northwest of Moscow. Apples, pears, and hemp are grown mainly in the south of the capital. Crops are irrigated along the lower Volga and in the North Caucasus.

Forestry. Russia has the world's largest forest reserves, which supply lumber, pulp and paper, and raw material for woodworking industries. Needle-leaf trees predominate, with the country producing more than a fifth of the world's softwood. Since World War II lumbering activities have spread increasingly to the east of the Urals.

Fishing. With access to three of the world's oceans the Atlantic, Arctic, and Pacific Russian fishing fleets are a major contributor to the economy. The chief fishing ports are Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg on the Baltic Sea (which connects with the Atlantic), Murmansk and Archangel on the Barents Sea (Arctic), and Vladivostok on the Sea of Japan (Pacific). The inland Azov, Black, and Caspian seas have smaller-scale fishing, but reduced river flows and pollution are serious problems. Nevertheless, the Caspian is the source of what is considered the finest caviar in the world. There are also fisheries on inland lakes and rivers, including considerable fish farming.



## GOVERNMENT

In November 1917 the Bolsheviks first created the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. Shortly afterward a declaration of peoples' rights permitted the formation of autonomous units within the federation. In 1922, with the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Russian Federation became a separate republic and, like the other union republics (which eventually numbered 15), was subject to the various constitutions of 1918, 1924, 1936, and 1977. Until the late 1980s the structure of all Soviet government, including that of the individual republics, was dominated at all levels by the Communist party. After the failed coup of August 1991, the Communist party was stripped of its power and all of its property was confiscated.

Multinational Russia includes 20 minority republics, one autonomous oblast (province), ten autonomous okrugs (districts), six rays (regions), and 49 oblasts. The people are governed by a parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies. In 1991 the new post of president was created to head the executive branch and to be elected by popular vote. In elections held in June of that year Boris Yeltsin became the first democratically elected leader of the republic. He outlined a plan to give greater political and economic authority to the federation and to diminish the role of the central government. Yeltsin's defiance of the coup that briefly deposed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in August inspired a popular uprising that led to the unraveling of the old central controls. The Soviet Union officially disbanded in December 1991, Russia became an independent state officially known as the Russian Federation, and it joined with ten of the other former Soviet republics to form the new Commonwealth of Independent States. (See also Independent States, Commonwealth of: Yeltsin).

## COURTS.

The highest judicial body in the Russian Federation during the Soviet period was the Supreme Court. It supervised the activities of all other judicial

bodies. Court proceedings in Russia are carried on either in Russian or in the language of the prevailing nationality. Constitutional justice in the court is based on the equality of all citizens. Judges are independent and subject only to the law. Trials are to be open, and the accused is guaranteed a defence.

## **HISTORY**

Russia has been inhabited for 700,000 years. Waves of nomadic invasions occurred until the 13th century. Goths, Huns, Bulgars, Avars, Khazars, Turks, Magyars, and other invaders marauded the steppes and influenced Slavic culture, including that of the Russians. (See also Goths; Huns).

### **Beginnings of the Russian Empire**

Long before the rise of the first Slavic state Kievskaya Rus during the late 800s, southern Russia was occupied by Cimmerians, Scythians, Sarmatians, Goths, Huns, Turkic Bulgars, Avars, and Khazars. The Slavs endured them all. Loosely knit and socially bound mainly by extended families, the Slavs seemed to be interested only in farming and welcomed the protection they received from powerful warriors like the Khazars.

During the Pax Khazarica, Scandinavians traded not only with Baghdad but also with Vyzantium by way of the Dnepr. These Norsemen, or Varangians, as the Slavs called them, travelled inland over lakes and rivers, hauling their boats overland from one body of water to the next. At Novgorod they portaged to the Dnepr watershed, which led them to the Black Sea. Near Kiev the Dnepr bends eastward and is plagued by rapids, forcing the Varangians to make another portage at Kiev.

In the 800s the Slavs were in complete turmoil. They had great respect for the Varangians, and the people of Novgorod asked the Norsemen for a ruler to organize them. The Scandinavians sent Rurik, chieftain of the Rus trading company, in 862 the year from which the Russians date their first dynasty.

Shortly after Rurik's death his relative Oleg became grand duke of Novgorod and soon added Kiev to his domains, making it his capital. During the next century the influence of Kiev was felt from the Danube to the Volga.

### First Czars

Ivan IV, called "the Terrible" because of his savage cruelty, crowned himself czar the Russian word for Caesar and ruled Moscow from 1533 to 1584. Russian sovereigns now ruled "by the grace of God" as absolute monarchs, responsible to the Almighty alone. Ivan defeated the Khanates of Kazan' in 1552 and Astrakhan' in 1556, making the Volga a wholly Russian river. In the 1580s he spread Muscovite's rule into Siberia, but westward expansion was blocked. Ivan futilely engaged the Swedes, and Kiev still lay deep within the powerful Polish-Lithuanian kingdom.

Ivan IV killed one of his sons, and another died at age 9. The remaining son, Fedor, was feeble, and, after reigning as czar for 14 years, he died childless. Thus ended the House of Rurik.

Boris Godunov was elected in 1598 to succeed Fedor. He consolidated Russia's territorial gains, but, soon after he came to power, drought, famine, and plague killed a half million people in Muscovite. Peasants fled their villages, leaving their holdings in weeds. In response Godunov decreed that the peasants were forbidden to leave the estates on which they were born. The peasants were thus bound to the soil, and serfdom began in Russia.

Godunov died in 1605. His successor was murdered within a few months. Leaderless Russia was rife with dissension. For the next eight years it coped with civil wars, Cossack raids in the south, Polish invaders, and impostors pretending to be sons of Ivan IV and trying to claim the throne. The frustrated Russians in 1610 temporarily accepted the son of the Polish king as czar, but Russian guerrilla forces later ousted the foreigners.

**Romanov Dynasty (1613-1917)** The Russian nobility sought a new bloodline for the aristocracy. They found it in Mikhail Romanov, who was a young

nobleman, or boyar .Thus began the Romanov Dynasty, which ruled until 1917 .(See also Romanov Dynasty .) .

Peter and Catherine the Great. The Russian Empire is usually dated from the reign of Peter the Great from 1689 to 1725 and with it the beginning of modern Russian history .Peter defeated the Swedes and gained an outlet to the Baltic Sea. He founded a navy, introduced factories, reformed the administrative machinery, and organized a modern army. He forced education upon his officers and members of his court, many of whom could not read. He created a new Russian capital St. Petersburg on the Gulf of Finland. (See also Peter the Great).

Peter died in 1725. His work survived almost half a century of incompetent rulers. Then Catherine the Great came to the throne in 1762. She again took up the task of reform. Her armies defeated the Crimean Tatars in 1792. (See also Catherine the Great).

Alexander I and Nicholas I. The reign of Alexander I from 1801 to 1825 began in the spirit of Peter and Catherine, both of whom were Westernizers.

Food shortages in March 1917 stimulated mass rioting in the capital of Petrograd. Soldiers deserted the government and joined the people. The Duma demanded that the czar step down. Nicholas II abdicated his throne on March 15, and he and his family were exiled and later executed. (See also Nicholas; World War I).

Plans were drawn for a Duma, or representative assembly, to propose new laws. Alexander had begun to carry out his program when Russia became involved in the Napoleonic wars. Reform was then abandoned. (See also Alexander).

Alexander's successor, Nicholas I, ruled from 1825 to 1855 and devoted his attention to protecting Russia against what he considered corrupting Western ideas. All democratic reform was suppressed.

In 1854 Russia became involved in the disastrous Crimean War, which lasted *more* than two years. The Russian people were tired of war, and the serfs

rose against the landowners and burned and pillaged their estates. (See also Crimean War; Nicholas).

Emancipation of the serfs (1861 ). Alexander II succeeded Nicholas I in 1855. He was the greatest czarist reformer in Russian history .His reforms began with the emancipation of the serfs in March 1861, giving liberty to some 40 million people.

The long years of tyranny and lack of progress, however, had produced discontent, especially among the young with university educations. Revolutionary activity, which had been brewing since an unsuccessful revolt against the czar in December 1825, developed rapidly, and in 1881 Alexander II was assassinated by a bomb hurled at his carriage. He was succeeded by his son Alexander III, a Slavophile and no friend of reformers. Under Alexander III revolutionary organizations were completely suppressed. (See also Alexander).

First Duma. Nicholas II was the last of the Romanovs and came to power in 1894. In 1904 Russia and Japan went to war in the Far East. The war was unpopular in Russia, and the country suffered a terrible defeat, encouraging greater revolutionary activity. (See also Russo-Japanese War.)

Although small, a new factory laboring class was organized by the revolutionaries. Peasants sympathized and helped. Mutineers broke out in the army and navy .Manufacturers and landlords demanded reforms that would satisfy workers, peasants, and soldiers. After a general strike, climaxing the Revolution of 1905, Nicholas called for the election of a Duma as proposed by his ancestor Alexander I a century before.

In August 1914 Russia went to war against Germany and Austria over conflicting claims in the Balkans. The peasants and workers at first accepted the war without protest, but great military failures resulted because of the -Russian government's inability to supply and equip its armies. Millions of Russian lives were sacrificed. The attitude of the public toward the war and the government changed.

## **Soviet Period**

Russia was in turmoil until the Bolsheviks, under the leadership of Lenin, officially established the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Dec. 30, 1922 (see Russian Revolution). The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic was only one of the constituent republics, but it dominated the Soviet Union for its entire 74-year history.

The Russian Federation was the largest of the republics; Moscow, its capital, was also the capital of the Soviet Union. For more than 70 years Russia dominated the nation's economy and culture as well as its politics. At the end of the Soviet period in 1991, the Russian republic's democratically elected president, Boris Yeltsin, was the recognized leader of both the dissolution and the subsequent Commonwealth of Independent States, of which the new Russian Federation was a founding member. (For a detailed history of the Soviet periods, see Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

## **RELIGION IN RUSSIA**

During the 10<sup>th</sup> century, Grand-Prince Vladimir adopted Orthodox Christianity replacing the Russian pagan tradition. Since that time Russian Orthodoxy has remained the predominant religion. Similar to the Greek Orthodox Church, the Russian Orthodox Church's principle focus is on the Resurrection. Consequently, Easter is the most celebrated of Orthodox Christian religious holidays.

Images of the Resurrection are often depicted in the famous Russian icons.

After 1922, the USSR denounced religion, and thousands of churches were closed, destroyed, or used only for secular activities. Since glasnost, a

resurgence of interest in religions of all kinds has emerged throughout the former Soviet Union. Russians marked the thousand year anniversary of Christianity in 1988 by opening many new and restored churches.

## RUSSIAN MEALS

The usual meal in Russia are breakfast, dinner and supper. As a rule people have breakfast at 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning. Russians like fried or boiled potatoes with some sausage or ham or a chop (cutlet). Sometimes they prefer an omelette, boiled or fried eggs or just some porridge (a plate of boiled rice, semolina, buckwheat porridge), or vermicelli (macaroni), fruit – dumplings or curd fritters.

At about 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. they have dinner. It often consists of 3 courses. For the first course they eat chicken soup or cabbage soup (shi), or beetroot and cabbage soup (borsh), noodle soup or just broth. Some people choose mushroom soup or fish-soup. In spring and summer when it's hot it's so nice to have the so-called 'okroshka', a traditional Russian dish (cold kvass soup with chopped vegetables and meat or fish), a kind of hodge-podge.

For the second course Russians eat different kinds of salad (meat salad, fish salad, vegetable salad), fried, boiled or stewed meat or fish. At times they cook a roast chicken, especially on a holidays.

For the third course (for dessert) Russians have a glass of juice, a piece of a cake or a pie if they aren't on diet. A lot of people eat ice – cream, fruit and berries for dessert. In summer everybody adores to have a piece of melon or water-melon.

Russians also like stuffed peppers, tomatoes, squashes, potatoes. A special Russian dish is "pelmeni", a kind of ravioli-small cases of paste containing chopped meat.

After that they have a glass of milk or stewed fruit with biscuits, crackers, or sweets (candies). But if you are thirsty you drink a coke, lemonade, some beer or even champagne.

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## VOCABULARY

<p><b>A</b> acid-кислота ancestor-предок ancestry-предки, происхождение <b>B</b> boyar-боярский beverage-напиток <b>C</b> compatriot-соотечественник cumber-затруднять, препятствовать cogent-убедительно civil-гражданский causus-казус, повод к войне <b>D</b> dairy-молочный магазин <b>E</b> eastern-восточный <b>F</b> flee (fled)-избегать(жать) flea-блоха fleck-пятно, крапинка felt-войлок, фетр freight-груз, стоимость провоза feeble-хилый, слабый fuel-топливо, горючее <b>G</b> goods-товары gas-газ, бензин, горючее</p>	<p><b>H</b> harvest-урожай heading-направление, курс, заглавие, рубрика hemp-конопля, пенька, каннабис hasal-носовой <b>I</b> income-доход <b>J</b> join-присоединиться, вступать <b>K</b> king-король <b>L</b> lumber-рухлядь, хлам, пиломатериал <b>M</b> multinational-многонациональный <b>N</b> nomadic-кочевой <b>O</b> oust-вытеснить(нять), выгонять ore-руда outlying-отдаленный, удаленный <b>P</b> pagan-язычник, языческий paganism-язычество pus-гной puss-котенок, кошечка <b>Q</b> queen-королева <b>R</b> resurgence-возрождение, воскрешение recreation-отдых, развлечение</p>	<p><b>S</b> serf-крепостной squash-тыква, кабачок, давка, толпа, каша shield-защита, защитник, экран skim-снимать, белло читать scan-скандировать, пробежать глазами <b>T</b> trial-испытание, проба tribulation-страдание, горе, беда turmoil-беспорядок, смятение timber-лесоматериал, древесина <b>U</b> underground-метро, подземный переход <b>V</b> vote-голосовать <b>W</b> workship-мастерство, искусство <b>X</b> xylophone-ксилофон Xerox-ксерокс, фотокопия <b>Y</b> year-год youth-юноша, молодежь <b>Z</b> zebra-зебра</p>
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