



CHAPTER
14

Eastern Europe

1

FOCUS ON

Poland, Ukraine,
and the Baltic
States

2

FOCUS ON

Hungary and the
Czech Republic

3

FOCUS ON

The Balkans



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

In what ways has Eastern Europe changed since the end of World War II?

CONNECT Geography & History



Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. What four Eastern European countries border the Baltic Sea?
2. What city in the Ukraine still carries the name of an early Slavic state?



800

Geography

800s Kievan Rus, the first eastern Slavic state, is established.

Government

◀ **970** Magyar leaders establish a stable kingdom in Hungary. (Magyar artifact)

History

1918 Yugoslavia is formed at the end of World War I. (King Peter I) ▶



Present-Day Eastern Europe

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History

1940s Communists gain power in Eastern Europe. (Josip Broz Tito) ▼



Economics

2004 The first Eastern European nations—the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, and the Baltic states—join the EU.

Geography

1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine ►

Today



SECTION
1

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

European nations experienced many changes after World War II.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Poland, Ukraine, and the Baltic States faced many challenges after shaking off Communist rule.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Baltic States Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, three countries that border the Baltic Sea

Lech Walesa (lehk wah•LEHN•suh) Polish leader who cofounded Solidarity and served as president of Poland from 1990 to 1995

Solidarity Poland's first independent labor union, cofounded by Lech Walesa

Russification the effort to make countries occupied by the Soviet Union more Russian by replacing local languages and customs

bread basket an abundant grain-producing region

deport to expel from a country

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

brain drain the loss of skilled workers who move in search of better opportunities

REVIEW

communism a type of government in which the Communist Party holds all political power and controls the economy

command economy an economic system in which the production of goods and services is decided by a central government

market economy an economic system in which the production of goods and services is decided by the supply of goods and the demand of consumers

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to help you categorize information about the Eastern European nations in this chapter.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R7

CATEGORIZE

	LANGUAGE	GOVERNMENT	ECONOMY
Poland			
Ukraine			
Latvia			
Lithuania			
Estonia			



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com

SECTION
1
FOCUS ON

Poland, Ukraine, and the Baltic States

Connecting to Your World

After the American Revolution, Americans quickly learned that building a strong independent nation was not easy. It took time to create a stable government and prosperous economy. In this section, you will read about Poland, Ukraine, and the three **Baltic States**, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Along with the rest of Eastern Europe, they gained independence from **communism** in the 1990s. Like the United States, they faced difficult choices. Many countries found the new freedom challenging.

Poland

KEY QUESTION What actions did government leaders take to prepare Poland for a market economy?

Poland's name comes from the Slavic word *Polanie*, which means plain or field. The Northern European Plain covers much of Poland. Its flat, fertile land began attracting Slavic settlers as early as 2000 B.C. During the Middle Ages, Poland ruled an empire that covered much of central and eastern Europe. By the late 18th century, however, Poland was conquered by its neighbors. It did not regain its independence until after World War I.

Polish Countryside

Freshly plowed fields cover these gently rolling hills in the Roztocze region of southeast Poland.



History During World War II, both Germany and the Soviet Union, a union of Communist republics led by Russia, invaded Poland. At the end of the war, Soviet troops drove the Germans out of Poland and supported Communists in gaining control of the government. By the 1950s, Communist rule was firmly established in Poland and throughout Eastern Europe. Communist leaders took over the economy and limited the rights of citizens.

During the 1970s, Poland faced food shortages and rising prices. As economic conditions worsened, people questioned Communist rule. In 1980, thousands of Polish workers went on strike, led by **Lech Walesa** (lehk wah•LEHN•suh). They demanded better pay, greater political freedom, and recognition of **Solidarity**, the nation's first independent labor union. Communist leaders saw public support for Solidarity growing. In 1989, they reached an agreement with Solidarity that led to government reform. Poland held its first free elections. The new government lifted many restrictions on Polish citizens.

Culture Before World War II, Poland was a diverse nation, with Germans, Jews, Ukrainians, and other ethnic groups. However, the war caused many groups to migrate and shifted Poland's borders. Almost all of the 3 million Jews living in Poland were killed during the Holocaust. Today, most people in Poland are Poles. Their ancestors belonged to the Slavic tribes that settled in Poland long ago. Polish, a Slavic language, is spoken throughout the country.

Most Poles are Roman Catholics, which unites the Polish people. During Communist rule, when religious practice was restricted, many continued to practice the Catholic faith. In 1978, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (voy•TIH•wah) became the world's first Polish pope, Pope John Paul II. He made Catholic Poles very proud. In visits to Poland, he encouraged efforts to gain greater freedom.

Poland has a rich cultural tradition, with a strong emphasis on education. Many outstanding scientists, such as Nicolaus Copernicus and Marie Curie, were Polish. Like other nations, Poland has to work hard to preserve its folk culture in the face of mass media and urbanization.

Catholic Mourners

People gather in Pilsudski Square in Warsaw, Poland, to mourn the death of Pope John Paul II.




Government and Economics In 1990, Lech Walesa became Poland's first president. He helped Poland shift to democracy. In 1997, Poland adopted a new constitution to reflect its democratic government. Today, Poland is a republic. Voters elect the nation's president and legislature. The prime minister runs the government.

In the 1990s, Poland's leaders enacted a series of economic reforms to pave the way from a **command economy** to a **market economy**. Polish leaders sold government-owned industries to private companies. They shut down many old and inefficient factories and invited foreign companies to invest in Poland. Today, the country's major industries include production of coal, iron, steel, and machinery. Poland also has a large shipbuilding industry. Poland joined the European Union in 2004. Membership gave it new markets for such farm products as potatoes and rye and for manufactured goods.

Although Poland's transition to a market economy was more successful than that of many Eastern European nations, it still faces many economic challenges. High unemployment remains a serious problem. Factory closings have left many workers without jobs. Lack of good jobs for skilled workers has caused a serious **brain drain**, as many of Poland's bright young people leave the country in search of better job opportunities in Western Europe or the United States.

 **SUMMARIZE** Explain how Poland became a market economy.

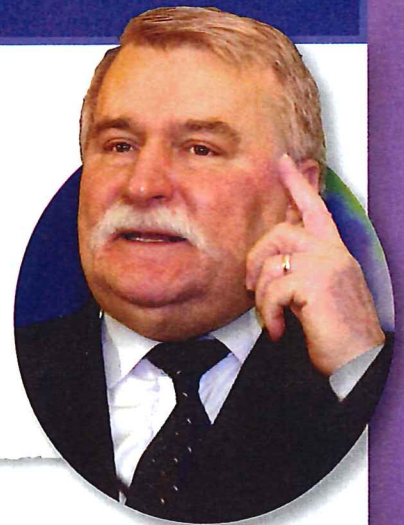
 **ONLINE PRIMARY SOURCE** To read the rest of Walesa's speech, go to the **Research & Writing Center @ClassZone.com**

ANALYZING Primary Sources

Lech Walesa (born 1943) led the struggle to form Solidarity. His peaceful resistance helped end Communist rule in Poland.

We respect the dignity and the rights of every man and every nation. The path to a brighter future of the world leads through honest reconciliation [resolution] of the conflicting interests and not through hatred and bloodshed.

Source: Lech Walesa, Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, 1983



DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

How does Walesa suggest conflicts among nations should be settled?





Ukraine

KEY QUESTION How did Soviet control affect the economy and culture of Ukraine?

For Ukraine, once a part of the Soviet Union, independence has not been easy. Nearby Russia still plays a part in its political and economic life. Ukraine faces many challenges as it seeks ties with the West while maintaining good relations with Russia.

History In the 800s, the town of Kiev in Ukraine was the center of the first eastern Slavic state, Kievan Rus. After 400 years as a powerful state, invading nomads conquered the territory. Ukraine came under foreign rule for centuries. By the late 1700s, it was part of the Russian Empire. In 1922, Ukraine became one of the first Soviet republics.

Soviet policies caused great hardships for the nation. In the 1930s, the Soviets took land from Ukrainian farmers to form huge, government-run farms called collectives. They required almost all crops to be sent to cities to feed the workers there. Millions of farm families starved. On April 26, 1986, the world's worst nuclear power accident occurred in Ukraine at the Chernobyl power plant. Radiation from Chernobyl has affected an estimated 7 million people in and around Ukraine.

Ukrainians had been protesting Soviet rule since the 1960s. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Ukraine finally gained its independence and began to rebuild.

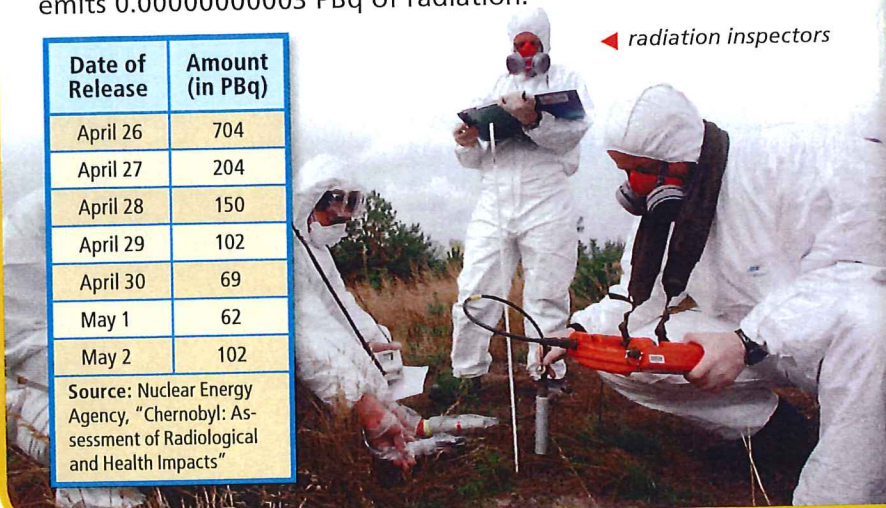
CONNECT to Science

The Chernobyl explosion put large amounts of radiation into the atmosphere. The chart below shows the radiation released by a form of radioactive iodine during the week after the accident. The petabecquerel, or PBq, is a measure of radioactivity. For reference, a household smoke detector, which is very safe, emits 0.00000000003 PBq of radiation.

Date of Release	Amount (in PBq)
April 26	704
April 27	204
April 28	150
April 29	102
April 30	69
May 1	62
May 2	102

Source: Nuclear Energy Agency, "Chernobyl: Assessment of Radiological and Health Impacts"

◀ radiation inspectors



Activity

Make a Line Graph

Materials

- Graph paper
- Markers



1. Draw two lines for your graph. Label the vertical axis "Level of Radiation" and the horizontal axis "Date of Radiation Release."
2. Divide the horizontal axis into ten segments and label each. Divide the vertical axis into units of 100. Put a dot on the graph that represents the radiation measured for each date. Connect the dots. Title your line graph.

Culture About three-fourths of Ukraine's population is ethnic Ukrainian. Russians are the largest ethnic minority, at about one-fifth of the population. Under Soviet rule, the government imposed a **Russification** policy on the country. The Russian language replaced Ukrainian in schools, newspapers, and the government. After decades of speaking Russian, many Ukrainians knew it better than their native language. In 1991, Ukrainian became the official language, but Russian is still widely spoken.

About two-thirds of Ukrainians live in Kiev and other cities. Western Ukraine is heavily rural. Most people in rural areas live in large villages. They are employed in farming or in making small handicrafts, such as the traditional decorated eggs known as *pysanky*.

Government and Economics In 1990, Ukraine held its first free, multiparty election. Today, Ukraine is a democracy with a president, prime minister, and legislature. Ukrainians are committed to free elections. In 2004, tens of thousands of them took part in the Orange Revolution, a peaceful protest against fraud in the presidential election.

Ukrainians remain divided on plans for reform. Some favor closer ties to Russia. Others hope for EU membership and trade with Western Europe. Ukraine maintains good relations with Russia, whom it depends on for oil and natural gas. Ukraine belongs to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), a group of former Soviet republics that cooperate on political and economic matters.

Ukraine is rich in natural resources and fertile soil. Most heavy industries are in eastern Ukraine near the nation's coal deposits. Ukraine's rich soil has made it the **bread basket**, or major grain-producing region, of Europe. However, Ukraine has lagged behind many former Communist countries in converting to private ownership. Many farms and factories also lack modern equipment.

ANALYZE EFFECTS

Identify how Soviet control affected Ukraine's economy and culture.

Pysanky

Beautifully decorated Easter eggs known as *pysanky* are among the most famous Ukrainian crafts. The word *pysanky* means "written egg." Artists create intricate and colorful designs by drawing patterns on the eggs with wax and then dipping them in different-colored dyes. The wax prevents parts of the egg from picking up color. Many of the images and colors on the egg have special meaning. Designs are often passed down within a family for generations. The eggs are given as gifts during the Easter holiday.



Ukrainian Farm

Farmers harvest wheat on a collective farm near Lvov, Ukraine. **How does equipment affect farm production?**





The Baltic States

KEY QUESTION How are the Baltic States alike and different from each other?

The Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—share a coastline on the Baltic Sea. They also share the challenge of becoming part of prosperous, modern Europe.

Striving for Independence The Baltic States have a long history of foreign rule. At different times, Danes, Swedes, Poles, and Germans have controlled them. By the late 1700s, they belonged to the vast Russian Empire. They remained a part of it until it ended in 1918. In 1940, the Soviet Union occupied the Baltic States and forced them to join it. In all three countries, the Soviets decided to **deport**, or expel, the thousands of people who resisted their rule. The Soviets brought in Russian workers to replace them. In 1990, the Baltic States became the first Soviet republics to declare independence. The Soviet Union formally recognized their claims in September 1991.

Culture Although they share a common history, each Baltic state has its own language and customs. In Lithuania, most people speak Lithuanian and are Roman Catholics. The people of Latvia speak Latvian, while Estonians speak Estonian, a language related to Finnish. Most Estonians and Latvians are Lutheran Protestants.

Throughout the Baltic States, the Soviet policy of Russification brought population changes. For instance, before Soviet rule, Latvians made up three-fourths of that country's population. Now they make up just over half. In each country, Russians are the largest minority. During the Soviet era, many people left farms and villages to work in urban factories. Today, two-thirds of the people in the Baltic States live in cities. The people of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia have had to work to preserve their own languages, customs, and traditions.

Song Festival These girls are dressed up to participate in the All-Estonian Song Festival, held every five years in the capital city of Tallinn.



Government and Economics The Baltic States are republics with an elected president and legislature. A prime minister heads the government and carries out government operations.

The Baltic States are now successful market economies. Most industries and farms are privately owned. In 2004 all became EU members. Germany has become a key trade partner, while trade with Russia is decreasing. Estonia's major industries are electronics, wood products, and textiles. Latvia's factories make vehicles, farm machinery, and fertilizers. Lithuania produces machine tools, appliances, and electric motors.

During decades of Communist rule, government leaders ignored many serious environmental problems. Old and faulty wastewater-treatment plants, leaking sewers, and fertilizer, oil, and chemical runoff from factories and farms have polluted the Baltic Sea. All Baltic countries are now involved in the cleanup.



Independence Rally
Many Eastern European nations held rallies to protest Communist rule, such as this one in Kaunas in southern Lithuania in 1989.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST Explain how the Baltic States are similar to and different from each other.

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to [Interactive Review @ClassZone.com](http://InteractiveReview@ClassZone.com)

Section 1 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- Baltic States
- Solidarity
- Russification
- deport

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Categorize Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

What kind of government does Poland have?

	LANGUAGE	GOVERNMENT	ECONOMY
Poland			
Ukraine			
Latvia			
Lithuania			
Estonia			

KEY IDEAS

3. What were the goals of Solidarity in Poland?
4. How did the Soviet Union carry out its Russification policy in the Ukraine?
5. What environmental issue do the Baltic States face today?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Form and Support Opinions** Why do many Eastern European countries want to join the European Union?
7. **Analyze Causes and Effects** Why are many people in the Baltic States concerned about each country's national identity?

8. **CONNECT to Today** Why might Polish leaders want to encourage young people to stay in Poland?

9. **ART Give a Presentation** Do research to learn more about one of the folk arts of the countries in this section. Give a short presentation on where and how this craft is made, how it is used, and any customs associated with it. Show pictures of the craft.