

► Geoterms

ethnic group a group of people in a country who share a unique culture and identity

nation a large group of people who share a common history and culture. Not all nations have their own government or control a territory. But in common use, the word *nation* often means a country or nation-state.

nationalism feelings of loyalty and pride toward one's nation or ethnic group. Nationalism sometimes includes the belief that one's nation or group is better than all others.

nation-state an independent state, or country, whose people mostly share a common identity

state a political unit that controls a particular territory

Major Ethnic Groups in the Soviet Union

A Diverse Region
More than 100 ethnic groups lived in the Soviet Union at the time of its collapse. This map shows the major ethnic groups that were in various areas. Conflicts among ethnic groups helped bring about the collapse of this state.

