

## Moldova



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In general, information available as of 1 January 2003 was used in the preparation of The World Factbook 2003.

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**Legend:** Rank Order

## Introduction

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### Background:

Formerly ruled by Romania, Moldova became part of the Soviet Union at the close of World War II. Although independent from the USSR since 1991, Russian forces have remained on Moldovan territory east of the Dniester River supporting the Slavic majority population, mostly Ukrainians and Russians, who have proclaimed a "Transnistria" republic. One of the poorest nations in

Europe, Moldova became the first former Soviet state to elect a Communist as its president in 2001.