

Human Geography of Europe**Section 4****Eastern Europe****Terms and Names**

cultural crossroads a place where various cultures cross paths

balkanization the process of a region breaking up into small, mutually hostile units

satellite nation a nation dominated by another country

market economy an economy in which industries produce goods that consumers want to buy

folk art arts and crafts produced by rural people with traditional lifestyles, rather than by professional artists

anti-Semitism discrimination against Jewish people

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the history and development of Northern Europe. In this section, you will learn about the history, culture, and economy of Eastern Europe.

As You Read

Use a cluster diagram to take notes on the human geography of Eastern Europe.

HISTORY OF A CULTURAL CROSSROADS (Pages 310–311)
Why is Eastern Europe called a cultural crossroads?

Eastern Europe is a cultural crossroads. A **cultural crossroads** is a place where various cultures cross paths. For example, many world powers have tried to control Eastern Europe. Ancient Rome, the Byzantine Empire, and the Ottoman Empire all held parts of the region.

Various Slavic groups moved into the region from the 400s through the 600s. They formed kingdoms such as Poland and Serbia. In the late 800s, a non-Slavic group called the Magyars swept into Hungary.

In the 1400s, the nation of Austria drove the Ottomans out of Hungary. In the late 1700s, Austria, Prussia (a German

state), and Russia divided up Poland. Poland ceased to exist.

1. What major empires ruled parts of Eastern Europe?

TURMOIL IN THE 20TH CENTURY (Pages 311–313)

What triggered the two world wars?

By 1908, several Balkan nations had broken free from the Ottoman Empire. In 1912, the Ottomans lost the rest of their territory in Europe. The Balkan countries fought over that land. The conflict gave rise to the word **balkanization**. The term refers to the process of breaking up a region into small, hostile units.

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Serbia wanted to free the Slavs in Austria-Hungary. In 1914, a Serb assassinated an Austrian noble. That act started World War I. After the war, Austria and Hungary split apart.

In 1939, Germany seized Poland. That started World War II. After the war, the Soviet Union set up Communist governments in Eastern Europe. It became a region of satellite nations. **Satellite nations** are nations that another country controls.

The Soviet Union controlled Eastern Europe for four decades. In the late 1980s, a new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, made reforms. By 1990, most Eastern European nations had ended Communist rule.

Without Communist control, the region grew unstable. In the 1990s, four of Yugoslavia's six republics declared independence. Civil war followed.

2. What happened to Eastern Europe after World War II?

DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY

(Page 313)

What is a market economy?

After 1948, the Soviet Union tried to start industry in Eastern Europe. Communist governments owned all the factories and told them what to make. Factories had no reason to cut costs or please customers. Eastern European nations could trade only with the Soviet Union or each other. They did not keep up with new technology.

After 1989, most of Eastern Europe began to change to a **market economy**. In market economies, industries produce goods that consumers want to buy. Private citizens began to own many factories in Eastern Europe.

Some nations in the region have had trouble making an economic recovery. Albania has old equipment and uneducated workers. Few Romanians have money to invest. The civil wars between Yugoslavia and its former republics caused destruction. Workers were killed or left.

3. How did Communist control affect industry?

A PATCHWORK CULTURE (Page 314)

What differences exist in the region?

Eastern Europe contains many ethnic groups. These groups speak a variety of languages. Some of the languages are unrelated to others in the region.

Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity are widespread in the region. Some countries have small groups of Protestants. Some countries have people who practice Islam. The region also has a small Jewish minority.

Eastern Europe is known for its folk art. In general, **folk art** is produced by rural people with traditional lifestyles, rather than by professional artists. Folk artists create items such as pottery, woodcarving, and embroidered clothing.

4. What religions are found in Eastern Europe?

MOVING TOWARD MODERN LIFE

(Pages 314–315)

What is rule of law?

Eastern Europe is less urban than the rest of Europe. As the region develops industry, its cities will grow. Cities offer more jobs,

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education, and culture. They also usually have pollution and traffic jams.

Many Eastern Europeans still have ethnic loyalties. These loyalties can create conflict. For example, many Serbs hate Croats, who worked with the Nazis in World War II.

Minority groups in Eastern Europe often faced discrimination. Jews have suffered from **anti-Semitism**, which is discrimination against Jewish people. The Romany, or Gypsy, people also face prejudice.

To obtain true democracy, Eastern Europeans need to accept democratic ideals such as the rule of law. The rule of law means that government officials must also obey the law.

5. How might urban growth change Eastern Europe?

Section 4, *continued*

Use the chart below to take notes on the effects of each of the following on Eastern Europe.

	Political, Economic, and Cultural Effects on Eastern Europe
Cultural Crossroads	1.
Empires and Kingdoms	2.
Balkanization	3.
Soviet Control	4.