Chapter 13: Eastern Europe

Unit 4
Section 1: Physical Geography
Landforms

• Eastern Europe known for its mountains and plains
• Dinaric Alps
  – Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro
  – Run parallel to the Adriatic coast
  – Karst topography
    • Limestone bedrock sculpted into steep-sided cliffs and rocky columns
      – Caves, sinkholes, underground rivers
Landforms

- Carpathian Mountains
  - Slovakia to Romania
  - Mountains are separated by large basins
  - The water from this area flows to the Black Sea
  - Not many people live here
    - Those that do focus on agriculture and forestry
Landforms

• Balkan Peninsula
  – Balkan Mountains
  – Danube River to the north
  – Maritsa River to the south
Water Systems

• Danube River
  – Second-longest river in Europe
  – Starts in the Black Forest and empties into the Black Sea
  – Goes through 9 countries
  – Commercial highway, has helped many countries grow economically
Water Systems

• Main River
  – A tributary of the Rhine river
  – Connected to the Danube River by the Main-Danube Canal
  – The canal links the North Sea and Northwester Europe with Eastern Europe and the Black Sea
  – Allows goods to be transported in both directions
Water Systems

• Vistula River
  – Largest river in Poland
  – Empties into the Baltic Sea
  – Connected to the Oder River by canal

• Oder River
  – Forms part of the border between Poland and Germany
  – Helps with transporting goods and boosting both countries’ economies
Natural Resources

- Natural Gas
- Oil
- Coal
- Hydroelectric power
- Iron
- Zinc
- Lead
- Copper
- Amber
- Bauxite
Section 2: Human Geography
• Slavic peoples who lived on the Balkan Peninsula began to establish independent states (countries)

• Found success due to the mountains that kept out other European armies

• However, open to attack from Asia
  – Mongols invaded in the 1200s
The Romans eventually conquered the area and renamed it Romania.

After the fall of Rome, the Byzantine Empire took over and lasted for a thousand years.

The Ottoman Empire took over in 1453 and held on to the territory until the end of WWI.
Conflict, Union, and Division

- Balkan Peninsula has a history of conflict and violence
- After WWI, the country of Yugoslavia was created
  - Had many ethnicities, but instead of giving each group its own country, all were combined into one large country
- After WWII, Eastern Europe became Communist and was controlled by the Soviet Union
Conflict, Union, and Division

- Eastern Europe saw many revolts due to pro-democracy and pro-communist ideals
- 1991:
  - Yugoslavia broke down into ethnic countries
    - Slovenia
    - Croatia
    - Bosnia-Herzegovina
    - Macedonia
  - Serbia and Montenegro remained
  - Civil war and ethnic cleansing
    - Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Muslims were affected the most
    - Serbia participated and condoned the ethnic cleansing
Economic Activities

• Many areas are still agricultural
  – Olives
  – Citrus fruits
  – Dates
  – Grapes
  – Wheat
  – Rye
  – Livestock
  – Fishing
Economic Activities

• Manufacturing:
  – Electronics
  – Automobile production

• Tourism

• Communication systems
  – Railways
  – Airway
  – High way systems
  – International shipping
Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction
Managing Resources

• Reforestation
  – Logging and deforestation
• Pollution due to industrialization
• Fossil fuels vs. green energy
• Acid rain
  – Meltwater