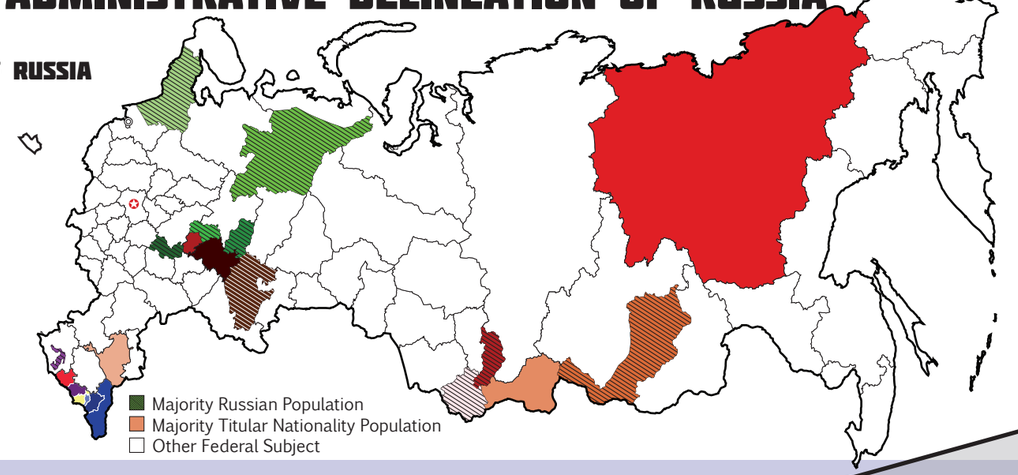
РОССИЯНЕ И РУССКИЕ:
THE ETHNIC ADMINISTRATIVE DELINEATION OF RUSSIA

THE 21 REPUBLICS OF RUSSIA



THE LARGEST NON-RUSSIAN ETHNIC GROUP IN EACH FEDERAL SUBJECT

Russia

Russia is the largest geographic and ninth most populous country in the world. In the span of 300 years, beginning in the mid 16th century, Russia expanded from a small area around Moscow, across the Eurasian continent to the Pacific Ocean, Caucasus Mountains and into Central Asia. This rapid and massive expansion created a diverse, multiethnic, multiconfessional nation and reordered Eurasian geography.

The Administrative Framework of Modern Russia

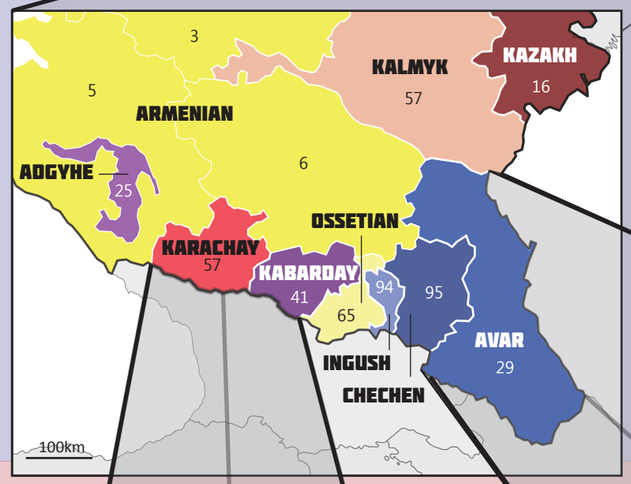
Before the annexation of Crimea in 2014 the Federation of Russia was divided into 83 Federal Subjects, of which there are six different types; 46 Oblasts, 22 Republics, nine Krais, four Autonomous Okrugs, two Federal Cities and one autonomous oblast. Republics are a unique administrative unit, in that they were created as a homeland for a specific nationality, known as a Titular Nationality. In the federal framework, they are the only subject allowed to draft their own constitutions and declare an official language alongside Russian.

Origin of the Republics

The system of Republics in Russia originated in the early days of the Soviet Union. The 1926 All Soviet Census was the first attempt to catalog and map the ethnic makeup of this huge nation. The end result was a tally of 195 different nationalities and a comprehensive redrawing of the Soviet Union's borders. Much of the modern borders in the former Soviet Union originate from this Census.

Using the 2010 Russian census, the modern picture of Russia's ethnic diversity is on display. The concept of Народность (Nationality) has been a central part of Russian culture and policy ever since the 1926 Census. The dichotomy is illustrated in the two different words for Russian. Русские: ethnic Russians and Россияне: citizens of the Russian state.

THE CAUCASUS

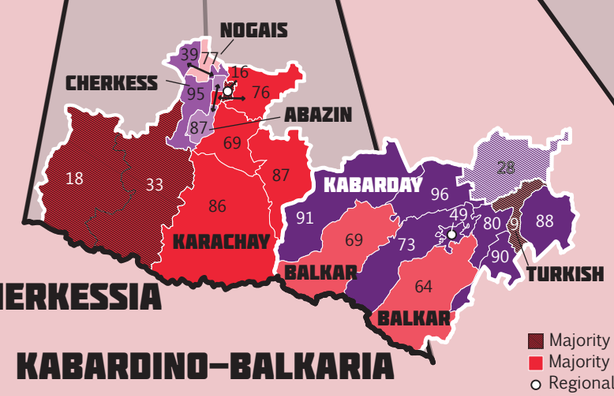


The Caucasus

The Caucasus was one of the last regions to come under Russian control when it was annexed in 1864. Due to its late inclusion into Russia and mountainous topography, the region is Russia's most ethnically diverse. Of the eleven republics in Russia where the Titular Nationality is the majority, seven are in the Caucasus. The region contains the only Republics in Russia with multiple Titular Nationalities: Karachay-Cherkessia, Kabardino-Balkaria and Dagestan.

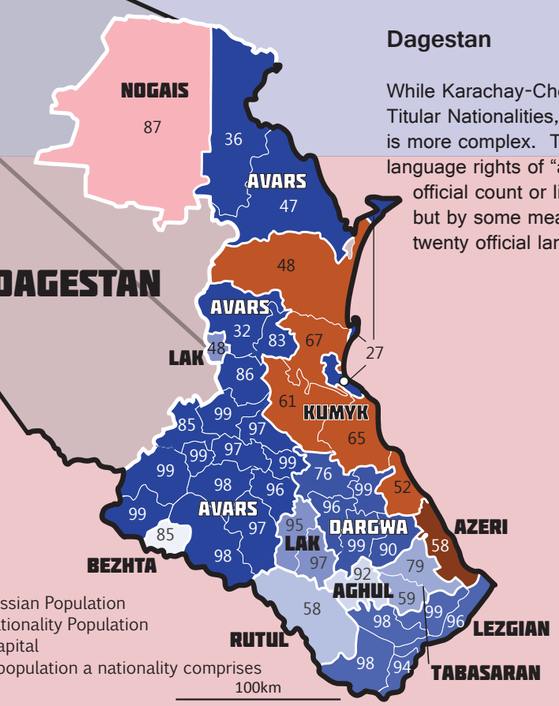
Dagestan

While Karachay-Cherkessia and Kabardino-Balkaria have two Titular Nationalities, both encompassed in their name, Dagestan is more complex. The Dagestani constitution guarantees the language rights of "all Peoples" in the republic. There is no official count or list of how many languages this encompases, but by some measures, this means Dagestan has more than twenty official languages.



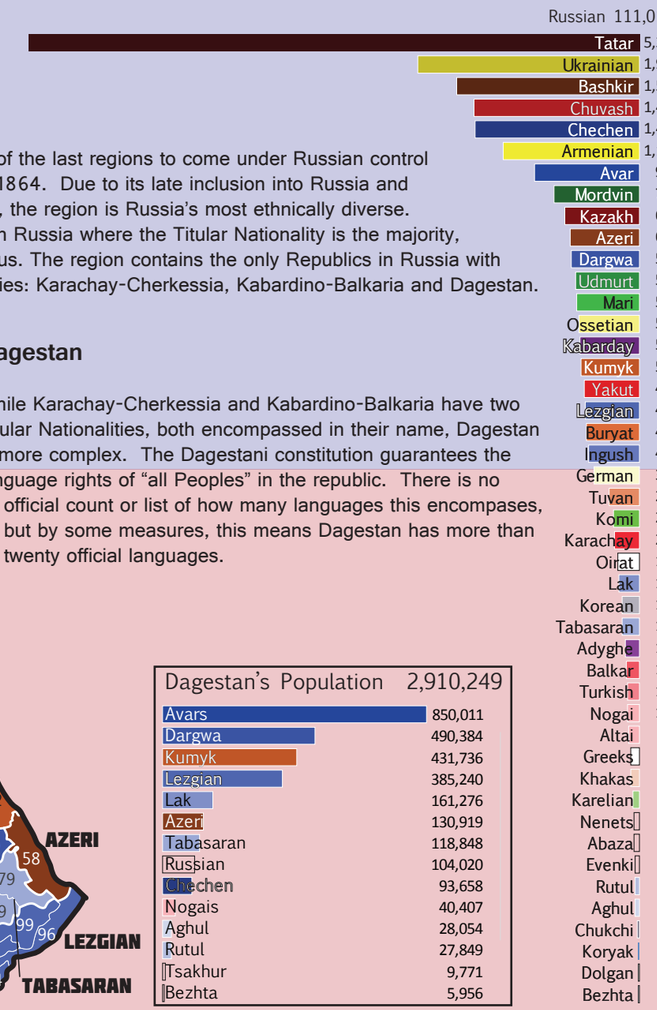
KARACHAY-CHERKESSIA

KABARDINO-BALKARIA



Majority Russian Population
Majority Nationality Population
Regional Capital
69 Percent of population a nationality comprises

The Population of Nationalities in Russia



Dagestan's Population	2,910,249
Avars	850,011
Dargwa	490,384
Kumyk	431,736
Lezgian	385,240
Lak	161,276
Azeri	130,919
Tabasaran	118,848
Russian	104,020
Chechen	93,658
Nogais	40,407
Aghul	28,054
Rutul	27,849
Tsakhur	9,771
Bezhta	5,956

Woody Groves : Data Source 2010 Russian Census gks.ru : Map Layers diva-gis.org : Historical Background see "Empire of Nations" by Francine Hirsch