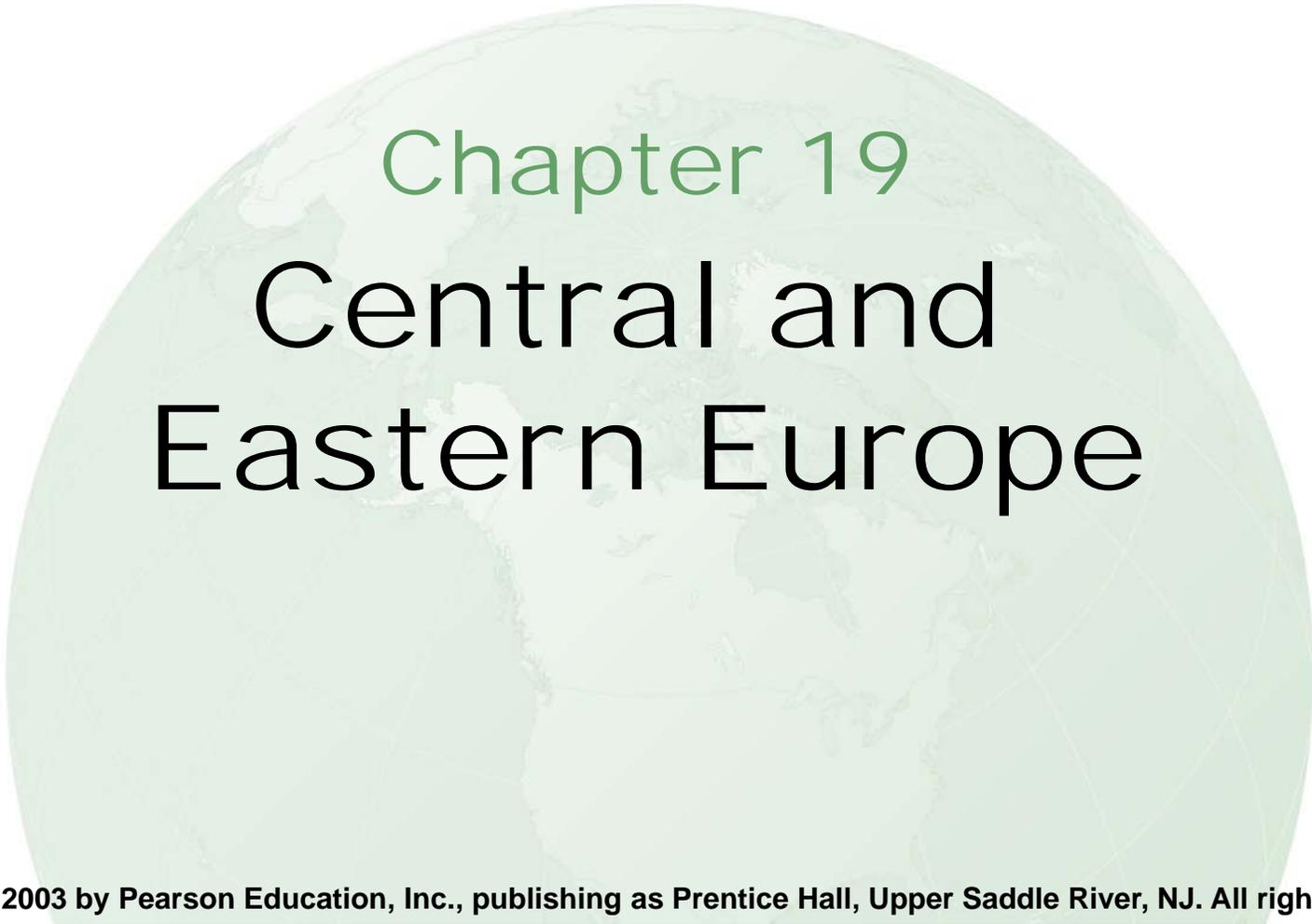


World Geography



Chapter 19

Central and Eastern Europe

World Geography

Chapter 19: Central and Eastern Europe

Section 1: Poland

Section 2: The Czech and Slovak Republics,
and Hungary

Section 3: The Balkan Peninsula

Section 4: Baltic States and Border Nations

Poland



- **What are some major physical characteristics of Poland?**
- **How did World War II affect Poland's cultural patterns?**
- **How did the Polish people maintain their national identity and achieve economic prosperity after communism?**



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Physical Characteristics



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Physical Characteristics



Most of Poland is covered by the North European Plain.

- Attachment to the land has helped Poles maintain their **national identity**, or sense of what characteristics make them a nation.
- Thick forests once covered the flat lands, but most were cut down long ago to create farmland.
- Soil is poorer and less suited to farming in the east and northeast.
- Poland has valuable mineral resources, but relies on other countries for iron ore and petroleum.



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World War II



- **Most people living in Poland now are Roman Catholic, but before World War II, Poland was a multiethnic nation.**
- **During World War II, the Nazis built six concentration camps in Poland.**
- **About 6 million Poles, half of whom were Jews, were killed in the camps, and more than 6 million Jews from across Europe were massacred in the **Holocaust**.**
- **After World War II, the Soviet Union took over lands in eastern Poland, and then expanded the border of western Poland, causing many Poles and Germans in the area to flee their homes.**



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Communist No More



- **The Soviet-backed Communist government banned opposition parties but never attracted widespread support.**
- **Despite efforts to stamp out religion, the Communist government leaders allowed many Catholic churches to remain open.**
- **Solidarity, an independent Polish workers' labor union, pressed for economic and democratic reform.**
- **Solidarity remained powerful despite being outlawed by the government, and Solidarity candidates won a large majority of the votes in free elections.**
- **At first, the change from a command economy to a market economy increased inflation and unemployment.**
- **By the early 2000s, economic growth was up, but there is a need for Polish agriculture, mining, and heavy industry to become competitive.**



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Section 1 Review



How did Nazi occupation change the ethnic diversity of Poland?

- a) People of many nations settled in Poland.
- b) There was no change in ethnic diversity.
- c) Germans were driven out of Poland.
- d) Most Jews were massacred.

How did the Communist government of Poland respond to Solidarity?

- a) Communist leaders embraced the Solidarity movement.
- b) The Communist government outlawed Solidarity.
- c) The Communists encouraged a market economy.
- d) Poland shifted from a market economy to a command economy.

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Section 1 Review



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The Czech and Slovak Republics, and Hungary



- **How have political and economic conditions in the Czech Republic changed since the 1980s?**
- **What challenges face the two regions of Bohemia and Moravia?**
- **Why has Slovakia's economic transition been difficult?**
- **What effect did privatization have on Hungary's economy?**



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The Czech Republic



- Czech kings ruled an independent kingdom until the fourteenth century, when the area came under the rule of the Austrian Hapsburgs.
- At the end of World War I, the Allies created a new nation, Czechoslovakia, which developed a stable democratic government.
- Germany invaded in the 1930s, and the Soviets directed a Communist takeover after World War II.
- Declining Soviet influence in the late 1980s spurred on the **velvet revolution**, or revolution without bloodshed, which resulted in a democratic government.
- The Czech and Slovak republics separated in 1993.
- The Czechs have pursued strategies for market reforms, including **privatization**, or the process of selling state-owned businesses and industries to private owners who can run them more efficiently.



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Two Regions



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Two Regions



The western half of the Czech Republic is called Bohemia, and the eastern half is called Moravia.

- **Bohemia is the source of many of the nation's mineral resources and contains many mines and industries.**
- **Moravia's coal and steel industries are outdated and inefficient.**
- **Both regions face problems with pollution and acid rain.**



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Slovakia



- The country is divided between the rugged Carpathian Mountains in the north and the plains of the Danube in the south.
- The Slovakian economy traditionally has been agricultural and today also includes industry.
- The Communists ended private ownership of farms and set up government-owned **collective farms**, where workers were paid by the government and shared in the profits of their products.
- Today, the government is trying to return land to private ownership.
- Under the Communists, many manufacturing plants were built, and better wages caused workers to migrate to the cities.
- Slovakia has struggled to improve the economy since independence.



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Hungary



- **Hungarians are fiercely patriotic and have overthrown foreign rulers several times in their history.**
- **The eastern half of Hungary consists of a broad plain called the Great Alföld, and its fertile soil has given Hungary the nickname the “breadbasket” of Europe.**
- **The hilly region of Transdanubia lies in the western half of Hungary, and contains large mineral deposits that support Hungary’s industries.**
- **Hungary has had difficulty converting to a free-market economy, but privatization has revived the economy.**
- **Former Communists have taken a hand in the new government, which appears to be stable.**



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Section 2 Review



Which of the following describes the velvet revolution in Czechoslovakia?

- a) The Czech and Slovak republics were created.**
- b) The Communists took over the government.**
- c) Czechoslovakia was created from former Hapsburg lands.**
- d) A bloodless revolution resulted in the election of a democratic parliament.**

How has privatization affected Hungary?

- a) The economy has experienced an upturn.**
- b) Communists seized control of the government.**
- c) The country remains mired in an economic recession.**
- d) The government set up collective farms.**

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Section 2 Review



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The Balkan Peninsula



- **How have Romania's economic activities changed since the end of Communist rule?**
- **What signs of economic growth can be seen in Bulgaria?**
- **How have foreign nations been involved in Albanian development?**
- **Why do internal tensions continue to challenge the people of the Balkan nations?**



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Romania



- Despite rich natural resources, Romania has remained impoverished.
- Nikolai Ceausescu, the second Communist leader of Romania, led the country into economic chaos until he was forced from office and executed in 1989.
- Ineffective governments have failed to provide economic reforms.
- Investment by an American soft drink maker has helped **entrepreneurs** to make small fortunes and through the **multiplier effect**, eleven new jobs were created for every job created by the soft drink maker.



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Bulgaria



- **Because of fertile soil and a mild climate, Bulgaria is known as the garden of Europe.**
- **The Bulgarians, a Slavic people, have long been supported by the Russians, another Slavic people, and welcomed Soviet control after World War II.**
- **Bulgaria turned away from strict communism in the early 1990s, and now has a democratic government.**
- **The Bulgarian economy declined in the early 1990s, but then found markets for its goods in Western countries.**
- **Tourism has become important, as tourists flocking to resorts on the Black Sea coast bring with them desperately needed foreign currency.**



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Albania



- **Known for decades as “Europe’s Hermit,” Albania is now rebuilding links to a number of other nations.**
- **Albanians live in a small nation with a distinctive culture, and have often felt threatened by neighbors.**
- **After World War II, its Communist leaders turned away from both the Soviet Union and China, leaving Albania isolated and poor.**
- **Since the end of communism in the 1990s, Albania has received billions of dollars from foreign aid and from Albanians living in other countries.**
- **Greek and Italian manufacturers have built factories in Albania to take advantage of the low wages.**
- **Internal politics and an influx of refugees from Kosovo in 1999 have slowed growth.**



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Other Balkan Nations



After Communist control ended in the late 1980s, Yugoslavia has broken up into several countries.

Serbia and Montenegro

Serbia and Montenegro have kept the name of Yugoslavia for their own union.

Croatia

Differences in religion and alphabet have heightened conflicts with Serbs.

Slovenia

With a solid industrial base, Slovenia is expected to recover from the problems of war and independence.

Long-standing conflicts between Serbs and Croats led to civil war.

Macedonia

Differences in language and culture have led to conflict among ethnic groups.

Kosovo

Repression of the ethnic Albanian majority followed by guerilla war devastated the region.



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Section 3 Review



How has foreign investment affected Romania?

- a) **Jobs have been created both directly and through the multiplier effect.**
- b) **Lack of foreign investment has led Romania into deeper poverty.**
- c) **Foreign investment was withdrawn after the execution of Ceausescu.**
- d) **Foreign investment has had no effect on the Romanian economy.**

What has attracted manufacturers to build factories in Albania?

- a) **Low wages.**
- b) **Rich mineral resources.**
- c) **Political stability.**
- d) **Trade agreements.**

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Section 3 Review



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Baltic States and Border Nations



- **How has location affected the history and economies of the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia?**
- **Why were many Ukrainians eager to break free of foreign domination?**
- **How is Belarus closely linked with Russia, and how is Moldova closely linked with Romania?**



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The Baltic States



- **Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia share a similar flat terrain with marshy lowlands and fertile plains.**
- **All three countries have benefited from access to the sea and their location along trade routes, but have also suffered from numerous invasions from neighbors.**
- **In 1939, the Soviet Union **annexed**, or formally added, the Baltic states, suppressing resistance and establishing naval bases.**
- **The Baltic states became independent after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.**
- **Ethnic diversity is a challenge in the Baltic states, as Estonia and Latvia have large numbers of Russian minorities.**
- **All three Baltic countries have transformed their economies, and have worked to **diversify**, or increase the variety of, their industries.**



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Ukraine



Foreign Domination

- For nearly five centuries, various foreign powers controlled Ukraine.
- By the 1700s, Russian rulers controlled the region.
- Nearly four centuries of Russian rule developed strong links between the nations, but Ukrainian nationalism remained strong.

Under Soviet Rule

- Ukrainians suffered from harsh policies under the Soviets.
- During World War II, many Ukrainians collaborated with the Germans against the Russians.
- An accident at the nuclear plant in Chernobyl in 1986 has left lingering pollution and health problems.

Since Independence

- Ukraine has long been a “breadbasket” of Europe, and continues to export food products to neighboring countries.
- Industry faces difficulties with old machinery, the need to import oil and natural gas, and the reluctance of investors to invest.



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Belarus and Moldova



Belarus and Moldova both have very close ties to larger nations.

Belarus

- Unlike other former Soviet republics, many Belarussians favored reestablishing close ties with Russia, and the two countries have signed pacts to create a “union state.”
- Belarus’ economy depends mainly on services and industry, but the nation must import most raw materials.
- Belarus suffered heavily from the Chernobyl disaster.

Moldova

- Moldova was once a Romanian principality, and most of its people are of Romanian descent.
- Despite strong ties with Romania, residents rejected a proposal for union with Romania.
- Though Soviet planners built up Moldova’s industry, the economy still depends on agricultural exports.



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Section 4 Review



How have the Baltic states suffered from their location in the past?

- a) **The region is poor in resources.**
- b) **Invaders have battled for control of the region.**
- c) **The region is land-locked.**
- d) **The climate of the region is very poor for agriculture.**

Moldova was once a principality of which country?

- a) **Ukraine**
- b) **Poland**
- c) **Russia**
- d) **Romania**

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Section 4 Review



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