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 (reviewed by Elizabeth Talbot)

Mulla-Feroze, Umaima and Matilda Garbrielpillai. Welcome to Bosnia and Herzegovina. “Welcome to My Country” series. Gareth Stevens, 2002. Gr. 4-5. The usual topics in geography, history, and culture are covered in chapters ranging from two pages on language to eight on peoples and lifestyle. The text is not without problems and errors, but the large print, with highlighted words defined in a glossary and the colorful, sharp photographs combine to present a very appealing format.

Rogers, Stillman. Russia. “Enchantment of the World” second series. Children’s Press, 2002. Gr.5-9. This visually attractive book with its sharp, interesting photographs is matched by a gracefully written text that should spark the interest of middle school students. In addition, the format of this book, arranged into ten chapters further subdivided into topics covered in one to three pages, helps to ease the reader into the subject. Topics in geography, daily life, history, religion, and the arts are covered.

Pavlovic, Zoran and Charles F. Gritzner. Republic of Georgia. “Modern World Nations” series. Chelsea House Publishers, 2002. The book includes the usual chapters on physical and cultural geography, history, government and economy of the country with the primary focus on geography. However, the text is poorly written in many places, and oddly enough, this book includes only two maps, neither of which indicates the location of some important regions. Michael Spillings’ Georgia (Marshall Cavendish, 1998) while not error free is well written, more informative, and has more and much sharper photos.

Zemliansky, Pavel. Ukraine. “Countries of the World” series. Gareth Stevens Publishing, 2002. Gr. 6-8. The first section provides general background information on the geography, history, government, culture, and people of Ukraine in an encyclopedic style. In the second section, events, people, places, and special traditions are discussed in attractive two-page segments. The last section entitled “Relations with North America” focuses more on immigrants to the U. S. and Canada. The photographs throughout the book are of excellent quality and this can be a useful reference book. However, Ukraine by Patricia Kummer (children’s Press, 2001) is a more engaging read.

The book addresses the recent conflicts in Yugoslavia and the former republics and includes chapters on Slobodan Milosevic, the siege of Sarajevo and the struggles in Kosovo. While some sweeping statements may mislead an uninformed reader, the book nevertheless provides a good overview of the conflicts.

Shields, Charles J. *Vladimir Putin.* “Major World Leaders” series. Chelsea House, 2003. Gr. 8-12. The strength of this book is that Putin’s life and career are placed in a clear historical context. For example, the first chapter introduces Putin as a young KGB agent stationed in East Germany at the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall, but then the author explains the Cold War from its origins to its end. Subsequent chapters include Putin’s boyhood, education, his entry into politics, election to the presidency of Russia, the Kursk accident and his dealing with the West through the end of 2001. The photographs are well chosen and the chapters appropriately subdivided into short sections. While the book has some minor errors, it provides a good summary of the career of Putin and relevant historical events.

Gottfried, Ted. *The Stalinist Empire.* 21st Century Books, 2002. Gr. 9-12. In the third book of a four-part series on the rise and fall of the USSR, Gottfried skillfully covers the period from the death of Lenin in 1924 through the onset of World War II. The book is exceptionally well written with each chapter carefully divided into short sections. The chapters cover Stalin's consolidation of power, infiltration of the Communist Party in China, Spain and the U. S. in the 30s, the purges and trials, the control of the mass media, and the alliances and treacheries that led to World War II. This book would be a fine addition to both school and public libraries.

Cothran, Helen (ed.) *War-Torn Bosnia.* “History Firsthand” series. Greenhaven Press, 2002. Gr. 9-12. First person narratives are grouped in topical chapters on the causes of the war, atrocities, the siege of Sarajevo, the media and the world’s response. Many of these pieces are excerpts from books by correspondents or government officials, but there are also accounts by others who were directly affected by the war. Before delving into this book, a high school student would benefit from reading *Bosnia: Fractured Region* by Eric Black (Lerner, 1999) or *The Rebuilding of Bosnia* by James Reger (Lucent, 1999).


**CURRICULUM UNITS**

**Spotlight on Inner Asia: The Bizarre Bazaar.** The American Forum on Global Education, 2000. Gr. 9-12. $45. This kit uses primary sources to cover the geography of inner Asia, the influence of movement across the region on cultural interaction, and the politics, economics and environment of modern inner Asia. The kit provides flexible lessons with readings, activities, maps, a glossary, a timeline and a teacher’s guide. To order, check [http://www.globaled.org/](http://www.globaled.org/)

**“Charting Russia's Future.”** Gr. 9-12. $15. The Choices Education Project has just revised this unit on Russia. Students explore Russian history and view Moscow's economic, political, and foreign policy choices through Russian eyes. [www.choices.edu/](http://www.choices.edu/)

**ARTICLES FROM PERIODICALS**


Reid, T. R. “The New Europe,” *National Geographic*, January 2002. Twelve European countries, including Turkey, are applicants for EU membership. Many applicant nations see EU membership as a vital step in their transition to a market economy.
The world’s fastest growing religion, with six million followers in the U. S. alone, reveals striking diversity.

Short essays with maps on each country in Central Asia: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

On its waltz past the castles of Germany to the Black Sea, the hardworking river finds itself still hobbled by the bombs that pounded the Balkans in 1999.

The story of Sharbat Gula, the Afghani girl photographed in 1985 by National Geographic.

An American photojournalist recalls her experience on Afghanistan’s front lines.

A look at the world’s first and largest aerial firefighting force.

Erla Zwingle visits an isolated stretch on the eastern Black Sea coast where many old traditions are still observed.

October 2002 issue of *Current History* is devoted to Russian and Eurasia. The issue includes a map of Russia and Eurasia. The following is a list of the articles: Nichols, Thomas M. “Putin’s First Two Years: Democracy or Authoritarianism?”
Goldgeier, James and Michael McFaul, “George W. Bush and Russia;” Mendelsohn, Jack, “America and Russia: Make-Believe Arms Control;”
Cornell, Svante E., “America in Eurasia: One Year Later;” Schatz, Edward, “Islamism and Anti-

Americanism in Central Asia;” Powell, David E., “Death as a Way of Life: Russia’s Demographic Decline.”

The November issue of *Current History* will be devoted to Political Islam. December’s issue will examine Terrorism. For abstracts of past and forthcoming issues, visit their web site at: www.currenthistory.com.

**WEB SITES**

www.fas.org/irp/world/afghan/intro.htm
Afghanistan: Introduction. A short intro to the country’s history and geography.


artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/ Documents in Russian History: Online Resources, compiled by a history professor at Seton Hall U. The site has useful primary documents.


www.dunacom.org/clearance Danube Commission Clearance Project Unit. This site gives an overview and the status of the project to clear the Danube River of debris left from the 1999 NATO bombing in Yugoslavia.

www.ichkeria.org/english/maps/language_map.html Linguistic Map of the Caucasus. A map of the Caucasus peoples and the languages they speak—grouped by major families, with population figures provided.

www.russnet.org/ Russnet, run by ACTR, is a repository of Russian language resources. Useful for anyone teaching/learning Russian.

www.worldpress.org/ World Press Review News articles from media organizations around the world.

**VIDEOS**

The Black Tulip 1998
Black Tulip was what the ‘Afgantsi’ - the Soviet soldiers who fought in Afghanistan - called the plane that carried the bodies back to the Soviet Union. The
film examines the effects that the Afghan War have had on the soldiers and their families.

**Comrades** 1998
Written and Directed by Mitko Panov
A documentary about filmmaker Panov’s search for his childhood friends after the Yugoslav war.

**Generous Manas**, 30 min. 1995
Filmed in the mountainous land of Kyrgyzstan, this video tells the story of the Kyrgyz people through their ancient hero Manas.

**Ghengis Blues**, 90 min., 1999
A documentary about a blind American blues musician who goes to Tuva in Russia to participate in the traditional Tuvan throat-singing contest. Has great images of Tuva and its culture and people. [www.ghengisblues.com](http://www.ghengisblues.com)

**Great Russian Writers**, 30 min. each.
A series of eight videos on: Pushkin, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Dostoevsky, Blok, Gorky, Mayakovksy, and Pasternak. Each short video offers biographical details and footage from places where the authors lived and worked. [www.kulturvideo.com](http://www.kulturvideo.com)

**We Are All Neighbors**, Public Media, Films Incorporated Video, 1993, 52 min.
The story of neighbors in a Muslim/Croat village and the disintegration of the decades long peaceful co-existence that had existed between them.

TEACHING AWARD

The United States-Eurasia Awards for Excellence in Teaching Program (TEA) is accepting applications for 2003. The program offers middle and high school (grades 6-12) teachers of humanities, social sciences or language arts an opportunity to travel to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine or Uzbekistan on a fully funded exchange program. The TEA Program provides an opportunity for US teachers to utilize their talents and expertise to improve the quality of secondary education in Eurasia and to create linkages and learning partnerships between US and Eurasian schools. Deadline: February 3, 2003. For program information visit: [www.americancouncils.org/program.asp?PageID=83 &ProgramID=26](http://www.americancouncils.org/program.asp?PageID=83 &ProgramID=26)

Contact: Michelle Garren; (202) 833-7522; tea@americancouncils.org.

Compiled by Lynda Park and Tamara Sollinger

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**Summer Curriculum Development Workshop on Russia**
for K-12 and Postsecondary Educators
June 28 - July 3, 2003

The Russian and East European Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, invites secondary and post-secondary instructors to take part in this intensive workshop to develop a more effective curriculum in Russian studies. The workshop begins with the Summer Symposium on “Young and the Restless: Youth in Russia, Eurasia and Eastern Europe” on June 28, starting at 1:00pm. The rest of the workshop features sessions on Russian history, art, culture, politics and economy by UI faculty and sessions on curriculum materials and design. Free housing for participants. Some travel assistance grant may be available.

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25 CPDUs for IL K-12 teachers;
2.5 U of I CEUs for others
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For more information, please contact Lynda Park at 217-333-6022 or lypark@uiuc.edu

Application and more info online. [www.reec.uiuc.edu](http://www.reec.uiuc.edu)