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 **Newly Independent Countries – Former USSR**

During the period of its existence, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was, by area, the world’s largest country. It was also one of the most [diverse](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/diverse), with more than 100 distinct nationalities living within its borders. The majority of the population, however, was made up of East Slavs (Russians, Ukrainians, and Belorussians); these groups together made up more than two-thirds of the total population in the late 1980s.The country occupied nearly one-sixth of the Earth’s land surface, including the eastern half of Europe and roughly the northern third of Asia. In the political sphere, [amendments](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/amendments) to the constitution in 1988 replaced the old Supreme Soviet with the Congress of People’s Deputies of the U.S.S.R. The new congress had 2,250 members; one-third of these were elected on a constituency basis, one-third represented the political territories (as in the old Supreme Soviet), and the remaining third came from unions. Voters were presented with a choice of candidates, and many non-Communists were elected.

**Research 1 country that split apart for the former USSR.
Find: 1) what the country was like under the rule of the USSR**

 **2) what its independence movement looked like
 3) what struggles the country faced after the breakup of the USSR
 a. industries
 b. military
 c. population changes (numbers, ethnicities)
 d. internal conflict/Civil War**

Write down notes on the back of this sheet and TURN IN by 3/11.

 Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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