GEOGRAPHY 308
GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE
Dr. Zoltan Grossman, Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (2002-05)
SPRING 2005
Chart of countries and links

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<td>Baccalaureate degree</td>
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HOURS AND ROOMS

CLASS: Phillips 106, 9:00-9:50 MWF

Office hours: 10:00-10:50 MWF
258 Phillips Hall, 836-4471

COURSE GOALS
In the past 15 years, no part of the world map has changed more than the region of Eurasia formerly covered by the Soviet Union and its allies. The course will offer an overview of geographical, or "place-based," studies of the former "Socialist" Bloc (once dominated by the USSR), including natural and human resources, historical geography, ethnic and religious divisions, environmental questions, and economic and political organization. The course will not simply cover present-day Russia and Eastern Europe (or more properly, East-Central Europe). The course will cover the 15 former republics of the Soviet Union, the former members of the Warsaw Pact and the former Yugoslav Federation (see list below). Each student will closely examine one of these countries (or internal regions) as a "Country Case Study" for in-depth geographical analysis, culminating in a PowerPoint class presentation.

Geography is the "study of place," asking where things are, why they are there, how places are linked to other places, and how places can be grouped. The course will involve lectures offering thematic angles that transcend the countries and regions, using historical, population, cultural, economic, and
environmental modes of geographical analysis. We will also have guest lectures from UWEC students, faculty and visitors from these countries, to offer a regional geographic focus. There will also be class discussions and presentations to compare and contrast our different case studies. You are encouraged to use **critical thinking skills** in interpreting the readings, videos, and lectures.

**BOOKS AND OUTSIDE READING**


**The New York Times.** Check out the [New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com) website everyday to keep up with world news. The [registration](http://www.nytimes.com) is free! In order to better follow the news, check the boxes "Today's Headlines" get daily news briefs e-mailed to you, and the box for "Breaking News Alerts." We will have questions on the exams about the major Russia/Eastern Europe stories in the semester.

You are responsible for completing all the readings. The best way to read is to take notes in your own handwriting.

If any readings are changed, the class will be notified via the class e-mail list. Print out this syllabus for your use, but also please bookmark this syllabus page to consult it for any changes.

**GRADING**

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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class discussion/participation</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country analysis (in three parts)</td>
<td>225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm I Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>Midterm II Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country PowerPoint</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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ATTENDANCE
You will be more successful in this class only if you cover the full range of expectations: lectures, videos, readings, and exercises. Doing only the readings and exercises outside class are not a substitute for attending the lectures or videos, which will very often present different information. Similarly, only attending the lectures will not substitute for readings and exercises outside the class. If it is impossible for you to attend a lecture, you must get notes from another student—not from me—and also talk with the fellow student about the lecture. Some, but not all, of the lecture information may be in the W drive class folder (Geog/Grossman/308) and the on-line syllabus (click on the theme and the PowerPoint will download). You should NEVER rely on the PowerPoint alone; geography is a very visual subject, and many lectures will show maps and graphics with no explanation other than from the verbal, in-class lecture!!! If you have special needs, please inform me when starting the course.

CLASS DISCUSSION
Class discussion is part of your grade. If you are normally reticent about speaking in class, take notes ahead of time about what you might say. Don't be intimidated by others; I encourage shy people to speak up and express their opinions—please raise your hand to get a word in. We will normally divide into these regional groupings for discussions, and "represent" our own region. In class discussions, we will be conducting comparative analysis of our different countries and regions.

Background on a Chart on the countries' capitals, former political status, and majority language and religion. The Chart includes links to country maps.

NORTHEASTERN EUROPE
(Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia)

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE (OR "BALKANS")
(Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia & Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania)

RUSSIAN/EX-SOVIET HEARTLAND
(Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, European Russia, Southern Russia/Chechnya, Siberia, Mongolia)

CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA
(Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan)

**EXAMS**
You will have two midterm exams (150 and 200 points) and a final exam (200 points). The exams will use multiple choice, matching, map identification, true/false, essays, etc., covering the readings, lectures, exercises, and videos. Exam study guides will be on the syllabus and in the W Drive class folder (Geog/Grossman/308).
The final emphasizes the third regional part of the course, but draws on the insights from the other parts of the course. You can make up an exam only under extenuating and verifiable circumstances that I recognize, and only if you notify me before the scheduled exam at grossmzc@uwec.edu or 836-4471 (or the departmental secretary at 836-3244.). Unauthorized absences will result in a zero on the exam—no exceptions.

**CLASS PROJECTS**
The four main assignments are interrelated, and stem from your individual Country Case Study.
The first three assignments will be together form your Country Analysis (225 points, at 75 points apiece):

**COUNTRY CASE STUDY ANALYSIS**
Part 1: NATURE / ENVIRONMENT
(Physical Geography / Natural Resources / Environmental Issues)
Part 2: PEOPLE / CULTURE
(Current Ethnic groups, Religious groups, Demographics, Pre-1914 History)
Part 3: POLITICS / ECONOMICS
(Recent political changes, Economics and Industries, History since 1914)
Each exercise will be posted on the syllabus and in the W Drive class folder.

**COUNTRY POWERPOINT CLASS PRESENTATION**
The Country Analysis may help you get ideas for producing your Country PowerPoint that you will submit and show to the class, and then revise for a final grade (200 points). The PowerPoint should explore interesting geographic angles, and be presentable at a geography conference. It is **NOT** an overview of your country like in your Country Analysis, but a narrower place-based
topic. (The topic should preferably be contemporary, but it can be historical, or have elements of both.) It will not just include dry statistics and descriptions, but a dynamic view of geographic controversies and trends in politics, culture, or environment, etc. Make the country "come alive" not only to impress the instructor, but to interest your fellow students in the place. You will submit the PowerPoint in your W Drive project on the due date, then print out a copy to give to me the day of your class presentation. I will make corrections so you can revise the powerpoint for a final grade.

Do not wait until the last minute to do these projects, because you may not be able to overcome unforeseen difficulties. No excuses will be accepted for problems that could have been solved by starting the exercise earlier (such as a computer crash). For this reason, exercises handed in late will automatically be knocked down 20 points in the maximum grade for every class day they are overdue. No exceptions. Help with writing can be easily gained by visiting the Writing Center. Review some common grammatical errors. Never rely only on your spell checker!

If you have any technical computer questions, contact the CNS Help Desk at 836-5711 or helpdesk@uwec.edu. If you need PowerPoint training, or want to brush up or want a critique of your past powerpoints, contact BITS (Bringing Instructional Technology to Students) to set up an appointment (email bits.training@uwec.edu).

You are REQUIRED be trained in PowerPoint by Week 8 (Mar. 18). Dreamweaver training workshops are scheduled in CITI. If you absolutely cannot make a training workshop, you are responsible to set up an individual training through BITS. Call for a one-on-one or small group training at 836-5157 (bits.training@uwec.edu). (Hours 10-3 Mon., 10-4 Tu./Wed./Th, and 12-3 Fri.). I'd encourage you to go in small groups so you can help each other along later. BITS staff are extremely helpful no matter what level you are at. You can also e-mail BITS a past powerpoint for a critique and suggestions for improving your style.

PLAGIARISM WARNING: For all projects you must not simply lift your textual material
from the Web (or plagiarize any other source), and you must have a variety of printed and digital sources. Graphics should also be cited with a tiny source citation hyperlink to the page of the graphic's origin.

### TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

If changes are made to the syllabus, the class will be informed via the class e-mail list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class dates</th>
<th>General theme</th>
<th>Shaw chapter</th>
<th>Goldman pages</th>
<th>Turnock pages</th>
<th>Project or Guest lecture/video</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan. 26, 28</td>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY</strong></td>
<td>Start reading ahead</td>
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<td>Choose your country case study by Mon., Jan. 31; Start on Country Analysis Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Jan. 31, Feb. 2, 4</td>
<td><strong>PRE-SOVIET HISTORY</strong></td>
<td>CH. 1</td>
<td>13-40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Feb. 7, 9, 11</td>
<td><strong>SOVIET ERA</strong></td>
<td>CH. 2-3</td>
<td>11-25, 93-97</td>
<td></td>
<td>Country analysis Part 1 due Fri., Feb. 18; Start on Country Analysis Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Feb. 14, 16, 18</td>
<td><strong>POST-SOVIET ERA</strong></td>
<td>CH. 4-5</td>
<td>25-56, 97-108</td>
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<td>Class debate on NATO expansion, Feb. 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb. 21, 23, 25</td>
<td><strong>GEOPOLITICS</strong></td>
<td>CH.11</td>
<td>202-212</td>
<td>41-55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Start Date</td>
<td>Chapters</td>
<td>Page Ranges</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Feb. 28, Mar. 2, 4</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>CH. 6</td>
<td>165-206</td>
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<td>Environmental videos on Chernobyl, Soviet subs, Lake Baikal</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Mar. 7, 9, 11</td>
<td>ETHNICITY/LANGUAGE</td>
<td>CH. 9</td>
<td>57-77</td>
<td>88-103</td>
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<td>Country Analysis Part 2 due Wed., Mar. 9; Start on Country Analysis Part 3; Review Fri., Mar. 11</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Mar. 14, 16, 18</td>
<td>RELIGION (no powerpoint)</td>
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<td>224-236</td>
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<td>MIDTERM I Monday, March 14</td>
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<td>STUDY GUIDE</td>
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<td>Students from Macedonia &amp; Serbia, March 16</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Mar. 30, Apr. 1</td>
<td>NATIONALISM IN EASTERN EUROPE</td>
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<td>264-268</td>
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<td>Country Analysis Part 3 and Powerpoint topic due Fri. Apr. 1</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Apr. 4, 6, 8</td>
<td>NATIONALISM IN FORMER USSR</td>
<td>CH. 10</td>
<td>236-240</td>
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<td>Work on powerpoints after professor approves topic</td>
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<td>Teresa Sanislo lecture on Latvia, Apr. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapters</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Apr. 11, 13, 15</td>
<td><strong>ECONOMY/INDUSTRY/DEMOGRAPHICS</strong></td>
<td>CH. 7-8</td>
<td>56-68, 104-117</td>
<td>Yugoslavia video, Apr. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Apr. 18, 20, 22</td>
<td><strong>NORTHEASTERN EUROPE SURVEY</strong></td>
<td>245-248</td>
<td>130-139</td>
<td>Review Mon., April 18, MIDTERM II, Wed. April 20</td>
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<td>STUDY GUIDE</td>
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<td>Powerpoints due on Fri. April 22 in W drive folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Apr. 25, 27, 29</td>
<td><strong>SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE SURVEY</strong></td>
<td>248-253</td>
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<td>Order of powerpoint presentations of Country Case Studies. Print off your draft full size for me to make revisions during your presentation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>May 2, 4, 6</td>
<td><strong>RUSSIA/ EX-SOVET HEARTLAND SURVEY</strong></td>
<td>216-223</td>
<td></td>
<td>Want to learn the Russian Cyrillic alphabet? Extra credit for 2-page paper on Goodbye Lenin film</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>May 9, 11, 13</td>
<td>CAUCASUS/ CENTRAL ASIA SURVEY</td>
<td>240-244</td>
<td>(May 5-8, Davies Theater, 6 &amp; 8:30)</td>
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<td>Final review May 13. <strong>FINAL STUDY GUIDE</strong></td>
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<td>All revised PowerPoints due Friday, May 13, 4:00 pm, in your W Drive project folder. <em>Also hand in both old &amp; new printouts!</em></td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
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<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL EXAM:</strong> Tuesday, May 17, 8:00-9:50 am, in the classroom</td>
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<td>Country &amp; maps link</td>
<td>Formerly in</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Majority religion</td>
<td>Majority language branch (*-Family not Indo-European)</td>
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<td>Budapest</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Finno-Ugric*</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>Sofia</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>Slavic</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
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<td>Bucharest</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>Romantic</td>
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<td>Albania</td>
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<td>Tiranë</td>
<td>Sunni Muslim</td>
<td>Albanian</td>
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<td>Mongolia</td>
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<td>Ulaanbataar</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>Mongol (Altaic)*</td>
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<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>Ljubljana</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
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<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Slavic</td>
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<td>Bosnia &amp; Hercegovina</td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>Sarajevo</td>
<td>Sunni Muslim</td>
<td>Slavic</td>
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<td>Serbia</td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>Belgrade</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>Slavic</td>
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<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>Podgorica</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>Slavic</td>
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<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>Skopje</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>Slavic</td>
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<td>Kosovo (status in dispute)</td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>Pristina</td>
<td>Sunni Muslim</td>
<td>Albanian</td>
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<td>Prague</td>
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<td>Ethnicity</td>
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<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
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<td>USSR (as Latvian SSR)</td>
<td>Riga</td>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>Baltic</td>
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<td>USSR (as Lithuanian SSR)</td>
<td>Vilnius</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Baltic</td>
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<td>USSR (as Estonian SSR)</td>
<td>Tallinn</td>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>Finno-Ugric*</td>
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<td>USSR (as Byelorussian SSR)</td>
<td>Minsk</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>Slavic</td>
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<td>USSR (as Ukrainian SSR)</td>
<td>Kyyiv (Kiev)</td>
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<td>Orthodox</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
<td>USSR (as RSFSR)</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>Slavic</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
<td>USSR (as Georgian SSR)</td>
<td>Tbilisi</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>South Caucasian*</td>
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<td>USSR (as Armenian SSR)</td>
<td>Yerevan</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
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<td>Turkic (Altaic)*</td>
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<td>Sunni Muslim</td>
<td>Turkic (Altaic)*</td>
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<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>USSR (as Kirghiz SSR)</td>
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<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>USSR (as Turkmen SSR)</td>
<td>Ashgabat</td>
<td>Sunni Muslim</td>
<td>Turkic (Altaic)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>USSR (as Tadzhik SSR)</td>
<td>Dushanbe</td>
<td>Sunni Muslim</td>
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