NEW RESOURCES ON RUSSIA, EURASIA, AND EASTERN EUROPE

The Russian and East European Center is a National Resource Center, committed to providing information and services to K-12 teachers. If you are interested in the Center’s workshops, onsite presentations or curricular materials, please contact the Center or check its webpage <www.reec.uiuc.edu>. The webpage features a special section for K-12 teachers, which includes an extensive annotated bibliography of resources, information on the Center’s video lending library, an annotated and linked list of relevant web sites, and more.

BOOKS


A fine elementary introduction to the land, animals, and peoples of Russia for young children. The text is supplemented by two pages with a glossary, suggested readings and Internet sites. Since it is rare to find basic, accurate material on Russia for beginning readers, this book is a good addition.


This is another nice introduction to Russia for young readers. It is best when it focuses on nature and daily life. The photographs are excellent and many of them include children. However, it would have been useful to show at least one child (or adult) from an Asian ethnic minority since the book does point out that Russia stretches across two continents.


Fifteen topics covering geography, daily life, culture, and history are covered in short segments of a page or two. The information is presented from the point of view of Tatiana, a schoolgirl who lives in Petersburg. Generally satisfactory book with some major typos, such as Lake “Bailal” for “Baikal.”


The book describes the changing relationship between the US and the USSR from the 1960s through 1991. Part of a five-volume series, the book is well written and organized with useful information. The book is cued to the CNN series, *Cold War* (See below under “Video”).


The geography and history of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia are presented with enough detail so that the reader is given an adequate background for understanding the current problems and issues that are discussed in chapters entitled “The Hard Road to Independence” and “Every Day is a Struggle.” The assertion that this region was kept in the Russian orbit in the nineteenth century by the doctrine of socialism, however, is puzzling in an otherwise solid history. There is a chronology from 66 B.C. through 1993, and suggested readings include books, articles and a few web sites.

Excellent, comprehensive textbook on the region for world geography/social studies courses. The book has short, clear country reports, useful maps, and a nice selection of recent articles taken from various periodicals.


The book is clearly written over all. Excellent photographs and illustrations enhance the text. Names of cities and regions in Ukraine are given correctly in transliterations from Ukrainian spellings. Occasionally, a broader perspective is needed, but Kummer’s book is superior to both Volodymyr Bassis’ *Ukraine* (Marshall Cavendish, 1997) and Steven Otfinoski’s *Ukraine* (Facts on File, 1999).

**ARTICLES FROM PERIODICALS**


Romanticized as free spirits, hounded for being different, the people who call themselves Roma fight for their place in a world where there are few welcome mats.


An excellent overview of the Russian economy today.


A fairly well-balanced view of the Russian economy and society today that is not all gloom and doom.


A hardy team explores the explosive peaks and steamed-pocked glaciers of Kamchatka peninsula.


**WEBSITES**

EU Accession in ten Central and East European countries [http://www.eumap.org](http://www.eumap.org)

Full resource pages on human rights in the candidate states, daily news, policy analysis, commentary, links, and discussion.


A daily online English-language newspaper on Central Europe


This site is intended for academic researchers as well as for teachers and their students. Its purpose is to provide a guide to web resources on Russian history. Only those websites that are neutral in tone, intent and provide accurate information are included.
The Empire That Was Russia
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/

This Library of Congress site has a collection of photos taken by Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorski, photographer to the tsar, between 1905-1915. Excellent images of Russian life.

Maps of Russia and the Former Soviet Union
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/commonwealth.html

Reliable source for maps of Russia and the former Soviet republics from the University of Texas library. Includes political, topographic, physical, and thematic maps (such as ethnic groups in the Soviet Union) of every former republic.

Washington Post Siberia Diary
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/siberiadiary/


VIDEOS

CNN Cold War. 1998. 8 vols: 140 min. each.

CNN presents a comprehensive exploration of the conflict between the US and the Soviet Union. Check the website for more information: http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/episodes/01/


Reenactment of Peter the Great's life and reign. Comes with a 4-page Teacher's guide.


Part 1, “Explosion,” on Vol. 1 of this PBS series on WWI is particularly useful in teaching about the role of Serbia in how the war began.


This video documentary and scholarly report provides a portrait of Russia's economic, political, military and social upheaval as well as Russian anxieties about national security, fueled in part by the West’s sometimes warm, sometimes cold response.

World Religions: Russian Orthodox. Cambridge Educational Channel Four video, 19 min. Gr. 6-9.

A film on the Russian Orthodox Church focusing on a personal story of a family living in Moscow. Comes with a short study guide.

RESOURCES ON CENTRAL ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN

In light of current events, the following resources may be useful to teachers.


This unit brings together text, activities, visuals and resources on Inner Eurasia for use by classroom teachers. The unit as lesson plans on physical and human geography, religion, history, culture and the arts. Included at the end are handouts, "Teacher Resources," and 49 color slides. To order a copy, contact the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan, at (734) 764-0350; cmenas@umich.edu

Website on Afghanistan and Central Asia by the Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ISEEES), University of California, Berkeley
http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~iseees/9-11page.html

ISEEES has created a web page on Afghanistan and Central Asia with links to relevant publications and websites.

Central Asian Studies World Wide
http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~casww/index.html

Sponsored by the Harvard Forum for Central Asian Studies <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~centasia>, this site has good links for scholars and teachers (see the Suggested Readings list, for example).

EurasiaNet.org http://www.eurasianet.org/
This site has current news on the Caucasus and Central Asia and resource page for each country with links.

Virtual Memory of Central Asia
http://www.unesco.org/webworld/asicent/capmem.htm

A UNESCO site with maps, texts, images, and sounds presenting the cultures of all the Central Asian countries.

Interactive Central Asia Research Project
http://www.icarp.org/

An excellent site with updated information on all Central Asian states, good links on a variety of themes, including scouting, holidays, culture, the environment.

Welcome to Uzbekistan http://www.gov.uz

Official Uzbekistan home page with surprisingly good and interesting images, examples of folk art, etc. In English and Uzbek.

The Silk Road Foundation
http://www.silk-road.com

Culture, music & folktales of the Silk Road

Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst
http://www.cacianalyst.org/

A biweekly briefing put out by Johns Hopkins University's Central Asia-Caucasus Institute.

http://www.thais.com/architettura/default_uk.htm

Good photos and analysis of Islamic architecture, including Central Asia.

Radio Free Liberty/ Radio Europe
http://www.rferl.org

Click on the Broadcast Language of the country you would like to choose; has facts and figures, human rights summaries, news articles.

Peace Corp: “Kyrgyzstan Project”
http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/guides/kyrgyzstan/id.html

Full unit lesson plan for grades 6-9.

Peace Corp: “Destination: Kyrgyzstan Video”
http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/guides/kyrgyzstan/video.html

Lessons for grades 10-12 on travel from their homes to Kyrgyzstan.

Afghanistan Online
http://www.afghan-web.com/

A comprehensive directory site on Afghanistan with information on the country, culture, geography, and more.

Compiled by Lynda Park, Elizabeth Talbot, and Tamara Sollinger

Summer Curriculum Development Workshop on Russia and the Balkans for Secondary and Post-secondary Educators
June 24 - 28, 2002

The Russian and East European Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, invites secondary and post-secondary instructors to take part in this five-day workshop to develop a more effective and interactive curriculum in Russian and Balkan studies. Free lodging for the participants. Some travel assistance grant may be available.

25 CPDUs for IL teachers;
all participants will receive certificate of completion

Annual Summer Symposium/Workshop
“Islam from Eastern Europe to Central Asia”
Saturday, June 22, 2002

For more information, please contact Lynda Park at 217-333-6022 or lypark@uiuc.edu

www.reec.uiuc.edu