**THE REPUBLIC I LIVE IN**

The Republic of Belarus is a country in eastern Europe. The capital and largest city is Minsk, located in the center of the country. The total area of Belarus is 207 600 sq km. Belarus is divided administratively into six provinces, or oblasts, which have the same names as their largest cities: Minsk, Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Mogilev, and Vitebsk.

The official state languages are Belarusian and Russian. Most Belarusians finish secondary school, and many receive higher education. There are a lot of universities in Belarus. The Belarusian State University in Minsk is the largest one.

Belarus has a temperate continental climate. Belarus has a generally flat terrain with many forests, lakes, and marshes. There are hundreds of rivers and lakes in the country.

Belarus has a well-developed economy. The most important manufactured products are tractors, transport vehicles, trucks, agricultural machinery, metal-cutting machines.

Belarus is a presidential republic. the president is the head of the state of Belarus and directs domestic and foreign policy.

Nazi Germany occupied Belarus from 1941 to 1944. In 1944 the Soviet Red Army drove out Nazi forces.

As a principal theatre of World War II, Belarus suffered enormous devastation and lost one quarter of its population. Minsk was almost entirely destroyed.

Minsk developed as the major center of economic, cultural, and political life and the largest urban center with a quarter of the re-public's urban residents.