

Multimedia Activities



Surfing the "Net"

The Lemon Law

Many products have warranties that guarantee a product's performance. Sometimes consumers experience problems where manufacturers might not honor a warranty. In those cases consumers can turn to their state's lemon laws for protection. The lemon law is a law that protects consumers who have warranties for their goods. There is also a federal lemon law that applies to all 50 states. To find out about your state lemon law, look on the Internet.

Getting There

Follow the steps below to find out more information about lemon laws in your state.

1. Go to your favorite search engine.
2. Type in the phrase *lemon laws*. Following this phrase, enter words like those below to focus your search:

your state's name	warranties
consumer	federal

The search engine should provide you with a number of links to follow. Links are pointers to different sites on the Internet and commonly appear as blue underlined words.

What to Do When You Are There

1. Click on the links to navigate through the pages of information.
2. Using a word processor, write an article about your state's lemon laws and the steps consumers can take legally to solve their problems. Share your findings with the class.



Focus on Government

Financing Our Government

The Constitution allows the government to collect taxes to finance its operations. The **Focus on Government** program referenced below examines some of the ways that local governments tax and spend.

Setting Up the Video

Using a bar code reader or an electronic keypad, work with a group of your classmates to view this video segment of the videodisc **Focus on Government**:



Side 3, Chapter 40
Lecture Launcher:
Taxing and Spending

Hands-On Activity

Use ideas from the video program and from the chapters in this unit to design a multimedia display featuring images of services that your community provides to its residents. You might be able to find illustrations of these services from the local newspaper or a member of your group might be able to photograph these services being used. Make transparencies or slides of some of the images and write a script to narrate your presentation as you show your classmates the images.



UNIT 8

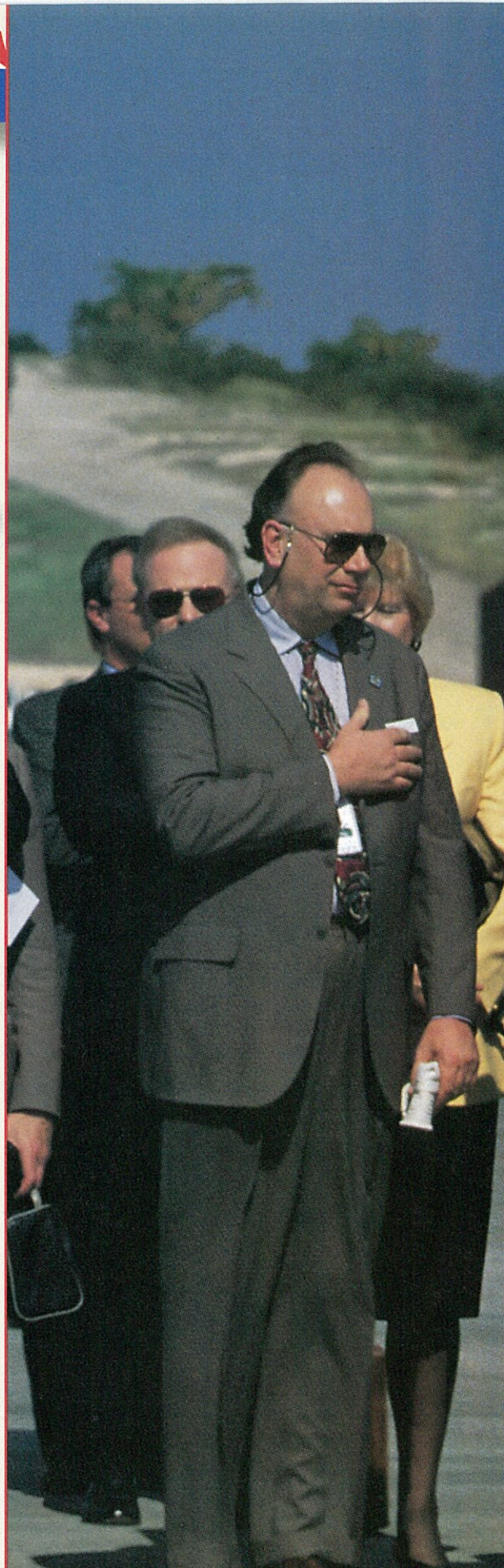
The United States and the World

YOUR ROLE AS A CITIZEN

The world seems smaller than it did only 50 years ago. Modern transportation and communication have brought people around the globe closer together. As a result, countries today are more dependent on one another. As citizens of the United States and members of the global community, we have a responsibility to keep informed about developments in other nations and the world. ■

CHAPTERS IN THIS UNIT

- 22** Comparative Government
- 23** International Relations
- 24** An Interdependent World





Comparative Government

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Each nation of the world has a unique history, as well as its own cultural values, political interests, and economic needs. These factors influence how a nation governs itself. Contact the embassy or consulate of a country you are interested in. Ask for information about the country's history, government, people, culture, and economy. Try to find out about the

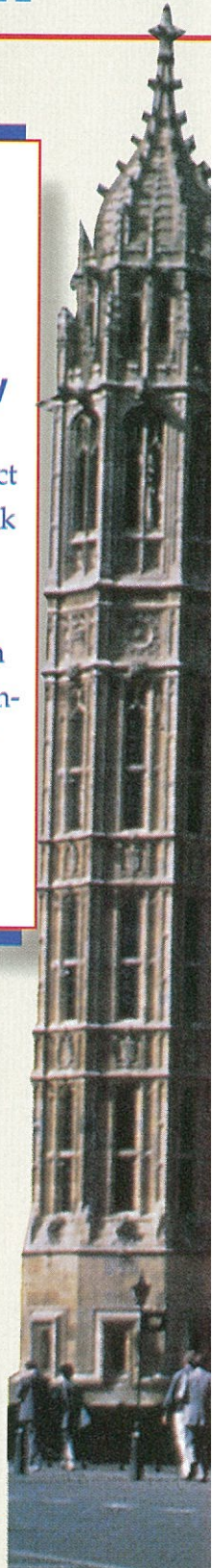
country's relations with the United States.

Working in Your Community

After you have obtained the information, prepare a fact sheet on the country. Then ask some neighbors and friends what they know about the country and its relations with the United States. Share the information on your fact sheet with them. ■

Your Civics Journal

As you study this chapter, scan newspapers, magazines, and TV broadcasts for stories about other countries. In your civics journal, list the countries mentioned and the main points of the stories. Next to each entry note what you think these stories reflect about life in that country.







Great Britain

FOCUS

TERMS TO KNOW

constitutional monarchy, parliamentary government, constituency, by-elections, shadow cabinet

OBJECTIVES

- Describe **the parliamentary system** in Great Britain.
- Identify and describe Great Britain's two major **political parties**.
- Discuss the world role of **Great Britain today**.

Great Britain is officially known as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It includes England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The United States owes many traditions to Great Britain, including our representative system of government and the belief that citizens have certain basic rights.

Despite shared ideals, the British and American governments are quite different. Britain is a **constitutional monarchy** with a king or a queen who serves as the symbolic head of state but does not run the government. Centuries ago Britain's monarchs had a great deal of power, but they no longer do.

Great Britain has a **parliamentary government** ruled by elected representatives. In a parliamentary system, the executive and legislative branches are not

separated, and their functions overlap. This is unlike the American system, in which there is a separation of powers.

Great Britain also has what is called an unwritten constitution. Instead of a single document like the United States Constitution, it has a collection of documents, parliamentary acts, and court decisions that serve as a guide to government. Many of these date back hundreds of years, and they serve as a record of British political traditions.

The Parliamentary System

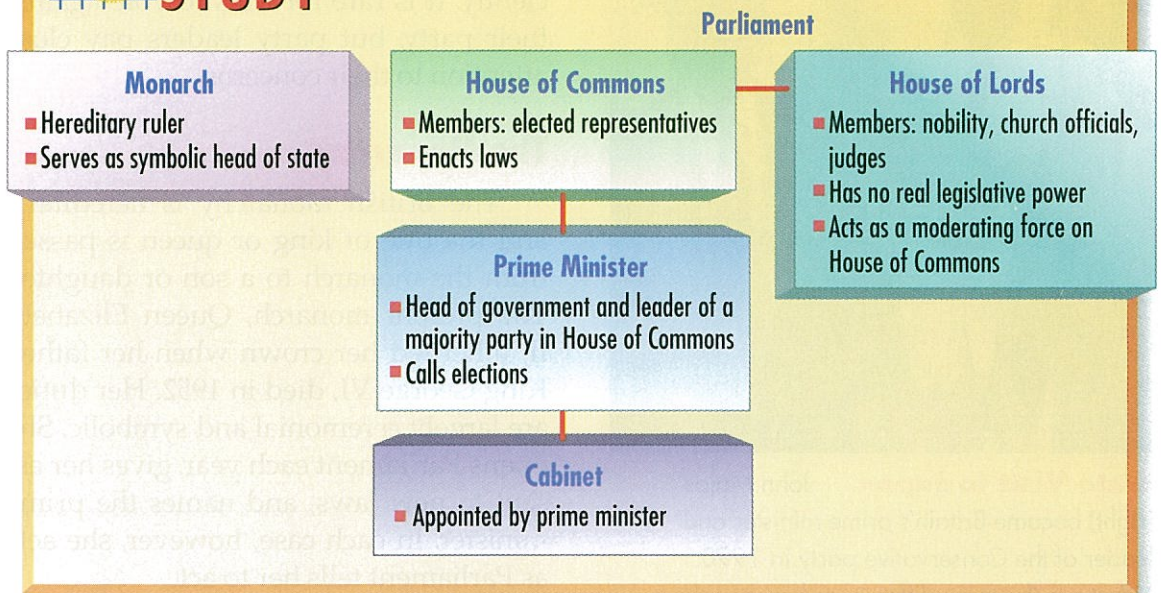
Great Britain's parliamentary system developed over many centuries. At one time, powerful monarchs who governed as they saw fit ruled the nation. Yet many early rulers also consulted with important nobles and religious leaders. In the late 1200s, the monarchs began to include representatives of towns and counties in

Queen Elizabeth II The British monarch performs many ceremonial duties but has little real power. *What is the monarch's role in a constitutional monarchy?*



CHART STUDY

British Parliamentary System Great Britain has a parliamentary form of government. *Which house of Parliament enacts laws?*



their meetings. Gradually, these meetings, or parliaments, began to take on more and more of the duties and powers of government. At the same time, the monarchs became less and less powerful.

House of Commons

Today the British Parliament makes all of the nation's laws. The Parliament has two houses—the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The lower house, the House of Commons, is the main legislative body. It includes 650 members of Parliament, or MPs. Each MP represents a **constituency**, or the people in a particular election district.

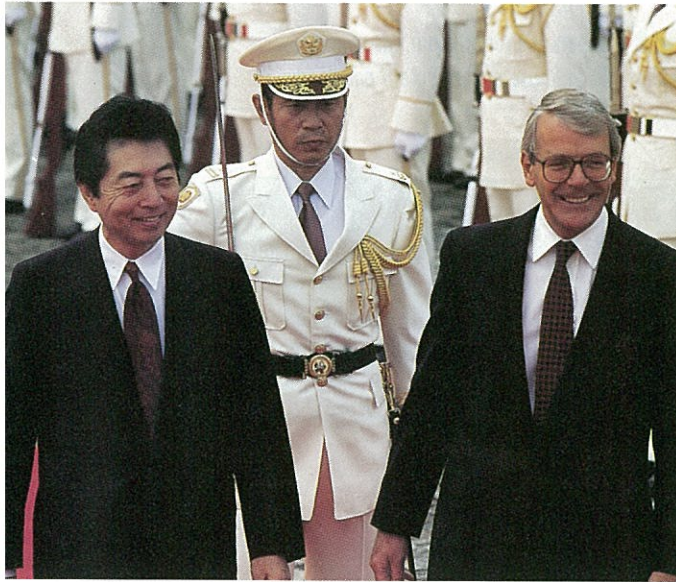
MPs are elected in a general election. These elections have no set dates, but they must be held at least once every five years. The head of the government, the prime minister, can call for an election any time he or she thinks that members of the ruling party have a good chance of

being reelected. If an MP dies or resigns between general elections, a new MP is chosen in special local elections, called **by-elections**.

House of Lords

Parliament's upper house, the House of Lords, is not an elected body. It is made up of about 800 nobles with inherited titles, 26 bishops and archbishops of the Church of England, 15 judges, and more than 200 life peers. Life peers are people who have been given titles in reward for their achievements. Members of the House of Lords serve for life.

The House of Lords has no real legislative power beyond delaying and debating proposals. If it rejects a bill, the House of Commons can still pass it and make it law. The main function of the House of Lords is to act as a moderating force by watching closely and criticizing the work of the House of Commons.



State Visit to Japan John Major (right) became Britain's prime minister and leader of the Conservative party in 1990. *What are the main differences between the Conservative and the Labour parties?*

The Prime Minister

The head of Britain's government (or administration, as it would be called in the United States) is the prime minister. The people do not elect the prime minister. He or she is the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons and is chosen by the MPs of that party. A new prime minister is chosen when a different party gains the majority in the House of Commons after a general election.

The prime minister chooses ministers, or officials, to run various executive departments. Most of these ministers are MPs of the majority party. The ministers of the most important departments make up the cabinet.

Because the same party controls the executive and legislative functions, Britain's parliamentary system has fewer checks and balances than the United States government. At the same time,

party discipline is strong. The prime minister and Parliament seldom disagree, and they work together quite efficiently. It is rare for MPs to vote against their party, but party leaders pay close attention to their concerns.

The Monarchy

The British monarchy is hereditary, and the title of king or queen is passed from the monarch to a son or daughter. The present monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, inherited her crown when her father, King George VI, died in 1952. Her duties are largely ceremonial and symbolic. She opens Parliament each year, gives her assent to new laws, and names the prime minister. In each case, however, she acts as Parliament tells her to act.

Some people today question the need for the monarchy because the monarch has no real power. Others, however, argue that abolishing the monarchy would destroy Britain's unwritten constitution. Abolishing the monarchy would also deprive Britain of a cherished symbol of the nation and its people.

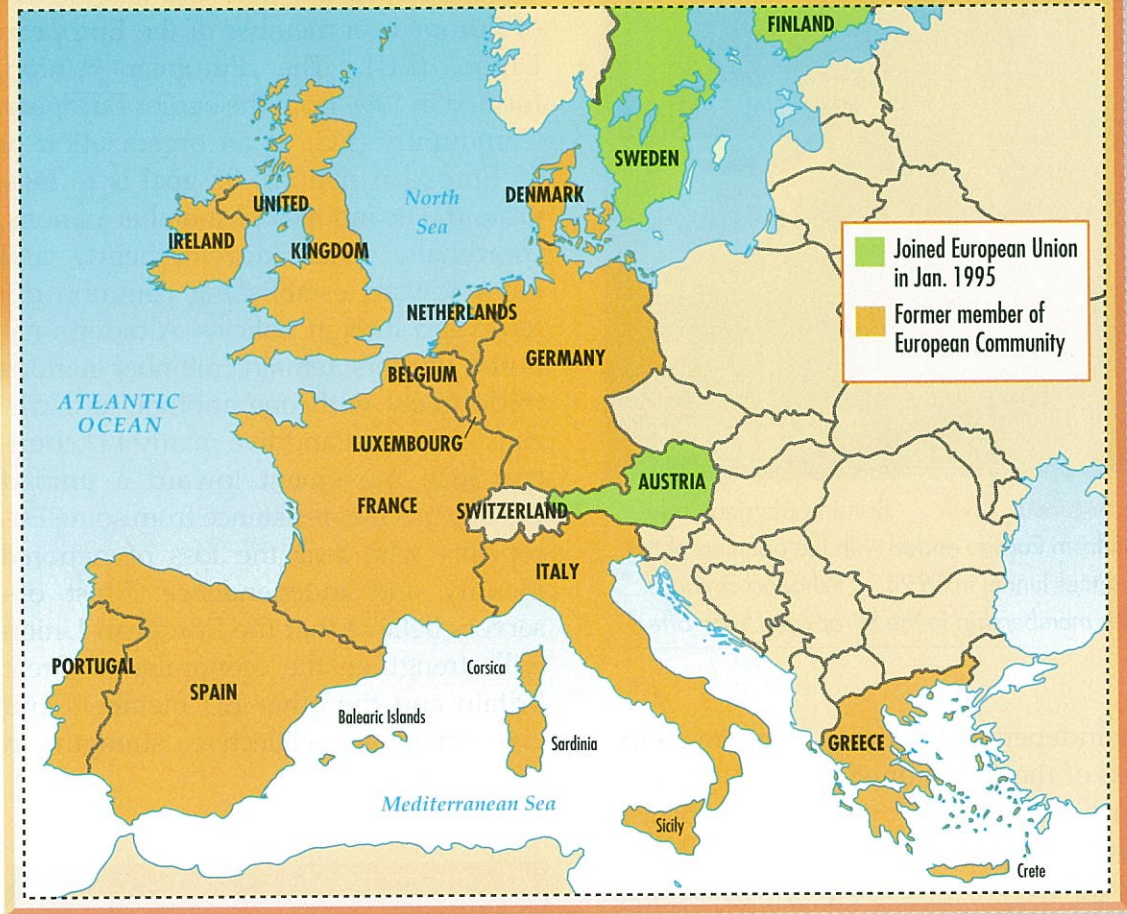
Political Parties

Two major political parties, the Conservative party and Labour party, dominate Great Britain's political system. The Conservative party is similar to the Republican party in the United States. It stresses private enterprise, less government regulation, and tradition. The Labour party, like the Democratic party in the United States, favors a more active government role.

Britain's political parties are based more on social and economic class than are American parties. In general, the upper class supports the Conservative party, while the Labour party attracts



European Union In 1994 the European Community changed its name to the European Union. Which countries joined the European Union in 1995?



working-class voters. A large, shifting block of voters comes from the middle class. A few minor parties, such as the Social Democrats and the Liberals, draw most of their support from middle-class voters who distrust the two major parties.

The Conservative party has controlled the British government since 1979. For most of that time, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher headed the government. After her resignation in 1990, John Major became prime minister.

The primary role of the opposition party in Great Britain is to question and

criticize the government and its policies. The opposition forms a **shadow cabinet** made up of members of its own party who would govern if the party took control. Each shadow cabinet member follows the activities of a government cabinet member and is ready to take over should the governmental fall.

Great Britain Today

Until the middle of this century, Great Britain ruled many colonies in different parts of the world. Today those colonies



European Link Britain's physical isolation from Europe ended with the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1994. *What advantages does membership in the European Union offer?*

are independent nations. Most are members of the Commonwealth of Nations, a loose association of former British colonies, including Canada, Australia, India, and 47 other independent nations. The heads of these nations meet periodically to discuss military, economic, and political matters. While Great Britain often plays a leadership role at Commonwealth meetings, it has no real authority over other members.

United Nations

Great Britain belongs to the United Nations (UN), where it is a permanent member of the Security Council, the UN's chief policy-making body. It is also a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance made up of the United States, Canada, and various European countries.

European Union

For centuries, Britain saw itself as separate from Europe. Now, however, its role in the world is tied firmly to the rest of Europe as a member of the European Union (EU). The European Union, formed in 1994 from the earlier European Community (EC), is an organization of 15 European nations. Its goal is to integrate the economies of member nations, coordinate social developments, and work toward establishing common defense and foreign policies. Although national borders remain, member nations trade freely with one another, and citizens can travel and live in any EU country. Such movement toward a unified Europe has met resistance from some Europeans who fear the loss of national identity and independence. Most observers believe that the European Union will strengthen the economies of Great Britain and the other EU members and give members collective strength in world politics.

★ SECTION 1 REVIEW ★

UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY

Define constitutional monarchy, parliamentary government, constituency, by-elections, shadow cabinet.

REVIEWING OBJECTIVES

- 1 How does Great Britain's parliamentary system work?
- 2 What are Great Britain's two major political parties, and what is their role in government?
- 3 What is the world role of Great Britain today?



Russia

FOCUS

TERMS TO KNOW

totalitarian, cold war, glasnost, perestroika, coup

OBJECTIVES

- Describe how **the Soviet Union** developed, and discuss the policies of some of its leaders.
- Explain the factors and events that led to **the Soviet collapse**.
- Describe the main features of **Russia's emerging political system**.
- Identify and describe some of the problems facing **Russia today**.

Russia is an enormous country. It spans two continents—Europe and Asia—and has a population made up of many different groups and nationalities.

Throughout much of its history, powerful monarchs called czars ruled Russia. In 1917 a group of communist revolutionaries known as Bolsheviks overthrew the czar and created a new state.

The Soviet Union

Led by Vladimir Lenin, these revolutionaries ruled the country through a dictatorship in which a few Communist party leaders made all the decisions. They abolished private property, redistributed land, and took control of all

industry and agriculture. Under communist rule, Russia became a **totalitarian** state, one in which the government controlled most aspects of life.

In 1922 the nation became the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union included not only Russia but several other neighboring republics that were absorbed into the new nation. Eventually, the Soviet Union consisted of 15 different republics.

Joseph Stalin

After Lenin died in 1924, Joseph Stalin became leader of the Soviet Union. He ruled the nation ruthlessly for almost 30 years. During that time, he murdered and imprisoned millions of people who tried to oppose him. He forced farmers to

Communism Lenin and his Bolshevik revolutionaries seized power in 1917 and established the world's first communist government. *What kinds of decisions did the communist leaders make?*





End of the Cold War Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met with President Reagan and other Western leaders as he introduced political and economic reforms. *What did Gorbachev's glasnost policy involve?*

give up their land and work on large state-owned farms. He also tried to industrialize rapidly and make the nation a world power. In 1953 Stalin died, and a succession of communist leaders who continued many of Stalin's harsh policies followed.

The Cold War

After World War II, the Soviet Union dominated Eastern Europe, forcing countries there to become Soviet dependencies with communist governments. Soviet actions during these years convinced the United States and its allies that the Soviet goal was to expand its power and influence. Much of the world soon divided into two hostile camps—the free nations of the West and the communist nations. The bitter struggle between the two sides came to be known as the **cold war** because it more often involved a clash of ideas than a clash of arms.

The Soviet Collapse

In 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev rose to power in the Soviet Union. Younger and more open to new ideas than previous Soviet leaders, Gorbachev understood that years of communist policies had weakened the Soviet economic system. To save the country, he attempted to make radical changes in the Soviet economy and government.

Glasnost and Perestroika

Gorbachev introduced several reforms aimed at making Soviet society more democratic. These changes were called **glasnost**, which means openness. Gorbachev's regime encouraged new ideas and permitted people to criticize the government openly. It also relaxed censorship rules on books, films, and newspaper and magazine articles. In 1991 free elections were held for the first time since 1917.

Glasnost was part of a broader policy called **perestroika**, or restructuring. Gorbachev hoped to revitalize the nation's economy by allowing people to own private property and start small businesses. He also permitted farmers to hold leases on land.

A Referendum and Coup

As Soviet society became more open, the other Soviet republics began to challenge the power and authority of the Russian republic. In March 1991 Soviet voters approved a national referendum that granted all the republics greater independence. Some hardline Communists, however, feared that this policy would destroy the country. In August 1991 they staged a **coup**, an attempt to overthrow the government. They

arrested Gorbachev and imposed a state of emergency.

As the hardliners tried to consolidate their power, Soviet citizens responded. People in Moscow, the nation's capital, built barricades in streets, held demonstrations, and ignored government curfews. A popular politician named Boris Yeltsin rallied public support for democracy and urged soldiers and bureaucrats not to support the coup. Resistance soon spread beyond Moscow to other cities.

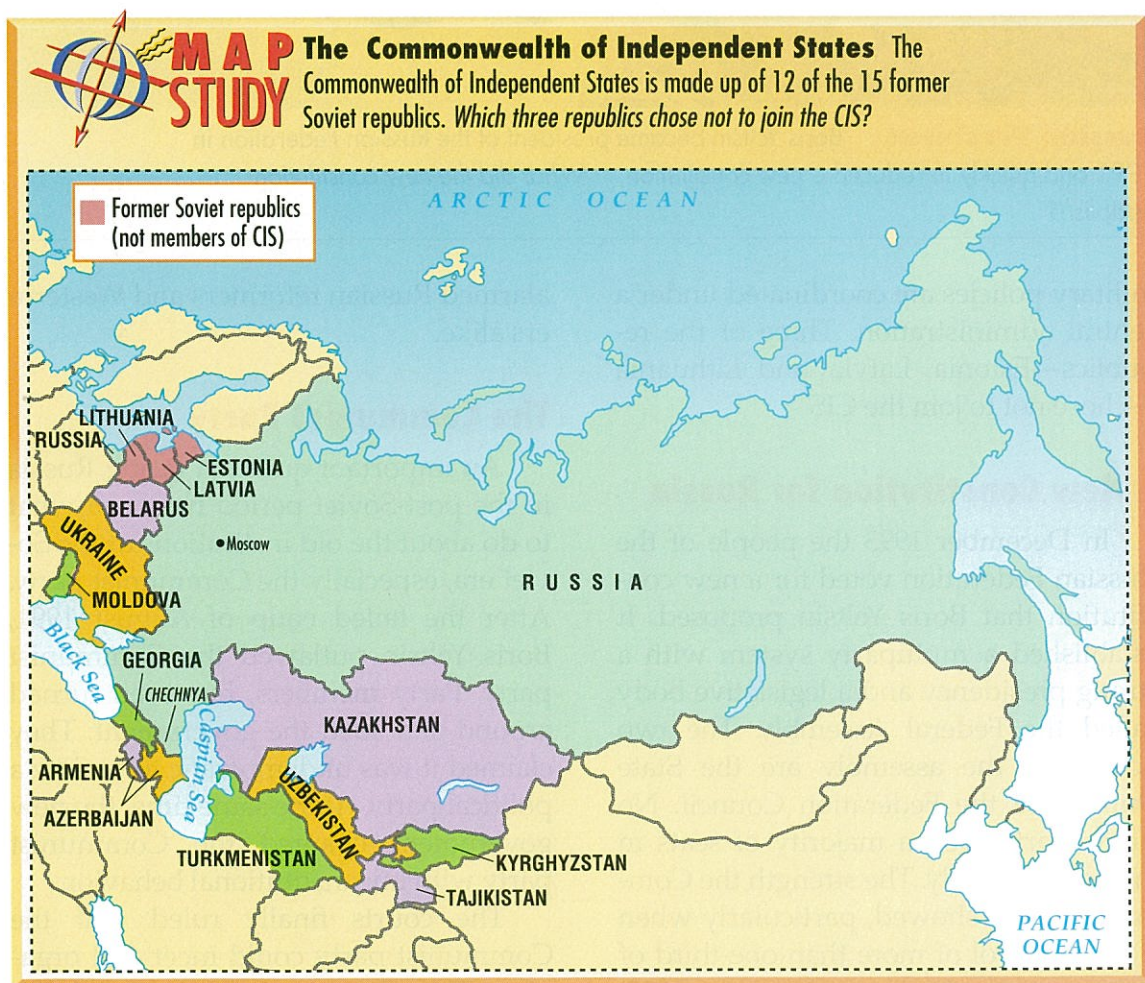
Faced with such opposition, the coup collapsed in two days. Gorbachev returned to Moscow, but Yeltsin had become a national hero. On December 25,

1991, Gorbachev resigned as Soviet president, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ceased to exist.

Russia's Emerging Political System

A loose alliance of former Soviet republics, called the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), replaced the Soviet Union. Boris Yeltsin became president of the largest of these republics, the Russian Federation.

Under this arrangement, each republic is independent, but economic and





Russian President Boris Yeltsin became president of the Russian Federation in 1991 and quickly introduced a new constitution. *What did the new constitution establish?*

military policies are coordinated under a central administration. Three of the republics—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—chose not to join the CIS.

A New Constitution for Russia

In December 1993 the people of the Russian Federation voted for a new constitution that Boris Yeltsin proposed. It established a multiparty system with a strong presidency and a legislative body called the Federal Assembly. The two houses of the assembly are the State Duma and the Federation Council. No single party won a majority of seats in the new assembly. The strength the Communist party showed, particularly when it won control of more than one-third of the seats in the Duma in December 1995,

alarmed Russian reformers and Westerners alike.

The Communist Party

An important question facing Russia in the post-Soviet period has been what to do about the old institutions of the Soviet era, especially the Communist party. After the failed coup of August 1991, Boris Yeltsin outlawed the Communist party. Party members, however, turned around and sued the government. They claimed it was undemocratic to outlaw a political party. At the same time, the new government charged the Communist party with unconstitutional behavior.

The courts finally ruled that the Communist party could meet and organize. This decision helped propel the

Communists to their 1995 victory in the parliamentary elections.

For a time it looked as though the Communist candidate for president, Gennady Zyuganov, might defeat Boris Yeltsin in the hotly contested 1996 presidential race. In the end, however, Yeltsin won the election to another term.

Russia Today

The old Soviet system created an illusion of economic security, social order, and world power. Today Russia faces economic uncertainty, increasing social chaos, and the loss of national prestige and power.

Economic Problems

Since the collapse of the Soviet state, Russia has experienced staggering inflation. Under communism, inflation was hidden through price controls. This policy led to serious shortages of many consumer products, forcing people to wait hours in line to buy a loaf of bread or a bottle of milk. Today more items are available in the shops but at prices beyond the reach of many Russians.

Although inflation moderated somewhat in 1996, it remained a serious problem for the fledgling democracy. In addition, many Russians resented the growing gap between the rich and the poor. Under Communist rule, the gap had existed, but it had been much less obvious.

Under the Soviet system, people were guaranteed jobs even when there was no work. Today, however, many Russians are losing their jobs and unemployment is soaring. The new Russian government is struggling to solve these problems by finding a way to balance private enterprise with economic security.

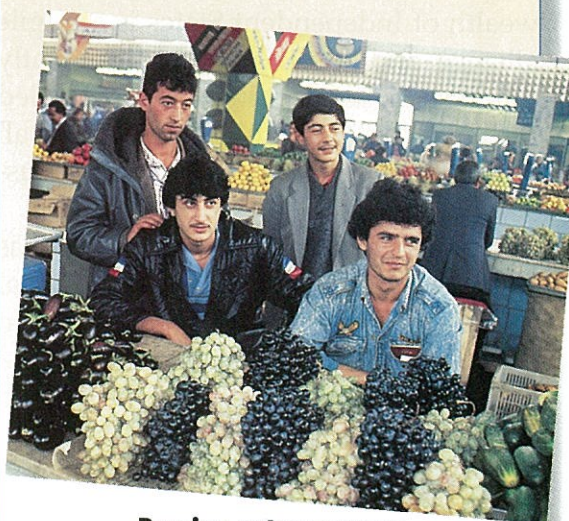
At times the upheaval has been so great that workers have not been paid for months at a time. Such hardships only

DID YOU KNOW?

Young Russian Entrepreneurs

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russian citizens are learning first-hand how to be capitalist entrepreneurs. New privately owned shops have sprung up throughout the country. Sidewalk entrepreneurs peddle their wares along city streets. The All-Russia Exhibition Center in Moscow, formerly a shrine to communist economic triumph, is now a huge shopper's paradise filled with items from around the world. Such a place was unthinkable under the old communist system, and many Russians are awed and overwhelmed by the change.

The people at the forefront of this amazing transition are, perhaps not surprisingly, the young people of Russia. Most new capitalist entrepreneurs are only in their 20s. Thousands are only teenagers. In tune with the world around them and aware of the possibilities before them, this young generation is creating a new economy to take the place of the old one.



Russian entrepreneurs

made the transition to full-scale democracy more difficult.

Social Problems

The social order in Russia is also in great upheaval. During the Soviet era, the Communist party and secret police ensured social stability by crushing or silencing opponents of the system. Harsh punishment and full employment deterred crime.

Today Russia is a more open society. This openness, however, has increased tensions and released angry feelings that were hidden under communist rule. Organized crime and corruption are on the rise, and the number of ordinary crimes has skyrocketed.

These social problems threaten Russia's political and economic progress. They also play into the hands of certain extremists who promise that they will return the country to the peace and prosperity of the Soviet era.

Russia and the World

Another issue facing Russia today is its place in the world. The Commonwealth of Independent States is a fragile alliance, and Russia's role in it is greatly diminished. Some politicians have called for measures that will force some or all former Soviet republics back under Russian control.

No longer a superpower, Russia has lost strength and prestige in international affairs and is searching for a new role. In the last few years, Russia has tried to establish better relations with the United States and the nations of Western Europe. It has cooperated in the reduction of nuclear arsenals, supported actions against old Soviet allies, and asked Western nations for financial aid. The nation

has also sought a role in Western economic and military partnerships, such as the European Union and NATO.

Uncertain Future

Despite efforts to reform its society and define its role in the world, Russia's future is still uncertain. Although the power of the Communist party is broken and the old Soviet system has been rejected, a return to communism and dictatorship is possible. In the elections of 1993, 1995, and 1996, many Russians voted for antidemocratic parties. Nevertheless, the pro-democracy faction retained control and forged onward with reforms.

The 1996 news that President Yeltsin would need heart surgery clouded the prospects for further reform, however. Despite the news, reform-minded Russians tried to remain optimistic about the future.

★ SECTION 2 REVIEW ★

UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY

Define totalitarian, cold war, glasnost, perestroika, coup.

REVIEWING OBJECTIVES

- 1 How did the Soviet Union develop, and what were the policies of some of its leaders?
- 2 What factors and events led to the Soviet collapse?
- 3 What are the main features of Russia's emerging political system?
- 4 What are some of the problems facing Russia today?

Exploring ISSUES

Getting In

Refugees to the United States

	Africa	Asia	Latin America	Middle East/ South Asia	Other*	Total
1980	955	163,799	6,662	2,231	33,469	207,116
1985	1,953	49,970	138	5,994	9,990	68,045
1990	3,494	51,611	2,309	4,991	56,912	119,317
1994	5,856	43,581	6,437	5,861	50,944	112,679

Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau for Refugee Programs.

* "Other" includes Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union

Who may come to the United States and who may not? That question has long been a subject of controversy. So many foreigners want to come to the United States that the government has had to impose limits. The question of who should be admitted as a refugee is equally controversial.

The Refugee Question

The United States government claims that its refugee policy is "nation-neutral" and that it accepts refugees from any country as long as they can prove "a well-established fear of persecution" in their own countries. Yet refugees from unfriendly nations gain asylum more easily than those from nations with which the United States has friendly relations. American

refugee policy changes with world events. If violence and oppression erupt in a country, the United States may issue more visas to refugees from that country.

DEVELOPING A POINT OF VIEW

- 1 According to the table, in what year did the United States receive the largest number of refugees? From which region did the largest number of refugees come?
- 2 Why do you think the government makes gaining asylum in the United States harder for refugees from friendly nations than from unfriendly nations?



Japan

FOCUS

TERMS TO KNOW

oligarchy, sovereignty, consensus, faction, trade deficit

OBJECTIVES

- Identify the main features of **the Japanese constitution**.
- Describe the structure of **the Japanese government**.
- Identify and describe Japan's main **political parties**.
- Discuss some of the challenges facing **Japan today**.

Japan is an island nation on the western edge of the Pacific Ocean. For centuries it was one of the most isolated countries in the world. Its seaports were closed to all foreign trade and travel in order to protect Japanese culture from outside influence. In the 1850s Japan opened its ports to foreign trade. It quickly modernized and soon became an important world power.

Before World War II, Japan had a parliamentary form of government with political parties. Many Japanese, however, still believed Emperor Hirohito to be divine, or descended from the gods. By 1940 Japan was an **oligarchy**, a system of government in which a small group of people hold power. A small group of business and military leaders controlled the country and abolished all political

parties. After Japan's defeat in the war, the United States occupied the country for seven years and helped Japan restructure its government and rebuild its economy.

The Japanese Constitution

The Japanese constitution was enacted in 1947, during the American occupation. It set up a parliamentary government that recognizes the **sovereignty**, or supreme power, of the people. It also guarantees many of the same civil rights as those in the United States Constitution. Under the Japanese constitution, the emperor and his descendants continue to reign but have no power. Like the British monarchs, they serve only as symbols of their country. The Japanese constitution also includes a unique

Emperor of Japan Akihito, shown here in ceremonial dress, became emperor in 1989. *In what way is the emperor's role similar to that of the British monarch?*



statement in which the Japanese people forever reject war as a part of national policy and declare that they will never maintain offensive military forces.

The Japanese Government

Japan has a bicameral legislature called the Diet. Its upper house, the House of Councillors, has 252 members who each serve six-year terms. The people elect the members of the House of Councillors, but this house has very little power. Its main role is to advise the government.

The lower house, the House of Representatives, has 511 members elected from 123 election districts. Each of these districts elects three to five representatives to serve four-year terms. The representatives may stand for election sooner, however, if—as happens in a parliamentary system—the government is dissolved and new elections are held. Like the British House of Commons, the Japanese House of Representatives is Japan's most powerful legislative body. Its duties are to make laws and treaties, approve budgets, determine taxes, and spend public funds.

The Japanese people have a long tradition of group cooperation, political unity, and social harmony. They like to conduct business in a low-key, quiet manner and avoid confrontation. Members of the Diet, therefore, try to reach decisions through compromise and **consensus**—by broad, general agreement—and avoid argument and dissent.

The Prime Minister

The Diet elects Japan's head of state, the prime minister. The person who holds this office is usually the leader of



House of Representatives Members of Japan's most powerful legislative body try to avoid confrontation when reaching decisions. *What are the main duties of the House of Representatives?*

the majority party in the House of Representatives. The prime minister selects the members of the cabinet and the ministers of government departments. Together, the prime minister and these leaders form the executive branch of the government. The prime minister and at least one-half of the cabinet ministers must be members of the Diet. As a result, the executive and legislative functions are combined.

Japanese Bureaucracy

Japan has a large bureaucracy to carry out many of the administrative and technical duties of the government. This bureaucracy plays an especially important role in coordinating the actions of government and business. Japanese companies compete fiercely for business, but they also cooperate on general policies. The bureaucracy helps oversee this cooperation and guide the nation's economic growth.

Political Parties

Japan is a multiparty democracy. Yet for almost 40 years one party, the Liberal Democratic party (LDP), dominated Japanese government and politics. Despite its name, the LDP is a conservative party that represents Japan's powerful business interests and middle class. The LDP is really a coalition of parties made up of several smaller **factions**, or groups. These factions differ from one another in certain respects, but all favor private enterprise and ties with the United States.

In July 1993, the LDP lost control of the Diet for the first time since 1955 because of major corruption scandals. Since then, a coalition of parties has run the country. The Japanese Socialist party (JSP), one of the parties in this coalition, was for years the major opposition party.

Party Politics Until 1993 the Liberal Democratic party (LDP) dominated Japanese government and politics. *What brought down the LDP?*



It had favored placing more controls on capitalism and breaking with the United States. After the JSP became part of the government, however, it moved closer to LDP policies.

Japan Today

After its devastation in World War II, Japan rebuilt its economy so successfully that it became one of the richest nations in the world. Its spectacular economic success provided a model for many other Asian regions, such as South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

The Japanese Economy

Toward the end of the 1980s, the pace of Japanese economic growth slowed, and the country experienced a recession that extended well into the 1990s. In 1995 a severe earthquake devastated the city of Kobe, causing more economic disruption. Many thought that the country would not have an economic downturn because the powerful Japanese bureaucracy would be able to maintain uninterrupted economic growth. The recession showed that, although the Japanese economy is still very strong, it is not invincible.

Japan's economic development has made it a major world power. Yet the nation has been reluctant to take on a role of international leadership. Slowly, however, this reluctance is disappearing. In recent years Japan has begun to provide foreign assistance to other nations. In 1991, for example, the nation pledged billions of dollars to support the Persian Gulf War against Iraq. This was the first time that Japan had become involved in any war effort since its defeat in World War II.



Trade Tensions President Clinton met with Japan's minister of foreign trade in an effort to ease tensions between the two countries. *What is a major cause of the tensions?*

Japan and the United States

Japan's relationship with the United States is also changing. Its economic strength has led to increased tensions with the United States. A major cause of these tensions is the trade imbalance between the two nations. Japan sells more goods to the United States than it buys, which leaves the United States with a large trade deficit. A **trade deficit** is the amount by which a country's spending on imports exceeds the amount received from exports.

Many Americans believe that Japan's economic success hurts the United States economy. They have demanded that Japan adopt more open trade policies. The two countries have agreed on several changes in trade policy that they hope will ease tensions and create a fairer trade balance.

Finally, despite Japan's constitutional ban on maintaining offensive military forces, the United States has pressured Japan in recent years to take over more of

its own defense. Since World War II, the United States has provided this defense. Many Americans feel that our country should no longer continue this policy.

★ SECTION 3 REVIEW ★

UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY

Define oligarchy, sovereignty, consensus, faction, trade deficit.

REVIEWING OBJECTIVES

- 1 What are the main features of the Japanese constitution?
- 2 How is the Japanese government organized?
- 3 What are Japan's main political parties, and what ideas do they support?
- 4 What are some of the challenges facing Japan today?



How to Use an Atlas

Atlasses are reference books containing maps. They usually have different types of maps that present various kinds of geographic and social information. Maps can focus on areas of any size—from a city block to a whole continent or the world.

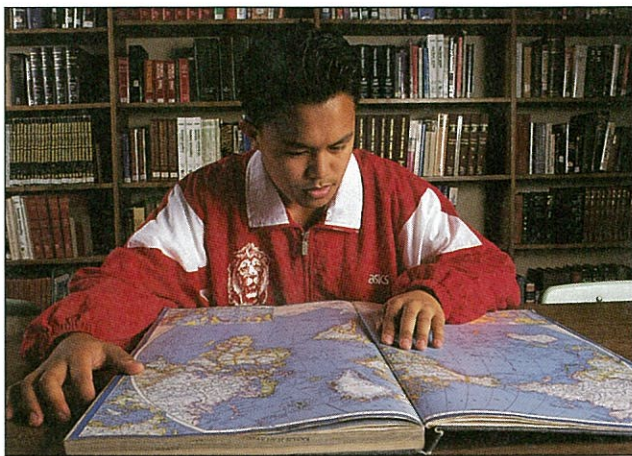
General-Purpose Maps

Most atlases have general-purpose maps, such as physical and political maps. *Physical maps* show natural features such as mountains, deserts, and rivers. *Political maps* show the boundaries between countries and often smaller divisions such as states or counties.

Special-Purpose Maps

Atlases may also contain special-purpose maps. *Geologic maps* might show the location of the earth's volcanoes and earthquake zones. *Climate maps* present information about rainfall, air temperature, and winds. Other maps might show the distribution of natural resources.

Some special-purpose maps present information about people, such as the distribution and movement of people in a region or where different languages are spoken. *Economic activity maps* might show how people use the land—what crops are grown and what products are manufactured. Other special-purpose maps show forms of government, how people voted in elections, and transportation systems.



Using an atlas

Changes in political, economic, social, and cultural conditions are the special concern of *historical atlases*. A historical atlas presents maps on specific places, events, and conditions in the past.

Other Information Atlases

Atlases often contain useful information that is not presented in maps. Some atlases have chronologies, glossaries, geographical dictionaries, and statistics. Many include photographs, tables, diagrams, charts, and graphs.

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION

- 1 What types of information can be shown in maps?
- 2 What other kinds of information, besides maps, are often found in atlases?



Mexico

FOCUS

TERMS TO KNOW

mayoralty, privatization, underemployment, devaluation

OBJECTIVES

- Describe the basic structure of **the government** of Mexico.
- Explain how **the political system** of Mexico differs from that of the United States.
- Discuss the major problem facing **Mexico today**.

Mexico is the southern neighbor of the United States, and the two countries share a long, common border. Officially called the United Mexican States, Mexico is the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world.

The present government of Mexico was established in 1917 after a long and bitter revolution and civil war. Since then, Mexico's leaders have struggled to build a modern nation from a unique heritage that combines Spanish and Native American cultures.

The Government

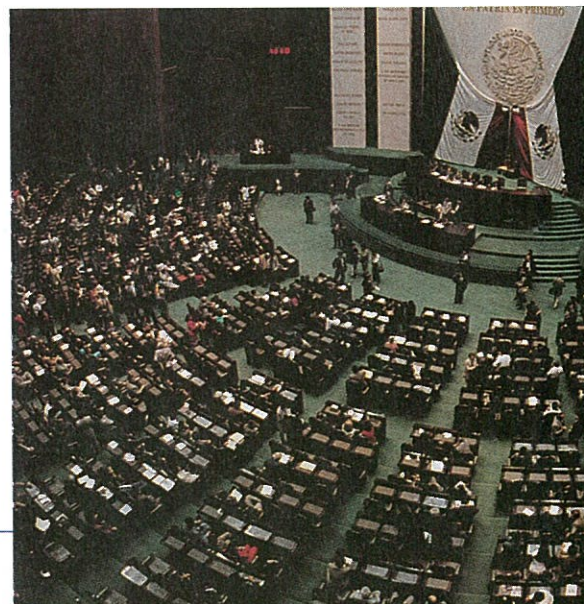
Mexico, like the United States, is a federal republic. It has 31 states and a federal district surrounding the capital of Mexico City. Each state has its own con-

stitution and is governed by a governor and state legislature.

The structure of Mexico's government is also similar to that of the United States. There are three separate branches of government. A president, elected for a single six-year term, heads the executive branch. The president has the power to appoint cabinet ministers, supreme court justices, and high military officers. The president also has the power to recommend legislation to the legislative branch.

Mexico's bicameral legislature consists of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. The 64 senators—2 from each state and 2 from the Federal District—are elected to 6-year terms. The 500 members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected to 3-year terms. Of these, 300 are chosen directly by the people in local electoral districts. The other 200 deputies are chosen from party candidates according to the proportion of the popular vote each party receives in the general election.

Mexico's Government Mexico's legislature consists of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. *How many members sit in each house?*



The federal judicial system consists of circuit courts, district courts, and a supreme court. The president appoints the 26 supreme court justices.

The Political System

Mexico has a multiparty system with many different parties. In reality, however, one party has dominated Mexican politics and government. This ruling party, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), or the Institutional Revolutionary party, has dominated the government for more than 65 years. The PRI controls the presidency, the legislature, and the judiciary. The PRI also controls most state governorships and town **mayoralties**, or mayors' offices.

The major opposition parties in Mexico are the National Action party (PAN), a conservative group formed in 1939, and the left-leaning Democratic Revolutionary party (PRD).

During the national election of August 1994, these opposition parties made a great effort to take control from the PRI. Unusual bitterness marked the election, and the first PRI candidate for the presidency was assassinated. In the end, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León of the PRI did win the presidential election, but he received only 50 percent of the vote—the lowest ever for a PRI candidate.

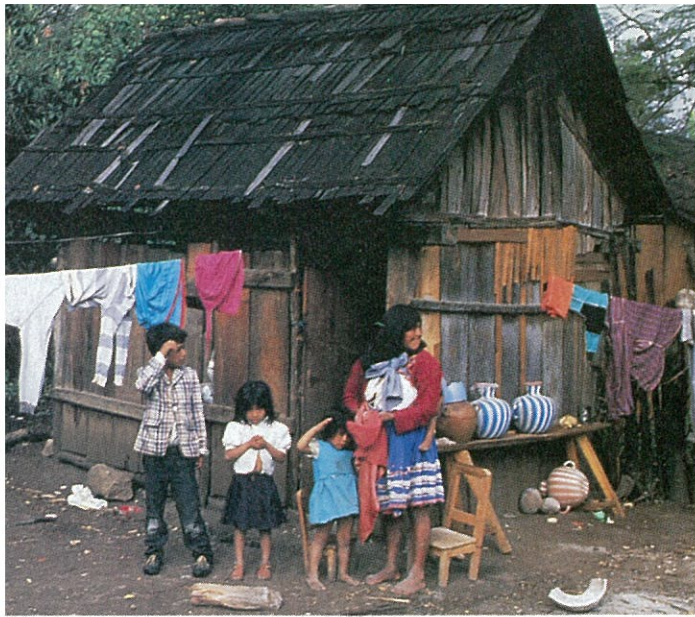
Mexico Today

Mexico is a deeply divided country. Millions of Mexicans live in extreme poverty, while a small number of wealthy landowners and entrepreneurs control the political and economic life of the country.

The huge gap between the rich and poor was highlighted in January 1994, when a peasant rebellion erupted in the rural, southern state of Chiapas. This revolt shocked many Mexicans and con-

Mexico's Ruling Party Voters attended a rally for PRI candidate Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León during the 1994 election campaign. *What was the result of the election?*





A Divided Country The 1994 peasant revolt in Chiapas highlighted the huge gap between rich and poor in Mexico. *What happened in late 1994 to make matters worse?*

vinced them of the urgent need for both economic and political reforms to deal with the country's poverty.

Economic Reforms

Some of Mexico's recent leaders have initiated reforms. During his presidency from 1988 to 1994, Carlos Salinas de Gortari reduced Mexico's debt, lowered inflation, and attracted foreign investment. He also changed industry through **privatization**, the selling of state-owned companies to private entrepreneurs. In 1993 President Salinas ushered in a new era by signing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and the United States. This treaty reduces tariffs and other trade barriers.

Economic Challenges

Despite these success stories, Mexico is still struggling. Economic reforms have primarily benefited the wealthy. Many other Mexicans continue to face unemployment and **underemployment**,

work that does not use their skills to the fullest. As a result thousands of Mexicans cross the United States border in search of work. This tide of illegal immigrants has created tensions between the two countries.

The situation in Mexico grew worse in 1994 when an economic slowdown led the government to devalue the peso. This **devaluation**, which lowered the value of the nation's currency in relation to other currencies, raised doubts about Mexico's ability to pay its debts.

Turning Point

In response to pressing demands for political reform, President Zedillo has promised to take steps to end the PRI's monopoly of power. He has also vowed to reform the electoral system.

Mexico appears to be at a turning point. If it can improve the lives of its citizens and achieve political reform, it can move forward. If not, Mexico risks sliding into a period of instability.

★ SECTION 4 REVIEW ★

UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY

Define mayoralty, privatization, underemployment, devaluation.

REVIEWING OBJECTIVES

- 1 What is the basic structure of the government of Mexico?
- 2 How does the political system of Mexico differ from that of the United States?
- 3 What is the major problem facing Mexico today?

Identifying Key Terms

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

privatization parliamentary government
consensus sovereignty glasnost
devaluation

1. Under the policy of _____, Soviet society became more democratic and open.
2. The members of Japan's parliament, or Diet, try to make decisions based on _____ rather than confrontation.
3. In Great Britain's _____, executive, legislative, and judicial functions overlap.
4. The _____ of the people is the basic principle of democratic government.
5. During _____ of Mexico's industry, state-owned companies were sold to individual entrepreneurs.
6. The people had to pay more for imported goods after the _____ of their currency.

Reviewing the Main Ideas

SECTION 1

1. Describe the main features of the British Parliament.
2. Compare the political parties of Great Britain with those of the United States.

SECTION 2

3. What happened when the Soviet Union became a communist country?
4. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of a more democratic society for the Russian people?

SECTION 3

5. How did Japan's government change after World War II?
6. How has Japan's economic success affected its role in the world?

SECTION 4

7. Describe the relationship between Mexico and the United States.
8. How might Mexico's economic problems affect its government?

Critical Thinking

SECTION 1

1. **Analyzing Information** Why do you think Great Britain continues to have a monarchy, even though the monarch has no real power?

SECTION 2

2. **Predicting Outcomes** Do you think that democracy has a chance to work in Russia? Explain your answer.

SECTION 3

3. **Analyzing Information** What do you think might be the advantages and disadvantages of Japan's consensus-type decision making?

SECTION 4

4. **Evaluating Information** Why is Mexico at a turning point? How might the results of change affect the United States?

Reinforcing Citizenship Skills

In an atlas, locate climate maps for at least two of these countries: Great Britain, Russia, Japan, and Mexico. List the average rainfall and summer and winter temperatures for each country.

Comparing National Statistics

Country	Population Density (per sq. mile)	Life Expectancy		Economic Rates		
		Male	Female	Growth	Unemployment	Inflation
United Kingdom	622	74	80	2.1%	10.3%	2.6%
Russia	22	64	74	-12%	1.4%	21%
Japan	857	77	82	0.4%	2.9%	0.7%
Mexico	123	70	77	0.4%	10.7%	8%

Source: 1996 Information Please Almanac; World Almanac and Book of Facts 1996.

Which country has the highest average rainfall and temperatures? Share your findings with the class.

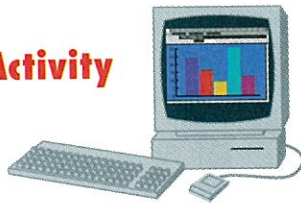
Cooperative Learning

In a group of three, select a country of the world. Do research on the country's political system. Compare this system to that of the United States. Then prepare a report in which you compare government structures and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of different features of the political systems. Present your report to the class.

Technology Activity

Using E-Mail

Choose a nation not discussed in this chapter. Then search the Internet for the e-mail address of the United Nations delegation or embassy of your chosen nation. Send electronic mail asking for the population density, life expectancy, and economic rates of the nation. Share what you learn with the rest of the class.



Analyzing Visuals

A table is a useful way to compare information about different countries. Study the table above. Then answer the following questions.

1. Which of the countries has the lowest population density per square mile?
2. In which country do people live the longest on average?
3. Which country has the greatest growth rate?
4. Which country shows the best overall economic health? Why?

Focusing on Your Community

Find out if any people in your community have come from Great Britain, Russia, Japan, Mexico, or other countries. Try to interview these people and ask them questions about the political system of the country they came from. Ask what it was like to live under that system of government and what role citizens had in their government. Prepare an oral report for the class.

International Relations

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Both cooperation and conflict characterize international relations. In its international relations, the United States pursues its own interests as a sovereign nation. These interests sometimes bring the nation into conflict with others. At the same time, as a member of the United Nations, our country works with others in trying to resolve conflicts around the

world. Contact the Public Affairs Office of the Department of State in Washington, D.C., for information on United States relations with two foreign countries.

Working in Your Community

After you have this information, interview neighbors and friends to find out what they know about our relations with these countries. Share your information with them. ■

Your Civics Journal

During the next week, be on the lookout for stories in the media about United States relations with foreign countries. In your civics journal, list the countries that are mentioned and next to each country note its relationship with the United States.