Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_IS# 6.3

**Chechnya and Crimea; Russian Territorial Claims**

**Background**: Following the [dissolution (break up) of the Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Soviet_Union) in 1991, [Armenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenia), [Azerbaijan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azerbaijan), and [Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_(country)) became independent nations. The Caucasus region has become the setting for various territorial disputes since the collapse of the Soviet Union, especially since groups like Chechnya did not become independent nations.



Where is Chechnya?

What country is Chechnya a part of?

Does it seem like they want to be? Why?



Look at the political cartoon to the left for 1 minute. Then, predict what current issues Ukraine may be dealing with today and why.

Discussion:

1. Should regions that have internal support and similar cultural and ethnic characteristics as well as a desire to self-govern have the right to create their own internationally recognized territory?
2. What arguments could you pose to claim that places like Chechnya should not be given their independence?

Political Geography –

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Crimea** | **Chechnya** |
| 1. Highly strategic location on the Black Sea -\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Major \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_reserves and pipelines 3. Allows Russia to further develop naval \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from Eastern Europe or Turkey, via Black Se | 1. Strategic location on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_side \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_mountains. 2. Region is critical (historically) to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by any West Asian power. 3. North Caucasus is also a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ countries in South Caucasus such as Georgia and Armenia. |

Crimea Video Questions

1. Why were people protesting in Ukraine?

2. What happened in the Crimean government? How?

3. What did Russia claim they wouldn’t do?

4. What referendum (vote) took place? What was the international opinion?

5. What does the Crimean Parliament vote to do? What is the USA response?

6. What is the outcome of this situation?

**Human Geography**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Crimea | Chechnya |
| 1. Eastern Ukraine has a heavy percentage of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Ethnic Russians 2. This has allowed Russia to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disputed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_over secession in areas like Crimea (March 16th, 2014) 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_voted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the region 2 days later, against the will of many people. | 1. Chechnya has attempted to gain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_twice since the fall of the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 2. The region is majority \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- unlike Russia. 3. The people have a different \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and speak \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_as well. 4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_have fought the Russian military and also carried out terror attacks against civilians in an attempt to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

**Chechnya Video Questions**

1. How has physical geography affected regions like Chechnya?

2. How did people group themselves within the Caucus Regions?

3. What does a nationalist or Separatist want within Chechnya?