



# United Kingdom of Great Britain & N. Ireland

- Composed of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland (Ulster) and Commonwealth colonies.
- Originally inhabited by Celts, Britain has been the crossroads of numerous invasions: Saxons, Danes, Angles, Jutes, Vikings, and Normans. Multiple governmental traditions.
- First Parliament called by Edward I in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- The War of the Three Kingdoms (English Civil War) and the Revolution of 1688 established a constitutional monarchy in Britain.





## United Kingdom contd.



- Since 1688 Parliament has had more power than the monarchy.
- England & Scotland merged their parliaments in 1707 forming the United Kingdom.
- Today, the Parliament in London is the central government, but Scotland, Wales, and N. Ireland have local parliaments (like our state assemblies)
- The British parliament is one of the oldest representative assemblies in the world. Parliamentary government in the UK is based on a two-chamber system. The House of Lords (the upper House) and the House of Commons (the lower house)
- In the Commons the party winning the most seats forms the Government & selects the Prime Minister.



## United Kingdom contd.



**Her Majesty Queen  
Elizabeth II**

Official portrait of HRH Queen Elizabeth II from:  
<http://www.royal.gov.uk/output/page5543.asp>



**Queen Elizabeth II being  
greeted on her 80<sup>th</sup>  
birthday in 2006**

# The British Monarchy Goes Digital!



<http://www.royal.gov.uk/Home.aspx>





# Prime Minister David Cameron

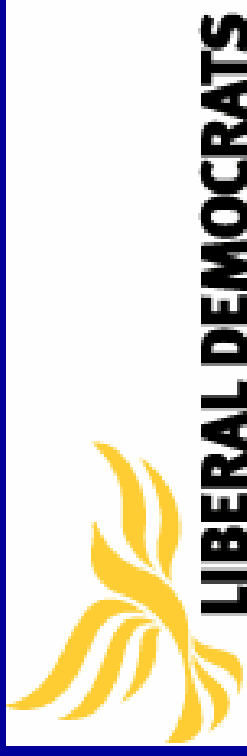


2010-?

In the 2010 general election the Conservatives won the most seats. They entered a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats

PM Cameron is 43 years old, making him the 2<sup>nd</sup> youngest PM in British history

# Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg



**2010-?**

**Deputy PM Clegg is 44  
years old, and the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Liberal Democrat in  
Downing Street**

# Labour Party



- The Labour party is a center-left democratic socialist party.
- It is currently the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest party in the UK
- Held the PM office from 1997-2010
- Formed in the 1910-1920s from Fabian socialists who believed in democracy, rejected Marxism/Communism, and favored keeping capitalism as a means of producing wealth but moderate socialism to distribute the wealth.

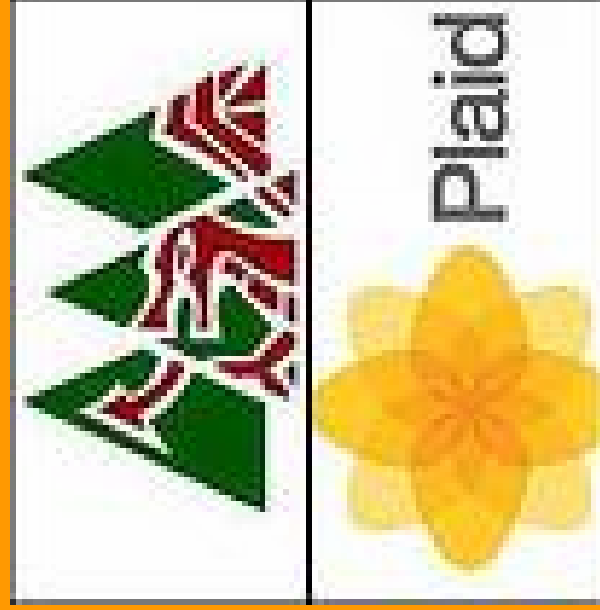


**Labour Leader and MP  
Ed Milliband-44 years  
old**

**Caroline Flint:  
Labour MP for  
Don Valley**



# Other British Political Parties & Leaders



# Conservative Party

- Oldest Political Party on Earth
- ‘Tories’
- Have held the Prime Minister’s Office more than any other party
- Been out of power since 1997



Conservatives

**Conservative Leader David Cameron**



# Liberal Democrats

- Britain's 'Third Party'
- Centrist on economics
- Liberal on social issues
- Modern Lib-Dems.
- Have never held PM Office



Deputy PM Nick Clegg



# Scottish National Party

- Advocates independence for Scotland
- Favors a Republic
- Recently won the plurality of seats in the Scottish Parliament



Alex Salmond

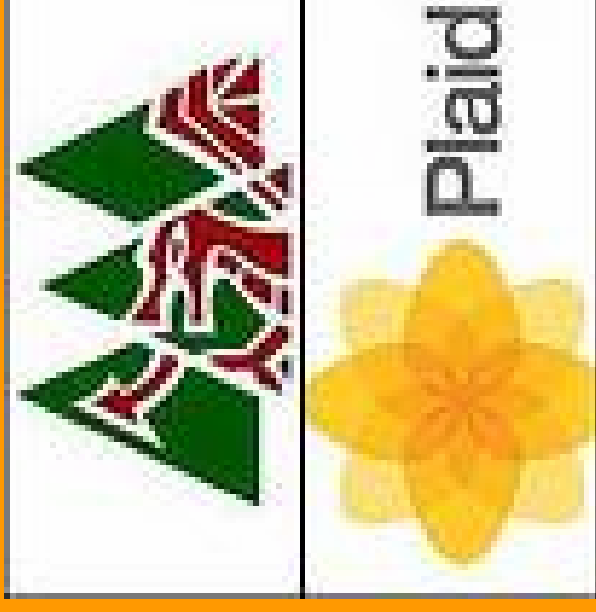


# Plaid Cymru



- Advocates Welsh Independence
- Social-Democrats (moderate socialists)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest party in Welsh Assembly
- Credited with preserving Welsh language (Cymri) and culture in Wales

**Ieuan Wyn Jones**





# French Republic

- France is one of the oldest nation-states in continental Europe.
- Unified in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, France has had three forms of government from then until the present:

1. Monarchy: (Capet, Valois, & Bourbon) 900s-1789
2. Empire: Napoleon I 1793-1814
3. Monarchy: 1814-1848
4. Republic: 1848-1857
5. Empire: Napoleon III 1857-1871
6. Republic: 1871-Present





## French Republic contd.

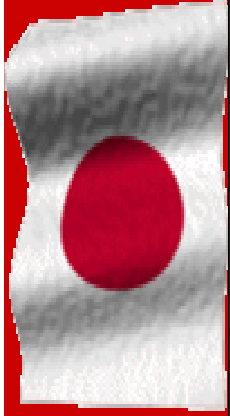
- Today France is a presidential democracy, and a republic like the United States.
- The French president is directly elected by the voters, and has the right to appeal directly to the people in referendums.
- The president appoints a premier who serves as the liaison between the executive branch and the National Assembly, France's legislative body. He serves as a sort of prime minister or speaker of the house.
- The first President of the modern French Republic was Charles de Gaulle, elected in 1958



# President of France Nicolas Sarkozy 2007-?



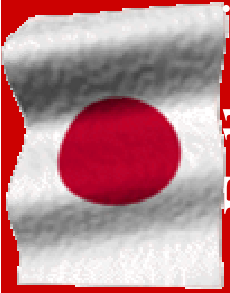




# Japan (Nippon)

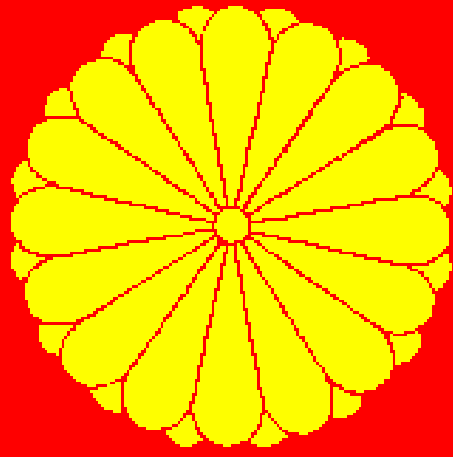
- Japanese culture is a hybrid of Asian and Pacific traditions. Japan has been inhabited by the Japanese people for thousands of years.
- Japan was a feudal monarchy with an Emperor since 660 B.C.E.. From the 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries political power was held by the emperor and shoguns.
- Beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the end of WWII, the Japanese Empire expanded to control large areas of the Asian-Pacific rim including: parts of China, Korea, the Philippines, and other Pacific islands





## Japan contd.

- Following Japan's defeat in WWII, the government was transformed into a constitutional monarchy based on parliamentary government.
- **Executive branch:**  
*chief of state: Emperor Akihito*  
*head of government: Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama*
- **Legislative branch:** The National Diet in Japan's bicameral legislature. It is divided into the House of Representatives and is based on popular sovereignty. The House of Councilors is the upper house. In the Commons the party winning the most seats forms the Government & selects the Prime Minister.
- **Legal system:** modeled after European civil law system with English-American influence



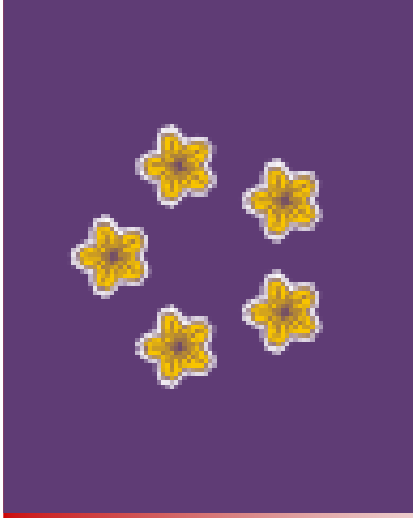
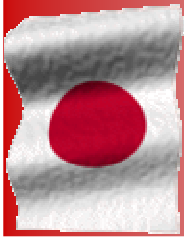
**Flag of the Emperor**

**His Imperial Majesty**

**Emperor Akihito**

Photo from: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)





Japan contd.



Seal of the PM

The Democratic Party of Japan



民主党

The DPJ is the more liberal (socially & economics) party in Japan. Although the more liberal of Japan's parties. They have been in the opposition for most of Japan's post WWII

existence.  
Photo from: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

Prime Minister Naoto Kan 2010-?



# Federal Republic of Germany

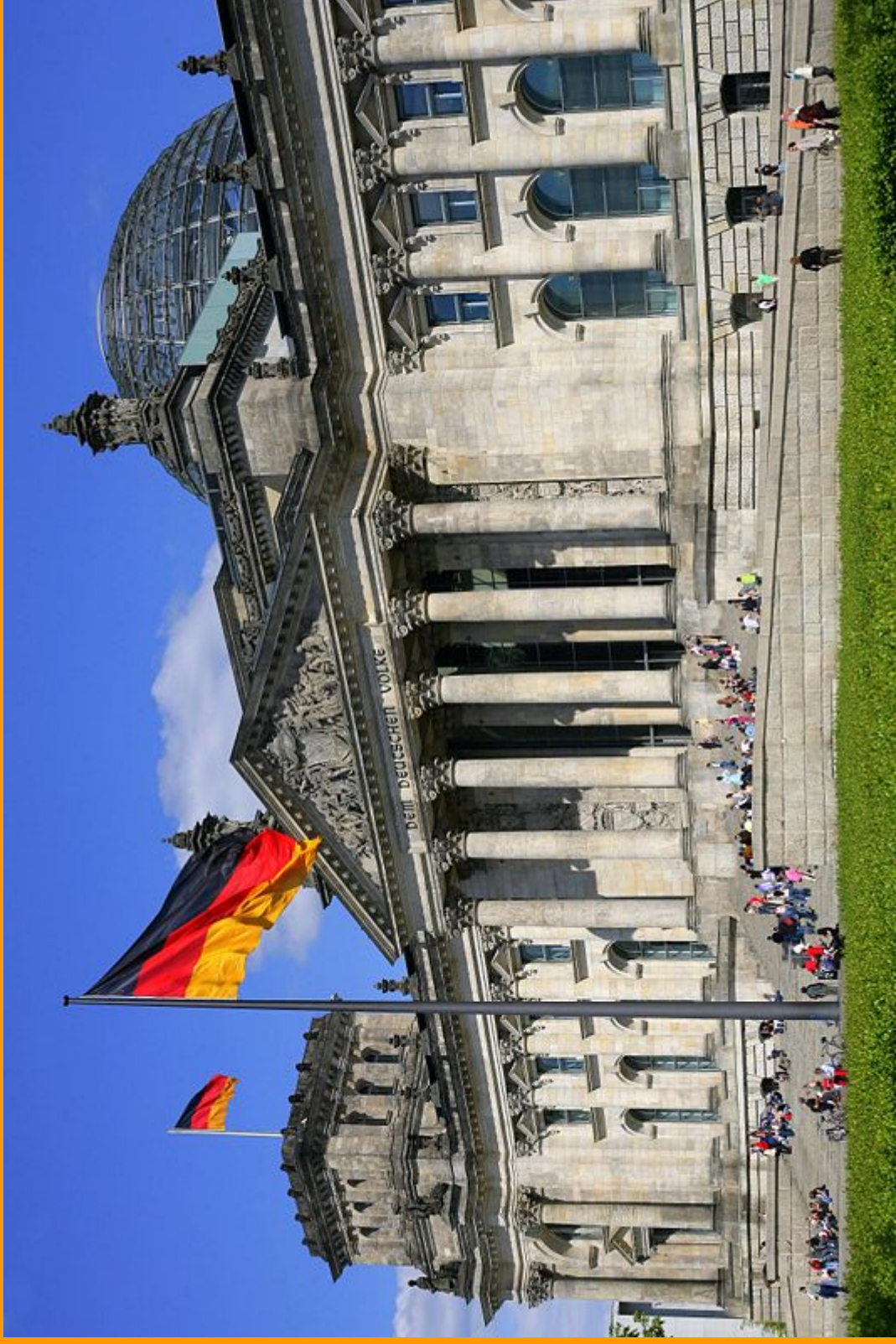
- **Executive branch:**  
*chief of state:* President **Christian Wulff**
- *head of government:* **Chancellor Angela Merkel**
- **Legislative branch:** bicameral Parliament or **Reichstag**. Consists of the Federal Assembly or Bundestag (Lower house-656 seats) and the Federal Council or Bundesrat (Upper House)
- Germany is a federal republic like the U.S. & has 16 states







# Federal Republic of Germany

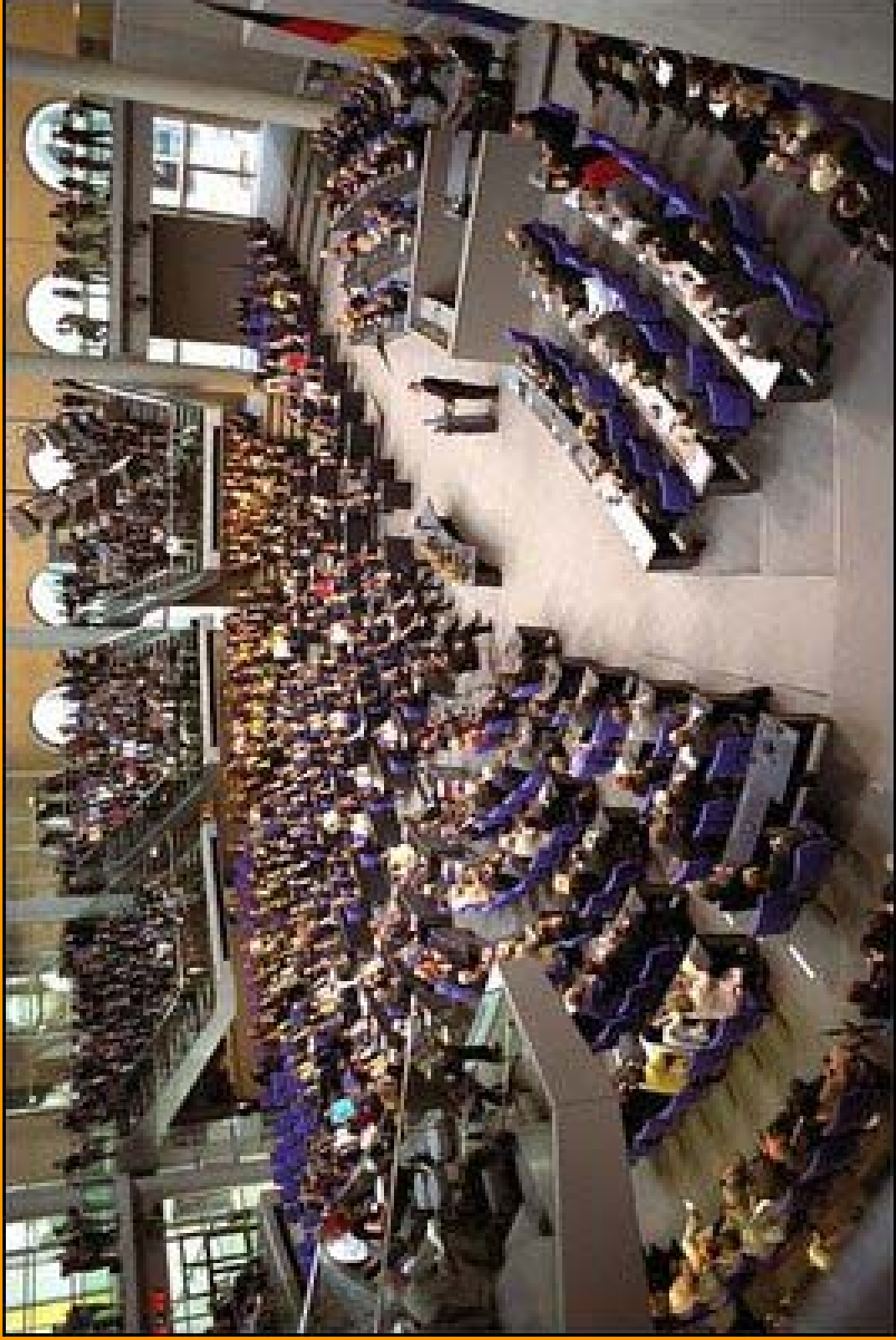


- German Parliament the Reichstag





# Federal Republic of Germany



- German Bundestag-lower house



# Federal Republic of Germany



- German Bundesrat-upper house



# Federal Republic of Germany

## German Political Parties



Social Democratic Party



Christian Democratic Union



Green Party



Free Democratic Party



# Federal Republic of Germany



German President Christian Wulff



# Federal Republic of Germany



**German Chancellor Angela Merkel**





# Federal Republic of Germany



- The Bundeskanzleramt-seat of the German Chancellor





# German Political Parties

# CDU

- *Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands*
- Christian Democratic Union
- Center-Right Party



**German Chancellor Angela Merkel**



# German Political Parties



- *Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands*
- Social Democratic Party
- Social Democracy-Democratic Socialism
- Center Left



**SPD Leader Sigmar Gabriel**



# German Political Parties

## Minor Parties



- *Bündnis 90/Die Grünen*
- Green Party
- Environmental
- Leftist-Social  
progressivism



- *Freie Demokratische Partei*
- Free Democratic  
Party
- Market economy
- European Liberal-  
small government



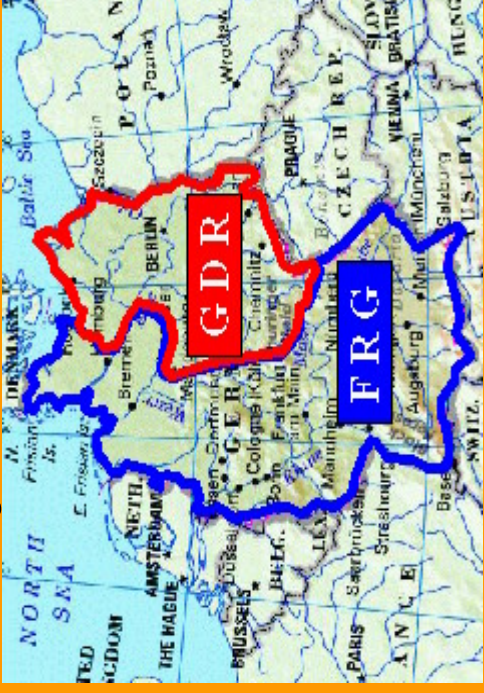
# Germany Contd.

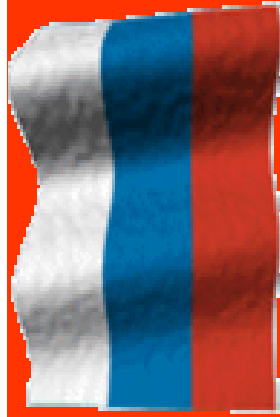
## 4. Post War Germany, Divided Then Reunited

- Germany is partitioned into four occupation zones following WWII, & is formally divided into West Germany and East Germany from 1948-1990.
- East Germany was a Soviet satellite state, West Germany pro-NATO.
- Berlin Wall is erected in 1961.

## Germany Republic: 1990-Present

- Berlin Wall comes down due to student protests & Germany reunified in 1990.
- Federal Republic 1989-Present:





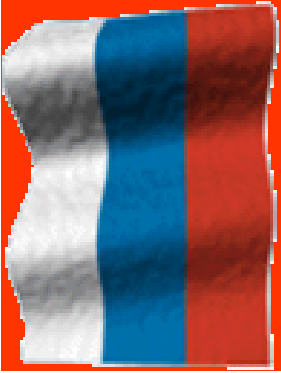
# Russian Federation

# Русские Федерации



- The Russian Federation is the largest nation in land mass on Earth

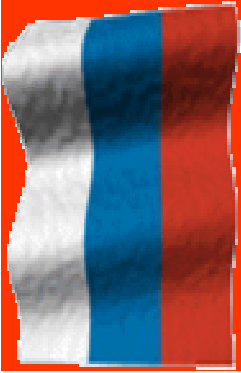




# Russia



- The Russia Federation is the largest portion of what was the Soviet Union.
- The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.
- Prior to the collapse of the USSR, Russia had never possessed a democratic government.
- Timeline of past Russian governments
- 1100s: Muscovy (Moscow) was a city-state that expanded to control most of what is now northern European Russia.



# Russia

- 1326 Muscovy become Patriarchate of Russia. Greek Orthodox Church & Byzantine/Roman government & culture spread in Russia, including the Cyrillic alphabet
- 1486: **Grand Prince Ivan the Terrible** marries Byzantine Princess Sophia, the last descendant of the Eastern Roman Empire which had been conquered in 1452 by the Turks & proclaims himself Czar (Caesar) of Russia, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rome.



Ivan the Terrible, 1<sup>st</sup> Czar of Russia



**Byzantine/Russian  
Eagle**



# Russia

- 1914-1917: Russian Empire is severely defeated by Germany during WWI.
- 1917: Czar Nicholas II, the last Czar of Russia abdicates, and the country is thrown into a civil war.



Peter the Great



Catherine the Great





## Russia contd.

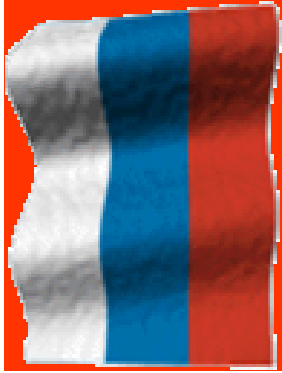
- October, 1917 Bolshevik Revolution lead by V.I. Lenin allows communists to seize power in Russian and overthrow the monarchy. Czar Nicholas II and his family are murdered.
- 1918-1991: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)
- USSR was a repressive totalitarian régime dominated by the Communist Party and it's Politburo. The state controlled virtually every aspect of life in Russia and the other Soviet Republics. Josef Stalin who lead the USSR until 1953 was a tyrant of the same magnitude as Hitler.
- 1987: Premier Mikeal Gorbachev comes to power in USSR & implements *perestroika* & *glasnost*.



V.I. Lenin



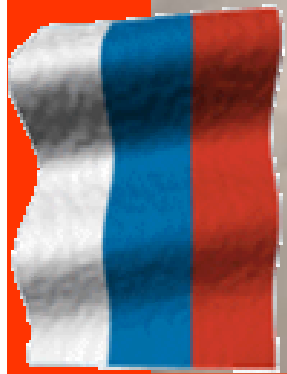
Josef Stalin



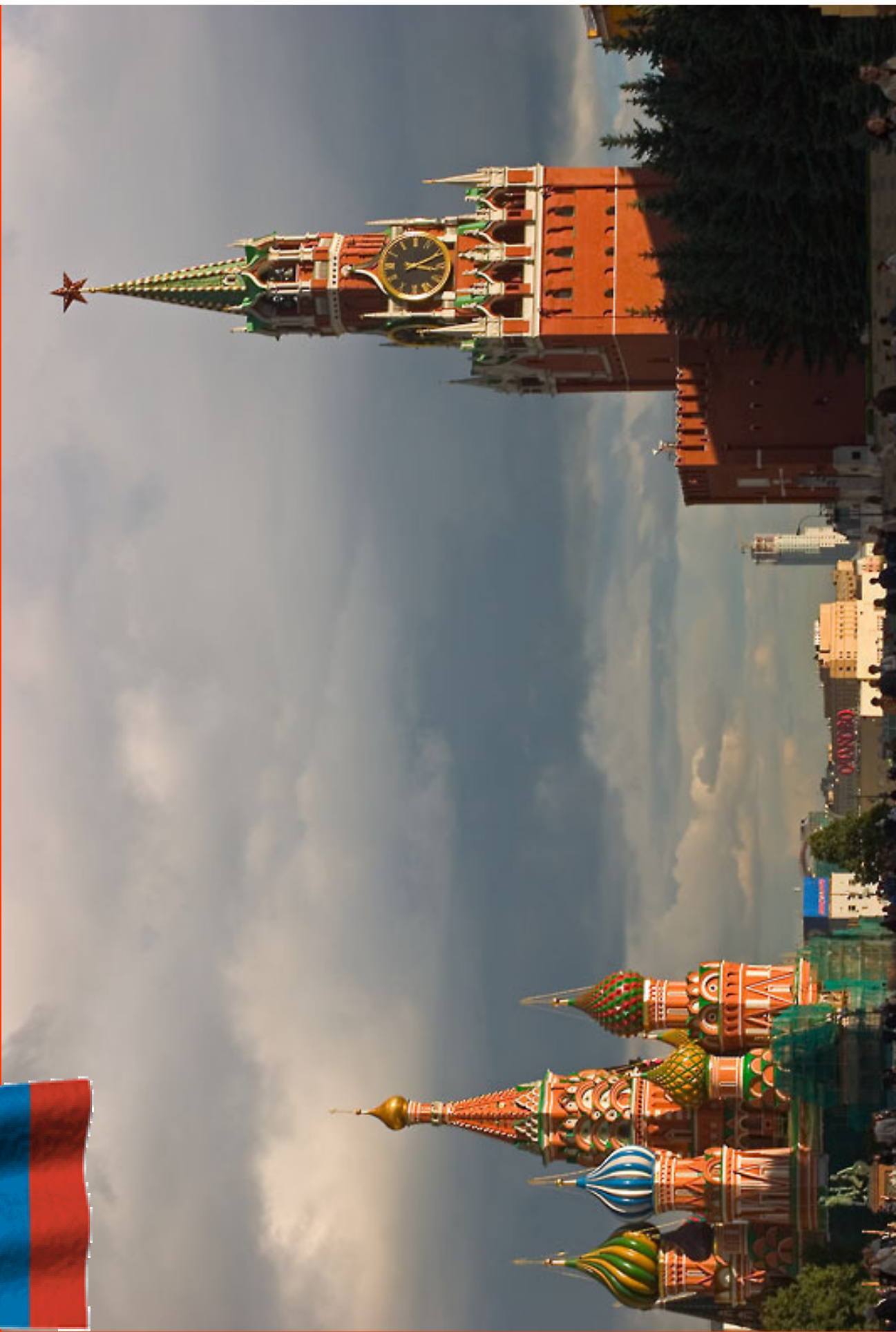
# Modern Russia

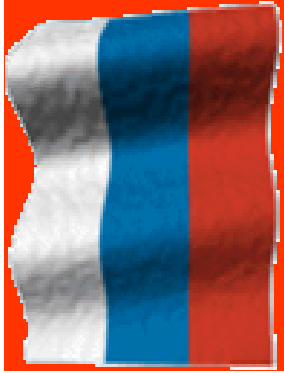
- Today Russia is a federation
- Democratic in some respects yet still highly centralized, especially since Vladimir Putin became President of the Russian Federation in 2001





# Moscow

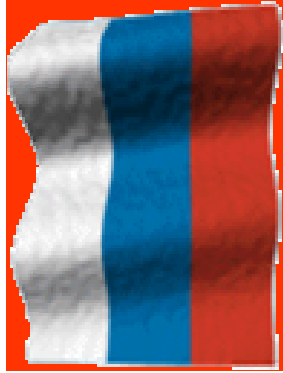




# Modern Russia

- President  
Dimitry  
Medvedev



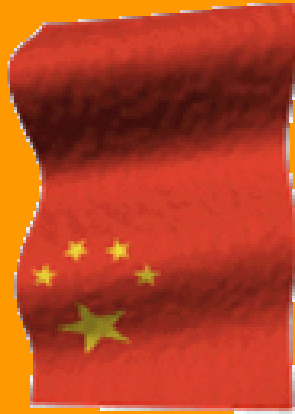


# Modern Russia

- Prime Minister Vladimir Putin
- Former 2 term president
- Consolidated power in the central government.



# People's Republic of China



## China, contd.

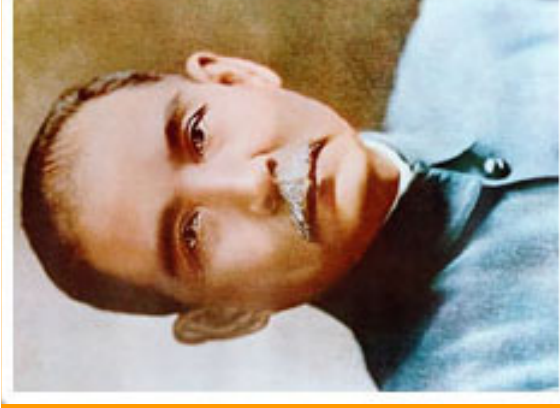
- China is one of the oldest civilizations on Earth.
- 221 B.C.E. Qin Shi Huangdi, one of many warring kings unified all of China. The word 'China' is the English spelling of 'Qui.'
- Qin Shi Huangdi created the first centralized government on Earth complete with standardized writing, bureaucracy, weights & measures, roads, & schools. He also built the Great Wall.
- Qin's government vanished with his death but the Chinese imperial system lasted until 1912.



Terra Cotta soldiers of Qin's Grave

# China, contd.

Flag of the Chinese Republic



Sun Yat-sen

- 1912 the weak and declining Imperial dynasty is overthrown and the Chinese Republic, under **Sun Yat-sen** is established.
- Sun Yat-Sen is never able to unify all of China & is deposed and reinstated several times. Much of the country falls under the control of warlords upon his death in 1925.
- A new republic is declared in 1928 but it is weak & China falls into a bitter civil war (1928-1948) between two factions

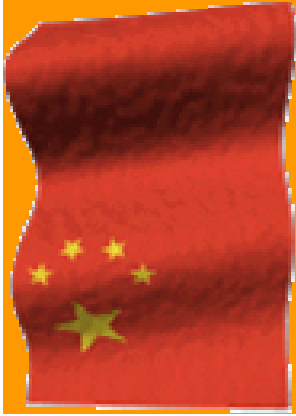


# China, contd.

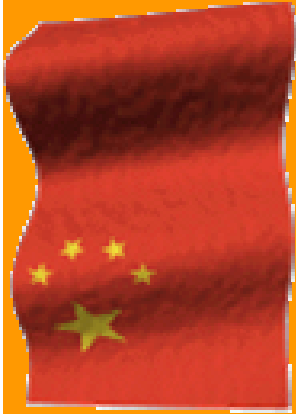
## Chinese Civil War 1928-1948

- **Chiang Kai-shek**, led the Kuomintang (KMT) forces. The KMT was a nationalist party that favored the gradual development of democracy but were at time militaristic and harsh to the peasantry.
- **Chiang Kai-shek & the KMT** controlled most of China from 1928-1940s.
- **KMT** defeated by the Communists and flee to Taiwan in 1949
- **Mao Zedong** led the Communist (CPC) forces. The CPC had close ties to the Soviet Union and favored a complete redistribution of all wealth and property. The CPC appealed to the peasantry but were also at time harsh and repressive.
- The CPC defeated the KMT in 1949 and Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China.

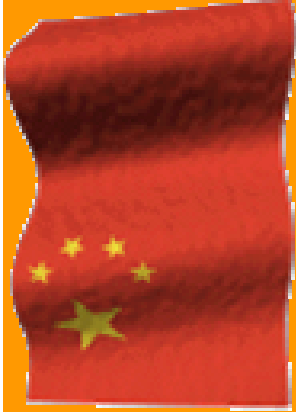




- The PRC was established as a communist state. China again became a world power but Mao imposed strict controls over everyday life and cost the lives of millions of people through disastrous policies such as the Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, & the Korean War.
- The PRC and the Soviet Union broke diplomatic relations in the 1960s opening a path for détente with the U.S. under President Nixon.



- Since Mao's death, China has loosened governmental control over people's personal lives & engaged in reforms to transform its planned economy into a market-based one.
- The government remains intent on maintaining the political control of the Communist Party & has maintained repressive policies against groups which it feels are a threat to its political control



- China's government is an oligarchy with the Communist Party as the unifying factor. The branches of government are:
- Executive: composed of a President & Premier
- Legislative: the unicameral National People's Congress-2,985 elected members.
- Judicial Branch: Supreme People's Court
- Military: Chief of Staff of the Military wields a great deal of power.

President Hu Jintao



Premier Wen Jiabao



**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**المملكة العربية السعودية**

# Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- The nation that would become Saudi Arabia was established in 1927 when Sultan Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud conquered the Kingdoms of Nejd and Hejaz on the Arabian peninsula.
- In 1932 Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud conquered the rest of the Arabian peninsula, and proclaimed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

المملكة العربية السعودية



King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud

1876-1953

Photo from:

"*Ibn Sa'ud*." Online Photograph. Encyclopaedia Britannica Online.

16 May 2007 <<http://www.britannica.com/eb/art-28471>>



# Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy.
- The Qur'an is the constitution of the country, which is governed on the basis of Islamic law, or *Sharia*
- *Sharia* means "way" or "path"; it is the legal framework within which the public and some private aspects of life are regulated for those living in a legal system based on Islam.

Info. On Sharia, "Sharia," <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shari%27a>, (accessed on May 16, 2007).

Photo of 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter of the Qur'an: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Fatihah.jpg>, (accessed May 16, 2007).

# Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the Custodian of  
the Two Holy Mosques.**