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| Chechnya is located in the Southwestern part of Russia. It borders Georgia and is close to the Caspian Sea.The port of Batumi is on the Black Sea. Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, has a major oil refinery. Oil is then carried to port cities like Batumi though a major oil pipeline. Once oil arrives in port cities, it can be loaded onto tankers and exported. |

**Prompt:** Describe the human rights violations which have occurred in Chechnya. Include examples of violations from both sides of the Russia–Chechnya conflict. Provide evidence from this text and the Universal Declaration of Rights to support your answer. Cite examples from both sides of the Russia–Chechnya conflict.

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|  | **Discovery Education, Chapter 5.4, Explore p.10 CIT: Chechnya** |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6 | Chechnya is a largely Muslim republic of Russia that is almost completely surrounded by Russia. Located in the south of Russia in the North Caucasus Mountains, it is rich in natural resources such as oil and valuable mineral deposits. For nearly 300 years, the same conflict has been occurring within its borders: Russia tries to seize control of the region, but Chechen separatists violently resist. The Chechen resistance has been fighting for the right to be independent. Russia, meanwhile, has been fighting for something different—oil. Some Russian leaders have also sought control of the Chechen people.  **2007-Present: Current Politics**  The Chechen president, Ramzan Kadyrov, has led an interesting life. As a young man, he fought against Russian troops. He was a member of a Chechen guerrilla army. The term guerrilla suggests unusual and often violent fighting methods. In the 1990s, the Kadyrov family stopped fighting and instead became loyal to Russia. By 2007, Russia had gained control of the area. That year, Russian President Vladimir Putin nominated Kadyrov for president of Chechnya. Since that time, Kadyrov has been a friend of the Kremlin, the center of Russian government, by stopping any uprisings. But he has done so with extreme force and terror and by committing many human rights violations. Russia has shown its gratitude by granting Chechnya effective autonomy. This means that Chechnya is technically part of Russia, but Kadyrov can rule more or less as he likes. Kadyrov has imposed Islamic practices across the republic. Bans on drinking and gambling and enforced obedience to Islamic dress codes are among Kadyrov’s laws. Critics of Kadyrov have expressed worry that Chechnya’s autonomy means that Russia looks the other way when Kadyrov breaks Russia’s laws to enforce his own. Another sign of Russian approval is its support of development in Chechnya. Grozny, the capital, has been transformed from a war-torn ruin into one big amusement park. To understand how things got this way, we need to turn back the clock a couple of centuries.  **The Trouble Begins**  Fighting between Russian troops and Chechen rebels has been taking place since the early 1700s. Chechens had been recognized as their own ethnic group since the 1600s. However, in 1722, Russians moved in and took control of the area. Then, in 1785, a Muslim holy man named Sheikh Mansur formed an uprising and chased them out. Still wanting the area for themselves, Russian troops returned throughout the next several decades. In 1858, the troops crushed another attempt, this time by Imam Shamil, to establish an independent Islamic state. Another declaration of independence in 1917 was met with hostility from Russia. It led to Chechnya being taken over by the Bolsheviks, the political party that later became the Communist Party. Prospects for Chechen independence finally improved in the 1930s. Chechnya’s neighbor Ingushetia was also a Sunni Muslim country. Together, they formed the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Region. By 1944 (WW2), though, this relative peace was shattered when Russian leader Joseph Stalin rounded up and exiled some 500,000 Chechens. He sent them to labor camps in Siberia for supposedly supporting Hitler. Around 200,000 Chechens died during this ordeal, which lasted over a decade. Those who survived were not allowed to return home until 1957. Russia continued to maintain control of Chechnya.  **1991: A Pivotal Year**  In 1991, Chechnya attempted to separate from Russian control once again. Russia had refused to acknowledge any elections in Chechnya and was sending Russian troops into the area. Chechnya wanted to be free of this harsh treatment from Russia. However, Russia did not want Chechen independence. Russia’s failed attempts to stop Chechen independence eventually led to all-out war in 1994. The war lasted two years and devastated Chechnya, but the Chechens achieved victory. Throughout the war, Chechen fighters committed acts of terrorism, such as taking the patients of an entire Russian hospital hostage. After Chechnya’s victory, lawlessness reigned in the struggle for leadership. Some referred to Chechnya as the “Wild East.”  **1999: The Second War**  Another war broke out in 1999. The events that led to this war were more complicated. Brutal terrorist attacks had been carried out throughout Russia, killing hundreds. The Chechens were blamed for the attacks, but the international community does not know for sure who was entirely responsible. It is a popular theory that Russia itself funded the attacks to cause international anger. Some even accused the United States of involvement. No matter the cause, the attacks angered Russia, and soon, the country retaliated. Russia’s President Putin won his election campaign in 2004 in part because he promised to bomb Chechnya into submission. More and more Russian troops moved into Chechnya. Of course, human rights organizations around the world were alarmed. Though resolutions were passed to end the forced disappearances, torture, and executions, Russia refused to admit any wrongdoing. Russia later defended itself by claiming it was involved in a “war on terror.” Its actions were justified, it claimed, since Islamic militants in Chechnya and elsewhere had called for a jihad, or “holy war,” against Russia, just as Mansur and Shamil had done many years earlier. In 2004, the Chechen fighters sent a harsh message to Russia: they took a school hostage. Hundreds died, including innocent children. Russia eventually gained control of the hostage situation and, ultimately, this led to second war with Chechnya.  **2009-2015: A Cease-Fire** With the “pro-Moscow” regime in place in Chechnya, the two sides agreed to a cease-fire. Russia halted its counterterrorism efforts by 2009, and Chechnya called for an end to armed resistance. Currently, Chechnya is a federal republic of Russia, which is a compromise between independence and total control. The situation remains complex. Russia and Chechnya are not fighting, but people have suffered on both sides. Russian troops are accused of illegally searching homes and beating up civilians. The Chechen government is accused of violating human rights. Kadyrov has reportedly said that women are the property of men, for instance. He has also supposedly defended the practice of honor killings. Honor killings involve killing a woman for bringing dishonor to her family through an immoral act. An immoral act can be something as simple as the woman leaving her head uncovered. Russia reports that the situation in Chechnya has normalized. Still, the history of this region suggests that turmoil may still be likely in the future. The world watches and hopes that Chechnya and Russia can build a peace that lasts into the future. |

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly,

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article I

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.

3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic,

social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.