

COSSACKS

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The 19th century

- ❑ A more peaceful period
- ❑ Cossacks served in cavalry
- ❑ Fought in wars against France, Caucasus and Turkey
- ❑ Dreaded as barbaric savages



- ❑ End of 1943: moved to Italy
- ❑ In 1945: escaped to Austria
- ❑ Capture by the British and extradition to the Red Army (“Betrayal of the Cossacks”)
- ❑ Most Cossacks died in Siberian labor camps
- ❑ The leaders were killed



Formation

- ❑ 15th century: first Cossacks at the Don
- ❑ Fled from central Russia and Ukraine
- ❑ Lived as farmers, bandits and racketeers
- ❑ In 1577 foundation of an army
- ❑ Spreading till the Pacific Ocean

The Russian Civil War

- ❑ 4,5 million Cossacks participated in the war
- ❑ Mainly fought on the side of the White Army against the Communists and the Red Army
- ❑ Persecuted by Lenin and Stalin
- ❑ Should be annihilated
- ❑ Till 1919 : 10.000 victims
- ❑ Some escaped to France

After the war

- ❑ In 1947 all the units were dissolved
- ❑ Cossack culture was suppressed
- ❑ In the 1990's Cossack army units were founded
- ❑ Used for border protection
- ❑ Partly involved in the Caucasian War
- ❑ Today: 10 million Cossacks in associations: 740.000

Revolts and Expulsions

- ❑ Rebellion against the government
- ❑ Revolts in central and south Russia
- ❑ In 1606/07 they besieged Moscow
- ❑ Catherine the Great persecuted the Cossacks
- ❑ Many Cossacks had to serve in the army
- ❑ The Zar became the leader of the Cossacks

World War II

- ❑ Cossacks fought on both sides, but mainly on the German side (they wanted their privileges back)
- ❑ Descent from the Ostrogoths → they were considered as partially Aryan
- ❑ Fought against partisans and protected supply routes
- ❑ Fought from 1943 in Yugoslavia
- ❑ Were involved in rapes and pillages

References

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