

The Caucasus

- between the Black and Caspian Seas
- Greater Caucasus and Lesser Caucasus mountain ranges

Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• endured a genocide by the hand of Turkey
Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Russia, Iran, and Turkey all influence this area• capital – Baku• fossil fuel reserves – hoping to complete a Southern Gas Corridor
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ports on the Black Sea provide greater opportunities for trade• capital for more than 1500 years, Tbilisi, is on the Kura River• deepest caves in the world

Central Asia

- the “stan” ending means “home of.”

Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Khyber Pass – one hundred miles southeast of Kabul provides passage through the Hindu Kush mountain range• Taliban ruled here after the Soviet Union withdrawal
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Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caspian Depression – barren wasteland • steppes • Soviet nuclear testing
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tien Shan, “Celestial Mountains” – divides Kyrgyzstan from China
Turkmenistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dictator leads a personality cult • eighty percent is covered by the Kara-Kum desert
Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major cotton producer • repressive government • hoped that the Turkic people would unite into a single nation when the Soviet Union dissolved

Vocabulary:

- steppes
- Silk Road
- enclaves
- exclaves
- autonomous regions
- Taliban
- remittances