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One Nation Becomes Many

The ACCESS Guide
to the Former
Soviet Union

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Preface

Seventy years ago, the Russian Revolution of 1917 "shook the world" and ushered in an era. In the summer of 1991, the failed coup of Soviet hardliners confirmed that a second Russian revolution had occurred, one that seems likely to sweep away the decaying institutions of Soviet communism planted in 1917. The coup itself and the response to it marked also the end of a dramatic effort by Mikhail Gorbachev to reform communism.

The coup's failure created an opening through which the republics that had made up the Soviet Union rushed toward nationhood. Many of the newly independent states were lands conquered in Stalin's reign or in earlier times during the expansionist period of Russia's Tsars. Most had suffered enormously. They face great obstacles.

While Americans are familiar with Russia, the largest of the newly independent states, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Byelarus, and even Ukraine are largely unknown entities. This guide is intended to provide a point of entry to help understand the new nations, their current leaders, and the policy issues which face them and the United States. Any such guide is a snapshot in time. We have, therefore, endeavored to provide the tools to help understand not only what has happened, but what may happen.

The present volume is one of a series of ACCESS "guides" to resources and issues. Like all ACCESS publications it relies on the cooperation and expertise of specialists from many viewpoints who help us make sure that the material we provide is accurate, timely, and high quality. We are grateful to David Clingman at the World Bank, Paul Goble of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Rose Gottemoeller at RAND, Jonathan Halperin of FYI, Aram Hamparian of the Armenian National Committee, Dunbar Lockwood at the Arms Control Association, James Molloy of American University, Stan Norris at the Natural Resources Defense Council, David Shorr of British American Security Information Council (BASIC), and Greg Webb at the Arms Control Association for their time, expert review, and advice. Special thanks are also due ACCESS Board members Gloria Duffy of Global Outlook, William Kincade of American University, and John Redick at the University of Virginia

for their expertise and help on this project. The assistance of all these experts has greatly improved *One Nation Becomes Many*. ACCESS is responsible for any errors or omissions that occurred in the final text. The quality of the guide most reflects, however, the commitment of the editors (Stephen Young, Ronald Bee, and Bruce Seymore) and other ACCESS staff for whose dedication I am most grateful.

One Nation Becomes Many: The ACCESS Guide to the Former Soviet Union involved the entire staff of ACCESS. They are: Editor Stephen Young, Ronald Bee (Publications and Research), and Bruce Seymore (Information Services). Mr. Young was responsible for the overall publication. The guide to organizations was assembled by Mr. Seymore, Intern John Coffin, and ACCESS Information Specialists Lisa Alfred and Vineta Beinikis. The narrative and bibliography on Change and Challenge were written by Mr. Bee with assistance from Intern Renee Zimmerman and expert reviewers acknowledged above. Chee Huan ensured that computer systems operated smoothly. Editing, proofing, production, and marketing were aided by Gillian Ament (Office Management), Wendy Hyatt (Outreach Director), Barbara Kelley (Publication Sales Fulfillment), and Intern Amy Nguyen.

This guide was made possible through the generosity of major donors who choose to remain anonymous. ACCESS general support is provided by ACCESS Associates and by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Founded in 1985, ACCESS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan information clearinghouse on international relations, peace, and security. It is our mission to identify and track more than 2500 institutes, think tanks, advocacy groups and university programs in more than 100 countries, that work on these issues. Through our database, inquiry service, and publications, ACCESS serves as a link between the specialists and the journalists, teachers, librarians and concerned citizens seeking authoritative information. ACCESS is founded in the belief that an informed and involved citizenry is the surest road to a secure and lasting peace.

Mary E. Lord
Executive Director

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