

Historical

Barnaul was founded in 1738 as a center of silver and copper smelting. Here worked K.K. Polzunov, inventor of the steam engine, and P.K. Frolov, builder of the world's first railroad (both statements according to the Russians). This city was the site of the first soda factory in Russia, closed in 1898. It is now the capital of Altayskiy Kray.

Cultural

Altayskiy Kray Agricultural Exhibition.

The oldest regional studies museum in Siberia, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of Altayskiy Kray.

Theater of the People's Art (performances each Monday).

House of the People's Art, which sponsors participation in all forms of creative art.

Scientific

Institute of Agricultural Machinery.

One of the oldest meteorological stations in Siberia, founded in 1838.

Fruit-and-berry, vegetable, and veterinary experiment stations.

Economic

Barnaul is a center of machine building, textile manufacturing, and food processing, a railroad center, and a transshipment point for logs and lumber. Among the machines produced are steam boilers, Diesel engines, agricultural machines, presses, machine tools, and geologic equipment. The largest cotton textile factory in Siberia was built here in 1934; artificial fibers are now also produced.

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Foods processed include flour, meat, milk, vegetable oils, fish, yeast, vodka, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Barnaul has both ship-repair and shipbuilding yards. It produces furniture, matches, and naval stores, based on the lumbering industry of Altayskiy Kray. Sheepskin coats, shoes and other leather products, felt boots, and carpets are other important finished products.

Population

1926 -- 73,900

1939 -- 148,100

1959 -- 320,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 4.

Pomus, M.I. Zapadnaya Sibir', Moscow, 1956.

Po Vodnym Putyam Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscow, 1958.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore. Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

KRASNOYARSK

Historical

Although it was founded in 1628 as a fort, Krasnoyarsk is of minor historical significance. It is, however, celebrated by Russian writers as the temporary residence of Lenin and Stalin, both of whom spent a few weeks in the city on their way to and from exile.

Cultural

House-Museum of I.V. Stalin, where he lived on his return from exile.

House-Museum of V.I. Surikov, where this noted Russian artist was born and lived.

Regional Studies Museum, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of Krasnoyarskiy Kray.

Scientific and Educational

Siberian Forestry-Lumbering Institute.

Scientific Research Institute of Forestry and Lumbering.

Institute for Improving the Qualifications of Forestry and Lumbering Workers.

Economic

Krasnoyarsk is the major transshipment point for the Yenisey River system, a supply base for the region of the lower Yenisey, and headquarters of the Yenisey River fleet; its river passenger station is the second largest in the USSR. It is a center of shipbuilding and ship repair, locomotive and railroad car repair, and machine building (e.g., electric cranes, combines, lumbering equipment). Near the city is the largest aluminum plant in the USSR. Other

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products include: metal consumer goods, building materials (cement, slate, brick, lime, concrete blocks), lumber and wood products (pre-fabricated houses, furniture, paper, cellulose), clothing, shoes and other leather goods, felt boots, photographic film, graphite, alcohol, and various foods (e.g., dairy products, flour, yeast, wine).

One of the largest bridges in the USSR, over two kilometers long and 24 meters wide, crosses the Yenisey at Krasnoyarsk.

Population

1926 -- 72,300

1939 -- 190,000

1959 -- 409,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 23.

Po Vodnym Putyam Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscow, 1958 .

Naumov, G.V., and G.M. Chudinov, Sovetskaya Yakutiya, Moscow, 1956.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore. Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

KURGAN

General

Although it was founded in 1616, Kurgan is of little historical, scientific, or educational significance. The only cultural establishment of note is a regional studies museum, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of Kurganskaya Oblast'.

Economic

Kurgan has experienced considerable economic growth during and since World War II. As the center of an agricultural region it is important both as an agricultural processor and as a manufacturer of agricultural and food-processing equipment (e.g., canned meat, sausage, flour, butter, yeast, wine, and beer; leather, shoes, and textiles; threshing machines, seeders, hay presses, silage cutters, well diggers; centrifuges and equipment for grain elevators and flour mills). Other products include woodworking, roadbuilding, electrical, and printing machinery. There are railroad repair shops in the city.

Population

1926 -- 28,000

1939 -- 53,200

1959 -- 145,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 24.

Pomus, M.I. Zapadnaya Sibir', Moscow, 1956.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore. Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

TYUMEN'

Historical

Tyumen', the oldest Russian city in Siberia, was founded in 1586 on the site of Chingi-Tura, capital of one of the Tatar khanates. Beginning in the 17th century it was an important transit point on the trade route between European Russia and China, and in the second half of the 19th century it was the site of many major trade fairs.

Cultural

Regional Studies Museum, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of Tyumenskaya Oblast'.

House of the People's Art, which sponsors participation in all forms of creative art.

Economic

Tyumen' serves as a major transshipment point between the railroad and the Ob' River system; it is especially important as a supply base for the region of the lower Irtysh and lower Ob'. It is a center of shipbuilding (tugs and barges) and repair. Construction, roadbuilding, woodworking, and forestry machinery and foundry equipment is manufactured in the city. Also important are lumber and wood products (e.g., pre-fabricated houses, furniture, veneer, skis, chemicals, resins and varnishes, boxes, and carts). The production of felt boots and sledges is of unusual interest. Other products include electrical equipment for tractors and automobiles, plastics, drugs, scales, bricks, shoes, sheepskin coats, knit goods, carpets, and various foods (smoked and canned fish, meat, and dairy products).

TYUMEN'

Population

1926 -- 50,300

1939 -- 75,500

1959 -- 150,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 43.

Pomus, M.I. Zapadnaya Sibir', Moscow, 1956.

Po Vodnym Putyam Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscow, 1958.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

YAKUTSK

Historical

Founded on its present site in 1683, Yakutsk was long the military-administrative and trade center of northeastern Siberia. It was the base for much of the Russian colonization of the Lena basin, the Far East (especially Kamchatka and the Okhotsk Sea region) and the eastern Arctic coast. In the 19th and early 20th centuries it was an important place of exile. It is now the capital of the Yakutskaya ASSR, which comprises one-seventh of the USSR.

Cultural

Notable architecture includes a wooden tower from the 1683 fort and the 1707 governor's house, first brick building in Yakutsk.

Regional Studies Museum, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of the Yakutskaya ASSR.

Museum of Fine Arts, with special emphasis on Yakut art.

Yakutsk Musical-Dramatic Theater, featuring Yakut performances.

Two newspapers and one magazine in the Yakut language.

Pushkin Library, comprising about one million volumes.

Scientific and Educational

Yakutsk Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, which comprises the institutes of biology; history, languages, and literature; and geology; a department of economics and geography; a laboratory of cosmic rays; and the northeast section of the Institute of Permafrost.

Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture.

A university which opened in 1956.

Yakutsk is the base for many summer scientific expeditions, some

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of them sponsored by organizations in other parts of the country.

The city water supply is taken from underneath the permafrost (more than 600 feet below the surface), heated, and continuously circulated.

Economic

Yakutsk is of primary importance as headquarters of river transportation in the Lena River basin. It has ship repair yards as well as facilities for other types of mechanical repair. Lumber and some wood products (e.g., pre-fabricated houses) are manufactured; the wood-chemical industry is important. Other products include bricks and lime, shoes and other leather goods, glass and refractories, and beer.

Population

1926 -- 10,600

1939 -- 52,900

1959 -- 74,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 49.

Do Vodnym Putyam Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscow, 1958.

Kaumov, G.V. and G.M. Chudinov, Sovetskaya Yakutiya, Moscow, 1956.

Pokhishevskiy, V.V., Yakutiya: Priroda -- Lyudi -- Khozyaystvo, Moscow, 1957.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore, Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.