

# 1. Russia

- **Founded:** Dec 25, 1991
- **Population:** 143.82 million (2014)
- **Military:** In 2010 the International Institute for Strategic Studies estimated that the Russian Armed Forces numbered about 1,027,000 active troops and in the region of 2,035,000 reserves. As of December 2013, probably at 82 % of the required manpower.
- **GDP:** \$1.86 trillion USD (2014)
- **Area:** 6.60 million square miles (17.10 million km<sup>2</sup>). Russia is the largest country in the world, covering more than one-eighth of the Earth's inhabited land.
- **President:** Vladimir Putin
- **Prime Minister:** Dmitry Medvedev

## IMPORTANT DATES:

9<sup>TH</sup> century – Vikings establish forts at Kiev and Novgorod.

988 -- Grand Prince Vladimir I converted to Christianity (Eastern Orthodox)

1200 – 1480 -- Mongol invasion (Russia freed by Ivan III)

1547 - Ivan IV, also known as Ivan the Terrible, is crowned the first czar, or emperor, of Russia.

1682-1725 -- Czar Peter the Great lays the foundation for the Russian Empire. Westernized Russia; established state policy and control vs individual choice. Gained access to the Baltic Sea. Built St. Petersburg and created Navy.

1762 - 1801 -- Catherine the Great rules as Empress. Poland divided between Austria, Prussia and Russia. Russia takes control of Belarus, Lithuania and Ukraine (formerly Poland).

1812 – Napoleon's failed invasion of Russia

1855-1881 - During his reign, Czar Alexander II frees the serfs, or peasant farm workers.

1917 -- During the Russian Revolution, Communists take control of the government. In 1918, Czar Nicholas II and his family are executed.

1918 – 1922 – Civil War between the Red Army and the White Russians (anti-Communists)

1924-1953 -- Joseph Stalin turns the U.S.S.R. into an industrial and military power. During World War II, the U.S.S.R. sides with Germany, but later switches sides, joining the U.S. and Britain. Succeeded by Khrushchev.

1961 – USSR erects the Berlin Wall (eventually torn down in 1989)

1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis

1985-1991 -- Mikhail Gorbachev restructures the government (“Perestroika”). The U.S.S.R. collapses; 15 republics declare independence.

1989 – USSR withdraws from Afghanistan.

1991 – USSR is dismantled. Russia becomes an independent federation.

1999 – Yeltsin resigns. Putin becomes President of Russia until 2008.

2008 – Medvedev is President; Putin is Prime Minister.

2010 -- U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev agree to reduce nuclear weapons.

2012 – Putin re-elected President.

2014 – Russia annexes Crimea.



# Russian and Soviet Expansion







