

Russia and Central Asia Test Study Guide

This test will cover everything we talked about in class, including notes, handouts, and homework, as well as past and present day examples of why we are studying this. If you are at all confused over what we have been discussing, please come to see me.

The test will include the following sections:

- Multiple choice
- True/False
- Paragraph responses
- Map

Here are some of the main topics you will need to know for the test:

1. Basic Info

- A. Eurasia
- B. dividing line: Ural Mtns.
- C. geographic size
- D. former Soviet Union

2. Demographic Info

- A. people
 - a. diverse ethnic groups
- B. language
 - a. Russian language
 - i. Cyrillic writing
 - b. Turkic languages
- C. gov't
 - a. authoritarianism (totalitarianism)
 - i. no meaningful elections
 - ii. violation of basic rights
 - iii. rule by a dictator
 - a) personality cult
 - iv. secret police
 - v. rule by terror and fear
 - vi. example:
 - a) Russia
 - b) Uzbekistan
- D. economics
 - a. GDP per capita
 - b. communism (under the Soviet Union)
 - i. against capitalism
 - ii. command economy
 - iii. gov't control of the economy
 - iv. no individual freedom
 - v. classless society
 - vi. abolition of private property
 - vii. redistribution of wealth
 - viii. hammer and sickle
- E. values/beliefs
 - a. religion
 - i. Orthodox Christianity
 - a) Patriarch

ii. Islam

- a) moderate Islam

F. natural resources

- a. oil
- b. natural gas

3. Regions

- A. all part of the former Soviet Union
 - a. connections to Russia
 - b. resentment of Russia
- B. Russia
 - a. Western Russia
 - b. Southern Russia
 - c. Siberia
- C. Caucasus
 - a. Caucasus Mountains
- D. Central Asia
 - a. the 'stans

4. Current issues

- A. terrorism and separatism
 - a. Chechnya
 - i. Moscow theater siege
 - ii. Beslan school siege
- B. authoritarianism
 - a. attacks on journalists
 - i. Anna Politkovskaya
 - b. attacks on opposition
 - i. Alexander Litvinenko
- C. militarism
 - a. war in Georgia
 - b. war in Ukraine
 - i. Crimea
- D. "new" Cold War
 - a. against NATO and the West

5. *Animal Farm*

- A. connections with the Soviet Union
 - a. Josef Stalin
 - b. KGB
 - c. Gulag
- B. Napoleon, Snowball, and Squealer
- C. Mr. Jones

