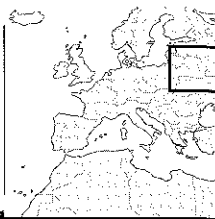
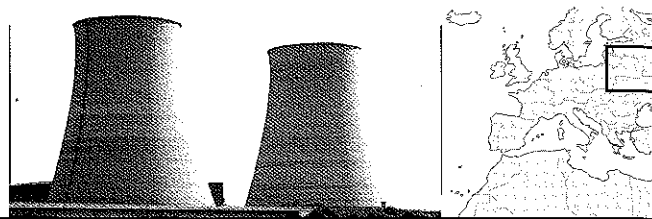


Belarus



THIS FLAG IS PROUDLY HUNG ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.



Inhabitable By 2307

Ever since Belarus suffered the bulk of the fallout from the Chernobyl meltdown in 1986, life has been difficult for the 10 million citizens, or 5 million two-headed citizens, of this green-glowing former Soviet state.



Miss Belarus 2007

Whether living in the country's contaminated wetlands or its sweeping, jagged wastelands, Belarusians must deal with a lagging economy, a smoldering infrastructure, and constant bouts of violent and toxic vomiting spells. Though the nuclear disaster was devastating, this resilient people continues to ooze slowly toward a more stable way of life, committed to rebuild their country or melt trying.

HISTORY » REPEATEDLY REFUSING TO BE WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH

A.D. 700 The Slavs settle in what is now Belarus to select future generations' final resting place.

1240 Surviving Belarusians join the Grand Duchy of Lithuania Neighborhood Watch Program, which seeks to repel future marauders using colorful, pointy flags.

1900 French physicist Paul Villard discovers the gamma ray. Nearly 1,400 miles away, clouds form and lightning strikes as the people of Belarus collectively shudder.

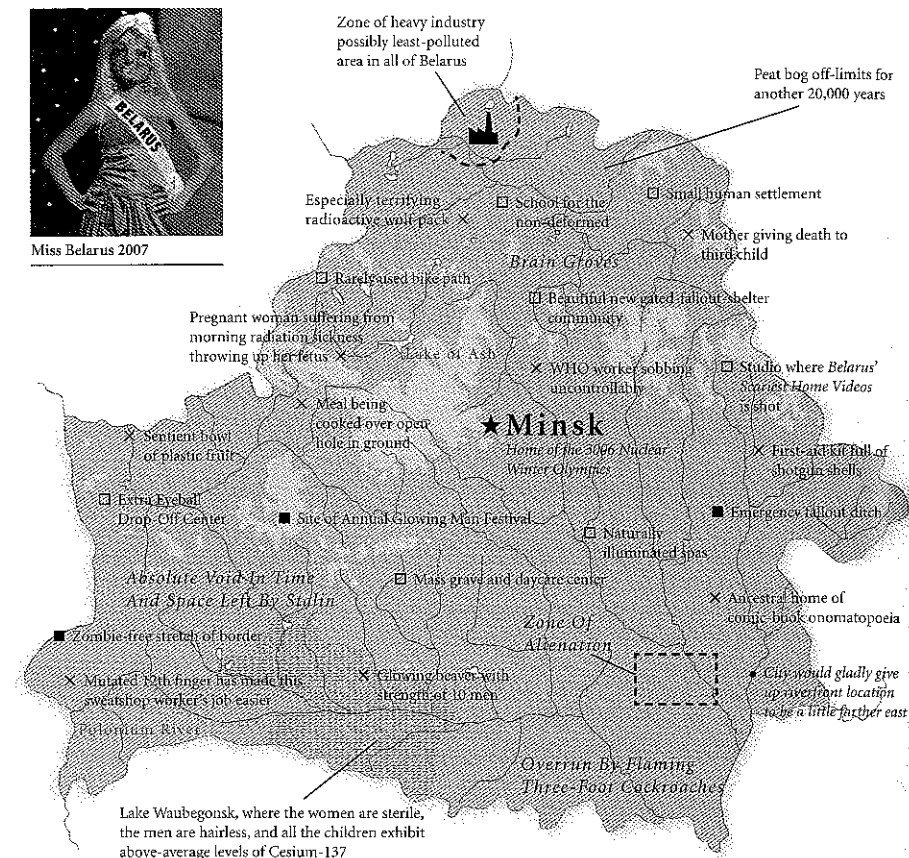
1918 After World War I, Belarus declares its independence. Soviet Russia joins in the celebration by taking their independence for safekeeping, and preserving Belarusian culture by restricting any expression of it for 70 years.

1930 Soviet leader Joseph Stalin implements the first-ever "censuscide," a government mandate in which workers visit 250,000 homes, execute the residents, and then count them.

1941-1945 Belarus graciously hosts World War II.

1986 Following the Chernobyl nuclear accident, the Soviet Union evacuates hundreds of thousands of Belarusian citizens into the most heavily contaminated areas.

1991 As the U.S.S.R. begins to collapse, Belarus finally redeclares its independence. Thousands of sickly gray, pockmarked citizens hit the streets, where their bodies promptly fall apart.



FACTS » STILL UNDER QUARANTINE

ETHNICITY/RACE
Belarusian (81.2%), Russian (11.4%), Puddles (7.4%)

AREA
80,155 sq. mi. of mass graves and concrete bunkers

TERRAIN
Mountainous region with rolling, luminescent hills and glorious, radioactive sunsets

PRECIOUS COMMODITIES
Hair, teeth, skin

GOVERNMENT
Republic with three arms of government: The president's left arm writes the laws, his right arm enforces the laws, and the one coming out of his chest beats criminals over the head

FASHION
Sleeveless Hazmat suits that let extra limbs breathe; stylish, form-fitting lead vests

TRANSPORTATION
Shambling, lurching, dripping, spreading

CLIMATE
Moist warm summers, cold nuclear winters

HOSPITALS' WISH LIST
Basic equipment, vaccines, pharmaceuticals, walls, roof

HALF-LIFE EXPECTANCY
Men: 41,000
Women: 44,000

LITERACY RATE
98% can accurately read a Geiger counter

POTABLE WATER
Most of the drinking water was poisoned during the 1930s, but thanks to a modern de-Stalinization process, much of the poison will be usable again



Family Life
Dinner is a time for Belarusian families to catch up on the day's events, talk about their problems, and check each other's radiation levels.

PEOPLE » THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ATOM

The Soviet Union had an undeniable influence on Belarus: Many Belarusians still speak Russian, bear Russian-made scars, and emit traces of highly unstable Russian uranium thanks to the Soviets' laissez-faire attitude toward nuclear safety. A family-oriented society, most citizens prefer to spend time with their wives and children in the comfort of their own solid-lead underground shelters. Some have also developed unusual physical powers in recent years, such as superhuman strength, shape-shifting tumors, and the ability to liquefy at will.

Poland



POLAND HAS YET TO BUILD A LADDER TALL ENOUGH TO REACH THE TOP OF ITS FLAGPOLE.



PRESIDENT KARWOWSKI, WHO WAS RECENTLY ACCUSED OF ACCEPTING BRIBES FROM A CHANGE MACHINE.



Rotate Page 360 Degrees To Read

Once a society of hunter-gatherers, where the men stalked wild berries and the women died collecting buffalo from the field, the nation of Poland is better known today for a number of cultural achievements, including the screen-door submarine, the glass-bottom locomotive, and the cordless extension cord.

Bordered by the Baltic Sea, where hundreds of Polish fish drown every day, and occupying a strategic location on top of land instead of water, Poland has been the victim of numerous invasions, the quickest taking place during World War I, when German troops used the military tactic of marching in backwards to convince everyone they were actually leaving.

By 1939, Germany had invaded again, this time with the intent of eradicating the nation's entire population, a harrowing threat citizens continue to face whenever they come across a bottle of polish remover.

Today, however, Poland is a free and democratic republic. It successfully elected its first non-duck official in 2004, recovered economically from a power outage that left hundreds trapped on shopping-mall escalators in 2005, and in 2006, completely turned its tourist industry around—a task that took 1,000,001 citizens: one to serve patrons lunch, and a million to rotate the restaurant.

HISTORY » EUROPE'S OLD STOMPING GROUNDS

A.D. 200-1800 Poland is occupied by the Romans, the Turks, several Mongol hordes, the Cossacks, France, Kenya, the Sioux Indians of the North American Great Plains, and a group of three tough-looking teenagers.

1861 Russian troops fire on a crowd protesting Russian rule in Warsaw. They also fire on a crowd celebrating Russian rule in Warsaw.

1915 After a number of violent clashes, German and Russian forces finally decide to just let Poland choose who gets to occupy it.

1918 Poland is granted independence by Allied forces for 37 seconds.

1934 Germany signs a 10-year non-aggression pact with Poland, guaranteeing that it will not invade the nation, that it has no intention of rounding up its citizens in temporary ghettos, and that it would never even think of transporting those citizens to various death camps set up in major Polish cities in the spring of 1940.

1940 The death camp of Auschwitz celebrates its grand opening in Poland with a special

FACTS » SEE "FACTS"

LOCATION Poland	NATURAL HAZARDS Using fork to get spoon out of toaster
AGE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH 0 years	FERTILITY RATE 4 infants/woman, as someone once read that every fifth child born in the world is Chinese
EMIGRATION RATE Left before officials had a chance to count	



"Jews Get In Free" promotion.

1941 Nazi commander Heinrich Himmler arrives unannounced at Auschwitz for a surprise inspection. Death-camp officials run around killing thousand of Jews as SS officers stall Himmler at the entrance gate.

1945 Allied forces liberate 4 million Polish corpses.

1947 Poland turns to Communism in the belief that only by becoming a classless society, with all citizens working together as one, can it truly succeed in screwing in a lightbulb.

1955 Poland establishes the Warsaw Pact to counter alleged threats from NATO, protect its interests from Eastern invasion, and get all of its

members—even Bulgaria—laid by the end of the summer.

1978 After eating a record 86 straight communion wafers and swimming across Lake Mazury with a lit prayer candle in his ass, Cardinal Wojtyla of Poland is anointed as Pope John Paul II.

2001 Although the traveling salesman did seem strangely familiar at the time, Poland doesn't realize it has signed into the U.S.-led Coalition Of The Willing until it's too late.



Pope John Paul II

2005 Pope John Paul II's medical condition is upgraded to "deceased."