

### **III. Russian History 1.0**

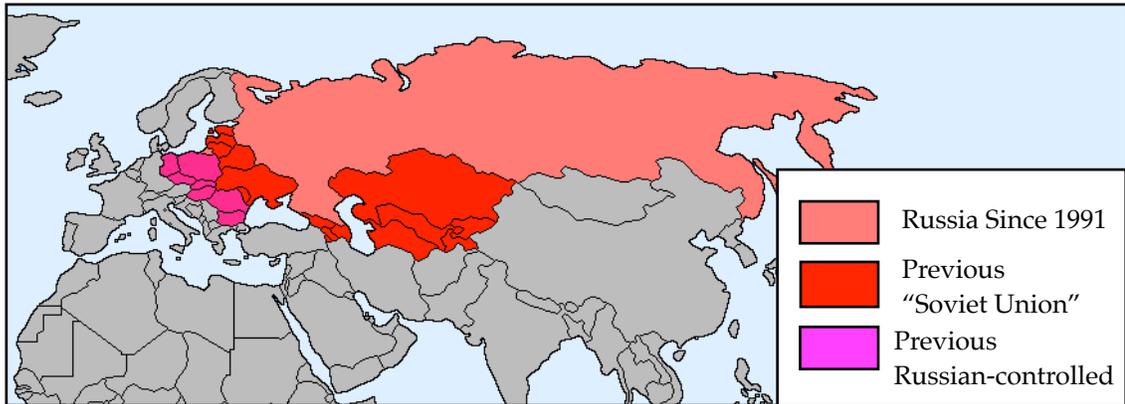
#### A. *Supernationalist Russia*

1. Russia is the largest country in the world. It stretches from Europe to the Pacific Ocean.
2. Russia is a supernationalist country. This means the people feel very strongly about being Russians, and they are willing to attack other nations and hurt the people of other nations *because those people are not Russian*.
3. Russia is supernationalist mainly because it was attacked by supernationalist Germany in the World Wars.
4. Since Russia became what it is today thanks mainly to the World Wars, we can use the same kind of diagram for Russian history as we used for Russian history as we did for European history. The question is: what is the story of Russia that explains how it became supernationalist?

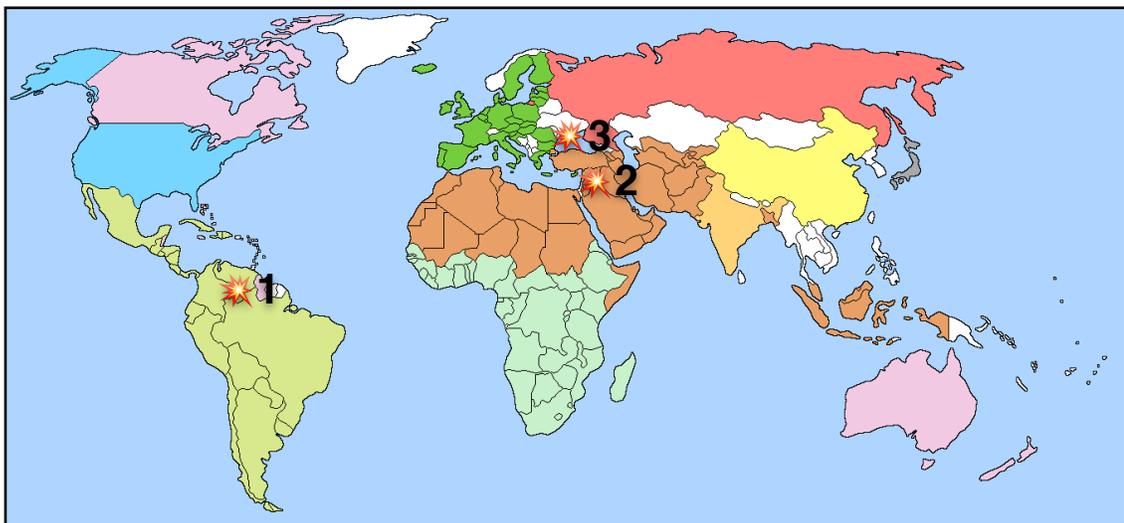


#### B. Russia Since 1991

1. Russia used to be known as a communist country, but it isn't anymore. (We'll learn about communism later this year.)
2. When Russia was a communist country, it was supernationalist and the Russia of today is still supernationalist. The difference is that Russian communism ended in **1991** and at the same time Russian supernationalism ended *in Europe*.
3. Today, Russia is supernationalist country mainly in other places. One place where Russia uses its military power is the country of Syria in the Islamic Middle East. A civil war began there in 2011 when the people rebelled against the ruler, named Bashar Al-Assad. Russia sent its military to support the ruler only because he is an ally of Russia, who allows the Russians to have a military base there and buys weapons from Russia. Russia is only fighting the rebels in Syria to help Russia—*at the expense of the Syrian people*.
4. Russia has also sent military assistance to a corrupt ruler in Venezuela in the same way and for the same reasons.
5. After letting go of control of neighboring Ukraine in **1991**, Russia decided more recently to take back part of that country (called the Crimean Peninsula) by force.
6. When we see the pattern of Russian action in Syria, Venezuela, and Ukraine, it is clear that Russia may not be a supernationalist power over Europe anymore (except Ukraine), but it is still very much a supernationalist military superpower in other places.



Even though Russia gave up control of Eastern Europe and other parts of the “Soviet Union” in the lead-up to the fall of communism in **1991**, Russian *supernationalism* continued to be a cultural influence on the world.



Russia is still a supernationalist country. It uses its military power in places like Venezuela (1), Syria (2) and Ukraine (3) to try to have more cultural influence even though this hurts the people in those countries.