

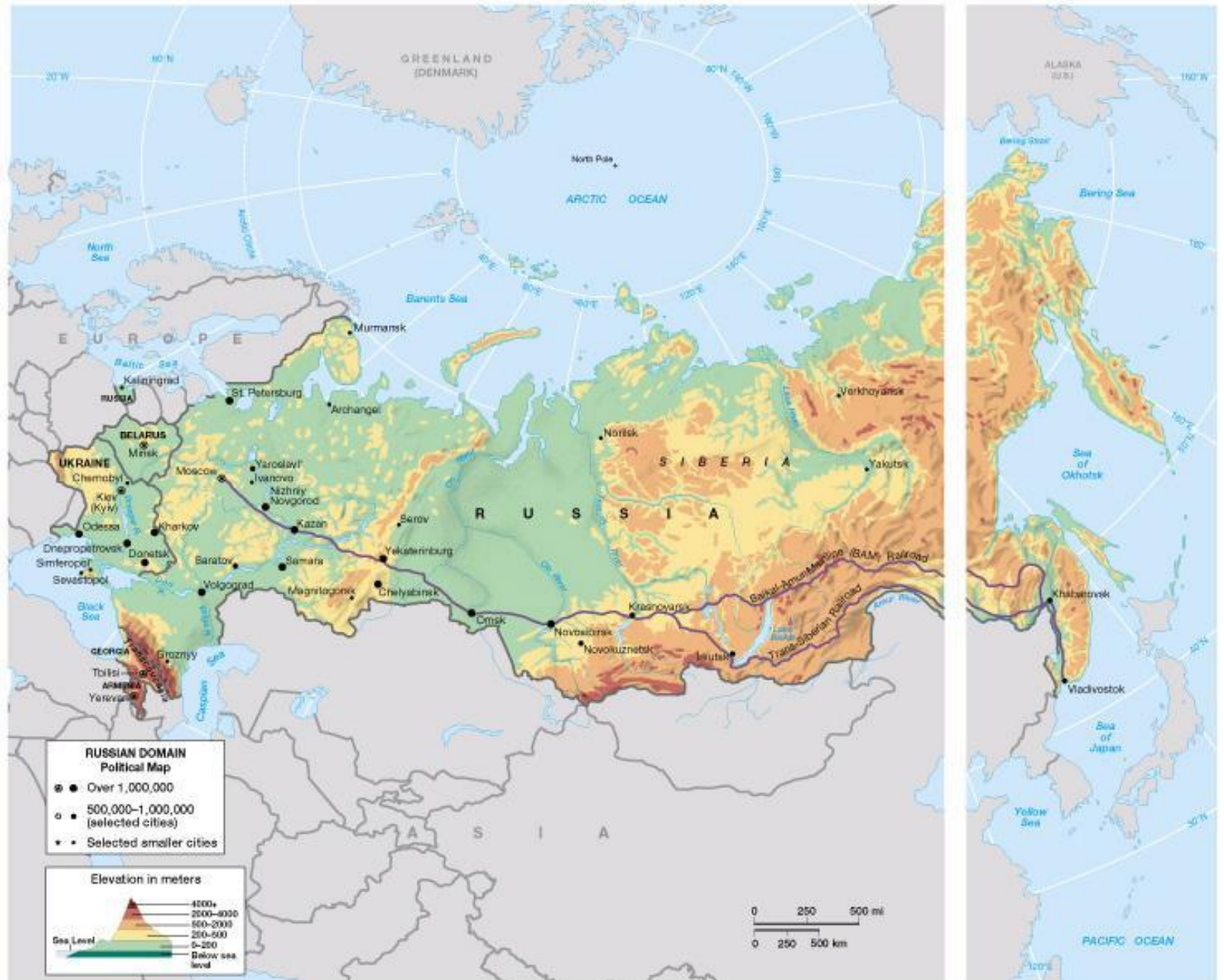
Russia – Chapter 9



Rowntree, et. al.

Modified by Joe Naumann, UMSL

Chapter 9: The Russian Domain (Fig. 9.1)



Learning Objectives

- Understand the challenges of cold, northern climate that affects this region
- Learn about the cold war between the U.S. and U.S.S.R./Russia (1945-1990)
- Know the difference between a political system and an economic system
- Students should become familiar with the physical, demographic, cultural, political, and economic characteristics of the Russian Domain
- Understand these concepts and models:

-Centralized economic planning

-Cold War

-Permafrost

-Autonomous areas

-Glasnost and Perestroika

-Russification

-Denuclearization

Globalization & Diversity:
Rowntree, Lewis, Price,
Wyckoff

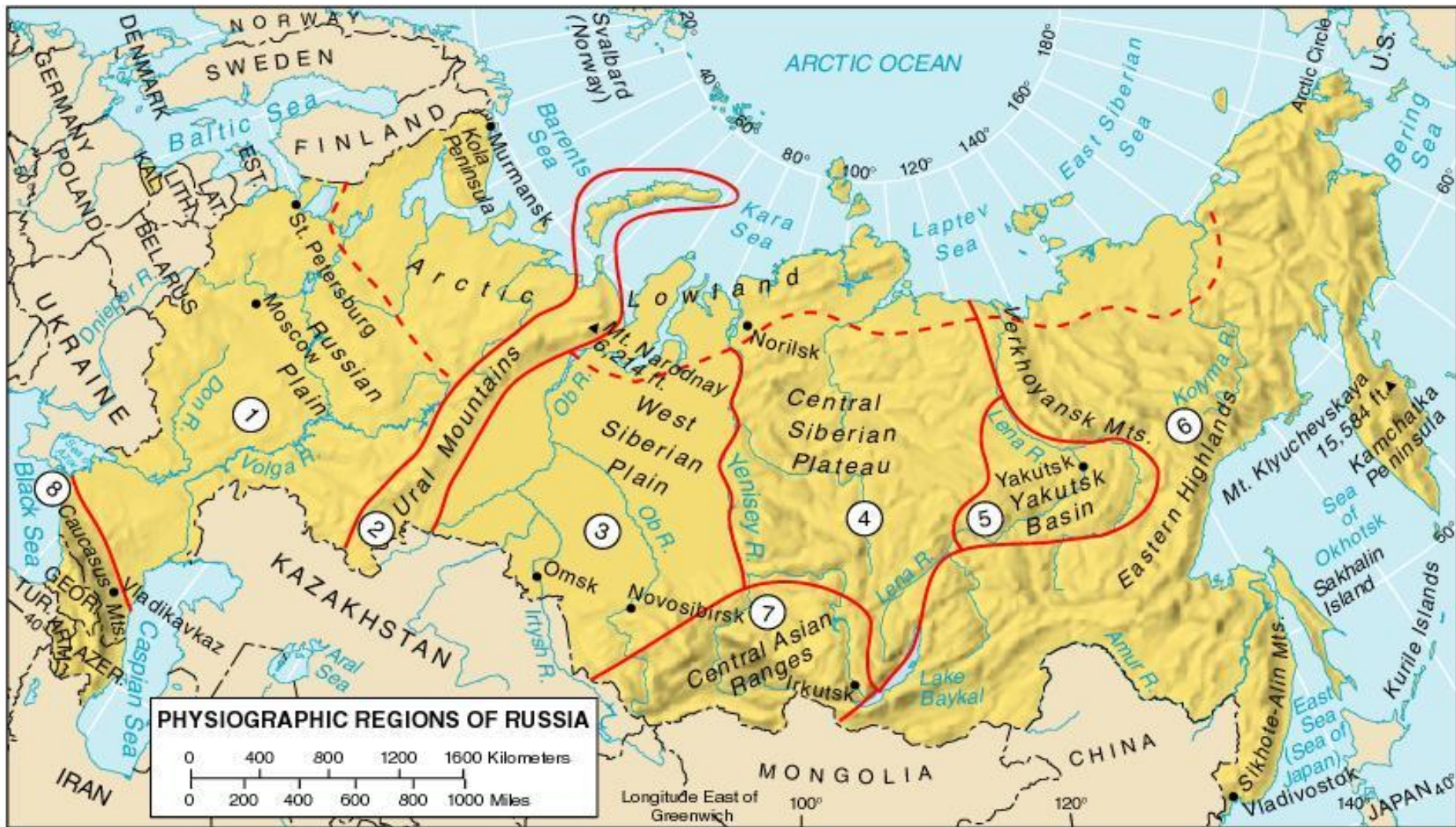
Introduction

- **Russian Domain includes Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, and Armenia (all were part of the U.S.S.R.)**
- **Russia is the largest country (in land area) on Earth; it spans 11 time zones**
 - **Rich in resources, but has one of the harshest climates**
- **The Russian Domain has had extremely rapid political and economic change since 1990**
 - **From centrally planned economy to capitalism**
 - **From authoritarian dictatorship to democracy**
 - **Region's economy is weak; commitment to democracy uncertain, nationalist movements threaten stability**
 - **Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia must build global relationships**

RUSSIA-US SIZE COMPARISON



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Physiographic Regions – mountains & deserts & poor coasts on margins

Globalization & Diversity: 6
 Rowntree, Lewis, Price,
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Environmental Geography: Vast & Challenging Land

- **Russian Domain has “good farmlands,” metal, petroleum, natural gas, and coal resources**
- **High latitude, continental climate, temperature extremes**
- **Cold climate and rugged terrain limit human settlement and agriculture**
- **Sturgeon (caviar-producing fish) nearly gone**
 - **Few domestic regulations to protect them**
 - **Poaching adds to the problem**

Physical Geography of the Russian Domain (Fig. 9.2)



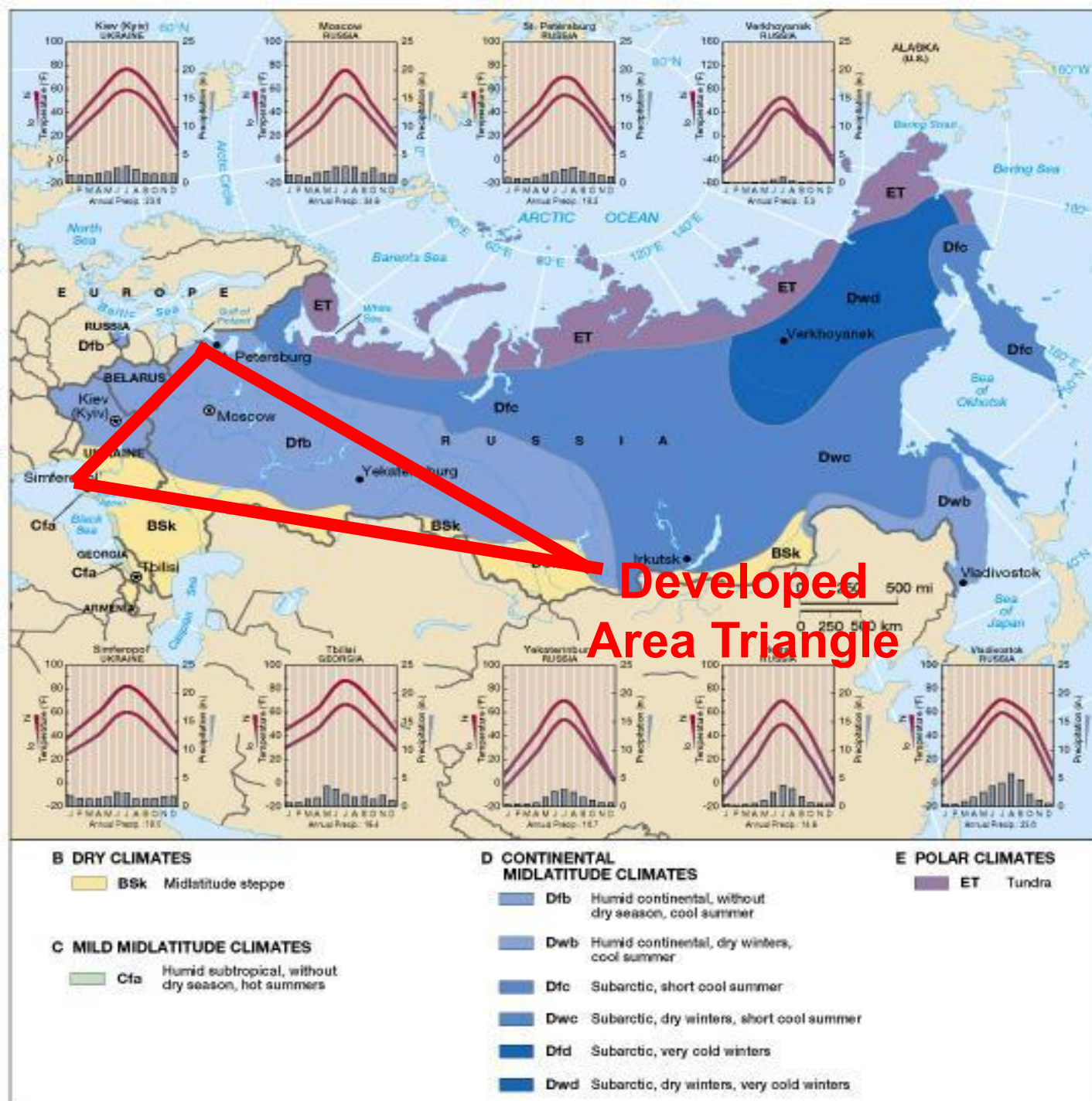
• The European West

– European Russia, Ukraine and Belarus on eastern European Plain

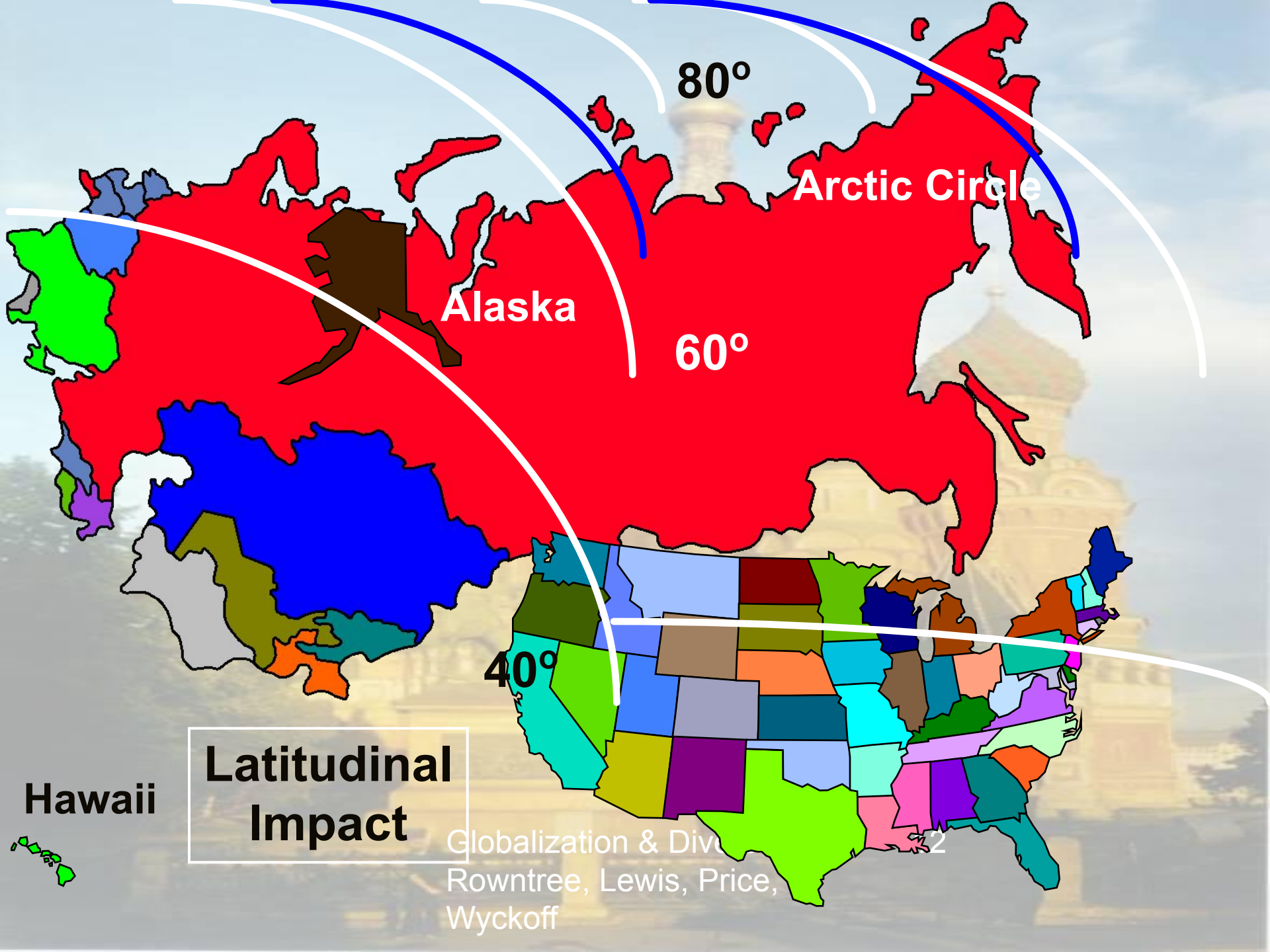
- 3 environments influence agriculture in this region
 - Poor soils, cold temps, forests N. of Moscow & St. Petersburg
 - Belarus and central European Russia have longer growing season, but acidic podzol soils limit farm output
 - South of 50 N Latitude, grassland and fertile soils support commercial wheat, corn, sugar, beets, meat production

• The Ural Mountains and Siberia

- Urals separate European Russia from Siberia: low mountains with cold, dry climates
- Siberia extends thousands of miles, cold climate, little precipitation
 - Lake Baikal (largest freshwater reserve in the world – 400 miles long, nearly a mile deep, with unique species)
 - **Tundra** (mosses, lichens) north; **Taiga** (coniferous forest zone) south
 - Farming possible only in southwest Siberia
 - **Permafrost** in Eastern Siberia – cold climate with unstable, seasonally frozen ground limiting farming and construction



Climate Map of the Russian Domain (Fig. 9.3)



80°

Arctic Circle

Alaska

60°

40°

**Latitudinal
Impact**

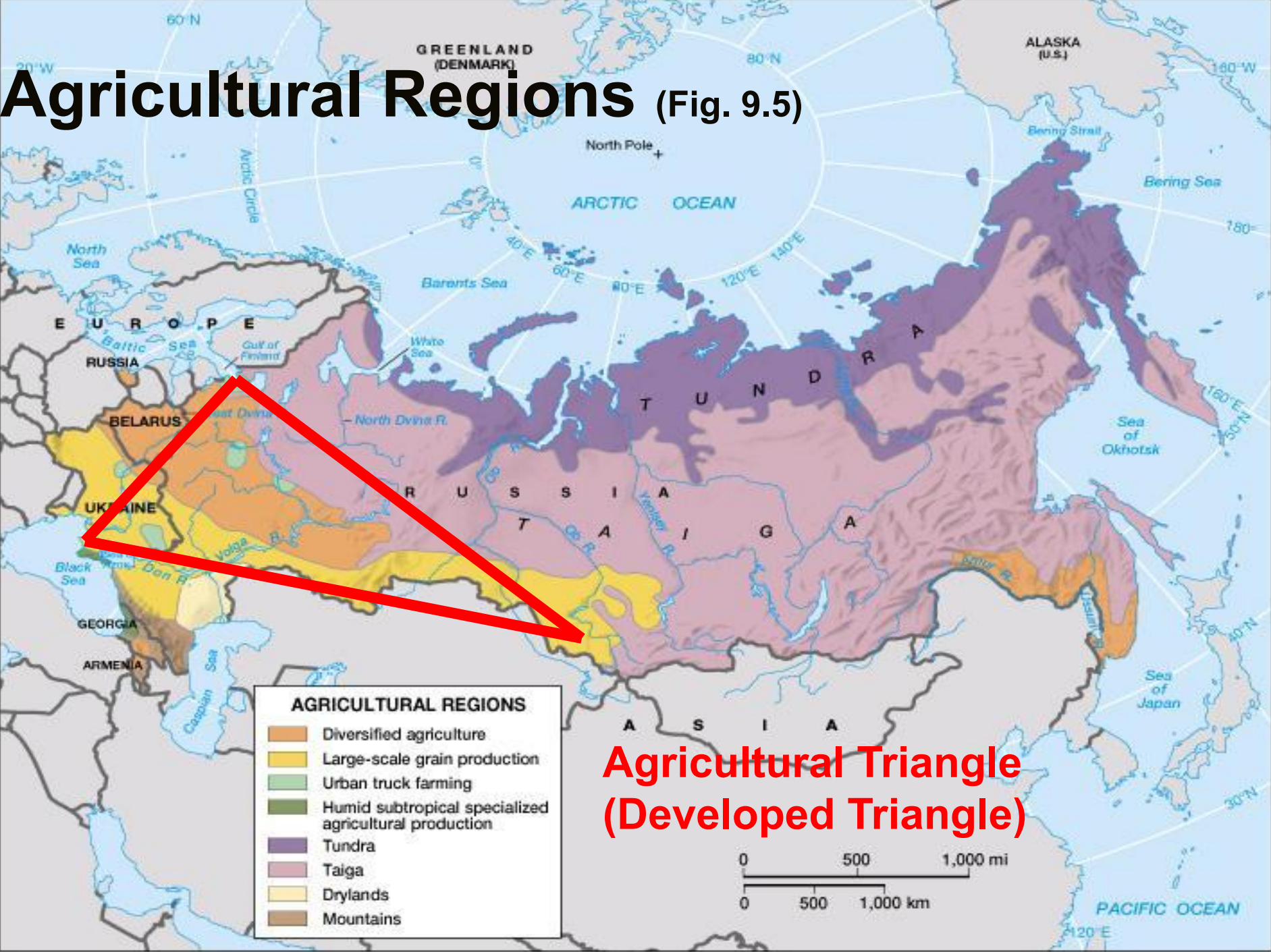
Hawaii

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RUSSIAN CLIMATE

- **Affected by 3 natural conditions:**
 - **Latitudinal Position**
 - **Continental Position**
 - **Location of major mountains**

Agricultural Regions (Fig. 9.5)



Environmental Geography: A Vast and Challenging Land (cont.)

- The Russian Far East

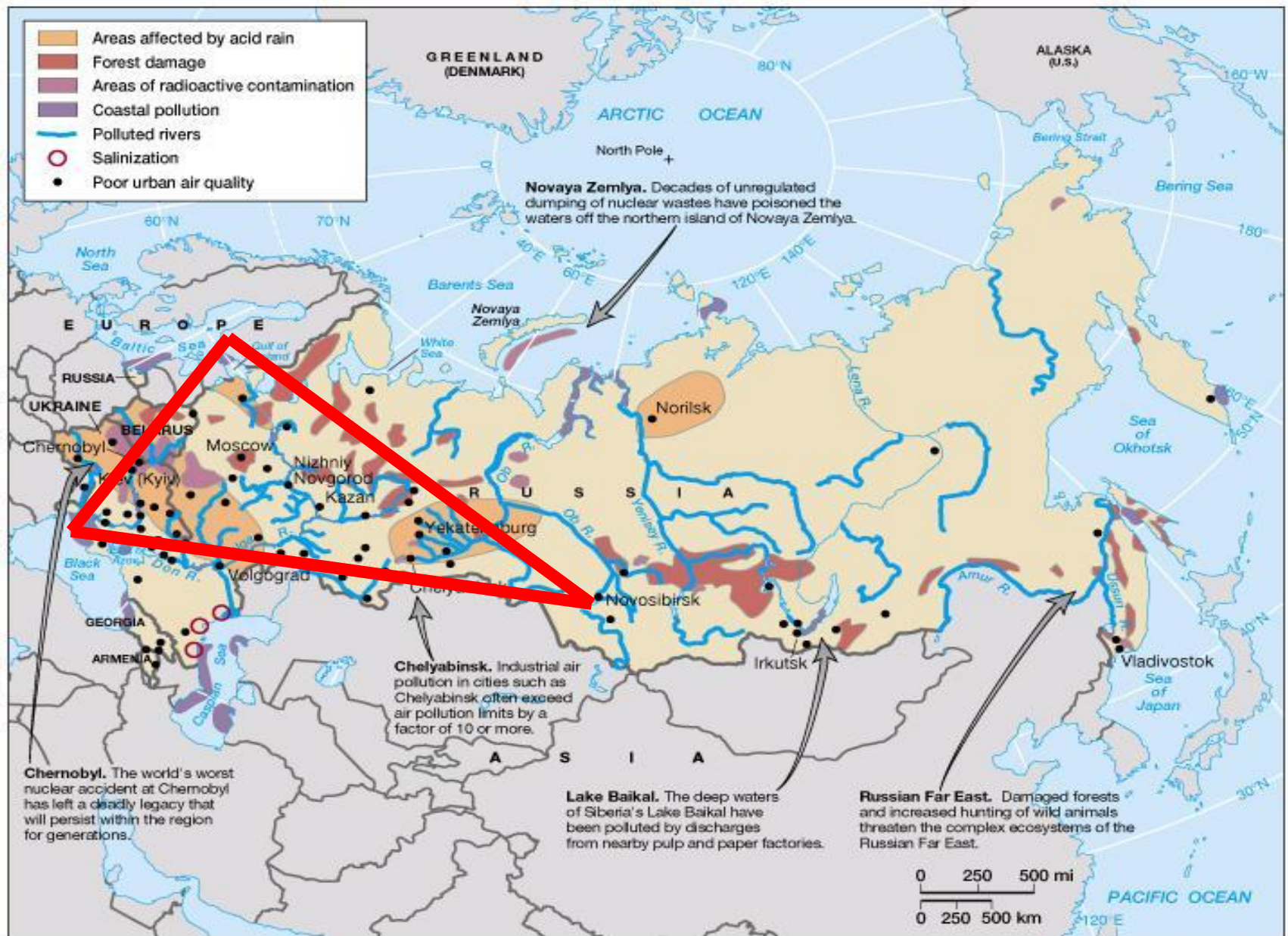
- Near Vladivostok, about same latitude as New England (in N. America)
- Longer growing seasons and milder climates than Siberia, seismically active
- Ussuri and Amur River Valleys have mixed crop and livestock farming
- Vegetation includes conifers, taiga, Asian hardwoods

- The Caucasus and Transcaucasia

- In extreme south of European Russia, forms Russia's southern boundary, between the Black and Caspian seas
- Highest peak is Mt. Elbrus (18,000 feet)
- Georgia and Armenia are in Transcaucasia; Lesser Caucasus Mountains form border between Armenia and Azerbaijan
- Climate: high rainfall in west, arid or semi-arid in east; good soils and farming

- A Devastated Environment (cont.)
 - Air and Water Pollution
 - Extreme environmental pollution, from industrialization, urbanization, careless mining, nuclear energy production; legacy of U.S.S.R.
 - Air pollution caused by clustered factories, few environmental controls, reliance on low quality coal
 - Water pollution caused by industrial waste, raw sewage, oil spills; pulp and paper factories polluted Lake Baikal (1950s-60s)
 - The Nuclear Threat
 - Former U.S.S.R. nuclear weapons, energy production caused pollution
 - Above-ground testing made radioactive fallout; nuclear waste dumped
 - Nuclear weapons used for seismic experiments, oil exploration, dam building
 - Russia has many old nuclear reactors; major nuclear accidents: 1986 meltdown in Chernobyl (Belarus); another in 1956
 - Construction of new nuclear plants
 - Possibility of warehousing of international nuclear wastes

Environmental Issues in the Russian Domain (Fig. 9.9)



Population & Settlement: An Urban Domain

- Overview of the Russian Domain
 - More than 200 million residents, most in cities
- Population Distribution
 - Most people in best farmlands
 - European Russia; 110 mil.; Siberia: 35 mil.; Belarus & Ukraine: 60 mil
 - The European Core (Belarus; Western Russia; Ukraine)
 - Contains the Russian Domain's largest cities, biggest industrial complexes, most productive farms, higher population densities
 - Siberian Hinterlands
 - Relatively sparse settlement, with two zones influenced by transportation
 - Industrial cities along Trans-Siberian Railroad (1904)
 - Thinner settlement along the Baikal-Amur Mainline (BAM) Railroad -- newer (1984)

Population Map of the Russian Domain (Fig. 9.12)

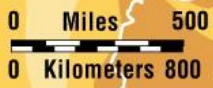
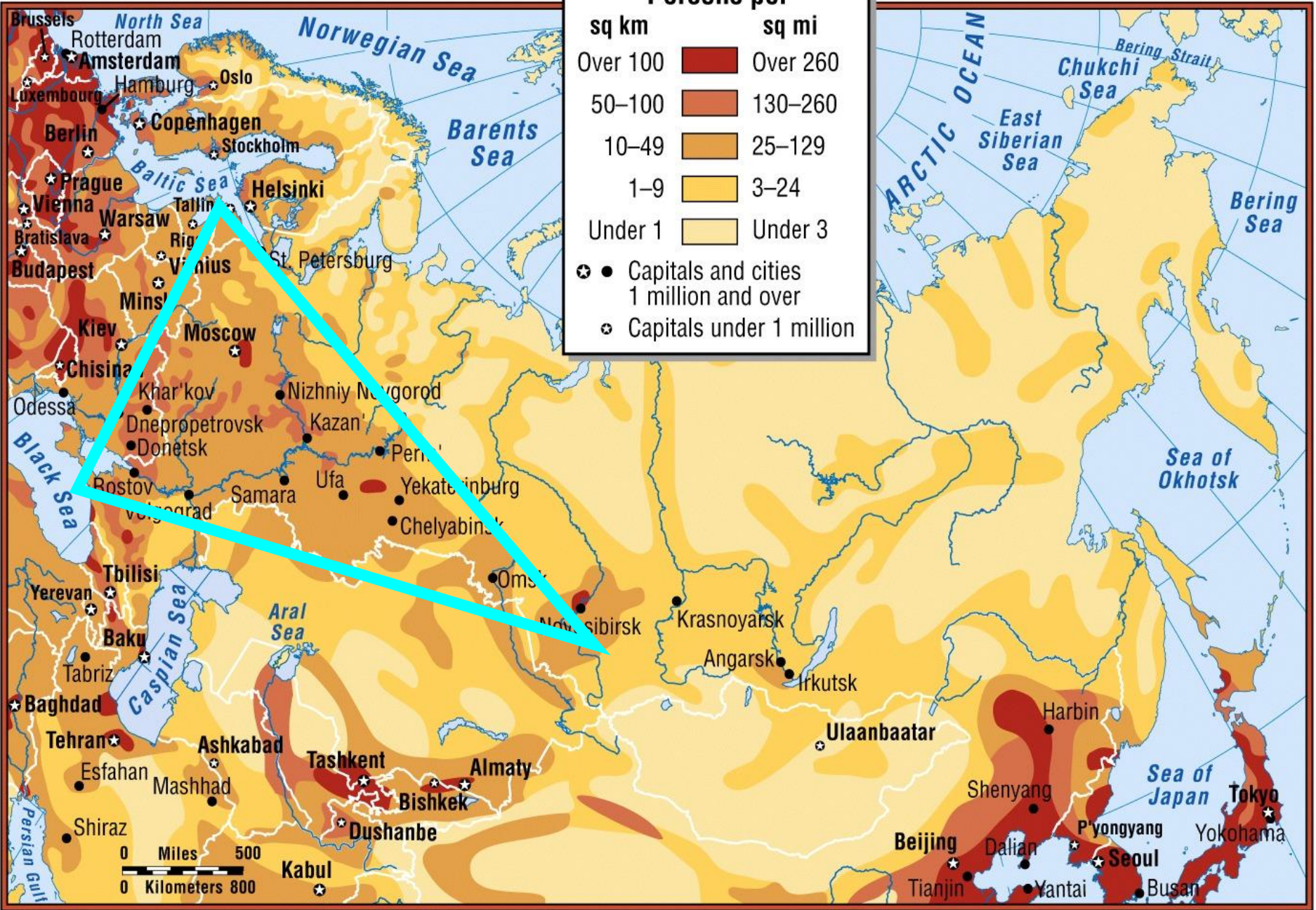
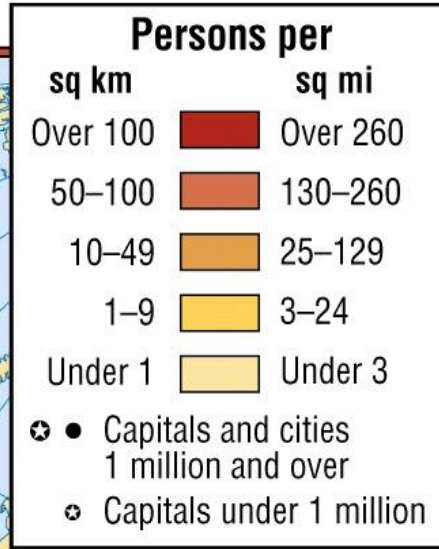



- Regional Migration Patterns
 - Eastward Movement (1860-1914)
 - Trans-Siberian Railroad speeded eastward movement
 - Almost 1 mil. settlers lured by farming opportunities in southern Siberia, more political freedom away from Tsars
 - » Tsars – czars; authoritarian leaders who dominated politics of pre-1917 Russian Empire (comes from “Caesar”)
 - Political Motives
 - Infill in Siberia has economic and political benefits
 - Political dissidents sent to Siberia (Gulags Archipelago)
 - Russification: Soviet policy moved Russians into non-Russian portions of U.S.S.R to increase Russian dominance in those areas; Russians are a significant minority in former Soviet republics

Recent Migration Flows in the Russian Domain (Fig. 9.17)



Population Density



- 
- Regional Migration Patterns (cont.)
 - New International Movements
 - Russification often reversed in post-Soviet era
 - Citizenship, language requirements encourage Russians to go
 - Movement to other regions
 - “Brain drain” to other countries
 - Jewish Russians move to Israel or U.S.
 - Mail-order Ukrainian brides to the U.S.
 - The Urban Attraction
 - Soviet planners’ encouraged migration to cities
 - Soviets planned cities, limited population levels and regulated migration
 - Post-Soviet era, citizens have greater freedom to move; many older industrial areas are now losing population

- Inside the Russian City
 - Russian cities carefully in planned form and function, with circular land-use zones
 - Core has superior transportation, best stores and housing
 - » Core predates Soviets era
 - » Sotzgorods: work-linked housing (including dorms)
 - » Chermoyuski: apartment blocks from 1950s/60s
 - » Mikrorayons: Self-contained housing projects of 1970s/80s
 - » Dachas: country houses available only to the elite

- 
- The Demographic Crisis
 - General population decline caused by low birth rates and rising death (mortality) rates, especially among middle-aged males
 - Causes
 - » fraying social fabric
 - » economic uncertainty
 - » declining health among women of child-bearing age
 - » stress-related diseases
 - » rising murder and suicide
 - » toxic environments
 - Russia's population could fall by 3 million by 25 million by 2030

The Legacy of Slavic Dominance

• The Heritage of the Russian Empire

– Growth of the Russian Empire

- Slavic “Rus” in power from 900AD around Kiev
- Eastern Orthodox Christianity came in 1000AD
- By 1400s, new and expanding Russian state after Tatar and Mongol rule
- Expansion eastward in 16th & 17th centuries; westward expansion slow
- Final expansion of Russian Empire in 19th Century in Central Asia

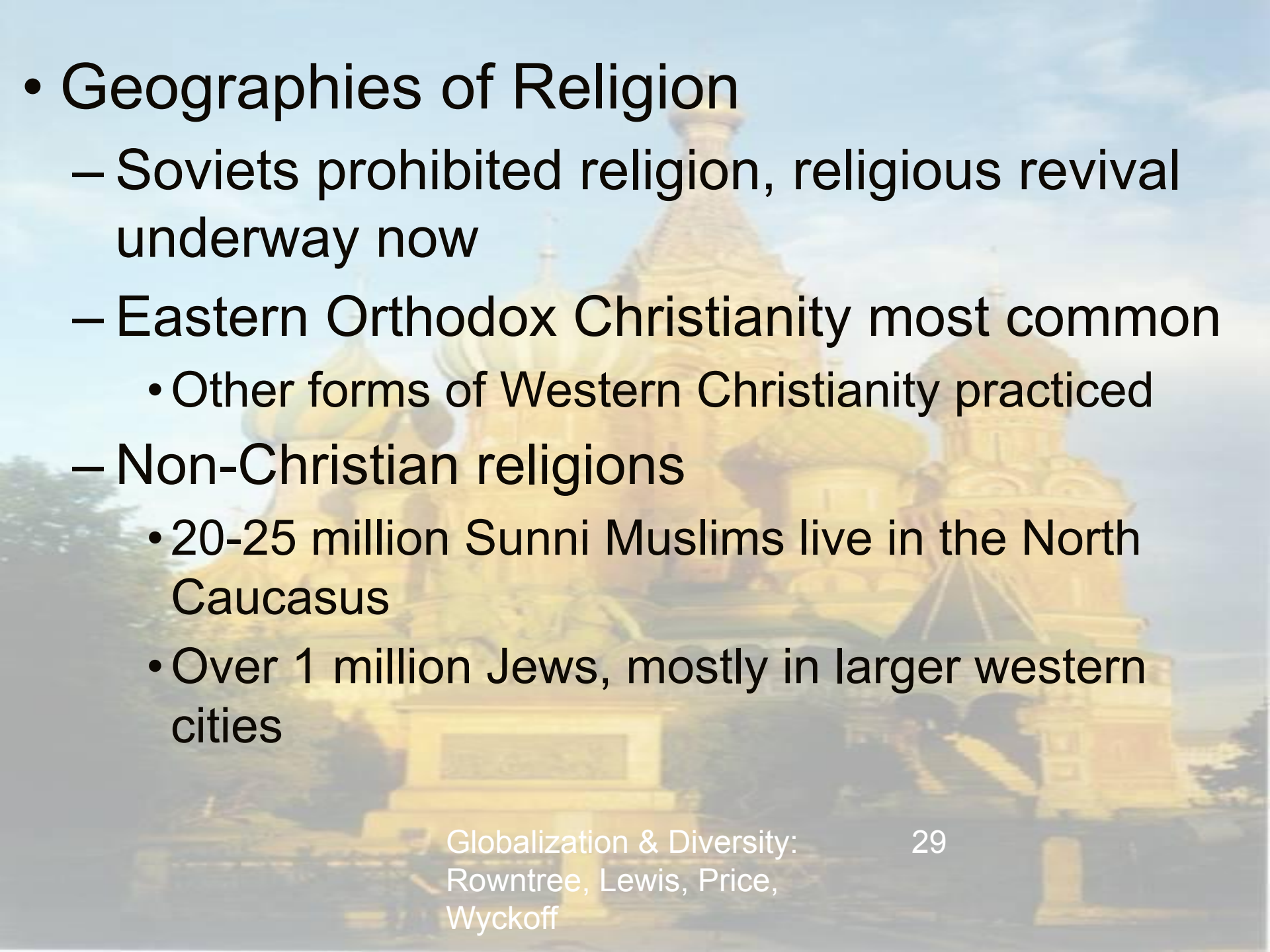
– The Significance of Empire

- 1900, Russians ruled from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok

Growth of the Russian Empire (Fig. 9.20)



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- Geographies of Language
 - Slavic languages dominate in the Russian Domain
 - 80% of Russia's people are ethnic Russians
 - There are other language groups
 - Finno-Ugric (Finnish) in the north
 - Altaic (Tatars & Turkic peoples) middle Volga
 - Transcaucasia has many languages
 - Yakut (Turkic) in Siberia; Buryats near Lake Baikal
 - » Similar treatment to indigenous in U.S., Canada, Australia

- 
- Geographies of Religion
 - Soviets prohibited religion, religious revival underway now
 - Eastern Orthodox Christianity most common
 - Other forms of Western Christianity practiced
 - Non-Christian religions
 - 20-25 million Sunni Muslims live in the North Caucasus
 - Over 1 million Jews, mostly in larger western cities

Languages of the Russian Domain (Fig. 9.22)



- 
- Russian Culture in Global Context
 - Strong traditions, influenced by Western Europe
 - Soviet Days
 - Soviets promoted social realism: a style devoted to the realistic depiction of workers harnessing the forces of nature or struggling against capitalism
 - Turn to the West
 - Young Russians adopted consumer culture in 1980s
 - In post-Soviet era, globalism and consumerism came to Russia from the West and elsewhere (India, Hong Kong, Latin America)
 - The Music Scene
 - American and European popular music gaining fans
 - Home-grown music industry is evolving

The Remnants of a Global Superpower

- Geopolitical Structure of Former Soviet Union
 - Russian Empire collapsed abruptly in 1917
 - Briefly, a broad-based coalition of business people, workers, and peasants replaced tsars
 - Soon, Bolsheviks (faction of Russian Communists representing the interests of the industrial workers), led by Lenin, centralized power and introduced communism The Soviet Republics and Autonomous Areas
 - Soviet leaders designed a geopolitical solution to maintain the country's territorial boundaries, and theoretically acknowledged the rights of non-Russian citizens by creating Union Republics
 - Autonomous areas: minor political sub-units designed to recognize special status of minority groups within existing republics

Soviet Geopolitical System (Fig. 9.26)



Geopolitical Framework: The Remnants of a Global Superpower

- Centralization and Expansion of the Soviet State
 - Communism did not eliminate ethnic differences
 - In 1930, Soviet leader Stalin centralized power in Moscow, limiting national autonomy
 - Land added
 - Sakhalin, Kuril Islands from Japan; Baltic republics
 - Occupation of Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia
 - **Exclave** (outside Russia's contiguous land) added from Germany
- End of the Soviet System
 - Union republics encouraged ethnic identification
 - **Glasnost**: greater openness; **Perestroika**: economic restructuring
 - 1991: all 15 Union Republics gained independence

Geopolitical Framework: The Remnants of a Global Superpower

- Current Geopolitical Setting (1992-present) (Fig. 9.30)
 - Russia and the Former Soviet Republics
 - Formed Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) – a looser political union that included all but three of the former republics; has no power, and is mostly a forum for discussion
 - Denuclearization (the return and partial dismantling of nuclear weapons from outlying republics to Russian control completed in 1990s; tactical nuclear weapons moved to Kaliningrad exclave
 - Military, political and ethnic tensions remain in parts of the region
 - Devolution and the Russian Federation
 - Devolution: more localized political control in Russia
 - Russian leaders fear other areas will secede

– Regional Tensions

- Chechnyan Republic seeking independence
 - Russians sent military
 - Chechnya has metals and oil

– The Shifting Global Setting

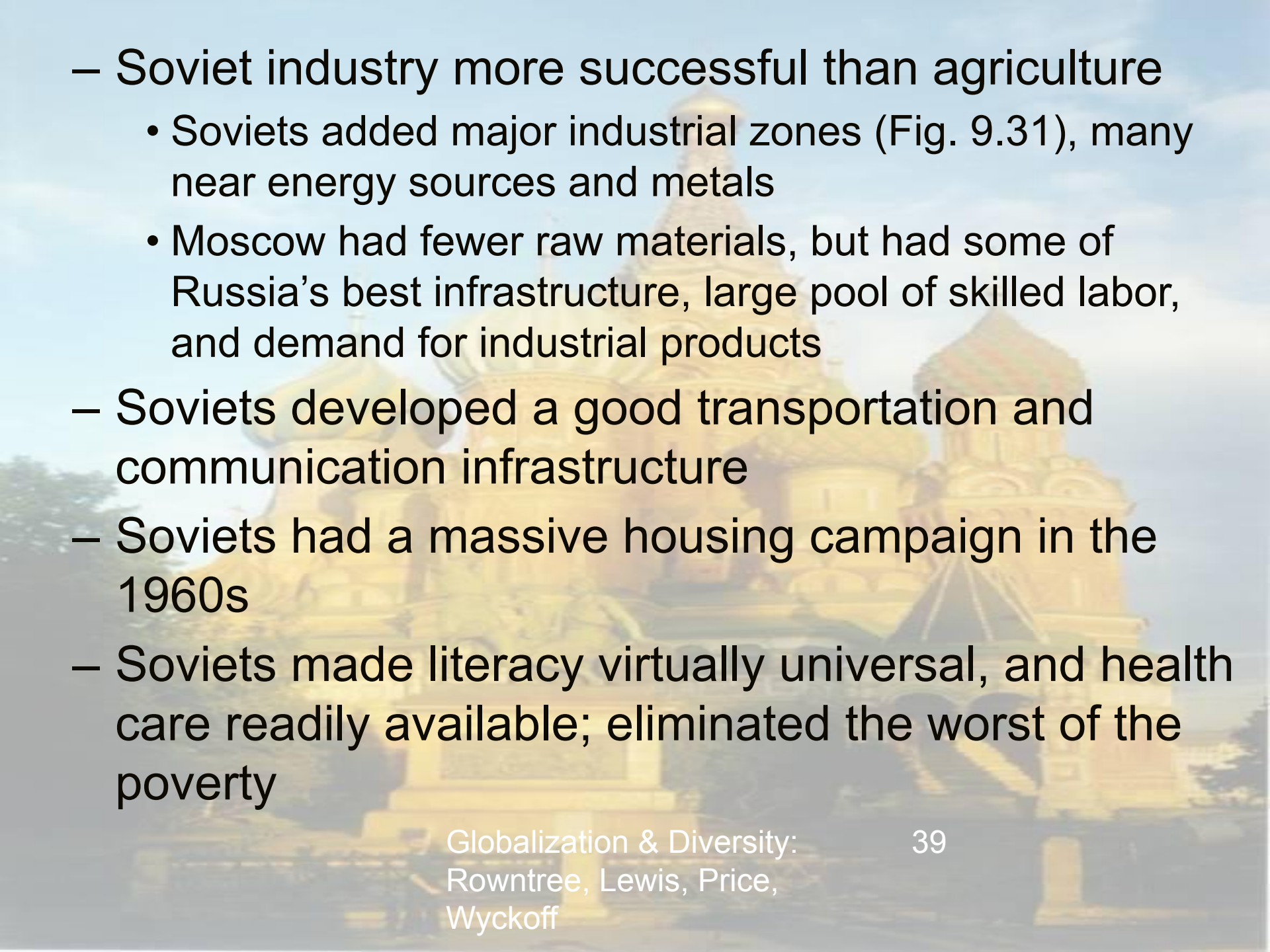
- Boundary issues between Russia and China
- Dispute with Japan over Kuril Islands
- Expansion of NATO concerns Russian leaders
- Russia recently joined the “Group of Seven” (G-7)
 - Other members: U.S., Canada, Japan, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy)

Geopolitical Issues in the Russian Domain (Fig. 9.27)



An Era of Ongoing Adjustment

- After economic decline of 40% in the 1990s, Russia's economy stabilized in 2000 and 2004
- The Legacy of the Soviet Economy
 - Communists came to power in 1917, and instituted **centralized economic planning**: a situation in which the state controls production targets and industrial output
 - Soviets nationalized agriculture, but it was inefficient
 - Soviets expanded industrialization and transportation
 - Industrialization more successful than collectivized agriculture
 - Trans-Siberian Railroad, canal system
 - Improvements in housing and education after WWII
 - Literacy near 100%
 - But economic and social problems increased in 1970s-'80s

- 
- Soviet industry more successful than agriculture
 - Soviets added major industrial zones (Fig. 9.31), many near energy sources and metals
 - Moscow had fewer raw materials, but had some of Russia's best infrastructure, large pool of skilled labor, and demand for industrial products
 - Soviets developed a good transportation and communication infrastructure
 - Soviets had a massive housing campaign in the 1960s
 - Soviets made literacy virtually universal, and health care readily available; eliminated the worst of the poverty

• The Post-Soviet Economy

- The region has replaced its communist system with a mix of state-run operations and private enterprise

– Redefining Regional Economic Ties

- Independent republics negotiate for needed resources with Russia and each other rather than accept centralized control
- Russia continues to dominate the region's economy

– Privatization and Economic Uncertainty

- Russia removed price controls in 1992; sold state-owned business to private investors in 1993
 - Higher prices, lack of legal safeguards created problems
- Agriculture still struggles, in part due to harsh climate, landforms
- Many people see little economic gain from changes

Major Natural Resources and Industrial Zones (Fig. 9.30)



Rowntree, Lewis, Price,
Wyckoff

– The Russian Mafia

- Russia Interior Ministry estimates that Russian mafia controls 40% of the private economy & 60% of the state-run enterprises; 80% of banks in Russia may be under mafia influence
 - Protection money, corruption result
- Russian mafia has gone global
 - Money laundering (Russia, U.K., U.S.); gambling (Sri Lanka); drugs (Colombia); legitimate Israeli high tech companies



- Social Problems

- High unemployment, rising housing costs; lower welfare spending
- Divorce and domestic violence increasing; prostitution increasing
- Health care spending dropping
 - Vaccine shortages allow disease to return
 - Chronic and stress-related illnesses on the rise

- Growing Economic Globalization
 - Starting in 1970s, Soviets exported fossil fuels, imported food; ties now stronger
 - A New Day for the Consumer
 - Western consumer goods available (e.g., McDonald's, Calvin Klein; even some luxury items)
 - Attracting Foreign Investment
 - Region struggles to attract foreign investment
 - Most investment from U.S., western Europe (esp. Germany, U.K.)
 - Fossil fuels, food, telecommunications, consumer goods
 - Foreign investment growing by more than 14% annually

- 
- Globalization and Russia's Petroleum Economy
 - Russia has 35% of the world's natural gas reserves
 - Mostly in Siberia
 - World's largest gas exporter
 - Primary destination for Russian petroleum products is western Europe
 - Former U.S.S.R. republics depend on Russia's energy
 - Foreign investment in new pipelines, other technology
 - Local impacts of globalization
 - Vary from place to place
 - Investment in Moscow, Siberia (oil)
 - Pro-business Nizhny Novgorod and Samara attract investment
 - Local economic declines in older, uncompetitive industrial areas

Conclusions

- Russian Domain has seen great change, from empire, through revolution and break-up
- Ethnic & cultural differences continue to shape the region
- Russian Domain is rich in natural resources, but has limited agricultural potential and lingering economic difficulties
- Massive readjustments growing from the political and economic upheavals of the 1990s continue to affect the area
- Environmental devastation in the region and its effects continue to cause social and health problems
- More uncertainty lies ahead for the people of the Russian Domain.