

## Lake brief Chudskoe-Pskovskoe

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**Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake** is the 4<sup>th</sup> by its area freshwater lake in Europe. It is the largest transboundary water body and it is located on the frontier between Russia and Estonia. The total lake area is 3555 km<sup>2</sup>, 1985 km<sup>2</sup> of them belongs to Russia and 1570 km<sup>2</sup> belongs to Estonia. The lake is divided into three main parts: Chudskoe Lake having water area 2611 km<sup>2</sup>, Pskovskoe Lake – 708 km<sup>2</sup> and connecting them Teploe Lake – 236 km<sup>2</sup>. The water volume in Chudskoe Lake is 21.79 km<sup>3</sup>, in Pskovskoe Lake – 0.60 km<sup>3</sup>, in Teploe Lake – 2.68 km<sup>3</sup>, the average depths are 8.3 m, 3.8 m and 2.5 m respectively. The total water volume in Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake is 25.07 km<sup>3</sup> (Lake Peipsi, 2001). Bathymetric map of the lake is given on fig. 1.



Figure 1. Bathymetric map of Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake.

Studies on Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake were still in the beginning of 1940s (Sokolov, 1941) and continued successfully right up to the end of 1990s. Because of new independent states appeared in the Baltic Sea region and Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake became transboundary water body some provisional complications in monitoring coordination and information exchange between Russia

and Estonia arose. However significant progress in integration of efforts in joint studies of the lake by stakeholders took shape in the last years (Lake Peipsi..., 2001; In the mirror..., 2007). Now exploitation of aquatic resources in the catchment basin of Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake is regulated by some international conventions, the most important of them is agreement on collaboration in the sphere of protection and rational exploitation of transboundary waters between the governments of Russia and Estonia signed in Moscow August 20, 1997 (Rumyantsev et al, 2006).

#### *Water regime and water balance.*

Abundance of rivers and water bodies in the basin is explained by surplus wetting, flat relief and low permeability of prevailing grounds. Rivers are characterized by mixed feeding. Water from melted snow gives about 25% of annual runoff, rains and ground water – 25% each. Average annual runoff is 12.3 km<sup>3</sup>. About 11% of territory is waterlogged. Small lakes occupy about 7% of drainage area.

Fluvial valleys and lacustrine hollows are confined to formation of glacial relief. The largest (Velikaya River, Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake) are located on ancient tectonic structures smoothed by glaciers.

Underground waters in the basin area are everywhere in the upper layer of sedimentary cover (Quaternary and Paleozoic deposits). Underground waters are pressure waters usually. Feeding areas are confined to elevations (Sudomskaya, Bazhanitskaya, Haanja), and regional areas of underground waters unloading are lakes Chudskoe and Pskovskoe, local unloading is via riverine network. Thickness of fresh water zone in the feeding area is 200–400 m and in the unloading area is reduced to 50–100 m.

*Climate. Characteristics of thermic regime.* Climate of lake and its catchment area is moderately continental, transitional from marine to continental what determines unstable weather in all seasons. Features of marine climate are humid and moderately warm summer and relatively mild winter. Continentality is rising to the East where winter is longer and summer is warmer. Average annual temperature is 4.3–4.8°C. Average temperature in January is -8–10°C, in July – +17–18°C. Duration of frost-free period is 115–150 days; near Chudskoe Lake it is longer than in the East. Average annual precipitations amount is about 600 mm. From December till April the lake is ice covered, but freezing-over is not always stable.

#### *Main biological features.*

Among main predominating phytoplankton species in Pskovskoe Lake there are: *Aulacoseira granulata*, *A. italica* var. *valida*, *Stephanodiscus binderanus*, *Asterionella formosa* (diatoms); *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae*, *Anabaena flos-aquae*, *A. spiroides*, *Gloeotrichia echinulata* (cyanobacteria); in Chudskoe – *Aulacoseira islandica*, *Stephanodiscus binderanus*, *Aulacoseira granulata* (diatoms), *Gloeotrichia echinulata*, *Microcystis pulvereae*, *Anabaena flos-aquae* (cyanobacteria). By predominating phytoplankton species composition the phytoplankton is characterized as eutrophic diatomaceous-cyanobacterial (Melnik, Yastemskiy, 2003). In Pskovskoe Lake part of cyanobacteria is significantly higher than in Chudskoe. In this lake annually in summer-autumn water-bloom of various intensity due to cyanobacteria propagation is observed. The most intensive bloom occurs in years with prevailing anticyclone activity (lower water level, higher summer temperatures). During period of many years primary plankton production remains at approximately the same level about 2.4 mgO<sub>2</sub>/l per day in Pskovskoe Lake and about 1.2 mgO<sub>2</sub>/l per day in Chudskoe Lake. By average seasonal saprobity indices Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake belongs to β-mezosaprobic type, i.e. is moderately polluted with organics.

This water body is one of the most productive lakes with high level of fish population reproduction in the Baltic Sea region. In the lake and its tributaries there are 32 species and varieties of fishes. Of them 23 species are permanent indigenes: whitefish, vendace, lake smelt, bream, roach, dace, ide, gudgeon, bleak, asp, silver bream, zarte, cat-fish, eel, pike, zander, perch, ruff, bullhead, three-spined and nine-spined sticklebacks and burbot. During last decade commercial fishes are lake smelt, zander, bream, pike, perch and roach (Plan ..., 2006).

*Economic characteristics of anthropogenic activity in the basin. Main problems connected with anthropogenic activity.*

Population in the catchment area of Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake is more than 1.1 million. The largest cities are Pskov and Tartu. Agricultural lands occupy little more than 405 of all catchment area. Significant part of them lies fallow. Total area under crops in Russian part of catchment area is 8%; 69% of it is under permanent grasses. Grain-crops, potatoes and other crops occupy 18%, 8% and 5% respectively, i.e. only 2.5% Russian part of catchment area. In the Russian part of Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake catchment area about 21,000 tons of fertilizers are introduced per year (nitric fertilizers – 65%, phosphate fertilizers – 14%, potash fertilizers – 21%). Using of organic fertilizers is estimated as 380,000 tons/year. Agricultural lands here are located mainly in the basin of Velikaya River. Using of fertilizers in Estonian part of catchment area is 15–40 kgN/ha and 2–10 kgP/ha (Nutrient loads ..., 1999).

In the catchment area forests occupy about 40%. Nowadays in Estonia forestry and production of logs are fast developing branches. In Russia the main obstacle in forestry development is absence of roads in remote districts. Forest clearing in the catchment area is resulting in growing emission of phosphate, nitric and potash compounds (Nutrient loads ..., 1999).

Two largest point sources of pollution in the lake catchment area are sewage disposal plants in Pskov and Tartu. Most of them in Estonia use mainly mechanical waste treatment. On Russian territory main point sources of pollution are related to housing and communal services, rural economy and industry (engineering and food industries). Here part of sewage wasted without purification is high (up to 17% of total volume).

According to estimations of water pollution index surface waters of Pskovskoe, Teploe and eastern part of Chudskoe lakes are related to III–IV classes of quality, i.e. they are moderately polluted (Plan ..., 2006). Near-bottom waters are moderately polluted (III class of quality). Significant excesses of maximum concentration limits for oil products, phenols, biological oxygen consumption, chemical oxygen consumption, ammonium and metals (iron, copper, magnesium, zinc, cadmium) are registered often. By the data of joint Russian-Estonian studies (Lake Peipsi ..., 2001; In the Mirror..., 2007) average concentrations of biogenic elements are 30–40 mgP<sub>whole</sub>/m<sup>3</sup> and 630–680 mgN<sub>whole</sub>/m<sup>3</sup> in Chudskoe Lake and 50–70 mgP<sub>whole</sub>/m<sup>3</sup> and 750–850 mgN<sub>whole</sub>/m<sup>3</sup> in Teploe Lake. In Pskovskoe Lake under relative constancy of whole nitrogen concentration (~ 900 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) double increase of whole phosphorus concentration (from 65 mg/m<sup>3</sup> in 1995 up to 130 mg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2005). Imbalance of nitrogen and phosphorus in favor of the last can contribute to domination of cyanobacteria during bloom. The least values of N:P index were 11–13 and were registered in 1996 and 1996.

Trophic status of main lake parts is different. Pskovskoe Lake is considered as eutropic, Teploe Lake – transitional to hypereutrophic, Chudskoe Lake – eutrophic (Nutrient loads ..., 1999). External P<sub>whole</sub> load on Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake is about 830-900 tons/year. Ratio between loads from Russian and Estonian sides of catchment area is about to correspond to the ratio of their areas. In 1994 phosphorous load from Russian and Estonian sides was 507 and 255 tons/year or 67 and 33% of total external P<sub>whole</sub> load respectively. Part of anthropogenic load from the Russian part of catchment area was 267 tons P<sub>whole</sub> per year or 35%. On the Russian territory the most significant anthropogenic contribution is from anthropogenic landscapes – 131 tons P<sub>whole</sub> per year (17%). The least significant anthropogenic sources of P<sub>whole</sub> income to the lake are livestock farming and rural population (66 tons P<sub>whole</sub> per year), and also point sources of pollution (70 tons P<sub>whole</sub> per year). Natural component of external phosphorous load on the lake from Russian part of catchment area was 240 tons P<sub>whole</sub> per year or 32% of total external phosphorous load (Kondratyev, 2008). On Estonian part of catchment area more than 13% of

total external phosphorous load are formed due to agricultural activity, portion of point sources is about 10% (Nutrient loads ..., 1999).

In 2005-2015, according to the Russian-Estonian Program of rational exploitation and protection of Chudskoe-Pskovskoe Lake water resources, the main course of joined actions in preventing further eutrophication is lowering phosphorus discharge with sewage from cities and large settlements. All this first of all concern sewage disposal plants in Pskov and Tartu where systems of sewage water purification, biological neutralization of silts, and construction of shops for mechanical dehydration of sediments are constantly improved. Besides this complex of measures to decrease phosphorous load on the lake from agricultural activity in the catchment area (strict observance of fertilizers application technology, organizing appointed dung-yards and storehouses for mineral fertilizers) is under realization.

## **Addition to Lake brief Chudskoe-Pskovskoe**

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### **15. Socioeconomic Information (partial duplication of 1.5)**

#### **15.1 Population dynamics (numbers, distribution, main cities, percent urban/rural, etc.)**

Despite of the positive tendency which has outlined last years, a demographic situation in territory of the Russian part of pool Pskovskoe-Chudskoe lake it is possible to consider crisis, for it significant excess of death rate over birth rate, and also decrease in average life expectancy is characteristic. As consequence, a population in pool constantly decreases. The factor of a natural increase is equal to 15.1% and continues to increase. Average life expectancy of the population decreases, in 2002 it was 61.1 years.

The population of the Russian part of basin is characterized by fast "ageing". In the end of 2002 here lived about 540 thousand inhabitants. From them only 58.6% (16-59 years – men and 16-54 years – women) were of able-bodied age.

About 67% of the population of the Russian part of basin lives in cities:

in Pskov – 37%;

in other cities, with density of population more than 10000 inhabitants – 19%;

in cities, with density of population from 3000 up to 10000 inhabitants – 11%.

For the present moment population density in the basin is on the average equal to 16 inhabitants on km<sup>2</sup>. In some northern areas this parameter is below 4 people on km<sup>2</sup>.

The Russian part of basin is characterized by abundance of settlements with small number of inhabitants. Average population of rural settlements was 39 persons in 1989. It is one of the lowest parameters across Russia. Population of rural settlements is higher in the northern part of basin (high marshiness of territory) and is lower in the south and in the central part of basin (a diversity of natural conditions). Density of village settlements, on the contrary, is lower in the north and is higher in the central and southern part (from 10 and less up to 20 and more village settlements on 100 km<sup>2</sup>).

Many cities in the basin have been founded in Middle Ages in the places convenient for defense against aggressive neighbors.

On territory of the Estonian part of basin the largest cities are Tartu (102 thousand people) and Narva (66.7 thousand people).

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The population of Pskov region in the end of 2007 was 705.3 thousand people, including - 476.9 thousand people of urban population (68 %), 228.4 thousand of rural population (32 %). Economically active population (by the end of June according to evaluation) was 354.3 thousand people (49.7 % from the total number of the population).

In the Pskov region the most populated are Pechorsky, Velikoluksky, Pskovskiy, Pytalovsky and Palkinsky areas. On the territory of Pskov region there are 14 cities, 14 urban settlements and more than 8.5 thousand of other settlements. The earliest mentions of cities on

the territory of Pskov region concern to IX-X centuries: Izborsk – 862; Pskov – 903. In Middle Ages have arisen also Ostrov (in XIV century), OPOCHKA (in XV century), Gdov (in XIV century), Krasniy (in XV century), etc.

The largest cities: Pskov (194.9 thousand population), Velikie Luki (101.1 thousand population), Ostrov (24.1 thousand population).

In 2007 the number of born has grown by 457 people in comparison with the last year and has made 6890 children.

In 2007 in comparison with 2006 the number of born counting upon 1000 of population increased by 9%: in urban settlements – by 7.6%. In country this parameter from year to year is lower than in cities, thus since 2000 the stable increase in birth rate was observed: in 2007 in comparison with 2006 – by 10.6%, in comparison with 2000 – by 54.1%. It is necessary to note, that specific weight of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) in the total number of women in villages is considerably lower than in urban settlements (accordingly 39.5% and 50%).

In 2007 in comparison with 2006 as a whole in the region the increase of number of births of the second and follow-on children by 18.3% was observed. In urban settlements the number of second and follow-on born increased by 19.2%, in country – by 16.6%. From the total number of children who were born in 2007, by sequence of birth 3927 were the first, 2232 – the second, 492 – the third, 239 – fourth and more.

The general birth-rate for January–July 2008 in comparison with the similar period of 2007 increased by 9.8% and was 10.1 born on 1000 of population.

As a whole in the region the number of died by 2.2 times has exceeded number of born, in urban settlements – by 1.8, in rural by 3.1 times (in January–September, 2006 accordingly by 2.7, 2.1 and 3.9 times). Persons which have died of illnesses of circulation system are 60.7% of all deaths, of accidents, injuries and poisonings – 12.3%, of tumors – 11.8%.

The greatest reduction of mortality was observed in illnesses of circulation system - by 15.3%, in illnesses of respiratory organs – by 13.8%, in deaths of unnatural causes – by 13.5%.

Infant mortality decreased from 13 up to 8 children on each one thousand born.

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Let's note that on the territory of Estonian part of Pskovskoe-Chudskoe Lake basin population density is 31 people/km<sup>2</sup>. The urban population is 69.4%, rural – 30.6%; birth rate (in 2006) – 11.1 per 1000 people, mortality (in 2006) – 12.9 per 1000 people.

## 15.2 Education (extent and types of education, literacy rates, etc.)

Education system in the Pskov region includes:

- ✓ Preschool education;
- ✓ Elementary and general basic education;
- ✓ Secondary education;

- ✓ Extra education of children;
- ✓ Vocational:
  - ✓ - elementary
  - ✓ - secondary special
  - ✓ - higher
- ✓ Extra education of adults (improvement of professional skill, retraining)
- ✓ Postgraduate education.

According to data on 9/1/2007 in education system of Pskov region there were following structure modifications: from 2000 to 2007 the number of schools reduced from 465 up to 305; and number of pupils from 97000 up to 62400. Thus 27% of consolidated budget of Pskov region in 2007 is for education (in 2006 it was only 18%).

As of 1/1/2008 in an education system there were: 177 infant schools, 110 infant classes and groups of short-term staying of children at general education schools; 328 day time general education schools, including their 32 branches; 5 establishments elementary school – kindergarten, 11 evening (session) general educational schools, 22 establishments of initial vocational education, 17 establishments and branches of secondary and 22 establishments and branches of the higher vocational education.

The total number of the children's population of Pskov region for January, 11, 2008 makes 122600 people. In general educational establishments of region it is trained 62979 people.

In the system of preschool education 23006 children were brought up. Number of pedagogical workers in the system of preschool education of region on 1/1/2008 was 3000 people.

The number state boarding schools is 16. In total in 2007 in children's homes and boarding schools of all kinds 2266 children, including 1430 children-orphans, were trained and brought up.

The system of special education of region was presented by 19 educational establishments in structure of 7 state special (correctional) general education boarding schools and 9 special (correctional) general education schools, 1 state and 2 municipal centers for children requiring the psychological-pedagogical and medico-social help. At special (correctional) schools, boarding schools 1700 children with the restricted opportunities of health were trained.

In system of initial vocational training of Pskov region in 2006-2007 school year there were functioning: 19 state educational establishments of initial vocational training which are being in charge of region; 4 establishments of initial vocational training financed from the federal budget; 3 professional schools which are being in charge of federal service of execution of punishments. As a whole on 10/1/2007 the number of pupils in establishments of initial vocational training (except for special) was 7321 persons.

Educational activity on programs of secondary vocational training was implemented by 9 educational establishments of federal submission, 4 regional, 1 non-governmental educational establishment and 3 branches of establishments of federal submission. Total number of students of all forms of education on 51 was 9011 people.

The system of the higher vocational training in the region is presented by 22 educational institutions. Among them there are 14 state high schools (from them 9 branches) and 8 non-governmental high schools (including 7 branches). Within the bounds of certain normative documents of functions on the territory of region 10 representatives of higher educational institutions implement activity.

Training of specialists is carried out in 63 specialties of higher vocational education (including 4 university specialties) and 13 courses of bachelor degree. Large high schools of region are Pskov Pedagogical University, Pskov Polytechnic Institute and Velikie Luki Agricultural Academy, and among non-governmental – Pskov Free Institute. In higher educational institutions of region 47 doctors and 430 candidates of sciences are working.

Number of students of all education forms is 24657 persons. 10512 students of the state higher educational institutions and 1940 students of non-governmental high schools are trained by internal education form. On budgetary basis 10853 students are trained, among them 6529 persons or 52% (in Russian Federation – 49%) – by internal form.

In the region 6107 (6608 on 10/1/2007) teachers and heads (without tutors), including 922 pensioners are working. 5412 persons (88.6% from the total of employees) are women.

### 15.3 Culture (languages, ethnicity, including indigenous peoples, religion, legends/beliefs about the lake)

Before appearance of Slavs from the end of II millennium B.C. up to the middle of I millenium A.D. in the region there was meeting-point of *Baltic-Finnish* and *East-Baltic* ethno-cultural blocks.

*Finno-Ugric* and *Baltic* tribes belong to various, unrelated language families. Finno-Ugric tribes and nationalities together with Samoyedic make the Ural language family. The Balts together with related by language and origin Slavs, Germans, Celts and other ethnoses are Indo-Europeans.

To the *Baltic-Finnish ethnolanguage group* Estonians, Finns (Suomi), Karelians, Livonians, Votians, Izhorians and Vepsians nowadays belong. Their languages are close enough among themselves and make a segregate group of Finno-Ugric language family.

Under Old Russian chronicles and materials of archeology among early medieval Baltic-Finnish tribal groups on the territory of Pskovsko-Chudskoe lake basin there are notable: *Estonians* colonized region of modern Estonia; *Votians*, lived to the south of the Gulf of Finland and to the east of Chudskoe Lake.

The central and northern areas of modern Pskov region have been colonized by the Baltic-Finnish tribes, related to modern Estonians. In Russian chronicles these tribes are called as *Chud*, from here there is also a title of lake – Chudskoe.

In southern areas of modern Pskov region before Slavs there lived *Balts*, related to modern Latvians and Lithuanians. In this part of region there are remained many place-names descended from the language of ancient Balts. This language has started to be formed in the

second millennium B.C. Old Russian chronicles mention some tribes of Balts – Lithuanians, Samogitians, Latgalian, Semigallians, Curonians, Prussians, Yotvingians and Galindians. Tribes of *Latgalian* belong to the indigenous population living on the territory of Pskovskoe-Chudskoe Lake basin .

In the middle of I millennium A.D. the migratory torrent of Slavs has reached basins of lakes Pskovskoe and Ilmen (they were “Krivichs” of Russian chronicles). The local population during migration of Slavs for the most part has not left places of the dwelling. According to archeology the culture having Baltic-Finnish, East-Baltic and Slavic pattern is fixed. Ethnogenetical process has come to the end with becoming Old Russian (East-Slavic) nationality.

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The Pskov region and Baltic region adjoin during centuries, propping trading, economical and cultural connections. An instance of existence of ethnocultural zone is Pskov-Estonian boundary area. Here, owing to a specific combination of state, ethnic and religious boundaries during different historical epochs the nationality *Setu* (Seto) has been formed.

Now in the Pechory district of Pskov region descendants of ancient Baltic-Finnish tribes – Setu live. According to population census of 2002 on the territory of region lives 172 representatives of this nationality. The nationality has accepted a number of elements of Russian and Estonian culture, having framed the original culture (speaks on a special dialect of the Estonian language, by national clothes and orthodox customs it is close to Russians and Byelorussians). In 1993 in the Pechory district of the Pskov region the *Ethnocultural Society Seto* (ECSS) has been organized. The organization was framed as regional national-cultural association of a Finno-Ugric nationality Seto (Setu), living on the territory of Pechory district. The main purpose of creation ECSS is revival of national consciousness and safeguard of social interests of Setu nationality, realization of friendly coexistence with other people. Within the bounds of cultural activity ECSS will organize traditional “kirmash” – national Setu festivals in days of orthodox holidays with divine service in Seto language, with participation of national creative collectives. Work on preserving Setu folklore, the household traditions, traditional suit is spent. At active participation of ECSS the memorial estate of life of a nationality Setu in village Sigovo is framed, humanitarian contacts with Setu, living in the Southeast of Estonia, predominantly in Võro district are supported.

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During 1995–2005 in Pskov region it is registered 12 national public associations. In the region 4 Jewish, 2 Azerbaijan, one Chechen, Armenian and Finnish-Ingrian associations are working.

Pskov regional public remedial organization *Armenian community "Urartu"* is registered in 1999, chairman of Council – Sarkisyan David Frunzeovich. The organization is established with the purpose of

consolidation of Armenians living in the Pskov region, for protection of the rights of Armenian businessmen, and also creation of a humanitarian-educational centre for studying culture, art, language and traditions of Armenian people, creation around of the Armenian community "Urartu" national infrastructure. The community includes about 300 active members. The Sunday school on the basis of school No. 23 of Pskov for studying Armenian language and culture is established. Armenian community traditionally engages in celebratory actions in Pskov where presents a program of Armenian national songs and dances. Main places of Armenians habitation are cities Pskov, Porhov and Velikie Luki.

Pskov regional public organization *Centre of the Chechen culture "Niyso" (Par)* is registered in 1995. The purpose of creation of this organization is strengthening of friendly and cultural ties with Chechen people, achievement of consent between people of Russian Federation, popularization of national traditions, tempers and customs of Chechens. In this organization there are about 200 members. Main centers of Chechen Diaspora are cities Pskov and Plussa. With support of this centre Muslim holidays are celebrated, children's circles on studying Chechen language and culture are organized.

Pskov regional public organization *Azerbaijan community "Medzhlis"* is registered in 1996. The purpose of this organization creation is rendering legal and social help to the members of community and their families, safeguard of their civil, political, economical, social, cultural rights and freedom. Number of community members exceeds 1300 person. Main places of habitation are cities Pskov and Velikie Luki.

Public organization *Pskov regional Jewish cultural-humanitarian centre "Aviv"* is registered in 2000. The purpose of centre is raising cultural, educational and spiritual level, expanding vital outlook and sphere of contacts, livening up public work of its members. Within the limits of centre activity meetings in days of Judaic holidays, conversation and lecture about the Jewish tradition are spent. The number of constant participants is about 40 persons. Since 1996 in Velikie Luki the city public organization - the Jewish cultural-humanitarian centre "Shatil" is open.

Public organization *Pskov regional Jewish charitable centre "Hesed Izhak" (Mercy)* is registered in 1995. The main purposes are social protection, rendering assistance to the socially not protected inhabitants of Pskov region. Under home nursing of centre there are about 400 persons which are served by 50 doctors-volunteers. The Sunday school for children with teaching fundamentals of the Jewish tradition and English language is working.

In 1999 in Velikie Luki city public organization Jewish charitable centre "Magen Hesed" was opened. "Hesed Izhak" and "Magen Hesed" are a part of the international network "Hesed" and receive the help from International distributive fund "Joint".

The Pskov city *national-cultural autonomy of Ingrian Finns "Pikku Inkeri"* is registered in 1999. The main purpose is preserving and a development of the Finnish language, traditions and national culture on Ingria. "Pikku Inkeri" is a part of association of Ingrian Finns of Northwest Russia with centre in St.-Petersburg.

The Pskov regional public organization *the Georgian community "Sakartvelo"* is formed in 1997. The main purposes are participation of the Georgian Diaspora in safeguard of the rights and freedom, education of youth in the spirit of national traditions. "Sakartvelo" carries out functions Georgian friendly

association: supports compatriots coming to the region. Into the organization enters about 30 active members. Main places of habitation are cities Pskov and Velikie Luki.

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From end of X century the Christianity became official religion of Ancient Russia, however vestiges of paganism in consciousness, ceremonies and customs of people were preserved within many centuries. In particular, Setu were pagans right up to XVI century, however the pagan element in culture of Setu is preserved up to now. In the Estonian science there is an opinion that Setu have descended from Estonians who escaped in XVI century on territory of Russia from a violent christening in Lutheranism.

Today the overwhelming majority of believers in Pskov region are *Orthodox Christians*. Here the Russian Orthodox Church has 80% of parishes from the total number of the registered religious organizations.

As of 6/1/2005 in the Pskov region 242 religious organizations of following denominations are registered:

Christianity

Orthodoxy: Russian Orthodox Church – 199; Russian Orthodox Church Abroad – 1; Orthodoxy of Pomorsky persuasion (Old Believers) – 1.

Catholicism: Catholic church – 2.

Protestantism: Christians of belief evangelical – Pentecostals – 16; Evangelical Christians in the Spirit of Apostles – 1; Evangelical Christians – Baptists – 5; Evangelical Christians – 1; Church of Christians of belief evangelical – 1; Christians of belief apostolic – 1; the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran church – 2; Adventists of the Seventh Day – 5; Jehovah's Witnesses – 2; Methodist church - 1; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – 1

Judaism: Orthodox Judaism – 2.

Hinduism: Orthodox Krishnaism; Krishna Consciousness – 1

On the territory of Estonia the main religion is the Lutheranism. Among other large confessions there are presented Orthodoxy, Baptist, Methodist and Catholic churches.

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*With Pskovsko-Chudskoe lake the legend about Raven Rock which was on Raven Island is connected. From annals we know about how from the height of Raven Rock prince Alexander supervised over the Ice Fight. By legend the Raven Rock shadowed itself road to Pskov and the Pskov lands from Teutons and other foes.*

*Saint Alexander Nevsky any more was not alive by then when the island with Raven Rock was dipped in the abyss of lake. And here then master Livonian Order has equipped large troop and has taken the field to Pskov. And here, when the enemy ships have swum up to that*

*place where once towered Raven Rock, the lake has boiled, and from depth was promptly wrested huge Raven Rock. The German ships have been partitioned in chips, and knights have gone to the bottom in overall arms. The rock has again left under water, and the lake was quieted.*

*Since then yet time enemies from the West tried to overcome an invisible boundary of lake, but each time rose on their path terrible Raven Rock, destroying the another's ships. One speaks, if there will be a danger and today Raven Rock can appear on the surface of Chudskoe Lake.*

#### 15.4 Economic sectors (major industries and their production statistics, regional economic development issues including energy, transportation, commerce sectors, livelihood issues in different parts of the lake basin, i.e., coastal regions, upland regions, upper-watershed regions, Gross National Income per capita within the basin (noting how it might differ from the national average(s))

In the end of XIX – beginning of XX centuries the railway net on the territory of basin Pskovskoe-Chudskoe Lake has got modern shape: St.-Petersburg – Warsaw through Pskov, Ostrov, Pytalovo; Moscow – Tallinn through Pskov, Pechory; St.-Petersburg – Tallinn through Ivangorod; Moscow – Riga through Pustoshka; St.-Petersburg – Gdov, etc.

On the place of post tracts where railways never have not been constructed, in XX century have been built automobile roads. They have connected Pskov with large cities of Russia and foreign contries. Main highways are: St.-Petersburg – Tallinn (through Ivangorod); St.-Petersburg – Kiev (through Pskov, Ostrov, Opochka); Pskov – Riga; Ostrov – Kaunas; Moscow – Riga (through Pustoshka).

Many railways and highways have an orientation from the North to the South and from the West to the East. The cause of this is the heights hindering from direct communication of Pskov and Velikie Luki and presence of a convenient meridian water road by River Velikaya. Lake-river transport is used for transportation of passengers and loads on Pskovskoe-Chudskoe Lake, lower reaches of the rivers Velikaya and Narva. Development of electric and pipeline types of transport continues.

The industry and agriculture on the basin territory have not received a wide development. An appreciable reducing of activity of the enterprises of some key industries (metallurgy, chemistry, heavy mechanical engineering) has the important positive consequence – ecological situation on the territory of basin is enough favorable now.

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Territory of the Pskov region is 55.4 thousand km<sup>2</sup>, 40% – forests, 7% – waters, 27% – agricultural lands, 26% – other lands.

The Pskov region is in the Northwest of Russian plain, it is characterized by enough split relief with alternation of hill-ridge spaces, significant amount of forests with prevalence of mixed forests, abundance of lakes and a lump of small and middle rivers favorable sport fishery and boating.

From natural resources of the Pskov region the greatest value have stocks of limestone, sand-gravel material, dolomite, marls, gypsum, refractory and fusible clays, molding sands, crude for production of mineral stains, sapropel and medical dirts, underground mineral waters.

One of major riches is the forests covering more than one third of the region territory. Total stocks of lumber for January, 1st, 2005 made 331.2 million m<sup>3</sup>. Coniferous occupy 45% of forest fund lands, birches occupy 34.5% of these lands. The rated annual wood-cutting area for felling of major using makes 3.5 million m<sup>3</sup>. Really is used about 30%.

Pskov region concerns to the number of the richest with peat among the regions of the European part of Russian Federation. The peat fund of region consists of 329 deposits with stocks 563.5 million tons (recalculated on 40% of crude humidity). The largest stocks of peat are amassed within the bounds of Bezhanitsy, Gdov and Sebezh districts.

Among other resources it is necessary to fix attention on crude for production of mineral stains, on sapropel having a wide spectrum of application from medicine up to production of building materials, on unique by properties medical dirts and clays. It seems to be attractive production of mineral waters, both for open-air, and for intrinsic treatment. Eight proven deposits of mineral waters possess balance stocks from above 5 million m<sup>3</sup>.

Moreover the region is rich with non-wood resources of forest – funguses, berries (bilberry, cowberry and cranberry), medicinal crude – traditional export goods of Pskov land. Calculations show, that economic effect only from gathering funguses from unit of area is higher than from cultivation of lumber. Trade and sports hunting is promising in the region: here there are 21 species of wild animals among which there are valuable fur species – beaver, marten, otter, European mink. Organization of hunting tours is possible.

Special pride and riches of Pskov region are water resources. On the territory there are more than 3700 lakes, largest of which is Pskovskoe-Chudskoe Lake.

The able-bodied part of Pskov region population makes more than 55%, its average age is 38.8 years, and the number of specialists with high and secondary special education reaches 25%.

In the sphere of industry and building is involved 28.1%, in trade and services – 47.3%, in agriculture and forestry – 13.9%, in transport and communications – 9.7% of working.

Analysis of preliminary results of social and economic development of Pskov region in 2007 shows, that last years the economy of Pskov region developed dynamically, thus by some parameters it

has reached appreciable success. High economical indices became a result of general good situation in national economy, uses of internal reserves of enterprises, and also systematic work of regional Administration, including updating business image of our region, creation of favorable investment climate.

In the industry of region the stable growth exceeding average rates Russia is observed. The index of industrial production remains at level of 8% while on the average across Russia growth has made 3.7% in 2006 and 6.3% in 2007. In 2007 the volume of shipped goods of own production, executed jobs and services by own forces (in current prices) by the form economic activities “extraction of minerals” has grown in comparison with 2005 by 2.1 times, on “manufacturing activity“ by 1.5 times.

As a result of system work with investors the essential increase in investments into economy of region is observed. So in 2007 in economy of region it is involved 11.8 billion rubles of investments into fixed capital (in 2005 – 5.5 billion rubles). In comparison with the last year growth of investments has made in 2006 25.8% and 34.6% in 2007 (across Russia 13.7% and 21.1%, accordingly).

Foreign investments for last two years have grown almost by 3.6 times that shows general trust to region in which it is possible to invest.

Industrial production of Pskov region is concentrated mainly in the cities of Pskovs and Velikie Luki, 7 districts of region have developed enough industrial enterprises (districts of Dedovichy, Dno, Nevel, Ostrov, Pechory, Porhov and Pskov).

Leading manufacturing activities in Pskov region are: production of foodstuff, including drinks, production of electric equipment, electronic and optical equipment, production of cars and machinery, production of other nonmetallic mineral products, textile and sewing production.

Manufacturing activities in Pskov region are presented by following kinds of economic activities:

- Production of foodstuff, including drinks
- Textile and sewing production
- Production of leather, products from leather and production of footwear
- A treatment of lumber and production of products from wood
- Pulp-and-paper production, publishing and polygraphic activities
- Production of rubber and plastic products
- Production of other nonmetallic mineral products
- Metallurgical production and production of complete metal products
- Production of cars and machinery
- Production of electric, electronic and optical equipment
- Production of vehicles and equipment
- Other productions.

The index of industrial production in 2007 related to the level of 2006 (preliminary report) has made 108%, including “extraction of minerals” – 124.3%, “manufacturing activities” – 112.2%, “production and distribution of the electric power, gas and water” – 94.3%.

The monthly average nominal added wage in 2007 rose in comparison with 2006 in extraction of minerals by 39.4%, in manufacturing activities by 25%, in production and distribution of the electric power, gas and water by 20.6%.

In manufacturing activities last years there is a decrease in specific weight of the unprofitable organizations: in 2003 – 50%, in 2004 – 43.9%, in 2005 – 37.8%, in 2006 – 30%, in 2007 – 22.5%.

By results of eight months 2008 positive trends in development of industrial production in the region remained.

*Standard of living* in Pskov region. Nominal monetary yields of the population (according evaluation) for January-September, 2007 were in total 44686 million rubles and increased in comparison with the corresponding period of 2006 by 16%. Real had monetary yields (yields minus the obligatory paying, corrected by consumer price index) in comparison with January–September, 2006 increased by 7.7%.

Average per capita monetary yield (on the average for a month) has made 6960 rubles.

The value of living wage positioned by the decision of Pskov region Administration No. 395 from 10/12/2007, in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of current year has made 3453 rubles on the average on the person in a month.

*Payment.* The monthly average nominal added wage for January-August has made 8225 rubles and has increased in comparison with the corresponding period of 2006 by 25%. The size of a real monthly average wage (corrected by consumer price index) has grown by 17%.

In January–August in agriculture, hunting and a forestry the added wage has made 4843 rubles (59% of the level of average wage in the region); in manufacturing activities – 7873 rubles (96%); in productions and distributions of the electric power, gas and water – 10391 rubles (126%); in transport and communications – 10434 rubles (127%); in financial activity – 18359 rubles (by 2.2 times), in educations – 5872 rubles (71%); health protection and giving of social services – 6711 rubles (82%).

*Labor market.* Employment of the population. Number of economical active population by the end of September has made 353.5 thousand persons from which 331.9 thousand (94%) was involved in all kinds of economic activities and 21.6 thousand persons (6%) had no employment, but actively looked for it and, according to the methodology of the International Labour Organization, were classified as unemployed.

*Unemployment.* In the end of September, 2007 there were 7.1 thousand unemployed officially registered in placement service, or 2% of economically active population. In comparison with the end of September, 2006 number of unemployed was decreased by 34%.

## 16. Political Situation (partial duplication of 1.2)

### 16.1 Nations within basin

The core population of Pskov region is Russians (94.3%), there live also Ukrainians

(1.8%), Byelorussians (1.5%), and representatives of other nationalities.

On the territory of Estonia live following nationalities: Estonians – 69%, Russians – 26%, Ukrainians – 2%, Byelorussians – 1%, Finns – 1% and others – 2%.

## 16.2 Sub-national boundaries

Basin of River Narva and Pskovskoe-Chudskoe Lake is transboundary basin of the Baltic Sea. It occupies about 57 thousand km<sup>2</sup> and is located on the territory of 4 countries: Russian Federation (63.1%), Estonia (30.4%), Latvia (5.9 %) and Belarus (less than 1%).

The Russian part of basin is located on the territory of three subjects of Russian Federation: Pskov (92%), Leningrad (7.8%) and Novgorod (less than 0.3%) regions. At the moment on this territory live about 540000 people.

Pskov region in the West borders Estonia and Latvia, in the south it borders Belarus. It in the east it borders Tver and Novgorod regions, in the North – Leningrad region, in the South – Smolensk region.

## 16.3 Describe briefly the political history of the region

**Period up to X century.** Before occurrence of Slavs the border zone of modern Estonia and the Pskov land were colonized by Finno-Ugric and Baltic tribes. To draw precise boundary between areas of moving of Finno-Ugric and Baltic tribes is difficult.

**X – beginning of XIII century.** The initial stage of Slavic-Chud interactions at the presence of political, ethnic and confessional boundaries (Christianity in Russia, paganism at Chud) is X-XIII centuries. To the Southwest from Pskov Lake Russian-Chud ethno-contact zone existed.

Political boundary, obliged by its becoming to the creation of the Old Russian state – the Kiev Russia, has passed a little to the West of the ethnic boundary. The boundary between the Old Russian state and Chud-Protoestonians, was formed at Svyatoslav up to 972, in the further it became very stable, having existed with little changes to the Northern War (1700).

However in end of X – beginning of XI century the boundaries of Old Russian state were temporarily removed away to the West from Chudskoe Lake, into lands of Protoestonians and Latgalians. From chronicles it is known, that Vladimir, and then also Yaroslav, took a tribute from all “Livonian Chud”.

As it is known from the chronicle “Povest vremennyh let”, in 1030 Kiev grand duke Yaroslav has undertaken campaign against Chud, has subjugated them and has laid the foundation of the city named Yuryev (modern Tartu) by Christian name of prince. Apparently, then neighboring tribes have started to render tribute to Russian princes. According to the Novgorod first annals, in spring 1061, having opposed gathering of tribute by prince Izyaslav, Chud has burnt Yuryev and, having begun with ruin of neighboring villages, has reached Pskov, however it has been defeated by Pskov and Novgorod armies.

In XI century Pskov land was governed by the Novgorod deputies of Great Kiev prince.

In the end of XI – beginning of XII century Novgorod has separated from the Kiev Russia and the Novgorod feudal republic was formed. One of centers of this state, a “minor brother of Novgorod”, became Pskov. Pskov people was engaged in Novgorod popular assemblies (“veche”), sent the army to help Novgorod. At the same time, Pskov possessed significant independence: Pskov people had the veche and administration. After the Novgorod revolt in 1136 Pskov people have invited Prince Vsevolod Mstislavovich to reigning, expelled from Novgorod. It was the cause of a military trip of Novgorod to Pskov, but, having received strong repulse, Novgorod people have receded. From this year in Pskov there was a princely table independent of Novgorod.

The Novgorod republic considered Pskov as the major support of the authority over Baltic. From Pskov collectors of tribute went to the lands of Protoestonians and Latgalians and if those refused to pay, the armed orders were sent from Pskov to force to obedience.

**XIII century – 1550.** In XIII century in the south of modern Estonia expansion of the Sword Brethren, and Danes in the north has started. The Danish crusade to Estonia took place in 1219-1220 during which Danes had been seized northern Estonia.

Pskov and Novgorod people together with Protoestonians tried to resist aggressions of German knights on territory of modern Estonia. As a result of revolt of year 1223 which has started from the capture and destruction by people from island Saaremaa the castle built shortly before this by Danes, almost all territory of Estonia has been released from crusaders and Danes. An alliance with Novgorod and Pskov has been concluded. In Dorpat, Viliende and other cities small Russian garrisons have been placed. However in 1224 Dorpat (Yuryev), as well as other continental part of Estonia, has been again seized by crusaders and Russian armies have left their territory.

By 1227 lands of the Estonian tribes have been included into domain of the Sword Brethren. In 1237 the Sword Brethren has been liquidated, and its lands have entered as Livonian Brothers of the Sword into domain of Order of the Teutonic Knights. Protoestonians have been converted in Catholicism. In the cities of Estonia groups of German migrants began to settle.

The greatest battles with aggressors were in the 40<sup>th</sup> of XIII century. In 1240 when Russia has been devastated by the Tatar invasion, German and the Swedish feudal lords by means of the German Emperor and Roman Pope have organized campaign on the northwest of Russian lands. Approach of Swedes has been beaten successfully off in battle on Neva on July, 15<sup>th</sup>, 1240 by the Novgorod armies led by Prince Alexander Yaroslavovich (Nevsky). During the same time German crusaders have besieged Izborsk. Pskov people tried to help Izborsk people, but were defeated and were forced to recede. The enemy chased them and has surrounded Pskov. After week of siege and only owing to treachery of boyar Tverdilo Ivankovich, night of secretly he let in enemy in the city, the Pskov fortress in first and last time for all history was occupied by the enemy.

In the beginning 1242 army of Alexander Nevsky has loosed Pskov. After that Pskov people have participated in campaign against Livonian Order and in the well-known fight on the ice of Chudskoe Lake April, 5<sup>th</sup>, 1242 – the Ice Battle.

Victories of Russian armies in the Neva Battle and Ice Battle have broken plans of crusade to Russia, however for Pskov people during XIII century repeatedly it was necessary to repulse attacks of German knights. It is remarkable, that in the second half of XIII century struggle of Pskov people was headed by prince Dovmont who came from Lithuania. In youth he participated in intestine struggle of the Lithuanian princes, was defeated and was forced to run. With family and team Dovmont has come to Pskov and has sought asylum. Pskov people have accepted Dovmont and have made him prince. Dovmont reigned in Pskov from 1266 to 1299 It is known nine campaigns of Pskov people under its leadership. Two first were against the Lithuanians quite often attacked southern possession of Novgorod and Pskov, the others were against German knights. The loudest was a victory of Russian armies over German in 1268 at the city of Rakvere.

In 1238 northern lands of Estonia have transferred to Denmark, but in 1346 they have been sold by the Danish king to the Teutonic Order which has passed these possessions in 1347 to Livonian Order in mortgage .

From territory of Livonian Order onto the Pskov land moved Estonians, rushing to avoid a religious and political press of German knights.

Pskov veche republic which from XIII century guided foreign policy independent of Novgorod, in 1510 has been attached to the Moscow state.

In the Estonian history the period from XIII to XVI centuries (prior to the beginning Livonian War) is called as “time of the Order“. In the beginning of XVI century all administrative and judicial authority was in the hands of German city councils. In the cities merchant guilds and guilds of handicraftsmen were formed. The cities of Reval, Derpt, Pernau and Fellin entered in the Hanseatic League (Hansa).

**1550 - 1700th years.** Result of Livonian War 1558-1583 became the termination of existence of Livonian confederation. The Northern part of Estonia has fallen under authority of Swedes, and Southern Estonia under Rzeczpospolita (the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth). Tallinn purposing trading interests, has voluntary accepted the patronage of Sweden. In 1559 Denmark has occupied island Saaremaa and a part of the Western Estonia. The Danish king has given these lands to possession of duke Magnus of Holstein. Derpt episcopacy (Tartu) has been occupied by Russia In 1561.

During Livonian War Russian armies approached under walls of Tallinn by the order of tsar Ivan Groznyy twice: in 1570 and in 1577, but both times the siege has finished in anything. Russia has yielded all the territories occupied in Livonia to Poland (the contract is signed in 1582) and Sweden (the treaties of 1583 and 1595 years).

To the moment of Livonian War end the population of Estonia has decreased almost by 2

times. The Pskov lands also have suffered from Livonian War and during Smutnoye Vremya (the Time of Troubles) (the end of XVI – beginning of XVII centuries) the population has decreased by 6–7 times.

In the beginning of XVII century struggle for Baltic between Sweden and Rzeczpospolita has continued, and according conditions of finished it Altmark armistice of 1629 all Duchy Livland (included modern Southern Estonia and Northern Latvia) has departed entirely to Sweden. After defeating in the war of 1643–1645 Denmark has yielded the control over Saaremaa, and Sweden owned all modern territory of Estonia.

Swedes began to move on the territory of Estonia, predominantly on islands and coast of the Baltic Sea,. The population of Estonia has accepted Lutheran belief.

The Swedish domination was challenged by Poland in the war of 1654–1660 and by Russia in the war of 1656–1661, but Sweden has preserved the positions in Estland up to the end of century.

**1700th years – 1917.** In the beginning of XVIII century interests of Russian Empire in the Baltic region have collided with interests of Sweden. Northern War (1700–1721) has come to the end with capitulation of Sweden and joining of Estonia and Latvia to the Russian Empire that has been officially secured by Nystad peace treaty (1721).

Northern Estonia has become province Estlandia, the southern part became a part of province Liflandia. Russians began to move actively to the territory of Estonia, occupying lands on the coast of Chudskoe Lake and in the river basin of Narva.

As the result of Northern War the Russian border was removed to the West and went now across the Baltic Sea. Pskov for the first time in the history was in deep rear. With originating of St.-Petersburg Pskov has lost its position in the trade with Baltic countries. In 1708 the Pskov land has been included into makeup Ingermanland province (from 1710 – St.-Petersburg province), and in 1727 into Novgorod province. From 1777 Pskov became a centre of Pskov region ruled by governor, renamed in 1796 into province.

In the middle of XIX century resettlement of Russians on the western coast of Pskovskoe-Chudskoe Lake was almost completely stopped. In the 1870s, after canceling of the serfdom, Latvians and Estonians whom the Pskov landowners sold out most unsuitable lands have started to move into Setumaa land (modern Pechory district of the Pskov region) .

**1917 – 1919.** By the Decree from March 30, 1917 all areas of Estonia have been united in the uniform administrative unit, and April 12, 1917 both parts of Estonia (Estonia – Northern Estonia and Northern Livonia – Southern Estonia) have been united under control of Provincial parliament with executive board – Zemskiy Soviet. The provisional government has formed the Estonian division in the structure of the Russian army.

In October, 1917 when Bolsheviks came to power, their ideas of expropriation and nationalization have not found support in the greater part of Estonia population.

In the Pskov province the Soviet regime has been established in November, 1917

February, 24th, 1918, when Bolsheviks have left Tallinn, Estonia has declared itself independent democratic republic, neutral in the relation to the Russian–German conflict. The next day German armies have entered Tallinn.

In November in Germany revolution has started, and under the decree of German occupational authorities in Estonia the government under control to Berlin was formed from ethnic Estonians. It was headed by prime-minister K. Päts. On November, 19<sup>th</sup> in Riga representatives of this government have signed with representatives of Germany the pact about rising of authority to Provisional government of Estonia. In Tallinn in the meantime Soviet of working deputies has appealed for support to the Bolshevik government which 13<sup>th</sup> of November cancelled the Brest Treaty unilaterally and then has increased the help to probolshevist forces in Estonia. In the Red Army special Estonian regiments were formed.

November, 9<sup>th</sup>, 1918 parts of Workers'-and-peasants' Red Army including the Estonian regiments, have occupied Narva where Estland Labor Commune has been proclaimed this day.

The government of RSFSR on December, 7th 1918 by the decree signed by Lenin has recognized independence of the Soviet Estonia. By January, 1919 the Red Army has occupied two thirds of territory of the country and stayed by 35 kilometers from Tallinn. On the occupied by Red Army territory decrees of the Soviet authority began to act again.

To aid the government Päts armies of the Entente were sent. The joint forces of White Army, national Estonian army and English squadron in the beginning of January 1919 have begun the offensive and have forced out troops of Red Army and Estland Labour Commune over the borders of Estonia.

On May, 19th, 1919 was proclaimed creation of Estonian Republic.

**1920 - 1944.** February, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1920 between the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic and the Estonian Republic has been signed Tartu peace treaty according which both sides have officially recognized each other (the first international treaty of both states). According to Tartu peace treaty, RSFSR has recognized independence of Estonia, and also has passed to it a part of territory that moment being in the structure of RSFSR, but controlled after termination of war by the Estonian armies. According to Tartu peace treaty all Pechory land passed to Estonia. On this territory the district Petserimaa (from Estonian name of Pechory – Petseri) has been created. Other name of the district, which has remained in a southeast of Estonia till now, is Setumaa.

In 1920 according to the Riga treaty a part of territory of Ostrov district has passed to Latvia.

In 1929 the trading agreement between the Estonian Republic and Soviet Union has been signed. In 1932 the nonaggression pact has been signed with the USSR.

The USSR also carried out secret negotiations with Germany. August 23, 1939 the Nonaggression Pact between Germany and Soviet Union has been signed. According to the confidential extra protocol defined delimitation of spheres of interests, Estonia has entered in the sphere of interests of the USSR.

After beginning of the Second World War, Estonia has declared neutrality. Soon the Estonian government has begun negotiations with Moscow as a result of which the Mutual-assistance pact

providing disposition of the Soviet military depots and 25-thousand Soviet contingents on the territory of Estonia has been signed September 28, 1939. In 1940 extra contingents of the Soviet armies have been introduced. On the territory of Estonia military depots of the USSR were established.

June 16, 1940, Molotov has handed to the Estonian ambassador the categorical note in which he required immediate input of extra contingent of the Soviet armies in number 90000 person to Estonia and dismissal of the government, threatening otherwise occupation of Estonia. Päts has accepted the ultimatum.

June 17, 1940 the Soviet armies have entered in Tallinn; simultaneously on a raid there were ships of the Baltic fleet and the navy troops has been landed. July 31, 1940 the territory of Estonia has been included into Leningrad military district. August 6, 1940 VII session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has accepted the decision about an accepting Estonian SSR into the USSR.

July 7, 1941 German armies have approached to the boundary of Estonia, and August 28 last parts of Red Army have left Tallinn. Together with Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus Estonia became part of Reichskommissariat Ostland, being a special district in its boundaries.

January 14, 1944 there has been begun offensive operation of the Leningrad and Volkhov fronts as a result of which in February the Red Army has got off on the boundary of the river Narva. There have been undertaken some offensive operations. Only September 25, 1944 the authority in Tallinn has passed to communistic government of ESSR.

August 23, 1944 on the basis of the Pskov district of Leningrad region the Pskov region has been established. January 16, 1945 the Decree of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of RSFSR included the Pechory district, organized from 8 volosts (districts), entered earlier into structure of Estonia, into Pskov region.

**Since 1945.** September 29, 1960 Council of Europe has accepted the resolution condemning military occupation of the Baltic countries by the USSR.

January 13, 1983 the European Parliament has accepted the resolution concerning the Baltic states in which has condemned the fact of annexation as inappropriate to "international law" and obligations of the USSR under bilateral contracts with the Baltic countries, having emphasized the international non-recognition of annexation.

November 12, 1989 the Supreme Soviet of Estonian SSR cancelled the manifest from July 22, 1940 about including ESSR into the USSR.

November 16, 1989 the Supreme Soviet of Estonian SSR by the majority of voices has accepted a manifest about the sovereignty. Simultaneously with elections to Supreme Soviet of Estonian SSR elections to the Estonian Congress, presented the persons that were citizens of the Estonian Republic till August 6, 1940 (date of including of ESSR into the USSR) and their descendants, took place in February 24, 1990.

March 23, 1989 the Communist party Estonian SSR has declared leaving from CPSU. May 8 the same year Estonian SSR was renamed into the Estonian Republic.

September 6, 1991 the USSR has officially recognized independence of Estonia. According to official position of Estonia, independence of the Estonian Republic proclaimed February 24, 1918, has been restored August 20, 1991.

September 17, 1991 Estonia became the full member of the United Nations.

Last parts of the Russian Army have been removed from the country August 31, 1994.

March 29, 2004 documents on the entrance of Estonia in NATO have been deposited in Washington, and April 2 in Bruxelles flags of new members of the alliance were hoisted.

May 1, 2004 Estonia has entered the European Union.