

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

Republic of Moldova

Snapshots Section

Country Name: Republic of Moldova Short form: Moldova

Country Founded in: 1991

Population: 4,466,706 (July 2006 est.)

Government Type: (national, regional and local)
Republic Government

Geography/location in the world:
Eastern Europe
Land Mass slightly larger than Maryland
Land Border Countries: Romania and Ukraine

Number of people groups:
5 main people groups with another 1.3% unspecified

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population: Eastern Orthodox 98%

All religions and % for each:
Jewish 1.5%
Baptist and Other 0.5%

Government interaction with religion: According to the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova there is religious freedom and the government usually does not interfere with religious practices. The law does allow times for the government to interfere with activities of some religious groups.

Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Moldova
www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/md.html

Mission Atlas Project

Country Profile Moldova

Demographics

The population of Moldova is 4,466,706 as estimated in July 2006.

The population growth rate is on the increase at 0.28%.

Moldova has experienced a move towards urbanization. In 1980 there was 40% of the population living in urban areas. In 2000 urbanization jumped to 55%.

The capital city of Moldova is Chisinau (Kishniev) which is the largest city in Moldova and had a population of 765,000 in 2000. Tiraspol's population was 184,000; Balti (Beltsey) 162,000; and Tighina 132,000.

Age Structure:

- 0-14 years: 20% (male 455,673/female 438,934)
- 15-64 years: 69.7% (male 1,498,078/female 1,613,489)
- 65 years and over: 10.3% (male 170,456/ female 290,076)

Median Age:

- Total: 32.3 years
- Male: 30.3 years
- Female: 34.3 years

There is a population growth rate of 0.28%.

Birth Rate:

- 15.7 births/1,000 population

Death Rate:

- 12.64 deaths/1,000 population

Life Expectancy at Birth

- Total population: 65.66 years
- Male: 61.61 years
- Female: 69.88 years

1.85 children are born per woman

The majority of those living in Moldova are of the Moldovan/Romanian ethnicity. The net migration rate is -0.23 migrant(s)/1,000 population

Population Ethnicity:

- Moldovan/Romanian 78.2%
- Ukrainian 8.4%

- Russian 5.8%
- Gagauz 4.4%
- Bulgarian 1.9%
- Other 1.3%

Sources: www.cia.gov/publications/factbook/geos/md.html
Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, 2001)

Language

Moldovan is the official language of Moldova and is derived from the Romanian dialect, but is not its own language. It comes from Latin and still has neuter gender and a system of three cases, which is not the same as the other Romance languages.

Many of the words are Slavonic-derived. When Moldova was under Soviet control the language was written in the Cyrillic alphabet, but the Roman script was reinstated in 1989.

Two other languages that are spoken in Moldova are Russian and Gagauz which are a form of Turkish dialect.

Society/Culture

Moldova shares many of the characteristics with Romania such as music, dance, and the arts. The Moldavians play the cobza which is much the Romanian lute. It is a made of wood with strings that are attached.

The government of Moldova is able to have a large influence upon promoting the folk culture through Joc, which is the national dance company and Doina, the national folk choir. There are also many professional and semiprofessional groups that perform. Throughout Moldova there are 12 professional theaters with the exception of A.P. Chekhov Russian Drama Theater performed and the Russian Drama and Comedy Theater performed in Russian while the other theaters performed in Romanian.

While the Soviets had control of Moldova they split the country down the middle so that urban and rural areas were influenced by different groups. The urban areas were influenced by the Russians. The rural culture was influenced by the Romanians.

The Soviets wanted to support cultural arts, but did not allow parts of the cultural influence to show the Romanian influence. Moldova and Romania both have similar heritages with the literary portion of their culture during the 19th century produced poet Mihai Eminescu; the storyteller Ion Creanga; the linguist, writer and historian Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu; the literary critic Titu Maiorescu and several others. The Moldavians study the Romanian writers and philosophers such as Mircea Eliade and Lucian Blaga.

National Holidays:

January 1-New Year's Day

January 7-8 Moldovan Christmas

March 8-International Women's Day

March 29-Good Friday (Orthodox)

April 1-Easter Monday (Orthodox)
April 19-Memorial Day
May 1-Labour Day
May 9-Victory and Commemoration Day
August 27-Independence Day
August 31-Limba Nosatra (National Language Day)
October 13-14 National Day of Wine and Wine Festival

In the orthodox church of Moldova they begin the Christmas season with a six week fast prior to. They are not allowed to eat any animal products for example eggs or fish.

On January 6 was the Christening of Jesus which in Moldova is thought to be the coldest day of the year.

On December 6 St. Nicholas comes to the houses of the families of Moldova if the children of the home have polished their shoes and put them in front of the window.

Other things you will find during the Christmas celebration are Christmas carols, traditional foods, and decorated trees. There is a little white lamb carried through the streets by a child signifying religious faith and purity while Christmas carols are being sung. Three days before Christmas walnut and raisin cakes are baked. Two days before Christmas Pigs-in-the-Blanket and beef salad are being baked. The Christmas tree is decorated on Christmas Eve and then they sit down for dinner. After dinner the family sits down to sing Christmas carols.

It is expected for Santa to leave presents under the tree, but if there are small children in the home then Santa is expected to arrive in person. Christmas day is spent in celebration with friends and family. The Christian faith is blended hoping to have a successful New Year.

On New Year's there are well-wishers come bringing wishes of a happy life, prosperity and fertility for the upcoming year. The children represent purity and hope during the New Year's tradition they will receive apples, nuts and home-baked bread. New Year's brings about all night parties and the Moldavians believe that no one should be alone on New Year's.

The New Year is represented by a baby and the previous year before is represented by an old man. The songs during the New Year symbolize fair weather, good crops, health and happiness. There is a folk tale in Moldova that says during the night of New Year's the sky opens and God is visible to all of the people that are observing Him as He watches over everything. Some of the Moldavians celebrate the New Year and Christmas following the old calendar so therefore, they are able to celebrate these holidays twice which they see as a sign of prosperity.

During the year if your birthday is representative of a saint then you are to celebrate on that day. If your name is not derived from a saint then you celebrate on March 9th with some traditional cookies depending on where you live they differ.

The celebration of Martisor happens March 1st during this day gifts of plants, shells, flowers, animals, snowmen, tools, or red and white ribbons representing life and purity are given to the girls and also to the women. This day signifies the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

Throughout the special holidays in Moldova song is a central part of each event whether it be a wedding, Christmas, or any other celebration you are very much likely to find someone singing.

When Moldovans meet each other on the streets if you are in a rural village then you are to say Good Day to each other even if you do not know the person. If you are in a big city or in a town then only acquaintances are to greet each other. Adults who are at a formal or semi-formal event greet each other. The men shake hands with one another while the women when greeted by a man will receive a kiss on the hand. This tradition started in Romania and has carried over into Moldova.

If you are invited to a Moldavian home at meal times be ready to give a toast. A good suggestion is "To Your Health!" "Chin Chin"

March 1st is the first day of spring in Moldova everyone gives out Martisor pins to one another. The legend behind them is that a dragon captured the sun and no one danced or sang, but no one wanted to fight the dragon. Finally a brave man came forth and traveled three seasons to the dragon's castle and there fought the dragon until finally the brave man won. The man suffered and suffered and shed his last drop of blood on March 1st. There where he died many flowers of spring began to bloom and spread and the sun was released and spring began.

In an article in BBC dated December 6, 2006 called "Moldova's kids get old before their time" it states that one in nine children grow up without one of their parents. This amounts to be around 100,000 children with 30,000 of them not having either parent around. They interviewed a school in Cainari where 84 children have been left behind without either parent.

The reasons for the leaving of their parents is because there is so much poverty in Moldova and a lacking of jobs. The parents decide to leave so that they will be able to provide for their children. The children that are still at home are left to take care of the house, take care of the animals and livestock, and if there are other brothers and sisters they are to care for them.

The parents are able to provide money for their children, but cannot provide parental guidance. The children become vulnerable psychologically, socially, and sometimes sexually because their parents are not there and they will not know where to go for help. According to the laws of Moldova the parents are to tell the authorities so that the children can be cared for by another person or an institution.

Source: http://www.flightcatchers.com/destination%20guide/Europe/Moldova_Republic/Holidays.htm

<http://travel.excite.co.uk/travel/guides/europe/moldova/PublicHolidays>

Source: www.wikipedia.org, Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, 1998

<http://www.logisticsmoldova.com/about/etiquette/>

<http://www.haverford.edu/newsletter/march05/moldova.htm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6211444.stm>

Government

Moldova is a republic government. The country is divided into 32 raions, 3 municipalities, 1 autonomous territorial unit and 1 territorial unit. The raions are Anenii Noi, Basarabasca, Briceni, Cahul, Cantemir, Calarasi, Causeni, Cimislia, Criuleni, Donduseni, Drochia, Dubasari, Edinet, Falesti, Floresti, Glodeni, Hincesti, Ialoveni, Ieova,

Nisporeni, Ocnița, Orhei, Rezina, Rîșcani, Singerei, Soldanesti, Soroca, Stefan-Voda, Straseni, Taraclia, Telenesti, Ungheni. The Municipalities are Balti, Bender, and Chisinau. The autonomous territorial unit is Gagauzia. The territorial unit is Stînga Nistrului.

Moldova is based on a civil law system. The Constitutional Court reviews the legality of legislative acts and governmental decisions of resolution. They accept UN and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) documents.

The age of universal suffrage is 18.

There are three branches which are the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

In the executive branch there is a chief of state which is the president. The president is elected by Parliament for a four-year term and that person is eligible for a second term.

There is a head of government which is the prime minister and he is designated by the president and must be accepted by Parliament. Within 15 days of being accepted by Parliament the prime minister must have a vote of confidence from Parliament on the work program that is chosen and also upon the cabinet members the person has chosen.

There is a cabinet chosen by the president, but may have to be approved by Parliament.

In the Legislative branch there is a unicameral Parliament which is made up of 101 seats. They are able to take office by parties and electoral blocs elected by popular vote to serve for a four-year term.

In the Judicial branch there is a Supreme Court and a Constitutional Court which is the sole authority for constitutional judicature.

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/md.html>

Economy

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe even though they have been able to gain and grow from such a small economic base. Moldova has a favorable climate and the farmland is good quality. However in Moldova there are no major mineral deposits. The economy in Moldova is very much dependent upon agriculture, more specifically fruits, vegetables, wine, and tobacco.

The energy sources of Moldova must be imported into the country causing a large decrease in their ability to produce in December 1991 when the Soviet Union broke up. After gaining their independence in trying to reform the country introduced a convertible currency, freed prices, stopped issuing preferential credits to state enterprises, backed steady land privatization, removed export controls, and free interest rates.

The government began agreements with the World Bank and the IMF to bring about growth and try and rid their country of some of their poverty. Since 2000 there has been positive growth in the economy of at least 6% or more. Politically there is a strong backing for the economy by the government to continue to grow. However,

there are several effects such as higher fuel prices, poor agricultural weather, and investors from other countries who are skeptic about what will happen.

Currency: Moldovan Leu (MDL) – lei per US dollar – 12.6 (2005)

GDP purchasing power parity: 8.41 Billion

GDP official exchange rate: 2.416 Billion

GDP real growth rate: 7.1 %

GDP per capita: \$1,900

GDP composition by sector:

Agriculture: 21.3%

Industry: 23.3%

Services: 55.5%

Labor Force: 1.34 Million

Inflation Rate: 11.9%

Labor Force by Occupation:

Agriculture: 40%

Industry: 14%

Services: 46%

Primary Agricultural Products:

- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Wine
- Grain
- Sugar Beets
- Sunflower Seed
- Tobacco
- Beef
- Milk

Export Partner:

- Russia 32.9%
- Italy 12.7%
- Romania 10.6%
- Ukraine 9.5%
- Belarus 6.7%
- Germany 4.5%

Import Partners:

- Ukraine: 20.9%
- Russia: 11.7%
- Romania 11.2%
- Germany 8.3%
- Italy 6.6%
- Turkey 4.1%

The main industries in Moldova are sugar, vegetable oil, food processing, agricultural machinery, foundry equipment, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines, hosiery, shoes, and textiles.

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/md.html>

Literacy

This section will cover the literacy of the country including any gender, tribal, caste, or other social differences in literacy.

Anyone in Moldova age 15 or above can read and write.

Total Literate Population: 99.1%

Male Literate: 99.6%

Female Literate: 98.7%

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/md.html>

Land/Geography

Include a description of the location of the country in the world, the type of geography located in the country, and any special interest items pertaining to land, geography or climate that missionaries need to know.



Moldova is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe located northeast of Romania. Moldova is slightly larger than Maryland. The total land boundaries of Moldova are 1,389km. The bordering countries are Romania and the Ukraine. The climate of Moldova includes moderate winters and warm summers. The terrain is rolling steppe, gradual slope south to Black Sea. There are many sedimentary rocks and minerals some of which are sand, gravel, gypsum, and limestone. The natural resources of Moldova are Lignite, Phosphorites, Gypsum, Arable Land, and Limestone. There is a possibility of landslides for example in 1998 there were 57 total cases.

Current environmental issues that might be encountered are the heavy use of agricultural chemicals, including banned pesticides such as DDT, has contaminated the soil and the groundwater, and extensive soil erosion from poor farming methods.

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/md.html>
<http://www.hotels-world.com/travelinfo/eu/mol...>
http://www.fpa2.org/maps/fpa_world_atlas/norm...

History

Moldova in ancient times was occupied by the Dacians. The Dacians were farming families that settled between the Dniestr and the Danube Rivers. By the time of the 7th century the Dacians had set up commercial trading posts along the Black Sea.

Dacia was created when the Dacians were conquered by the Romans and their land became part of Dacia. The Romans left Dacia in AD 271 because there was such an influx of people from all over and the area was becoming hard to control. Once the Romans left the area then there were many different Slavic groups who were in control.

From the 14th century until 1812 the territory now known as Moldova was known as the Principality of Moldavia. The location of Moldova is located on a route between Asia and Europe, therefore causing Moldova to have been taken over by invasions many times with several of those invaders being the Kievan Rus' and the Mongols.

Over the next several hundred years the area was controlled by the Huns, Ostrogoths, Slavic Antes, the Bulgarian Empire, Magyars, and the Pechenegs, the Mongols were in control midway through the 13th century until midway through 14th century. After the Mongols, Hungary came into the area and began building defenses along the Siretul River.

In the year of 1349 Prince Bogdan set up a free Moldovan Principality under the control of Hungary. The Principality covered the area of the Carpathian Mountains to the Nistru River and then it was renamed Moldova after the Moldova River that traveled through Romania. During the 1400s Stephen the Great fought against the Ottoman Empire and he helped to build unity among the people of Moldova. Stephen the Great built many churches and monasteries to help commemorate what he did for the people of Moldova in winning over the Turks. Today in the square in Chisinau there is a statue of Stephen the Great.

In the middle ages the area known as the Republic of Moldova which included districts of the north and south which is known as Northern Bukovina and Budjak made up the principality of Moldova. During the 1500s the principality of Moldova became a branch to the Ottoman Empire. Moldova stayed under the control of the Ottoman Empire for the following three centuries.

During the 1700s and 1800s the Russians fought against the Ottoman Turk Empire for control. The Treaty of Bucharest in 1812 the territory of Moldova was passed to Russia along with Budjak (Southern Bessarabia). This area was first referred to as Guberniya of Moldova and Bessarabia, but then became Bessarabia.

At the conclusion of the Crimean War in 1856 by the Treaty of Paris two of the southern districts of Bessarabia were given back to Moldavia and Russia could no longer gain access to the Danube River. The Old Kingdom of Romania in 1859 was formed because the western part of Moldavia remained an autonomous principality and came together with Wallachia. In 1878 Russia came out of the Turkish War as victor they were able to regain control of the area of Moldova and remained in power until 1917 when the Russian imperial government collapsed.

During 1917 the Russian Revolution was fought and Bessarabia proclaimed independence from Russia in 1918, and then joined the Kingdom of Romania during that same year. In 1920 a National Council was created in Bessarabia with 120 members being from Bessarabia and 10 members from Transnistria and on December 2, 1917 the body declared independence for the Republic of Moldova.

On March 27, 1918 a vote proclaimed a unified Moldova and Romania although the Soviets chose not to recognize this unification. Transnistria chose not to become part of Romania and decided to form the Moldavian ASSR. The Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact with Nazi Germany caused Romania to leave its supervision of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina and to be removed from these territories completely.

During 1941 the Soviet troops were removed from the country because of the Axis forces although in August of 1944 the Soviet Union troops were able to re-enter the country and regain control allowing no one else to enter. One of the worst consequences of the Soviet Regime was collectivization of agriculture which is moving from private farming to agricultural enterprises. If the farmers chose not to follow the demands of the government then they were deported to Siberia and many did not survive because of the long trip and the rough conditions. If the people chose to stay behind in Moldova then they were under severe famine in 1945-1947 because of the drought, crop failure, and poor government policies.

Once the Soviets came into the country they tried to denationalize their policies. Transnistria and the remaining land formed the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic which today is present-day Moldova. The republic had a large influx of Russians and Ukrainians while a large number of Romanians were removed to Siberia and Kazakhstan while the Soviets were in power because of their economic situation, political views of their times to the former regime.

Bessarabia was occupied by the Soviets during the time of World War II and they wanted to try and encourage a Moldovan national identity with the people which would be different from that of the Romanians. During the years of 1945-47 the government kept a large amount of the agricultural products even though the farmers were unable to produce a large crop, therefore causing a major drought. The Romanian intellectuals that remained in Moldova after the war and misinformation was focused against the Romanians.

The Soviet Officials agreed that Romanian and Moldovan were not to be considered the same language, but two separate languages. The Soviets when trying to become established again they caused much resentment. Leonid I. Brezhnev was the first secretary of the Communist Party of Moldova from 1950-52 he chose to deal with a rebellion by Romanians by having several thousands of people deported from the country and beginning forced collectivization which means that the farmers were given a net profit from what they produced.

For about 45 years the Moldavian's did not have much access to their history and culture. Towards the end of the 1980s the Popular Front of Moldova moved to try and accomplished three things ending the Soviet rule; such as reviving the Romanian language and the culture and to reunite with the republic of Romania. During the decades of 1970 and 1980 Moldova was largely supported by the USSR to bring about industrial and scientific facilities along with housing. Beginning in 1971 through 1991 the Council of Ministers of the USSR provided one billion rubles or the USSR budget which helped to bring in many very skilled specialists from around the USSR to develop Moldova. When the Soviet Union became no more in 1991 then the monies were no longer available and at that time Moldova was seen as an independent country.

In the year of 1989 Moldova began to take steps towards independence and in August of that year a language law was passed that stated that the Latin alphabet would be the one for Moldova and it would become the state language. In 1995 there were demonstrations by those in the secondary schools and the Moldovan College staged several strikes and demonstrations as to whether the national language would be called Moldovan or Romanian. Ultimately the language was known as Moldovan.

In August of 1991 Moldova declared independence and joined the post-Soviet Commonwealth of Independent States which was comprised of former Soviet republics. Moldova was one of the first republics to claim independence from the former Soviet Union. In the later part of 1991 Mircea Snegur who was an ex-communist became president. United Nations accepted Moldova as an independent state four months later. The part of Moldova located east of the Dniester River, Transnistria which was made up by a large portion of Russians and Ukrainians became free in 1990 because they thought there would be a rise of nationalism thinking there would soon be a joining with Romania.

In 1992 there was a brief military conflict between Moldova and Transnistria. The Russians and Ukrainian armies intervened on the side of Transnistrian, and since that time Russian troops of the 14th Army still remain. There have been negotiations taking place between the Transnistrian and Moldovan leaders under the mediation of European Union, OSCE, USA, Russia and Ukraine. The Popular Front assumed that Moldova and Romania would unite in 1991 but they did not. Romania and Russia's relations caused many tensions.

In March of 1994 there was a referendum passed in which voters wanted to continue with independence. In 2001 the elections of the Communist Party of Moldova won the bulk of the seats in Parliament and selected Vladimir Voronin as president. The Transnistrian conflict which involved armed clashes between the Transnistrian separatists and the Moldovan troops until 1992 when there was a ceasefire. The power relationships between Moldova and Russia declined because of the Transnistrian conflict. In 2005 the Communist party was re-elected based on a pro-Western platform and Voronin was re-elected to a second term.

Sources http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Moldova
WorldMark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, 1997.
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/moldova.html>

Christian History

Moldova was so influenced by Romania that most Moldovans (98%) associate with the Orthodox Church. 45% of the professing Christians are apart of the Orthodox Church. Before there was the Soviet control in Moldova the Romanian Orthodox Church was in control, but since the Soviet occupation the Russian Orthodox Church is now in control.

The Soviet government kept a tight pull on the activities of the Orthodox Church hoping that they would be able to do away with the religion entirely.

Most of the Orthodox Churches and monasteries were used for other purposes and the clergy was punished severely for holding services. Also, there are some Uniates which means they are eastern Catholics with this term being applied by the Eastern Orthodox. The term Uniate however has a negative tone centered towards this people.

The Roman Orthodox Church is where most of the Romanians who lived in Moldova were apart of before the Soviet Era, although today the Russian Orthodox Church maintains control over the area today. Today the Orthodox Church in Moldova has liturgies in Russian, Romanian, and Turkic (Gagauz). As of the early 1990s The Moldovan Orthodox Church had 853 Orthodox churches and also 11 Orthodox monasteries.

In Moldova as well there are 14 Old Believers churches and a monastery. The Old Believers church is a separate from the Orthodox sect dating back to the 17th century. Once Moldova declared independence the process of construction and restoration for over 200 churches began. In 1992, the government of Moldova guaranteed the freedom of religion, but it was required that all religious groups be officially registered with the government. In Russia there has been a revival of religion and most of the clergy wanted Moldova to return to the Bucharest Patriarchate, but they were not able to make this happen. There was not a resolve in this matter so therefore, Moldavia now has two rival bodies with one representing each patriarch.

Moldova has been influenced by its Latin origins back to the period of the Romans who lived in an area nearby called Dacia from AD 105-271. Historically Moldova is a lot like Romania in that it had been overtaken by groups such as the Huns, Ostrogoths, Mongols, and Bulgarians. Christianity reached Moldova via reaching the shores of the Black Sea and by the time that the third century rolled around then Christianity had a strong presence.

Moldova's Christian influence came from Romanian culture and its contact with forces throughout the region such as the Byzantine Empire, Ottoman Turks, and Neighboring Slav and Magyar populations. The Moldavians consider themselves as ethnic Romanians even though they are a long republic of Russia. During the 10th and 12th centuries Moldavia was ruled by Kievan Rus. Prince Vladimir ruled Rus from 978-1015 and his biggest accomplishment was the Christianization of this region. He was able to build large cathedrals, patronized monasticism and native clergy, and started a school system. He chose Eastern Orthodox which showed his ties with Constantinople, and helped the conversion of the region to Christianity.

In looking at the Catholic Church in Moldova there is a sizeable Latin-rite minority church remains. Also in Moldova there is an Eastern-rite minority among the ethnic Ukrainians. In 1946 the Uniate Church was not longer allowed to remain, but was made to become apart of the Russian Orthodox Church. The church was able to go underground and survive and outlast the Soviet Union. In 2000 diplomatic relations were formed by the Holy See with Moldova and was represented to the government and the Catholic hierarchy by a nuncio residing in Budapest.

In 1903 there was a pogrom which was a large organized maltreatment or slaughter pointed against the Jews in Moldova which severely reduced the urban Jewish population. The Jews in Moldova also faced a large amount of harassment during the time in which the Soviets were in control, but were able to survive despite the Soviets maltreatment of the Jews.

In the early 1990s many Jewish newspapers were started along with a synagogue and a Jewish high school was opened in Chisinau. Chisinau State University created a Department of Jewish Studies. The government of Moldova supported the Society for Jewish Culture through financial support.

In Moldavia Islam is represented by a small population and the Muslims that are in Moldavia are widely dispersed.

Another religion that you will find in Moldova is Atheism. This reached the country because of the influence during the time that Communism prevailed and because it prevailed for so long.

Since the introduction of Christianity in the 7th century into Moldova there have been many Moldavian Christians who have gone into surrounding countries as missionaries. During the time of the Soviet Union the Moldavian Christians were not able to go out and spread the gospel, but since Moldova it now has its independence the Christians are once again able to go to other countries and share the gospel.

Sources www.wikipedia.org, Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life Volume 4 – Europe Copyright 1998:

Religions

Non-Christian

Jewish

In 1997 in Moldova there were 90,000 Jews, but in the data found for 1998 the number of Jewish adherents dropped to 30,000. Today you are able to find Jews throughout about 45 different communities across Moldova. Since 1991 there has been a decline in the number of Jews in Moldova due to the fact that there are so many elderly Jews and many of the Jews are choosing to move from Moldova to Israel. Also, many of the Jews today are suffering from economic hardship where they are only making about \$10 dollars every month.

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/moldova.html>

Scientology

Another non-Christian religion that is present in Moldova today is scientology. There is currently one congregation according to the report released in 1999. Upon researching and finding out what it means to believe in Scientology it is all about the person who is apart of the religion. Scientology wants the person to learn all that they can about themselves and the situations that they are in throughout daily life. Scientology wants to bring the person to a point of freedom so that they will be able to improve upon situations in any way that they might see necessary.

<http://www.whatisscientology.org/html/Part14/chp42/pg0984-g.html>

Non-Religious

As many as 144,900 persons in Moldova claim they are non-religious (atheists). This makes up some 3.3% of the population and represents more than all Protestants combined. The Non-religious group is, however, declining at a rate of – 9.3% annually.

Jehovah's Witnesses

In a report given in 1998 for Moldova there were 15,880 adherents to Jehovah's Witness. This makes up 0.37% of the population. There are also 142 congregations throughout Moldova. In 2005 in Moldova the Jehovah's Witnesses spent a total of 2,621,766 hours preaching. There were 9,019 Bible studies across Moldova. Also, at the Memorial Service in Moldova there were 40,198 people who attended.

Source: http://www.watchtower.org/e/statistics/worldwide_report.htm

Roman Catholic

As of the year 1995 in Moldova there were 15,000 adherents to the religion of Catholicism in Moldova. This makes up 0.34 of the population. There are also seven congregations throughout Moldova. In Moldova there is one diocese.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Moldova

Eastern Orthodox

In 1998 in Moldova there were 4,312,000 adherents to the Eastern Orthodox religion. This makes up 98 percent of the population. It is not known exactly how many congregations there are located across Moldova.

In 1996 in Moldova there were 4,350,000 adherents to the Moldovan Orthodox Church. It is not currently known how many congregations are located throughout Moldova.

Old Believers Church

According to the statistics from 1992 the Old Believers in Moldova made up 15 congregations. This group is a type of Catholic. It is not known the number of adherents that are apart of each of those congregations.

The Russian Orthodox Church

The Russian Orthodox Church in Moldova in 1996 was made up of 4,350,000 adherents. It is not known how many congregations are located throughout Moldova.

Source: www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh_215.html; *Operation World*

Protestant/Evangelical/Pentecostal

Baptists

In 1998 in Moldova there were 17,200 people who were a part of the Baptist World Alliance. There are 275 locations for the people to worship in. Operation World reported 300 congregations with over 20,000 members.

The purpose of the Baptist World Alliance brings together Baptist from all over the world allowing people to become very involved with evangelism, defending the rights of those who might otherwise not have anyone to fight for them, and helping those in need and training those in leadership positions throughout the world.

Pentecostal

Pentecostal congregations number over 300 in Moldova with upwards of 28,000 members.

Seventh Day Adventists

Seventh Day Adventists numbered 116 congregations with over 10,000 members.

People Groups

Armenian 00000

Population: 2800

This people group is located in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Other names that you might find for this people group include Armine, Ermeni, Ermini, Hai, and Western Armenian. The primary language spoken by this group of people is Armenian. Their primary religion is Christianity with a sub-division of Orthodox. There is a 50% adherence to Christianity. There are more than 5% Evangelicals with an accelerating rate of new fellowships.

Azerbaijani,North 00000

Population: 2600

This people group is located in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Other names used to refer to this group of people are Azerbaijan, Azeri Turk, Azerbaijani, South, and Turkmen. The language spoken by the Azerbaijani North is Azerbaijani, North. The primary religion among this people group is Islam. The adherence to Christianity is unknown. The Evangelical adherence is greater than 0.01% but is less than 2%. In looking at the adherents there are less than 5%.

Bashkir 00000

Population: 600

The people group of the Bashkir is located in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Other names used for this people group are Bashkirian and Bashkort. The language spoken by this group is Bashkir. The primary religion is that of Islam with a sub-division of Sunni. There is a 7% adherence to Christianity with an unknown amount of Evangelical adherence. With the progressing of knowing how many believers there are they have found few if any believers with less than 5% adherents.

British 00000

Population: 50

The British people group can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Other names for this people group are Anglo-Pakistani, Anglophones, Euronesian, Scot, Scottish, and White. The language spoken is English. The primary religion is Christianity. There is a 70% adherence to Christianity. It is unknown the number of Evangelicals. In looking at the progress scale there are few, if any believers, with the adherents at less than 5%.

Bulgarian 00000

Population: 395000

The Bulgarians can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Other names that you might find for this people group are Balgarski, Bogomil, Moldovian, Palityan, and Pomak. The language that is spoken is that of Bulgarian. The primary religion is a sub-division of Orthodox (as many as 72%). The number of Evangelical adherents is 0.50. In looking at the progress scale of Evangelicals there is less 0.1% but less than 2% with less than 5% of adherents.

Byelorussian 00000

Population: 19000

The Byelorussians can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Another name for this people group is that of Belarussian. The language spoken is Belarusan. The primary religion is Orthodox. There is a 60% adherence with an unknown number of Evangelicals. In looking at the progress of this people group there are less than 5% Evangelicals with an accelerating rate of new fellowships being started.

Chuvash 00000

Population: 1200

The Chuvash people group can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Other names of this people group are Bolgar and Bulgar. The language spoken by this group is Chuvash. The primary religion is Orthodox with a 35% adherence. The percent of Evangelicals is unknown. In looking at the progress being made among the Chuvash people there is more than 2% but less than 5% Evangelicals. There is a group of probable evangelical fellowships.

Czech 00000

Population: 600

The Czech's can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. An Alternate name for the Czech people is Bohemian. The language spoken by this people group is Czech. The primary religion among the Czechs is Orthodox with a 77% adherence. The percent of Evangelicals is unknown. In looking at the progress among the Czechs there is greater than 10% Evangelicals which translates into one fellowship for every 10,000 people.

Deaf 43802

Population: 21000

The Deaf population can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. This population group communicates through the Moldova Sign Language. The primary religion and number of adherents is unknown. There is more than .01 percent Evangelicals, but greater than 2%. The number of adherents is less than 5%.

Gagauzi Turk 862

Population: 138000

The Gagauzi Turks can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for this people group are Gagauzi Balkan Turk, Maritime Gaguz, and Turkish. The language spoken is Gagauz. The primary religion is a sub-division of Orthodox. The number of adherents is 5.78 for Orthodoxy and 5.78 for Evangelicals. In looking at the progress of the Evangelicals there are more than 2% but less than 5%. There is a probable group of evangelical fellowships.

Georgian 00000

Population: 1100

The Georgian people can be located in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for this people group are Adjari, Adzhar, Gruzin, Imerxev Georgian, Kartuli, and Western Georgian. The language spoken by this group is Georgian. The primary religion is Christianity with a 30% adherence. However, it is unknown what percent are Evangelical. In looking at the progress within this people group there are less than 5% Evangelicals with an acceleration of new fellowships.

German 00000

Population: 7200

The Germans can be located in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Other alternate names of this people group are German, Standard, Saxon, Volga German, High German, and Transylvanian. The language spoken is that of German, Standard. The primary religion is Christianity with a 78% adherence. Also the number of Evangelicals is unknown.

In looking at the progress among this people group there are more than 10% Evangelicals with every 10,000 individuals there is one fellowship.

Greek, Romei 00000

Population: 600

The Greek, Romei can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Other alternate names of this people group are Dimotiki, Greek Cypriot, Hellenic, Romei, Romeos and Urum. The language spoken by this people group is Greek. The primary religion is Christianity. There is a 90% adherence to Christianity with an unknown number of Evangelicals. In looking at the progress being made among the Evangelicals there are less than 5% with an accelerating rate of new fellowships.

Jew, Eastern Yiddish-Speak 864

Population: 25000

This population can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for the Jew, Eastern-Yiddish Speaking group is Jew, Yiddish-Speaking, Jewish, and Yiddish Jewish. The language spoken here is Yiddish, Eastern. The primary religion is that of ethnic religions with a sub-division of Judaism. The number of Christian adherents is not unknown nor is it known the number of Evangelicals. In looking at how this population is progressing it is one of the least reached people groups and there are few if any known believers with less than 5% adherents.

Kazakh 00000

Population: 67000

The Kazakh can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for the Kazakh are Gazaqi, Hazake, Kazax, Qazaq and Qazaqi. The language spoken among this people is Kazakh. The primary religion is Islam with a sub-division of Sunni. There are an unknown number of Christian adherents and an unknown number of Evangelical adherents. There are few if any known believers with less than 5% adherence.

Latvian 00000

Population: 500

The Latvians can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The alternate people group names are East Latvian, Lett, Upper Latvian, Latgalian, and Lettish. The language spoken is Latvian. The primary religion is Christianity with a 90% adherence. There are more than 10% Evangelicals for every 10,000 individuals there is one fellowship.

Lithuanian 00000

Population: 900

The Lithuanians can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. An alternate name for this people group is Samogit. The language spoken is Lithuanian. The primary religion is Christianity with a sub-division of Roman Catholic. There is an 85% adherence to Christianity. There are more than 5% Evangelicals with an accelerating rate of new fellowships being formed.

Moldovian 866

Population: 2,700,000

The Moldovians can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The primary religion is Christianity with a sub-division of Orthodox. It is not known how many Christian adherents there are, but there are 3.30 adherents in the

Evangelical. The Evangelicals have more than 2% but less than 5% with a probable group of evangelical fellowships.

Ossete 00000

Population: 400

The Ossete can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate people names for this group are Allagir, Iron, Tagaur, Western Ossete, and Western Ossetian. The language used to communicate is Osetin. The primary religion is Islam with a sub-division of Sunni. There are 36% adherents to Christianity. In looking at the progress being made among this people group there are more than 2% Evangelicals, but greater than 5%. There are a probable group of evangelical fellowships.

Polish 00000

Population: 4600

The Polish can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names that can be used for this people group is Pole, Poles, and Silesian. The language spoken by this people group is Polish. Christianity is the primary religion, but it is unknown the number of adherents. The number of Evangelicals is greater than 5% with an accelerating rate of new fellowships.

Romani, Balkan 861

150000

The Romani, Balkan can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for this people group are Arliski, Arliski Balkan Gypsy, Baltic Gypsy, Dzambazi, Jerides, Kochi, Koochi, Kuchi, Roma, and Zargari. The language used by this people group is Romani, Balkan. The primary religion is Orthodoxy with a 20% adherence to the Orthodox Church and a .24% adherence to Evangelical churches. The number of Evangelical adherents is less than 5%.

Romani, Vlax 00000

Population: 2000

The Romani, Vlax can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names that can be used for this people group is Arhagar, Arhagar Gypsy, Baltic Gypsy, Cale, Cingane, Colombian Gypsy, Gitano, Gurbeti, Gypsy, Kalderash, Kalderash Gypsy, Lovari, Lovari Gypsy, Lovari Rom Gypsy, Lowara, and Norwegian Gypsy. The language used is Romani, Vlax. The primary religion among this people group is Christianity, but it is not known how many adherents that there are. The Evangelicals are greater than .01%, but less than 2%. The adherents are less than 5%.

Romanian 00000

Population: 137,000

The Romanian people group can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for this people group are Istrio-Romanian and Oltenia. The language used by this group of people is Romanian. The primary religion is a sub-division of Orthodox. There is an 84% adherence to the Orthodox Church and a 1% Evangelical adherence. The Evangelicals are more than .01% but less than 2% with the adherents being less than 5%.

Russian 867

1182000

The Russians can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for the Russians include Eluosi, Ollossu, and Russ. The language that is spoken is Russian. The primary religion is a sub-division of Orthodox. The number

of Christian adherents is 31.30% and Evangelicals are 3.50%. Evangelicals are less than 2% but less than 5% with a probable group of evangelical fellowships.

Tajik 00000

Population: 600

The Tajik can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for this people group are Afghani Tajik, Persian Tajik, Tadjhik, and Tadjhiki. The language used by this people group is Tajiki. The primary religion is Islam with a subdivision of Sunni. It is not known the number of Christian or Evangelical adherents. The number of Evangelicals is greater than .01% but less than 2% with less than 5% adherence.

Tatar 00000

Population: 3300

The Tatars can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate people group names for this group are Dada, Dadan, Kazan Tatar, Lipka, Tartar, Tata'er, Tura, and Turkish Tatar. The primary religion is Islam with a sub-division of Sunni. There is a 1.50% adherence of Christianity. The Tatar are among the least reached peoples with more than .01% Evangelicals, but less than 2% with an adherence rate of less than 5%.

Tatar, Crimean 00000

Population: 1800

The Tatar, Crimean can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for this people group include Crimean Turk, Crimean Turkish, Kazan Tatar, Krymchak, Nogai, Nogay Tatar, Tartar, and Tatar. The language spoken is Crimean Turkish. The primary religion is Islam with a sub-division of Sunni. There are few if any believers with less than 5% adherents.

Turk 00000

Population: 13000

The Turks can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for this people group are Anatolian, Baharlu Turk, Masakhastian, Meskhetian Turk, Osmanli, Ottoman Turk, Rumelian Turk, and Urum. The language spoken by this people group is Turkish. The primary religion is Islam with a sub-division of Sunni. The number of Christian adherents is unknown. Evangelicals are more than .01% but less than 2% with an adherence of less than 5%.

Udmurt 00000

Population: 700

The Udmurts can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for this people group include Kalmez and Votyak. The language spoken by this people group is Udmurt. The primary religion is Christianity with a 55% adherence. There are few if any believers with an adherence level of greater than 5%.

Ukrainian 00000

Population: 587000

The Ukrainians can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The primary language spoken by this people group is Ukrainian. The primary religion is Christianity with a 69% adherence level and Evangelicals have a 3.30% adherence level. In looking at the progress being made within this people group Evangelicals are greater than 2%, but less than 5%. There is a probable group of evangelical fellowships.

Uzbek, Northern 00000

Population: 1400

The Uzbek, Northern can be found in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Alternate names for this people group can be Northern Uzbek, Ouzbek, Ozbek, Usbaki, Uzbek, Uzbeki, and Wuzibieke. The language spoken among this people group is Uzbek, Northern. The primary religion is Islam with a sub-division of Sunni. It is not known the number of Christian or Evangelical adherents. This is one of the least reached people groups. There are few if any known believers with the adherents being less than 5%.

Source: www.peoplegroupus.org, www.joshuaproject.org

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should aid the local believers in reaching the 25000 Jewish peoples in Moldova. Methods such as Messianic Synagogues might be effective.
2. Evangelical Christians should seek ways to reach the non-religious. The fact that this group is declining may indicate openness among them.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to introduce the concept that being a Christian and being a Moldovan is totally compatible
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop methods for reaching members of the Orthodox Churches and train local believers in the use of these methods
5. Baptist mission groups should make use of the sizable (20,000) Baptists in Moldova as a foundation for reaching people in the nation. Assisting this Christian group to reach their own people is a fitting missionary strategy.