

2 COUNTRIES

Capital- London

Population- 61,8 million

Area- 242.5 thousand sq km

Nationality- Britons

Ethnic/ Cultural groups- English, Scots, Welsh, Irish, other nations

Official language- English

Parts- England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Location- Europe

Highest Mountains- Ben Nevis, in the Scotland, 1,343 metres



A photograph of the Tower Bridge in London, showing its two towers and suspension cables. The bridge is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there is a body of water (the River Thames) and a dark metal railing. To the left, the dark foliage of a tree is visible. The bridge's architecture is detailed with Gothic-style windows and stone masonry.

Major cities- Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburg, Sheffield, Belfast, Newcastle, Cardiff

Borders- Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Scandiavian countries (sea borders)

Longest river- The Severn, 354 km

Largest lake- Lough Neagh in Nothern Ireland? 382 sq km



The official or political name of the country is The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. At the United Nations and in the European Parliament, it is usually known by a shorter name: The United Kingdom or the abbreviation THE UK.

The country is often called Britain. The poetic name of the country is Albion. The geographical name of the country is The British Isles because the country occupies the islands, which are called the British Isles.



the flag of the the united kingdom is called the Union Flag or the union jack.
in 1603 King James 1 of England (or Jack for short) united England and Scotland. Then in 1801 there was the union with Ireland. Now the flag combines the emblems of the three countries (England, Scotland and Northern Ireland) united under one monarch. Wales is not represented in the flag because at the time the flag appeared in 1606. Wales was already united with England.

The Union Jack is a combination of the crosses of three patron saints of the country:

- * the red cross of Saint George for England on a white background
- * the white diagonal cross of Saint Andrew for Scotland on a blue background
- * the red diagonal cross of Saint Patrick for Ireland on a white background

THE EMBLEM

The emblem of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the combination of the symbols of the four parts of the country. The State Emblem of Britain shows the union of its four parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The emblem was introduced after the union with Scotland in 1603. The shield of the emblem is divided into four parts. There are emblems of England (three lions on a red background), emblem of Scotland (a red lion on a yellow background) and the emblem of Northern Ireland (a yellow harp (arpa) on a blue background).

Two emblems of English lions symbolise the leading role of England in this union. The shield is supported by two mythic animals: the English lion and the Scottish unicorn. The emblem is headed with a crowned lion, the symbol of power and might. Below the emblem there are floristic symbols of the four parts of the country.



Capital- Moscow

Population- 140.3 million

Area-17 million sq km

Nationality- Russian

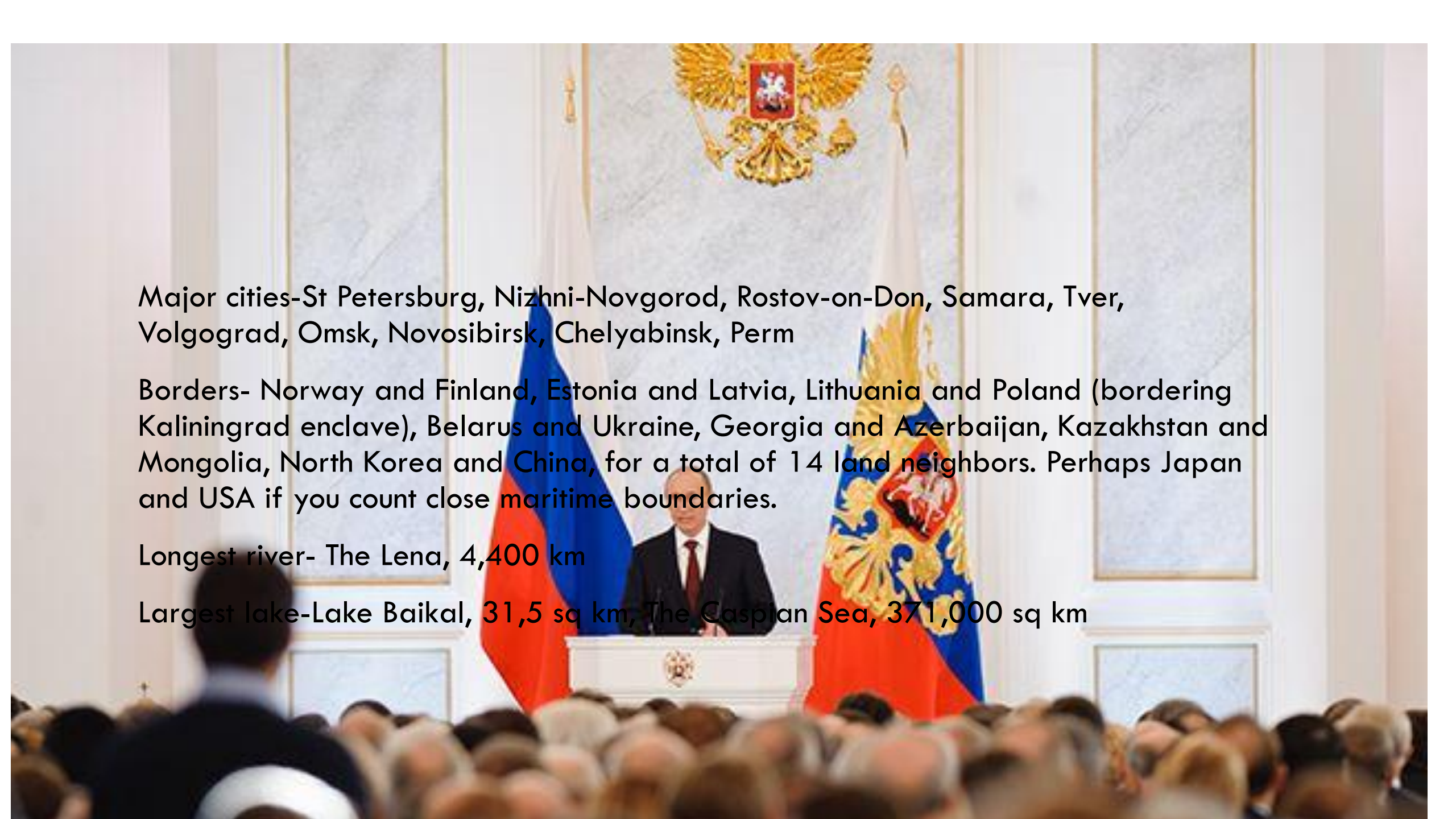
Ethnic/ Cultural groups- Russian, Tatar, Bashkir, Ukrainian and other

Official language- Russian

Parts- 21 republics, 6 territories, 49 provinces, 10 autonomous areas and 1 region

Location- Eurasia

Highest Mountains- Elbrus, 5,642 metres

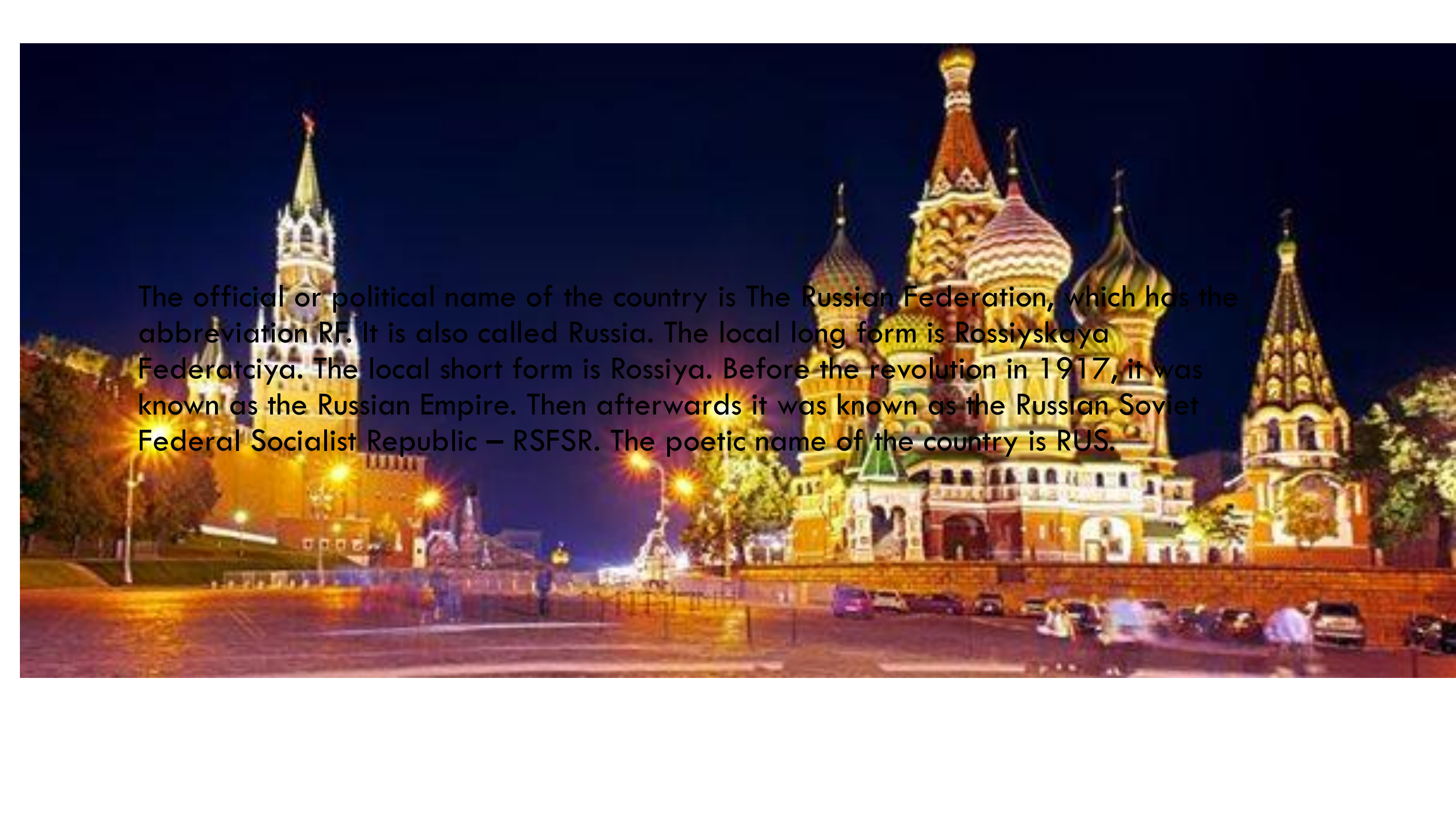
A photograph of Vladimir Putin standing at a white podium, addressing a large audience. He is wearing a dark suit and a red tie. Behind him are two Russian flags and the Russian coat of arms on the wall. The audience is visible in the foreground, mostly out of focus.

Major cities-St Petersburg, Nizhni-Novgorod, Rostov-on-Don, Samara, Tver, Volgograd, Omsk, Novosibirsk, Chelyabinsk, Perm

Borders- Norway and Finland, Estonia and Latvia, Lithuania and Poland (bordering Kaliningrad enclave), Belarus and Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia, North Korea and China, for a total of 14 land neighbors. Perhaps Japan and USA if you count close maritime boundaries.

Longest river- The Lena, 4,400 km

Largest lake-Lake Baikal, 31,5 sq km, The Caspian Sea, 371,000 sq km

A nighttime photograph of the Moscow Kremlin. On the left, the Spasskaya Tower is illuminated with warm lights. To the right, St. Basil's Cathedral is brightly lit, showing its colorful, multi-tiered onion domes. The foreground shows a dark street with some blurred figures of people and cars, suggesting a long exposure. The sky is dark blue.


The official or political name of the country is The Russian Federation, which has the abbreviation RF. It is also called Russia. The local long form is Rossiyskaya Federatsiya. The local short form is Rossiya. Before the revolution in 1917, it was known as the Russian Empire. Then afterwards it was known as the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic – RSFSR. The poetic name of the country is RUS.



The Russian flag is sometimes called the IMPERIAL FLAG. It consists of three equal stripes of white, blue and red.

The first flag of this design appeared more than 300 year ago. Peter the Great adapted the flag from the National flag of the Netherlands. Later a black two – headed eagle on a golden background was added to the flag of Russia. The flag existed until the revolution in 1917. In the nineties, with the democratic changes, the tree – colour flag was restored again. On 21 August 1991, the flag was officially adopted by the Russian President and the Russian Parliament.

In Russia the colours of the current flag symbolise:
white-frankness and generosity;
blue-honesty and wisdom;
red-courage and love.

The image shows a detailed, three-dimensional representation of the Russian National Emblem. It is a golden double-headed eagle with its wings spread wide. On its breast is a shield featuring a blue horseman (St. George) slaying a dragon. Above the eagle's heads is a crown, and on either side are smaller crowns. The eagle holds a scepter in its right talon and an orb in its left. The entire emblem is set against a solid red background.

The Russian National Emblem is the golden double-headed eagle with a horseman (St George) on a shield on the eagle's breast with a red background. Above the two heads of the eagle there is an historical crown. The first emblem of the double-headed eagle was introduced in 1480 by Prince Ivan III. It was at the time of establishment of the Russian state system and the emblem which symbolised the supreme power and sovereignty of the state. Since then, the double-headed eagle has been the main part of the emblem of our country. But now the crown is a symbol of the sovereignty both of the Russian Federation (as a whole) and of its parts (subjects of the Federation). The state emblem shows our patron saint, St George, who helped our country at times of war. The state emblem appeared in Russia in 1480. It is the oldest state emblem in history and contributes to our country's traditions.