



Belarus

The dependence of the geographical position

- In Belarus there is no sea, that it's not very profitable, because of carriage by sea is considered one of the most profitable.
- Belarus borders five countries: Latvia to the north, Lithuania to the northwest, Poland to the west, Russia to the north and the east, and Ukraine to the south.
- About 70% of the radiation from neighboring Ukraine's 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster entered Belarusian territory, and as of 2005 about a fifth of Belarusian land (principally farmland and forests in the southeastern provinces) continues to be affected by radiation fallout.





Political system

- Belarus is a presidential republic, governed by a president and the National Assembly.
 - The term for the president is five years.
 - While in Belarus the absolute dictatorship.
 - While in Belarus the absolute monarchy and dictatorship
- The House of Representatives has the power to appoint the prime minister, make constitutional amendments, call for a vote of confidence on the prime minister, and make suggestions on foreign and domestic policy.

Administrative divisions

Belarus is divided into six regions, which are named after the cities that serve as their administrative centers. Each region has a provincial legislative authority, called a region council, which is elected by its residents, and a provincial executive authority called a region administration, whose chairman is appointed by the president. Regions are further subdivided into raions, commonly translated as districts or regions.



Demographics of Belarus

- According to a 2009 census, the population is 9,503,807. Ethnic Belarusians constitute 83.7% of Belarus' total population.
- The next largest ethnic groups are: Russians (8.3%), Poles (3.1%), and Ukrainians (1.7%).
- Belarus has a population density of about 50 people per square kilometer (127 per sq mi); 70% of its total population is concentrated in urban areas.
- Minsk, the nation's capital and largest city, is home to 1,836,808 residents as of 2009.
- Gomel, with 481,000 people.
- Other large cities are Mogilev (365,100), Vitebsk (342,400), Hrodna (314,800) and Brest (298,300).

History

- The region that is now Belarus was first settled by Slavic tribes in the 6th century. They gradually came into contact with the Varangians, bands of Scandinavian warriors and traders. Though defeated and briefly exiled by the local population, the Varangians were later asked to return and helped to form a polity—commonly referred to as the Kievan Rus'—in exchange for tribute. The state of Kievan Rus' originated in 862 in the vicinity of either Kiev or the present-day city of Novgorod.
- Upon the death of Kievan Rus' ruler Yaroslav I the Wise, the state split into independent principalities. These Ruthenian principalities were badly affected by a Mongol invasion in the 13th century, and many were later incorporated into the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Of the principalities held by the Duchy, nine were settled by ancestors of the Belarusian people. During this time, the Duchy was involved in several military campaigns, including fighting on the side of Poland against the Teutonic Knights at the Battle of Grunwald in 1410; the joint victory allowed the Duchy to control the northwestern borderlands of Eastern Europe.

Гомель. Замковая и Вокзаль.

Culture

Literature:

- Belarusian literature began with 11th- to 13th-century religious scripture
- The modern era of Belarusian literature began in the late 19th century

Music:

- In the 19th century, Polish composer Stanisław Moniuszko composed operas and chamber music pieces while living in Minsk.
- At the end of the 19th century, major Belarusian cities formed their own opera and ballet companies

