

# Commonwealth of Unrecognized States aka 'Community for Democracy and Rights of Nations'

Three breakaway states in the territory of the former Soviet Union, which have limited or no recognition from the international community.

- Transdniestria (Moldovia)
- Abkhazia (Georgia)
- South Ossetia (Georgia)

**TRANSDINESTRIA**

**ABKHAZIA**  
**SOUTH OSSETIA**



# Transdniestria (Moldovia)

Officially known as the 'Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic'

## History

- A region ("Moldovia", influenced by the USSR) was formed within Ukraine
- During World War II, the Soviet Union took parts of Moldova and merged it with an ancient region of Romania to form a broader territorial area of Moldova in 1940.
- When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1990, Transdniestria was established in the hope that it would remain within the Soviet Union should Moldova seek re-unification with Romania or independence.
- When Moldova in 1991 declared independence, Transdniestria fought to remain separate. A military conflict resulted



## Transdniestria (Moldovia)

The Council of Europe calls Transnistria a "frozen conflict" area. The territories political status remains unresolved.

Transdniestria is an unrecognized but de-facto independent semi-presidential republic, with its own government, parliament, military, police, postal system, currency and vehicle registration. It is not considered a free country

- Political competition is tightly restricted
- Ruling political groups are closely aligned with local business interests
- Media freedom is restricted
- Authorities closely control civil society
- Due process is not upheld by local authorities
- Local authorities have carried out targeted, arbitrary arrests

It has lost one-third of its population since 1993

Poor economy (\$300/month is considered a good monthly salary)



## Transdnistria (Moldovia)

After a 2005 agreement between Moldova and Ukraine, all Transnistrian companies seeking to export goods through the Ukrainian border must be registered with the Moldovan authorities



## Why does Russia support Transnistria?

Political reasons: It used to be part of Soviet territory

Russian granting of special status to Transnistria may exert regional influence over Moldova

Transnistria has a substantial ethnic Russian population

Russia maintains a military presence there.

Cultural reasons: The vast majority of its people speak Russian.

The territory is financially supported by Russia

Transnistrian education and laws are also interrelated with Russia.

Why won't Russia try to annex Transnistria?

↳ (analysts) An annexation of Transnistria by Russia could accelerate a unification between Moldova and Romania, which Russia does not want.

↳ Furthermore, Transnistria is far from Russia and landlocked





Abkhazia (Georgia)

South Ossetia (Georgia)

- Abkhazia and South Ossetia are separatist regions of Georgia in the Caucasus.
- Most countries recognize them as part of Georgia
  - ↳ Russia, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Nauru, and Syria regard them as independent



# Abkhazia (Georgia)

## South Ossetia (Georgia)

### Abkhazia – Basic History

- ∞ 756 – independent kingdom formed
- ∞ 985 – become part of Georgia, later regains independence
- ∞ 1578 – come under Turkish rule
- ∞ 1810 – Russia declares it a protectorate
- ∞ 1864 – Russia annexes the land
- ∞ 1918 – Abkhazia becomes independent (with Georgia) following Russian Revolution
- ∞ 1921 – Red Army invades, land re-absorbed by Soviet Georgia
- ∞ 1991 – Georgia declares independence. Abkhazia wants to succeed, and war breaks out. 1994 ceasefire. Russians are peacekeepers
- ∞ 1999 – Abkhazia declares independence. Few recognize it.

- Visiting Abkhazia is technically illegal under the Georgian law, by which the Georgian government prohibits foreigners from entering the disputed territory
- Russia maintains a military presence there



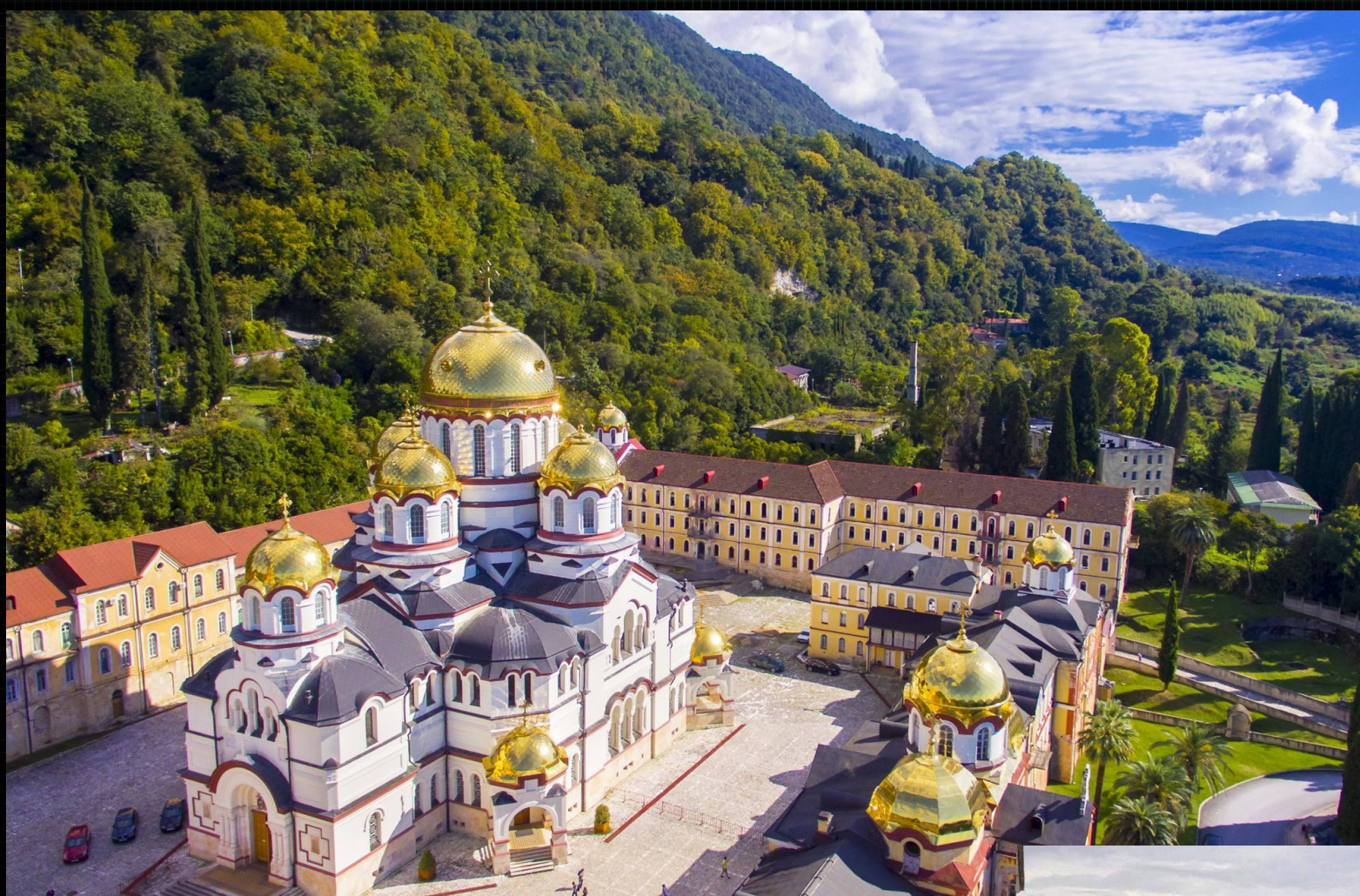
### South Ossetia – Basic History

- ∞ 1920s – Ossetians ally with Bolshevik forces occupying Georgia
- ∞ 1992 – violence. The land declares independence from Georgia
- ∞ 2008 – war breaks out between Russian and Georgian forces in South Ossetia

- South Ossetia is not a country
- Russia provides everything for South Ossetia
- South Ossetia is officially part of Georgia (but in practical sense, it may as well not be).
- South Ossetia sees itself as an independent country
- There are almost no ‘Georgians’ in South Ossetia, it’s mostly Russian-blooded people there
- Tellingly, South Ossetia uses the Russian ruble as their currency
- *You can ONLY enter the land from its Russian border, not Georgia*



Monument of the warrior in the rock, south Ossetia  
South Ossentia – population 53k. (Medford-53k, Ashland 21k)



Abkhazia  
Population 246,000  
↳ Portland-635k, Seattle 749k, Eugene-117k





Abkhara

City of Akarmara.....once a busy coal mining town.

Wars and economic change have emptied the town of 5000 people (since 1970).

Only 35 live there today.