

SOL GGC.5: Russia & Central Asia



Where in the world is Russia?



Countries:

- Russia
- Eurasian Republics in the Caucasus Mountains:
 - Armenia
 - Azerbaijan
 - Georgia
- Eurasian Republics in Central Asia:
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Tajikistan
 - Turkmenistan
 - Uzbekistan



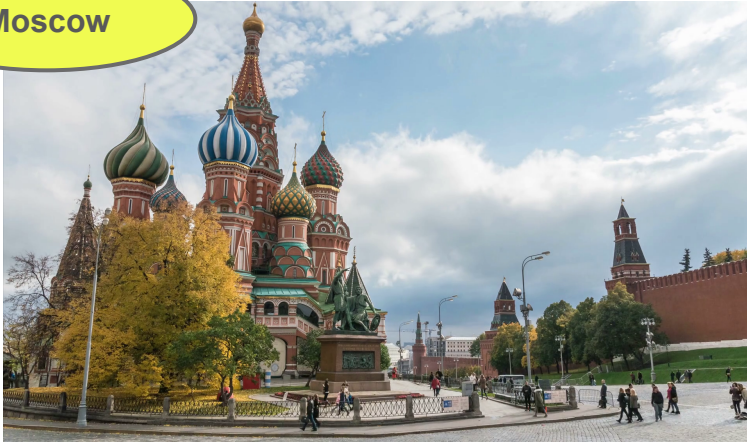
Major cities

- Moscow
- St. Petersburg
- Novosibirsk
- Vladivostok



Major Cities

Moscow



St. Petersburg



Novosibirsk



Vladivostok



Major Bodies of Water

- **Rivers**

- Volga River
- Ob River
- Amur River

- **Lakes**

- Lake Baikal

- **Seas**

- Caspian Sea
- Aral Sea

- **Oceans**

- Pacific Ocean
- Arctic Ocean



Physical Geography

- Vast land area:
 - Spans 2 continents (Europe & Asia)
- Plains cover much of the region
 - The large plains in southwestern Russia and northern Kazakhstan are called **steppes**
 - Much of this land is good for agriculture and grazing
- The Ural Mountains separate the Northern European Plain from the West Siberian Plain



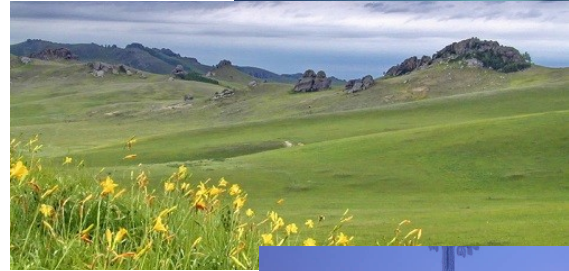
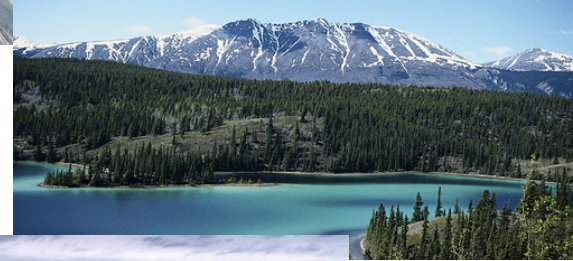
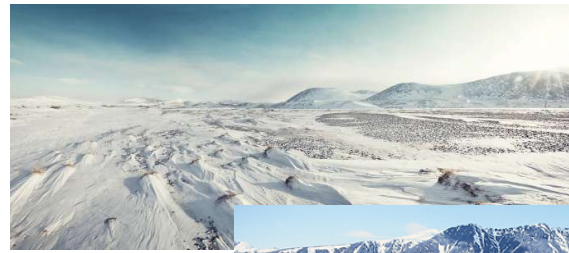
Natural Barriers

- Russia has oceans on its northern & eastern borders
- Mountains lie along much of Russia's southern border
- Deserts & mountains in Central Asia keep Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan isolated



Land of Extreme Climates

- Vast areas of tundra, taiga, and steppe
 - Tundra: exists in Siberia; only small plants can grow here
 - Taiga: forested areas south of the tundra; mostly small evergreens grow here
 - Steppes: farming is concentrated here
 - Semiarid and desert areas: limited to herding and grazing
- About ½ the land in Russia is so cold that it has **permafrost** (*permanently frozen ground beneath it*)
- Areas farther north, such as the city of St. Petersburg, have long, dark, cold, snowy winters



Tundra

Siberia - “the sleeping land” is located within the Tundra



Permafrost - frozen soil found in high latitudes, like the tundra

Taiga



Steppe

What North American landform does this remind you of?



Most of the farming takes place on the Steppe because of the rich, fertile, soil.

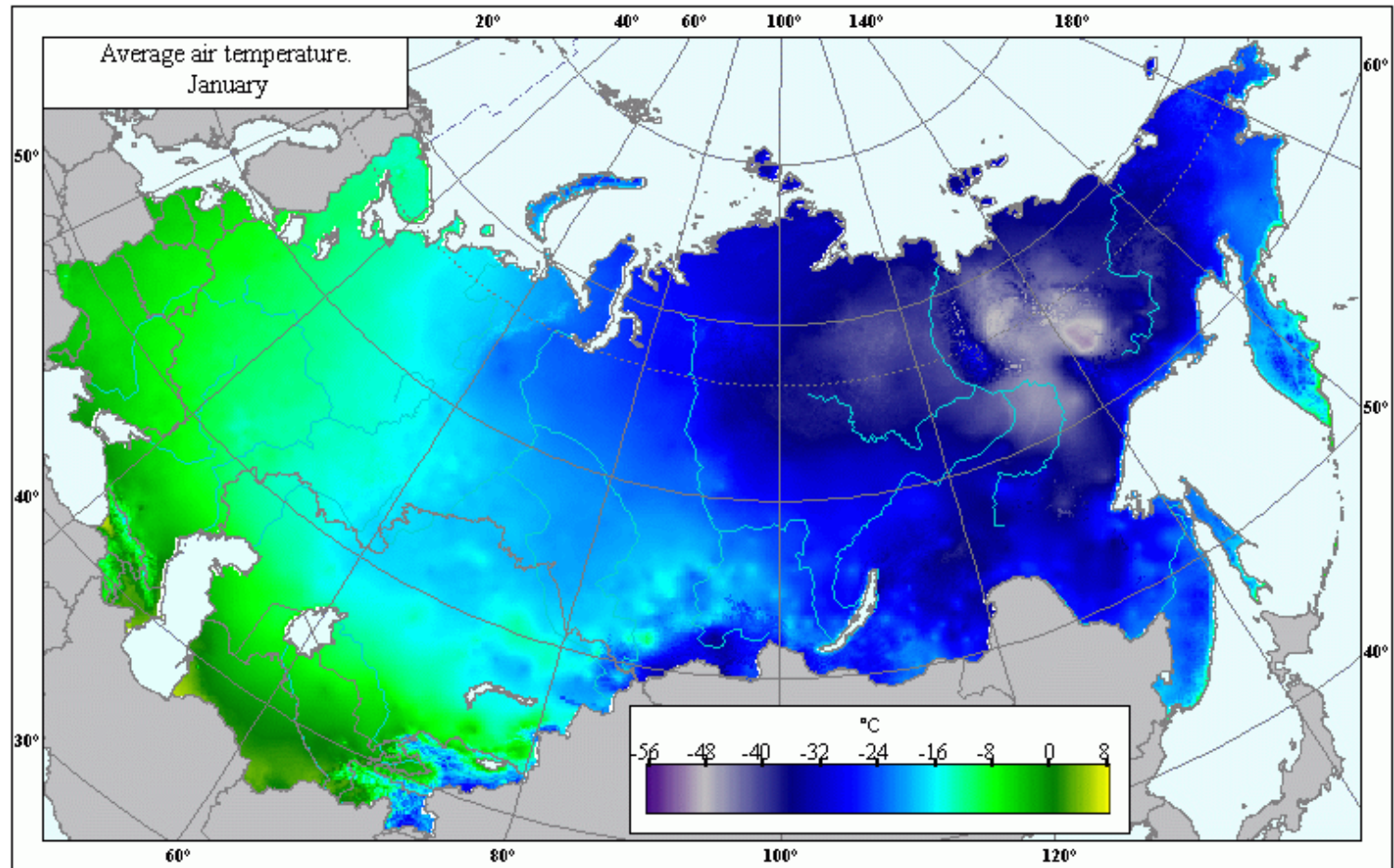
Chernozem



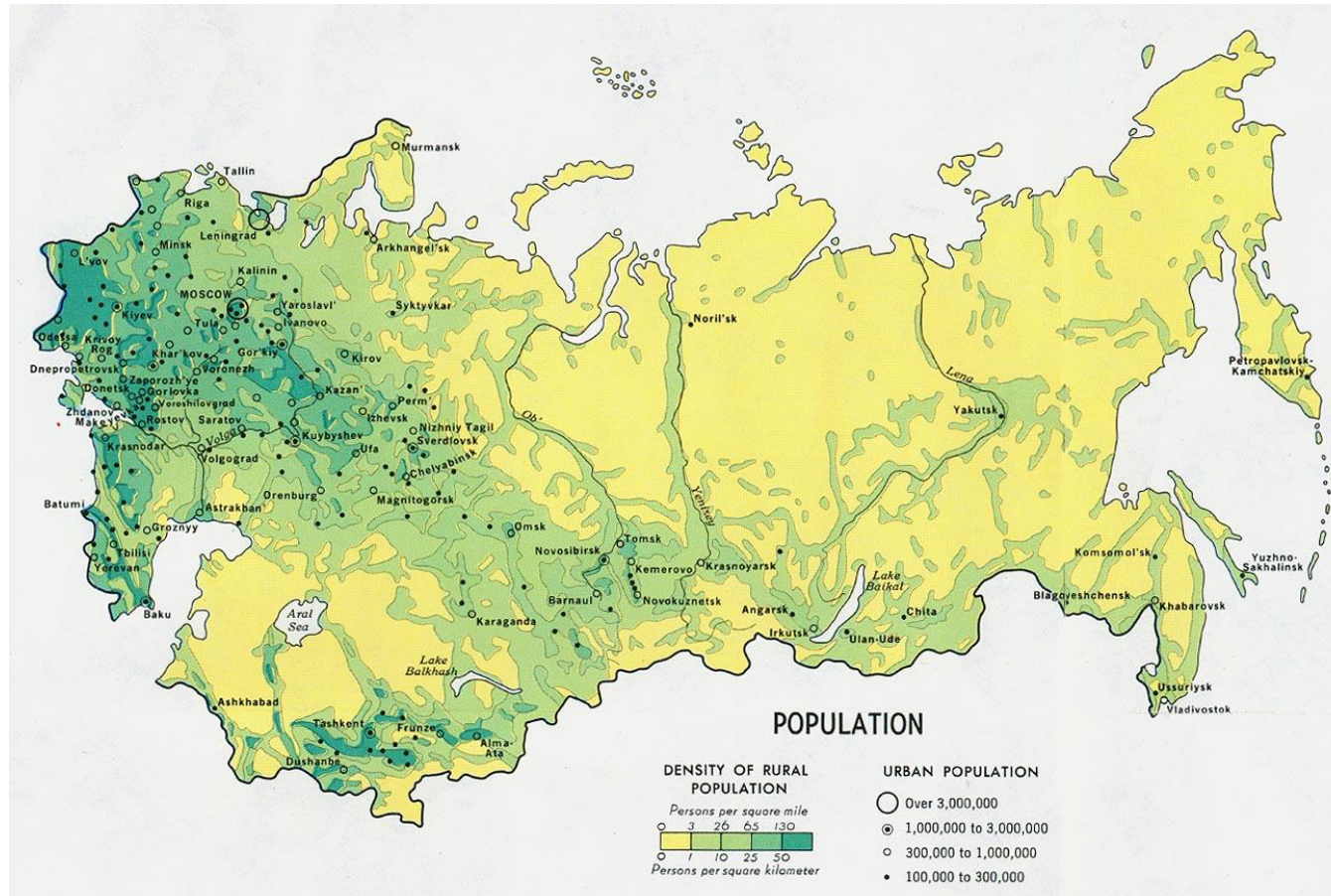
Chernozem - “black earth”; a rich, fertile layer of soil



- Russia & its neighbors experience extremely cold weather.

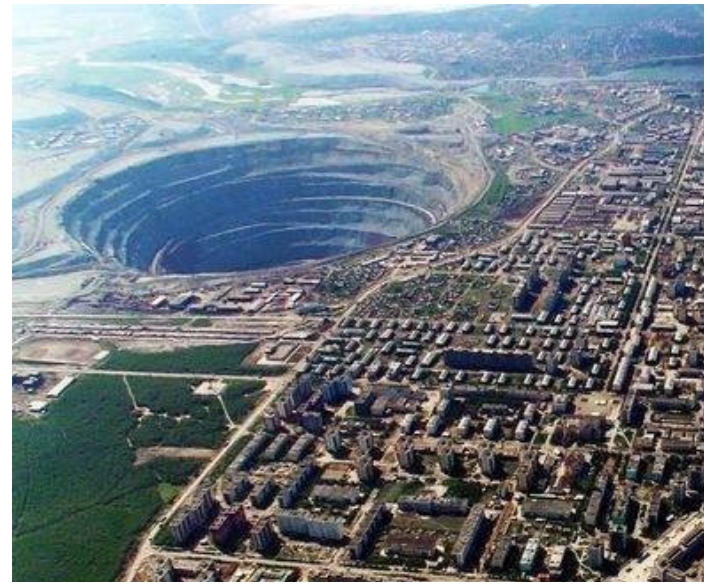


- The majority of the population lives in the western portion of the region, away from the harsh cold weather in the region known as Siberia.



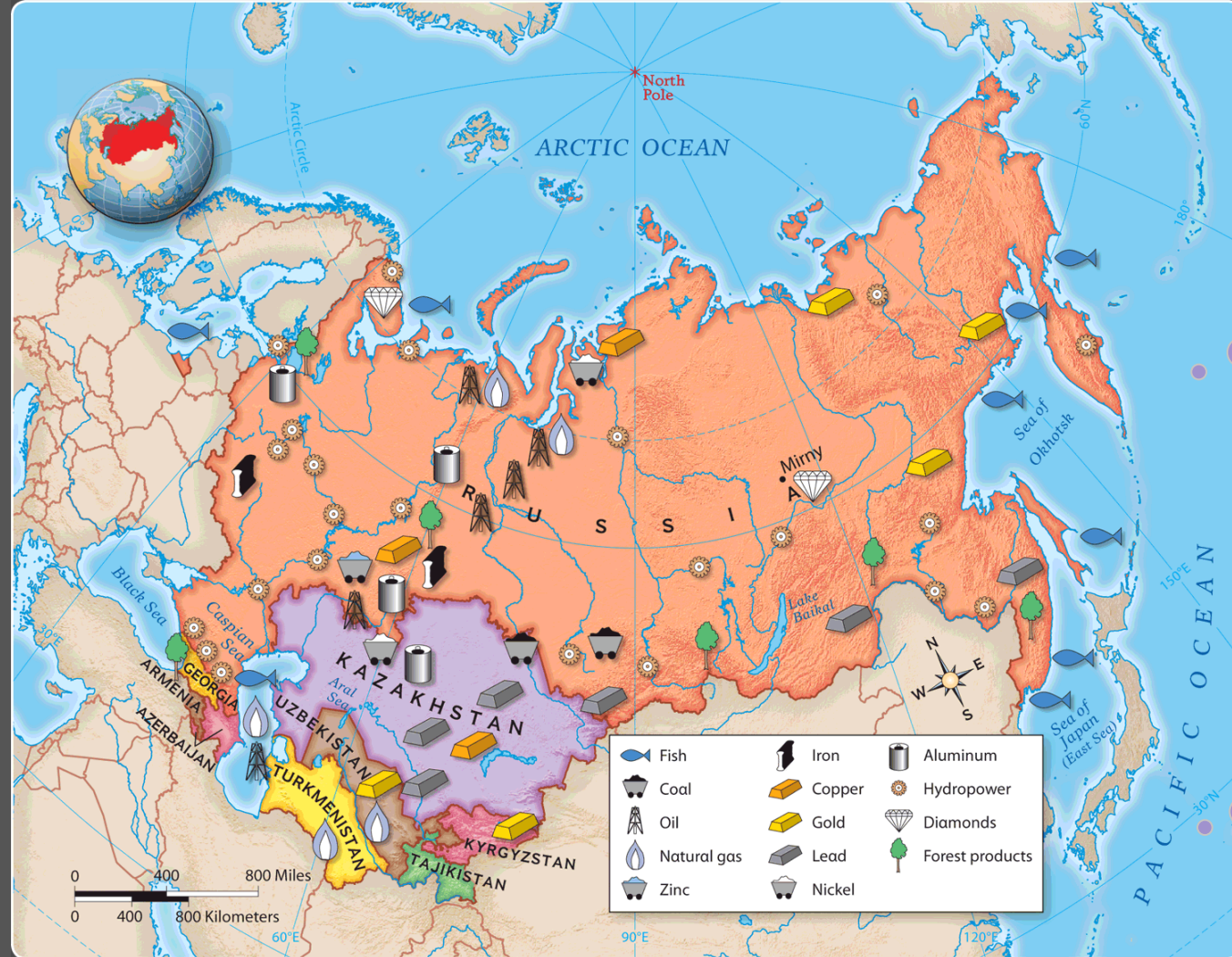
Natural Resources

- **This region is among the world's richest in natural resources**
- **Energy resources:** oil, natural gas, coal, peat, and hydroelectric power
- **Mineral resources:** iron, aluminum, gold, copper, platinum, uranium, cobalt, manganese, & chrome
 - These resources provide raw materials for factories & support industrial development
 - Has almost 20% of the world's iron ore reserves (used to make steel)
- **Challenges:** much of the region's resources are in remote, or hard to reach, locations (*i.e. many oil fields and minerals are located in the coldest parts of Siberia which makes mining and transportation difficult*)



Open-pit diamond mine in Mirny, Siberia





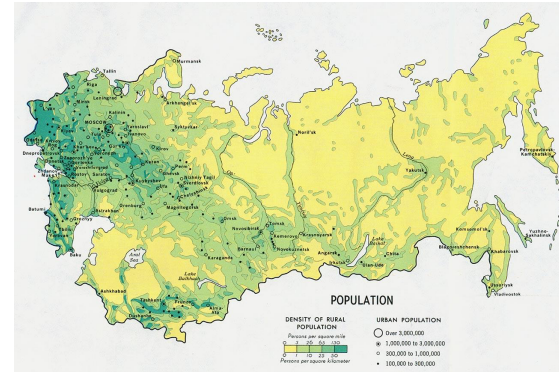
Where are the most valuable resources located?

Why would it be hard to get them from there?

Economic Characteristics

Russia and Central Asia have seen a transition from a **command economy** to a **limited market economy** (mixed economy).

- Before the industrial revolution, the economy relied heavily on agriculture, and was concentrated in the “**Fertile Triangle**”.
- The breakup of the Soviet Union (the command economy) caused many political and economic problems for the region.



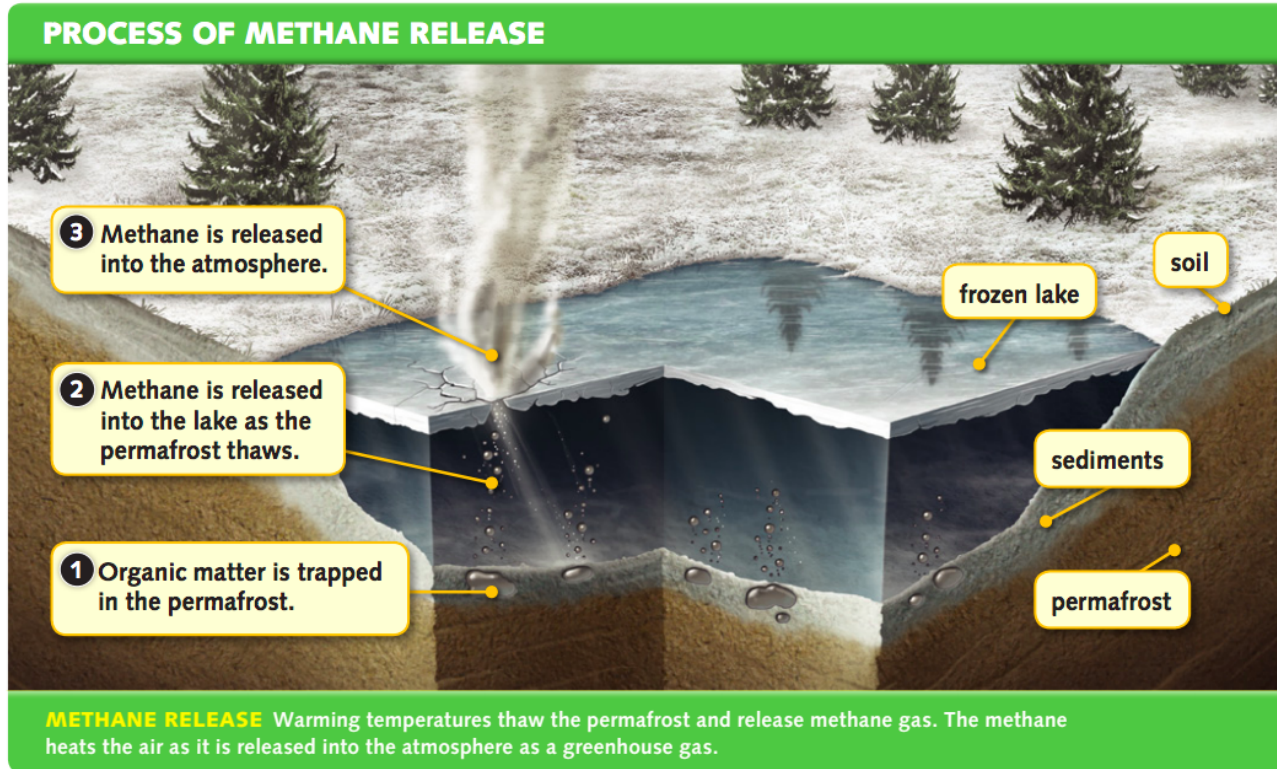
Economic Characteristics



Factories in Moscow, Russia

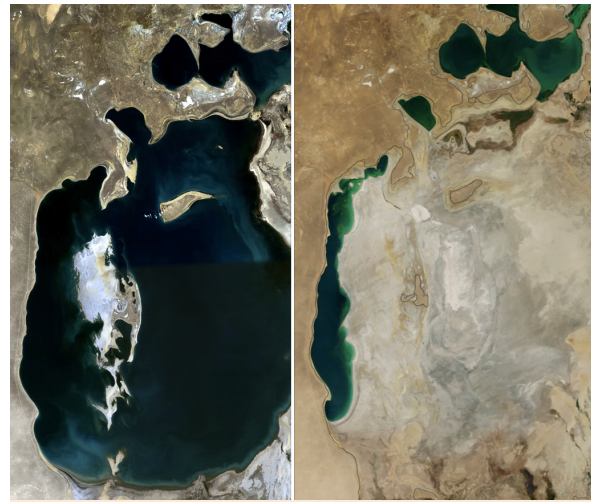
Human-Environment Interaction

Some scientists believe the permafrost below Siberia's lakes is thawing which is releasing methane into the atmosphere (this could intensify the greenhouse effect)



Human-Environment Interaction

- Efforts to irrigate land in Central Asia (for cotton production) led to the shrinkage of the Aral Sea
 - The **habitats** of many plants and animals **were destroyed**
 - Human health was threatened
 - In 2005, a dam was built to save the North Aral Sea in Kazakhstan
 - The southern part of the Aral Sea in Uzbekistan is almost completely gone



The Aral Sea in 1989 (left) and in 2014 (right).

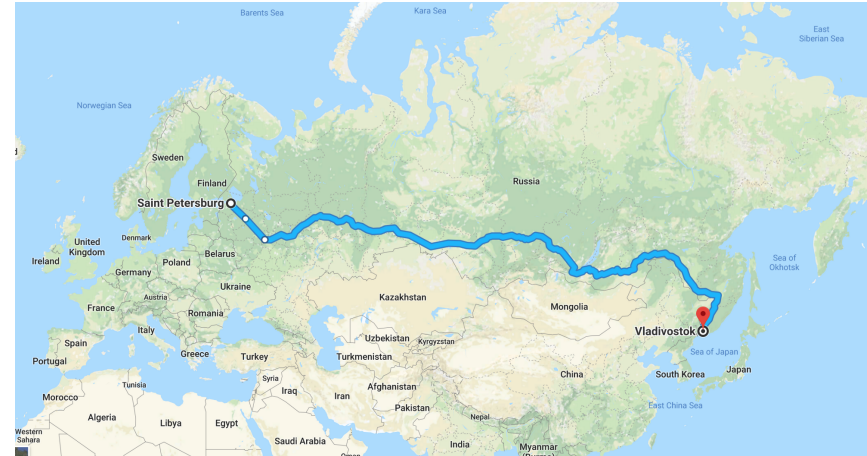


The once-thriving fishing industry was damaged.

Human-Environment Interaction

- **Pollution** - caused by growth of industry within the country
- **Growing infrastructure** - Systems of canals and railroads
 - **Trans-Siberian Railway** - railway system that runs across the country of Russia, connecting one half to the other

Can you think of another railway like this one?



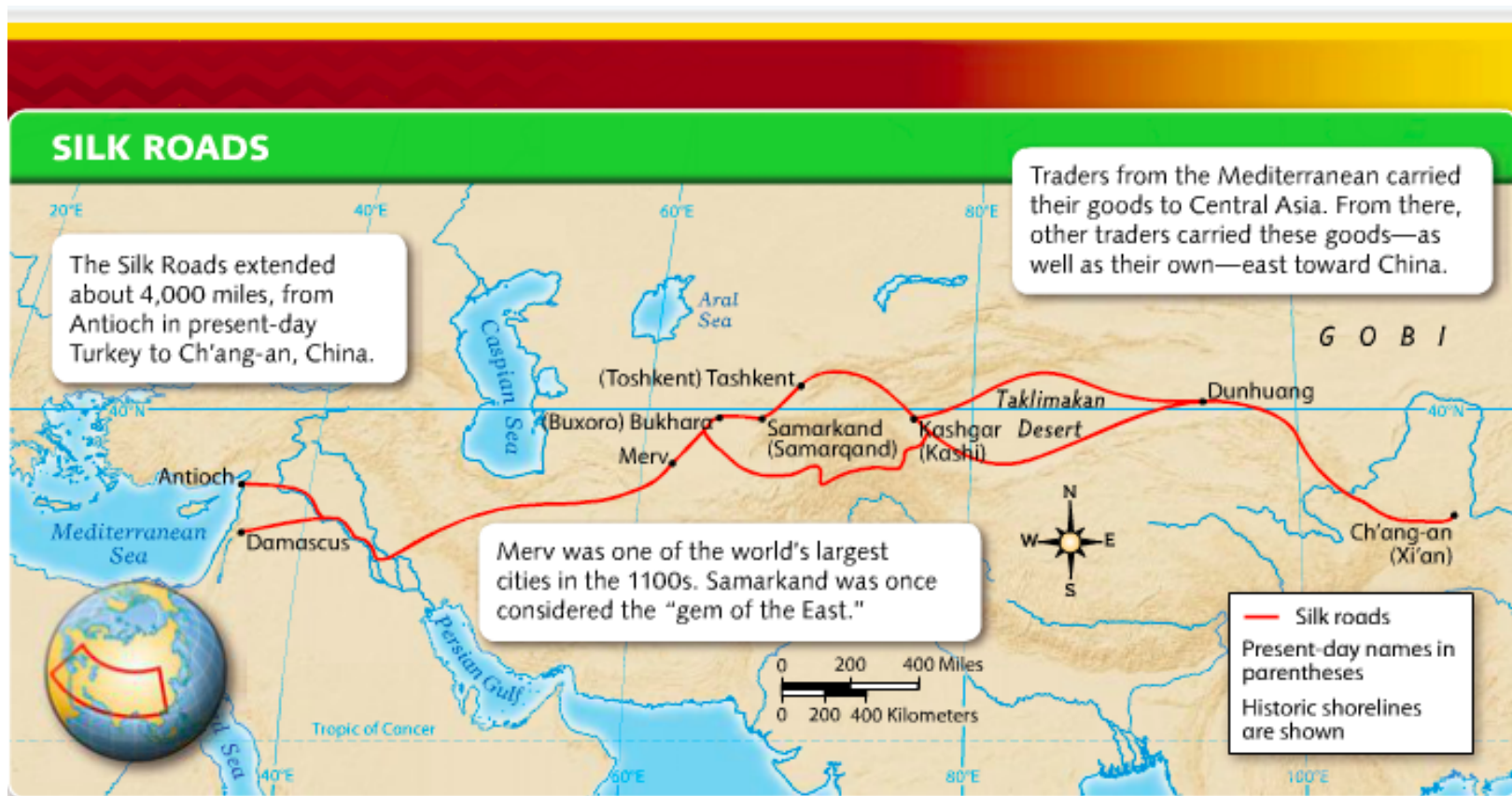
Early History

Settlers and conquerors from Europe and Asia shaped the early history of Russia and the Eurasian republics.

- The culture of the Slavs had the most lasting influence on early Russia
- The Vikings, sometimes called the “Russes,” came from Scandinavia and took control of towns such as Novgorod and Kiev



In the 1200s, Genghis Khan established the Mongol Empire in Central Asia. His descendants took over much of Russia (cut off from Europe but connected to East Asia via the Silk Roads)



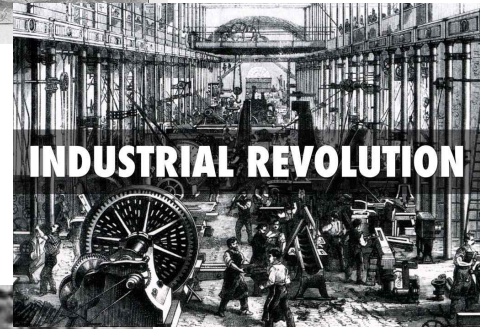
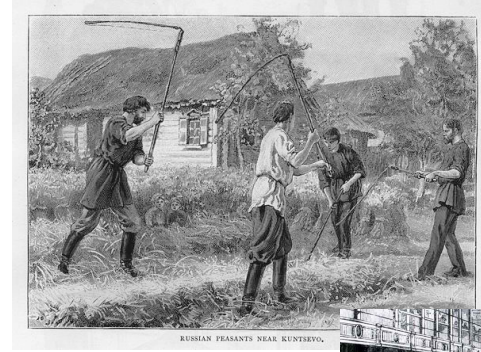
Later Russian princes successfully fought against Mongol rule and established the capital at Moscow

Ivan III (Ivan the Great)
Grand Prince of Russia 1462-1505



From Serfdom to Industrialization to Revolution

- For centuries, most Russian workers were peasants called serfs (*worked the land of wealthy landlords*)
- Czar Alexander II freed the serfs in 1861
- The Industrial Revolution began in Russia around 1890 (*most peasants and workers remained very poor*)
- A political group called the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, began the Russian Revolution in 1917 so they could take over industry and the government
- The czar was overthrown and Lenin became the leader of the new communist government





The Soviet Union

*What is communism?
What is Socialism?*

- The Bolsheviks believed a communist form of government and a socialist economic system were the answers to the problems of the Industrial Revolution. They wanted a classless society.
- The Soviet Union formed in 1922 (originally Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia)
- When Lenin died, Josef Stalin came to power
- Stalin had total command of the Soviet people from 1927 to 1953; under his government Soviet citizens were isolated from contact with the West



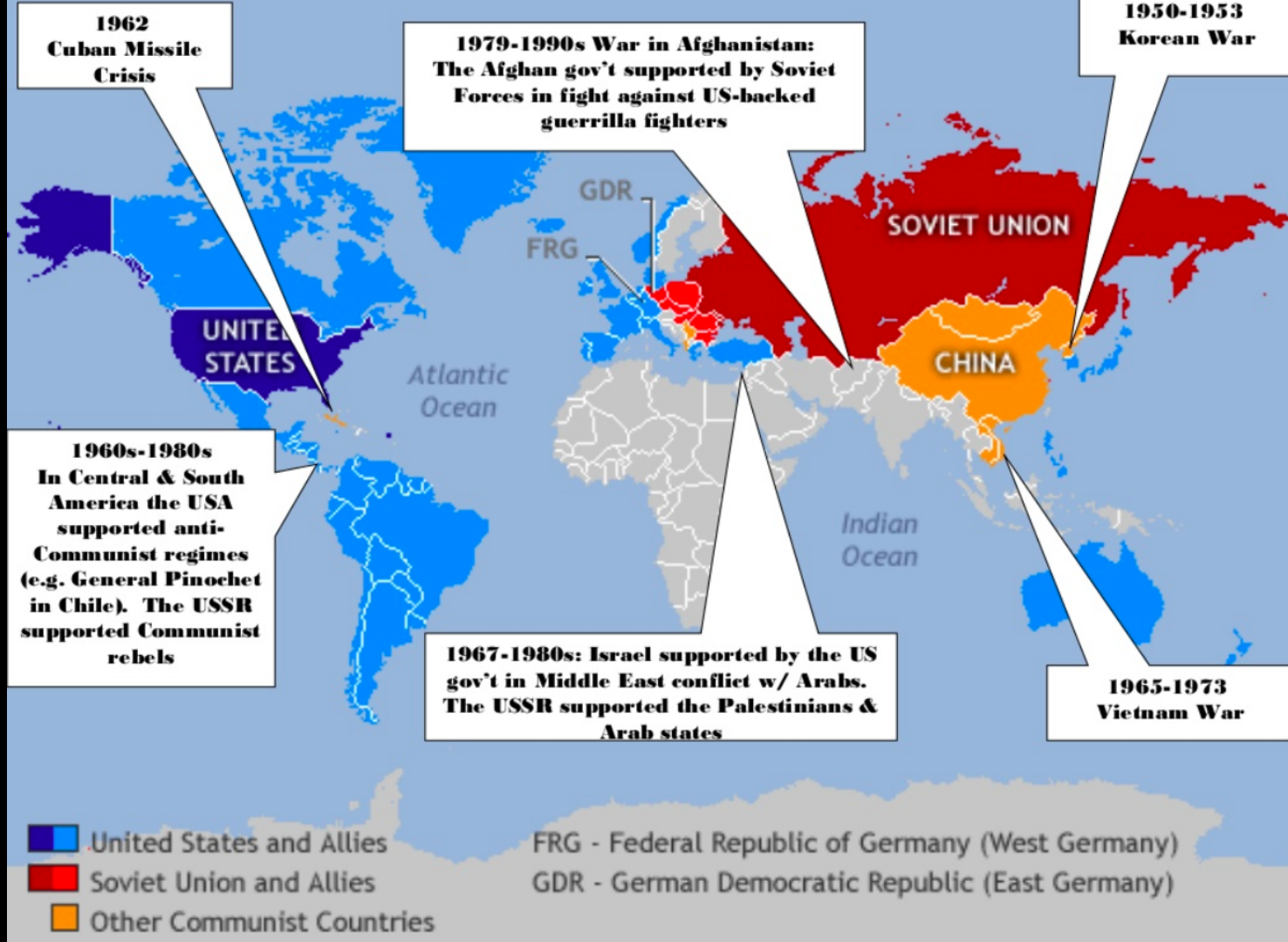
Stalin means "man of steel"

The Cold War

- Following WWII, the Soviet Union and the United States were the two most powerful countries in the world
- Tension arose between these two countries because of their different political and economic systems
 - United States - promoted global democracy and freedom
 - Soviet Union - promoted communism



The conflict was known as the Cold War because the countries did not fight each other directly.



Effects of the Cold War:

- Both countries developed nuclear weapons
- The US went to war in Korea and Vietnam to try to prevent the spread of communism
- Both countries engaged in the “Space race” (the SU won the race in 1957 when it launched its Sputnik satellite into space)



The Collapse of the Soviet Union

- SU was also an industrial leader & a world power (second only to the US)
- Government owned most businesses & agriculture
 - “Collective farms” provided food but the SU had trouble feeding all of its people; standard of living was low
- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev tried to reform the economy beginning in 1990
- The SU collapsed in 1991 (Cold War ended)
- Russia adopted a limited style economy and a federation/democratic style of government



Grocery Store in Moscow, 1990



The Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989

1961-1989

THE BERLIN WALL



COMPARE RUSSIAN AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS

Russia	Government Branches	United States
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President, elected to a six-year term Prime Minister, appointed• Government Ministers, appointed	Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President and Vice President, both elected to a four-year term• Cabinet, appointed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Assembly:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Federation Council (166 members), appointed to a four-year term– State Duma (450 members), elected to a five-year term	Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congress:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Senate (100 members), elected to a six-year term– House of Representatives (435 members), elected to a two-year term
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constitutional Court Judges, appointed for life	Judicial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supreme Court Judges, appointed for life

Cultural Geography

Massive size, extremes in climate, and historic events have created a diverse cultural identity that combines the customs and traditions of various ethnic groups.



Cultural Influences

Diverse ethnic groups created many different customs and traditions.

- **Turkic** - native group that settled in Central Asia
- **Mongols** - native group that settled in Eastern Asia (now Russia)





MONGOL EMPIRE

Cultural Heritage/Landscape:

What do we have to thank Russia and Central Asia for?

Cultural Heritage/Landscape:

What do we have to thank Russia and Central Asia for?



Ballet



A classical style of dance that was popularized in Russia.



Fabergé Eggs



A decorative egg made for the Russian Imperial family.

Music



Characterized by traditional
Russian folk music.



Let's Talk About It...

Tell me about **ballet**, **Fabergé Eggs**, **music**, and **icons**....



Matryoshka Dolls



Stackable, wooden dolls; the first set was created in 1890. They can be found all over the world today.

Religious Icons



Traditional Russian icons date back to the 15th Century and before and are associated with the Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church.

2.2 EUROPEAN OR ASIAN?

Compare Two Branches Of Christianity

The Russian Orthodox Church became the official church of Russia in 988. Over many centuries, it has influenced the history and culture of Russia. Read more about this branch of Christianity—Eastern Orthodoxy—and its relationship with the Roman Catholic Church.

A Split Within Orthodox Christianity

Christianity spread into the Roman Empire and had its base in Rome, but it also had a base in Constantinople. This Eastern branch of Christianity included Russian Orthodoxy and Greek Orthodoxy.

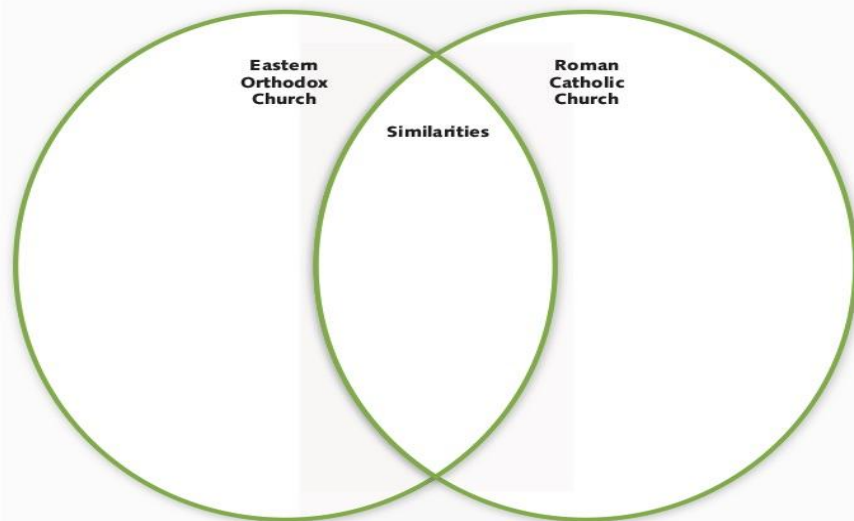
The Latin-speaking Christians in Rome were separated from the Greek-speaking Christians to the east by invading peoples from the northwest. The bishop of Rome, or the Pope, gained control over the western church. The bishop, or Patriarch, of Constantinople became the head of the eastern church. After centuries of disagreements, the Pope and the Patriarch broke off relations.

Eastern Orthodox Christians and Roman Catholics differed on many of Christianity's ideas. Catholics did not allow clergy to marry and believed that the Pope was the leader of the Christian world. Latin was the language of the Catholic Church. Eastern Christians did not hold their Patriarch as the only leader of the church, but they did not accept the leadership of the Pope. Eastern Christians allowed their clergy to marry and to hold services in the local language. Despite such differences, both churches continued to have much in common including the importance of the Bible, celebrations of Christmas and Easter (although at different times), and the same seven sacraments.



Eastern Christians placed great importance on religious paintings (icons).

1. **Create a Venn Diagram** Compare the two branches of Christianity. Write the differences in the parts of the circle that do not overlap. Write similarities in the part that does overlap.



2. **Make Generalizations** Based on the passage, how did geography and culture play a role in dividing the early Christian Church? Review maps of Russia and the Eurasian republics in your textbook to help you.

Russian Orthodox Churches



Russian Orthodox churches are distinguished by their bright colors and multiple domes.

Saint Basil's Cathedral (Moscow, Russia)



Prime example of a Russian-style Eastern Orthodox church.

Red Square (Moscow, Russia)



City center of Moscow, Russia. Houses the Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral.

The Kremlin (Moscow, Russia)



**Center of Russia's government seat.
Functions like the White House.**



Lenin's Mausoleum (Moscow, Russia)

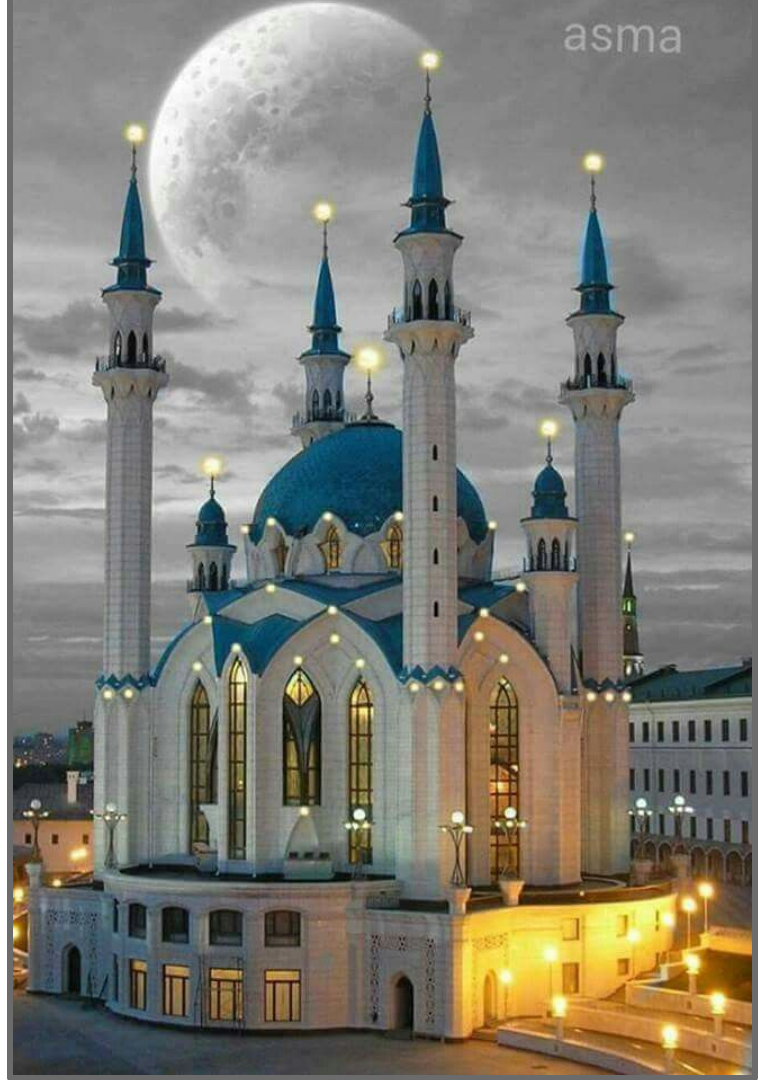
Remind me:
Who was
Vladimir Lenin?
Why was he
important?

Serves as the resting place for
previous Soviet leader, Vladimir Lenin.





Mosques



The Blue Mosque in Russia
Mosques are places of worship for
Muslims. The towers are called minarets.

Siberian Villages



Small, self-sufficient villages are scattered throughout Siberia.



Soviet-Style Apartment Blocks

A style of mass housing that was popularized when Russia was the Soviet Union.



At the time, there was a housing crisis. Large apartment blocks was a cheap way to solve this issue.