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Economic transition in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus: a comparative perspective / Marek DĄ...browski and RafaÅ, Antczak Integrating the unofficial economy into the dynamics of post-socialist economies: a framework of analysis and evidence / Daniel Kaufmann and Aleksander Kaliberda.

Overview of Central Eurasia A. Diversities of geography, economy, and culture. Fastest population growth in central Asia. Most countries experienced slower growth between and , due to decline of planning, difficulties of transition, and with regional hostilities. Early settlementsâ€™tribes in Caucasus area before 20, B. Slavic tribes date to 2, B. Greek realm united after B. Empire administratively divided East-West in A. Byzantine empire preserved classical civilization after Rome fell in A. Eastern church adoption of Greek liturgy and other issues led to schism in Byzantine Empire in E. Bulgariaâ€™first Slav state in the 6th century A. Kievan Rusâ€™On trade route, Kiev became capital of Russian city-states during 9th century. Kievans were cosmopolitan, but adoption of Eastern Orthodoxy in contributed to Eastern separation. Today, these have higher per capita incomes. Early in 18th century, Peter the Great: Introduced Western science, technology, art, and architecture. Moved capital to St. Avoided Western political and economic philosophies. Levied heavy taxes and imposed forced labor. Mounted territorial expansion and industrialization. Emancipation and Industrialization A. Long maintenance of feudalism thwarted Russian development, led to defeat in Crimean War fought during against the British and French, who were protecting the Ottoman Empire from destruction by the Russians. Emancipation Decree of nominally abolished serfdom. Serfs freed from the arbitrary rule. Land given to serfs, but: Better land kept by gentry. Serfs required to pay redemption payments and taxes. Land held collectively by village communes, responsible for tax collection and apportionment. Handled by inefficient strip agriculture. Tax and redemption payments forced agricultural sales and exports, monetized the economy, and supported railroad construction boom, which supported production of iron, steel, and petroleum C. Emancipation and industrialization caused little improvement in the living standards. Russian Social Democrats, first congresses in called for overthrow of monarchy and the adoption of socialism. Mensheviksâ€™Russia not ready for socialism; party should be mass organization. Tsar granted formation of Duma, and Stolypin reforms helped agricultural peasants. World War I arose from Balkan struggle for independence. Russian Civil War Poster ""Have you signed up as a volunteer? War Communism A. New Bolshevik leaders faced problems. Consolidation of Bolshevik rule. Allied invasion after Brest-Litovsk Treaty B. Provisions of War Communism 1. Confiscation of private and church land without compensation. Forcibly extracted "surpluses" from agricultural workers. Goods and food rationed, private trade outlawed. Most industrial enterprises nationalized and administered by commissariats headed by Vesenska. Performanceâ€™Production plummeted, arising from poor work incentives, concealment of surpluses, and chaotic management, but also from wartime disruption. The New Economic Policy A. Designâ€™a temporary experiment in market socialism 1. Private trade was legalized. Freer labor mobility, market-determined wages, and pro-labor legislation. Performanceâ€™After , NEP supported rapid recovery, but with rising inequality. The Industrialization Debate A.

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