

Russia, Moscow: Society, Culture, Geography

Seminar presentation at
Taiwan National University (NTU),
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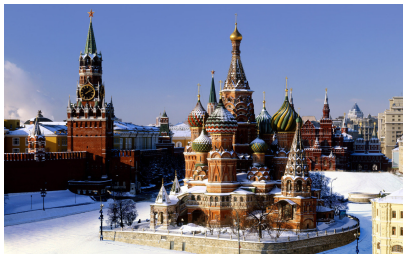
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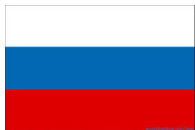
Introduction

General information about Russia: The Russian Federation is located both in Europe and Asia. Area: 17 098 246 km^2 the largest country in the world.



Capital: Moscow.

Geographic Settings



Russian Flag and
Coat of Arms

General Facts

- * Russia borders with 18 countries, which is the largest neighboring number in the world
- * Russia is industrial country with difficult political structure and constantly developing economy
- * Russia is notable for high cultural and ethnical diversity and multi-nationality

Geographic Settings

- a Water: Russia borders Pacific ocean, Arctic, and Atlantic ocean seas: Baltic, Black and Azov.
- b Geomorphology: the Ural Mountains geographically cross the country (and Eurasia continent) into Europe and Asia
- c Landscapes: 75% of the territory is occupied by plains and lowlands. Mountains are mostly located in the south and east.
- d Location: most of the territory lies above the 50°N.
- e Northern territories lie beyond the Polar circle.
- f Climate: the country has 3 major climate types: 1) moderate, 2) sub-Arctic and 3) Arctic climate.

Language and Society

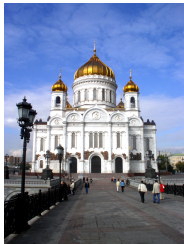


A traditional Russian costume.



A traditional popular Russian doll: 'Matryoshka'.

- Population: 143 M (the 9th in the world)
- Language: Russian
- Religion: 75% of the Russian population are Christians: Russian Orthodox Church
- Among other religions: Buddhism, Islam, traditional tribe religions, etc.



Space Science: Important Facts



Yuri Gagarin

Yuri Gagarin is a first man on Earth who traveled in outer space in April 12, 1961, on Vostok 1. His name 'Yuri' is a Russian version of 'George'.

Some important facts about contribution of Russia for the humanity and fantastic success in space exploration:

- intercontinental ballistic missile (1957)
- first satellite (Sputnik-1)
- first animal in space (the dog Laika on Sputnik 2)
- first spacewalk (cosmonaut A. Leonov on Voskhod 2)
- first Moon impact (Luna 2)
- first image of the far side of the moon (Luna 3)
- unmanned lunar soft landing (Luna 9)
- first space rover
- first space station
- first interplanetary probe
- first woman in space and Earth orbit: cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova on Vostok 6
- Soviet programs contributed to the space exploration
- The "Roscosmos" Russian Federal Space Agency is one of the leading space organization (such as ESA, NASA, etc)

Exploration of Polar Regions

Arctic

Russia has large territories in Arctic. Russian scientists made significant contribution to the studies of cold regions.

Natural Resources

Arctic contains precious natural resources. At the same time, the exploration of natural resources in Polar regions is both highly difficult and dangerous.

Examples

Oil stored in Arctic shelf area is ca. 90 billions of barrels.

Exploration of Arctic



- The difficulty of Arctic exploration is caused by specific climate, vulnerability of the ecosystems and high risk of technical accidents, faults and emergency situations in cold climate and Polar night.
- For that special devices and vessels have been created by the Russian scientists (e.g. Atomic (nuclear) ice-breakers, as on the picture below).
- Russia is the first and the only country which has an Arctic Drifting Research Station “Barneo”- created directly in the pack ice in the deep Arctic Ocean (89°N).

Music in Russia



Music Education

Music education is an important tradition in Russian society. Many families let their children attend Music School and learn to play piano or violin (or other instruments), or sing in a choir.

Music Styles

Both classic music and modern music (jazz, techno, pop, etc) are popular. There are many jazz clubs and DJs playing fun music. Also various musician groups visit Moscow to give concerts.



Dance



- One cannot talk about Russia and not mention ballet.
- The first ballet performance took place in 1672 in Moscow.
- Since then it developed to its highest state of the art.
- Now it is a world-known “visit card” of Russian dance arts and highest achievement of Russian culture.
- Modern Russian ballet has classic tradition with European dance techniques & styles.



Famous of Russian Ballet



- The world reputation of Russian ballet is caused by the combination of romance in performance and virtuosity of dance technique.
- The dance style is achieved by the special difficult training system in the ballet schools, formed during XIX-XX centuries.
- The most famous ballet school is Moscow State Academy of Choreography.
- The ballet education starts at 6 years and lasts until 18 years.

Theaters

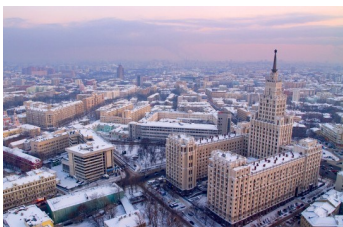
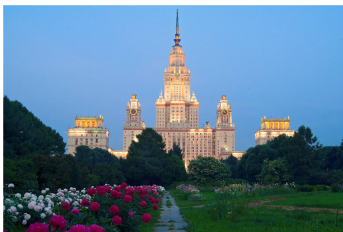


- 1 Bolshoi (“The Great”) Theater (Moscow) is most important and famous Russian theater.
- 2 In Moscow there are 165 (*sic* !) various smaller theaters in total.
- 3 The level of the performance is comparable with the best scenes of the world
- 4 Bolshoi (“the Great”) Theater, Moscow has both operas and ballets.



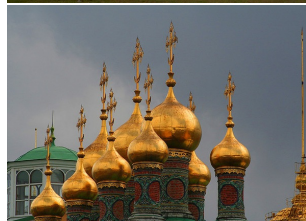
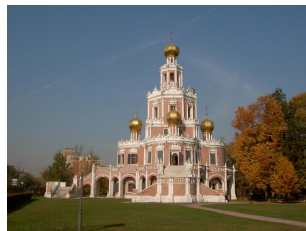
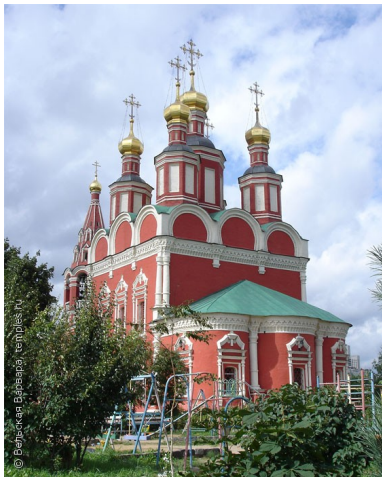
Soviet Classic

Classic elegance and beautiful forms of Soviet style:



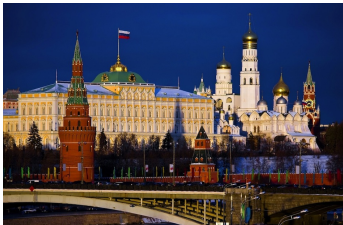
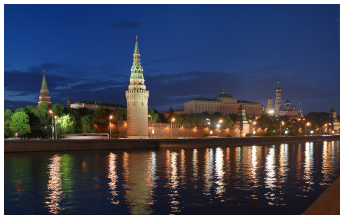
Christian Churches

Eternal harmony, beauty and aesthetics of churches:



Moscow Kremlin

Solemnity and grandeur of Kremlin:



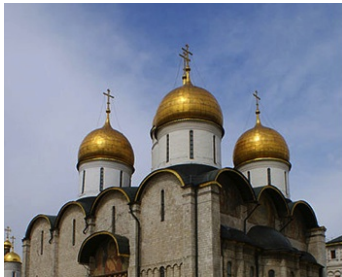
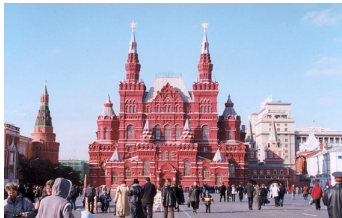
Old city. Arbat street.

Charming Arbat street in old Moscow center...



Co-existence of History and Modernity

Moscow = old + new city:



Moscow Subway: Facts

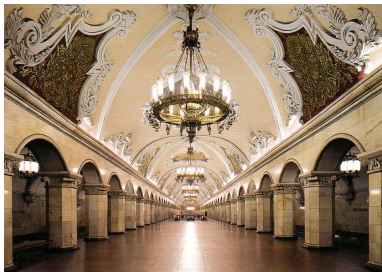
- Very famous is Moscow metro, created since 1935.
- Moscow metro is intensely used. Its traffic and passengers capacity is number 4 in the world (after Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing).
- Moscow metro has complex structure with main circle and radial lines crossing each other.



Moscow subway (metro)

Symbol of Moscow metro.

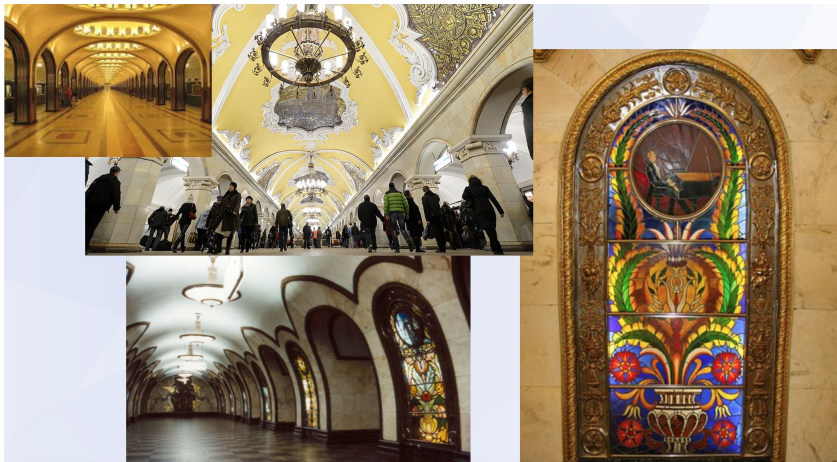
Moscow Subway: Underground Palaces



- Moscow metro is known for its outstanding beauty in classic palace-style:
- Materials used: marble & granite columns, paintings, splendid lighters, stone fretwork, stained glass.
- 44 of the existing 188 stations are considered to be the objects of Russian Cultural Heritage



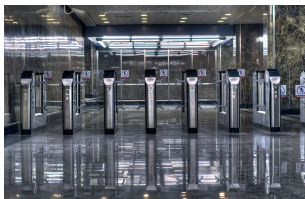
Beauty of Moscow Subway



Visiting Moscow Subway



- Many tourist groups visiting Moscow will go downstairs to look at the stations' interior and take pictures.
 - One single metro ticket costs 30 RUB (ca. NTD 28). There are smart-cards available for use (similar to EasyCard in Taipei MRT)
- ← However, in **rush hours (7-9 AM and 6-7 PM)** it is **very** crowded.



Russian Cuisine



Famous Russian soup: "Borsch"



Fish salmon soup

- Russian cuisine is a combination of diverse styles: Ukrainian, Siberian, Central Russian, European, Asian.
- Normally, the lunch has a soup (meat or fish & vegetables), a main dish and a salad.



Vermicelli, vegetables & meat soup

Russian Pancakes



- Pancakes are one of the most popular and favorite Russian meals.
- Pancakes are served sweet (e.g. with honey, strawberry jam, etc.) or filled with meat, cheese, fish.



Russian Pies



- Pies are very popular in Russian cuisine.
- Pies are available in many small cafeterias. Otherwise one can cook them in an oven



Moscow: Coffeehouses



- There are also adopted style of food that are popular in modern Russia:
- Sushi bars, Italian Pizzerias, many different European cafés, Irish bars, Indian and Chinese restaurants, Starbucks, etc.
- The most known coffeehouses in Moscow are 'Shokoladnitsa' ...and 'Coffemania'



Thanks

Thank you for attention !

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