

# Eastern Europe

All questions require at least  
THREE sentences on own paper.

## PLACES & TERMS

**cultural crossroads** a place where various cultures cross paths

**balkanization** the process of a region breaking up into small, mutually hostile units

**satellite nation** a nation dominated by another country

**market economy** an economy in which industries produce goods that consumers want to buy

**folk art** arts and crafts produced by rural people with traditional lifestyles, rather than by professional artists

**anti-Semitism** discrimination against Jewish people

## History of a Cultural Crossroads

**Why** is Eastern Europe called a cultural crossroads?  
Eastern Europe is a cultural crossroads. A cultural crossroads is a place where various cultures cross paths. For example, many world powers have tried to control Eastern Europe. Ancient Rome, the Byzantine Empire, and the Ottoman Empire all held parts of the region.

Various Slavic groups moved into the region from the 400s through the 600s. They formed kingdoms such as Poland and Serbia. In the late 800s, a non-Slavic group called the Magyars swept into Hungary.

In the 1400s, the nation of Austria drove the Ottomans out of Hungary. In the late 1700s, Austria, Prussia (a German state), and Russia divided up Poland. Poland ceased to exist.

## 1. What major empires ruled parts of Eastern Europe?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## Turmoil in the 20th Century

**What** triggered the two world wars?

By 1908, several Balkan nations had broken free from the Ottoman Empire. In 1912, the Ottomans lost the rest of their territory in Europe. The Balkan countries fought over that land. The conflict gave rise to the word balkanization. The term refers to the process of breaking up a region into small, hostile units.

Serbia wanted to free the Slavs in Austria-Hungary. In 1914, a Serb assassinated an Austrian noble. That act started World War I. After the war, Austria and Hungary split apart.

In 1939, Germany seized Poland. That started World War II. After the war, the Soviet Union set up Communist governments in Eastern Europe. It became a region of satellite nations. **Satellite nations** are nations that another country controls.

The Soviet Union controlled Eastern Europe for four decades. In the late 1980s, a new Soviet leader made reforms. By 1990, most Eastern European nations had ended Communist rule.

Without Communist control, the region grew unstable. In the 1990s, four of Yugoslavia's six republics declared independence. Civil war followed.

## 2. What happened to Eastern Europe after World War II?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## Developing the Economy

**What** is a market economy?

After 1948, the Soviet Union tried to start industry in Eastern Europe. Communist governments owned all the factories and told them what to make. Factories had no reason to cut costs or please customers. Eastern European nations could trade only with the Soviet Union or each other. They did not keep up with new technology.

After 1989, most of Eastern Europe began to change to a **market economy**. In market economies, industries produce goods that *consumers* want to buy. Private citizens began to own many factories in Eastern Europe.

Some nations in the region have economic problems. Albania has old equipment and uneducated workers. Few Romanians have money to invest. The war in Yugoslavia caused destruction. It also killed workers or caused them to flee the country.

## 3. How did Communist control affect industry?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## A Patchwork Culture

**What** differences exist in the region?

Eastern Europe contains many ethnic groups. These groups speak a variety of languages. Some of the languages are unrelated to others in the region.

Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity are widespread in the region. Some countries have small groups of Protestants. Some countries have people who practice Islam. The region also has a small Jewish minority.

Eastern Europe is known for its folk art. In general, **folk art** is produced by rural people with traditional lifestyles, rather than by professional artists. Folk artists create items such as pottery, woodcarving, and embroidered clothing.

## 4. What religions are found in Eastern Europe?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## Moving Toward Modern Life

**What** is rule of law?

Eastern Europe is less urban than the rest of Europe. As the region develops industry, its cities will grow. Cities offer more jobs, education, and culture. They also usually have pollution and traffic jams.

Many Eastern Europeans still have ethnic loyalties. These loyalties can create conflict. For example, many Serbs hate Croats, who helped the Nazis in World War II. Jews have suffered from **anti-Semitism**, which is discrimination against Jewish people.

## 5. How might urban growth change Eastern Europe?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.