Natural Features of Poland and Belarus for The World Regional Geography Lesson

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Abstract

Educators, scientists and especially geography teachers face a daunting task in presenting, endearing and popularizing different cultures, societies and civilizations, different continents, cities and countries, different nations and minorities to young generations. Knowing, comprehending, protecting and embracing the world first of all requires internalizing and embracing different cultures, different nations, different continents and countries. We cannot love and adopt a world that we do not know and we cannot sufficiently protect and embrace a world that we do not love. One of the indispensable tasks of world regional geography is to present similar and common aspects among countries and nations; to smooth out biases and intolerance and to bring nations and states closer. Similarities and differences of the natural features of Poland and Belarus are determined in the article. Both Poland and Belarus have access to the Baltic Sea influences the climate of the territory and other natural components. Plain relief and well-developed drainage network are typical for both countries. Just like Poland, Belarus has a moderate climate influenced by both maritime and continental elements. But the countries differ in the peculiarities of flora and fauna. The data of the study were collected using field observation and document analysis, which are qualitative research methods.

Key words: Geographical position, natural features, Poland and Belarus, world regional geography

Ülkeler Coğrafyası Dersleri İçin, Polonya ve Belarus'un Doğal Özellikleri

Öz

Farklı kültürleri, toplumları ve medeniyetleri, farklı kıtaları, kentleri ve ülkeleri, farklı milletleri ve azınlıkları genç nesillere tanıtmak ve sevdirmek için, eğitimcilere, bilim uzmanlarına ve özellikle coğrafya öğretmenlerine büyük görevler düşmektedir. Çünkü dünyayı tanımak, anlamak, korumak ve sahiplenmek, öncelikle farklı kültürleri, farklı milletleri, farklı kıta ve ülkeleri özümsemek ve sevmekten geçmektedir. Tanımadığımız dünyayı sevemeyiz ve benimseyemeyiz, sevmediğimiz bir dünyayı yeterince koruyamayız ve sahiplenemeyiz. Ülkeler coğrafyasının öncelikli görevlerinden birisi ülkeler ve halklar arasındaki benzer ve ortak yönleri ortaya koymak, önyargıları ve hoşgörüsüzlükleri törpülemek, milletleri ve devletleri birbirlerine yakınlaştırmaktır. Nitel araştırma yöntemlerinden sahada gözlem araştırması ve doküman analizinin kullanıldığı bu çalışmada, Polonya ve Beyaz Rusya'nın doğal özellikleri belli bir sıra halinde anlatıldıktan sonra kısa bir karşılaştırma da yapılmıştır. Polonya ve Beyaz Rusya'nın Baltık Denizi'ne erişiminin olması, bölgenin iklimini ve diğer doğal bileşenlerini etkileyen en önemli unsurlardandır.. Düz bir saha olması yanında gelişmiş bir drenaj ağı her iki ülke için de karakteristiktir. Tıpkı Polonya gibi Beyaz Rusya'nın da denizel ve karasal unsurlardan etkilenen ılımlı bir iklimi vardır ancak bu iki ülke, flora ve fauna özelliklerine farklılıklar gösterirler. Çalışma, akademik düzeyde verilen ülkeler coğrafyası derslerine veri sağlaması nedeniyle önemlidir.

Anahtar keleler: Coğrafi konum, doğal özellikler, Polonya, Belarus, ülkeler coğrafyası

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1. Introduction

"Geography is a science that presents the characteristics of the spaces on earth and examines and explains these characteristics, the reasons for similarities and contrasts among different spaces and the rules that govern them" (Erinç, 1977). Geography explores the complex relationships between social and natural environment and it is a science of synthesis whose most prioritized research field is the interaction between society and the geographical environment by placing man and space in the focus of its exploration, hence, geography is the science of space before anything else. Space is constant, limited and variable. Anatolian peninsula, Japanese state, Cyprus Island and African continent are constant, but limited and variable spaces. While the limits of the spaces are determined by different physical factors such as seas, oceans, valleys, mountains and rivers and by political factors such as state borders; internal changes on spaces are determined by internal forces, external forces and human activities (Atasoy, 2004).

One of the priority functions of world regional geography is to address and explore the similarities and common features as well as contrasts and differences. In other words, regional geography should not confine itself to examine physical, human and economic characteristics of different countries but should present their achievements, positive aspects and differences while examining their failures, negative aspects and problems with the same rigor; i.e. regional geography should include economic, ethnic, ecological, social, cultural, demographic and geopolitical problems as well. In short, regional geography should give wider coverage to "Critical Geography" and "Geographical Issues" (Atasoy, 2003).

Atalay's view on the significance and function of world regional geography reflects a similar outlook: "To know the position and significance of a country in the world, to cooperate with it for the future, to prepare plans in the social, political and strategic fields and to develop various strategies is only possible via knowledge on other countries. Therefore, educators, bureaucrats and intellectual must have deep and detailed knowledge on regional geography. Especially politicians and educators should test the pulse of their countries on one hand and test the pulse of other countries on the other in order to achieve their tasks thoroughly and adequately" (Atalay, 1999).

1.1 Methodology

In this study, natural features of Poland and Belarus were explained in order to be used in the world regional geography lesson. The data of the study were collected using field observation and document analysis, which are qualitative research methods

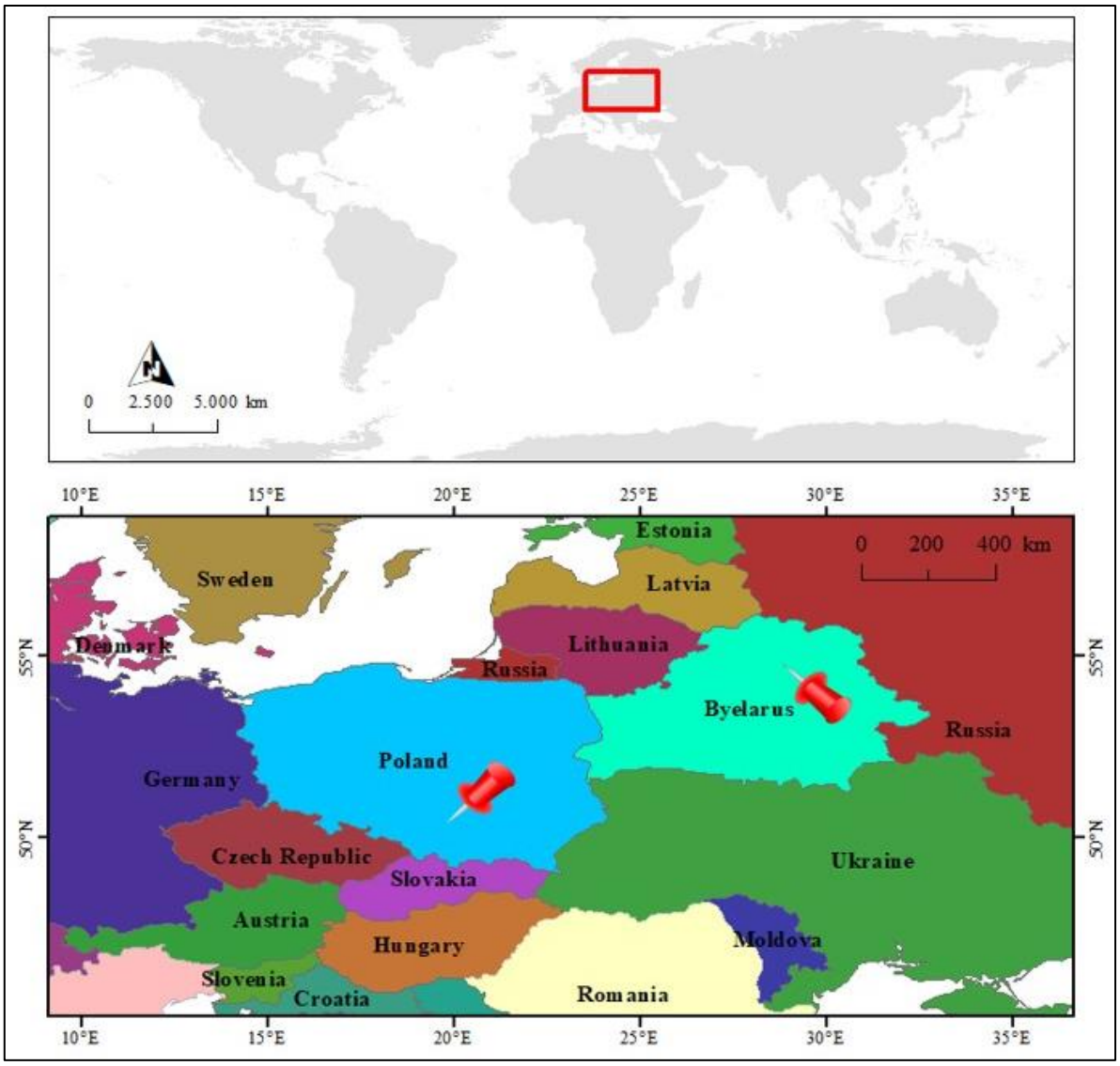

Figure 1. Location map of Poland and Belarus.

2. Naturel Features of Poland

The republic of Poland is situated in the central Europe. In the north it is washed by the Baltic Sea, in the west it is bordered with Germany, in the southwest with Czech Republic, in the South, with Slovakia, in the southeast – with the Ukraine, in the east – with Belarus, in the northeast – with Lithuania and Russia (Kaliningradsky district) (Figure 1). It is bordered with Denmark and Sweden through the economic zone in the Baltic Sea. Poland occupies the territory of 312679 km^2 and according to this index the country is on 69th place in the world and on 9th place in Europe (Homich K.A., 2004: 252). The length of Poland from north to south is 649 km, from west to east 689 km. It determines the variation of solar radiation intake and the day duration in the utmost parts of the country. Moreover it is reflected on country's climate. The characteristic feature of geographical position of Poland is its territory coincidence with the area of two large watersheds the Vistula and Odra (Figure 2). The state is divided on 16 voivodeships which are also divided on poviats and gmins (Poland tourism organzation/PTO, 2017)

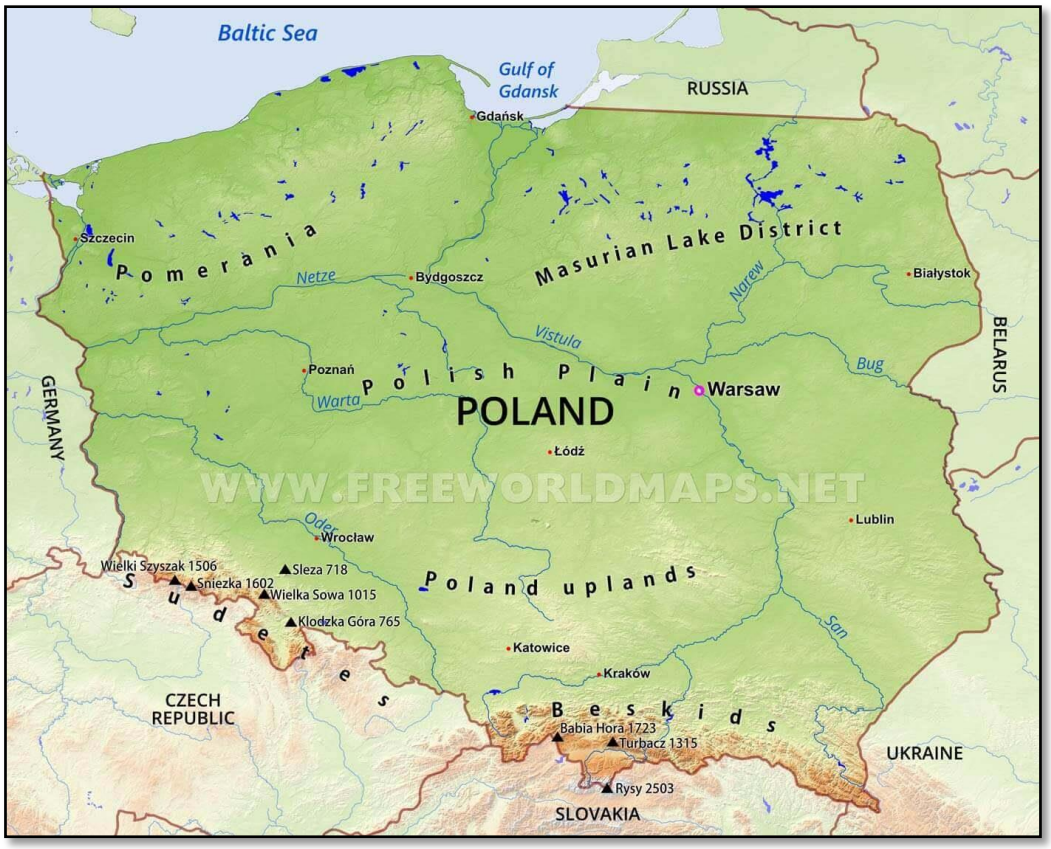

Figure 2. Physical Map of Poland.

The advantage of geographical position of Poland is determined by the fact that it is situated on the crossroads of transit routes (Western Europe – Russia and Baltic states – Black Sea region), and also by the neighbourhood of the centers which develop international tourism. The state is considered to be Eastland, which is situated in the Baltic Sea basin and possesses its south coast. Mostly Poland is plain country, lowlands occupy three forth of all the territory. Only 3% of all Poland's surface is higher than 500 m above sea level. The Western Carpathians (level difference is on the average 1100 m), the High Tatry (the highest point is Mount Risy (2499 m) and the Beskidy are situated in the far south and southwest, the Sudety (up to 1602 m high, level difference is on the average 800 m) – in the southwest. The lowest point is situated in the delta of the Vistula (Zhulava) (Homich & Mozgovaya, 2010: 248) (Figure 2).

Alteration of lowlands and highlands is the characteristic feature of the relief. On the coast of the Baltic Sea coastal lowlands with the height up to 50 m are situated. To the south Baltic Lake District with the heights from 100 to 300 m is situated. Numerous lakes are characterized it. Central lowlands with predomination of the heights from 50 to 150 m occupy the middle part of Poland. Ancient mountains and highlands are represented by the Sudety and also by the Krakovsko-Chenstohovskoy and Keletsko-Sandomirskoy highlands. To the south Precarpathian cupholes and the Carpathians distinct with the diversity of relief are situated (Figure 2**Figure 2**).

Poland's climate is principally moderate continental, on the coasts it is moderate marine. Geographical position in mid-latitudes between 49 and 55° of northern latitude, closeness to the Atlantic Ocean and the Baltic Sea, relief mostly the Carpathians influence the formation of the climate. Average temperature in July changes from +16,5°C on the coast to +19°C in the south. Average temperature in January changes from -1°C on the seashore to -4,5°C in the north-east. In summer temperatures

decrease to the north and in winter – to the north-east. Marine air mass adds gentleness to the climate. Prevailing winds in Poland are south-west, west and north-west (Homich K. , 2004). The meaning of east winds increases by approaching to the east. It increases in the whole country during winter period. West winds bring coolness, rains in summer and frosts in winter. East winds determine heat in summer and frost in winter. The amount of precipitations depends on sea level and differentiation of relief. The smallest amount (up to 500 mm) is in the Gdansky gulf, Malopolskaya lowland and Vistula valley from Modlina to Schvecha. The greatest amount of precipitations is in the mountain regions of the south (in the Tatry the amount of precipitations reaches 1800 mm) (Homich K. , 2004). There are more precipitations in summer than in winter. The winter is mild with often thaw, in the mountains the winter is snowy and sunny, which is good for the development of winter sports. May frost, early spring and late autumn are the peculiarities of polish climate.

There are 5 climatic regions on the territory of Poland:

- ✓ The Carpathians and the Sudety: mountain climate with a great amount of precipitations (snow) and sunny winter.
- ✓ The Schlenskaya lowland and Precarpathian valley, where is warm summer and long vegetation period. The winters in the Precarpathian valley are frosty, but in the Schlenskaya lowland – mild.
- ✓ The Malopolskaya, Lubelskaya and Rostoche highlands are characterized by severe winter and warm summer.
- ✓ The Velkopolskaya and Mazovetskaya lowlands are mild in winter becoming even milder and shorter to the west. The weather in the Lake district is colder than in the other part of the country.
- ✓ The Baltic seashore is characterized by mild climate with quite cold spring and warm autumn.
- ✓ The relief and climate of Poland is favourable for the development of swimming-offshore, therapeutic and ski resorts.

The country has considerable water resources and also has a well-developed hydrographic network represented by numerous rivers, lakes, reservoirs and canals. In the north Poland is washed by the Baltic Sea. The length of water ways is 19000 km, 4800 km out of them is navigable. The longest rivers of the country are the Vistula – 1047 km, Varta – 808 km, Odra – 854 km, Bug – 772 km (Homich K. , 2004). High spring water rise is typical for the rivers in Poland. It is usually in March and April and is connected with snow melting. The second water rise is in the end of June and July. It is caused by heavy rains in the mountains, in the watershed of the Vistula and Odra. Summer stream rise is also observed in the mountain rivers of the Carpathians.

The largest lakes of Poland are Sniardvi – 113,8 km^2, Lebsko – 71,4 km^2, Marmi – 104,9 km^2 . Glacial lakes are widespread in the lake district. Karst lakes (Piasechne), relic lakes of marine origin are found in Poland. The largest of them is Lebsko. There are also dune lakes. They were formed in the deep lowlands between the dunes as a result of the flowing springing or in the blowout cupholes between the dunes. The most important canals in Poland are Ostrudsko-Elblongsky – 62,5 km (151,7 km), Gurnotetsky – 25 km (114,6 km), Augustousky – 36,1 km (80 km). More than 90 reservoirs are counted. The largest reservoir in the area is Vlotslavskoe on the river Vistula (Homich & Mozgovaya, 2010).

Soddy-podzolic soils occupy more than the half of the territory. Brown soils are on the second place of the expansion. There are alluvial soils, peat-bog soils, carbonate soils, black soils, etc. There is a broad-leaved forest in the west of Poland, needle-leaved forest in the east, mixing with each other. There are some kinds of steppe vegetation in the south-east of the country. Forests occupy 28,6% of the whole territory. 0,23 hectare of forest covered lands is per one person, which is lower than average European level (Worldatlas, 2017). The

amount of woodland is represented in Table 1. The main wood species of Poland are a pine, oak, birch and wild ash. There is a fur-tree, fir, larch, yew in the mountains. There is a north-east border of beech, Durmask oak proliferation, a north border of large-leaved linden proliferation. The south border of Swedish ash stretches along the shore of the Baltic Sea. Belovezhskaya, Avgustovskaya and Kampinoskaya Pushcha occupy a significant territory (Atasoy & Wendt, 2017).

Table 1. *Forest-Land in Europe*

Country	Total acres of country's territory, thousand hectares	Forest covered acres, thousand hectares	Forest-land, percentage	Population, thousand people (2010 year)	Forest covered lands per person, hectare/person
Finland	33 814	21 883	64,7	5 363,62	4,08
Sweden	45 218	27 264	60,3	9 379,12	2,91
Belarus	20 756	9400	45,3	9 465,40	0,99
Italy	30 132	9857	32,7	60 483,52	0,16
Germany	35 702	10 740	30,1	81 702,33	0,13
Poland	31 268	8942	28,6	38187,49	0,23
France	54 919	15 156	27,6	64 876,62	0,23
Norway	32 376	8710	26,9	4 885,24	1,78
Spain	50 596	13 509	26,7	46 081,57	0,29

Resource: http://www.worldbank.org/, http://atmwood.com

The fauna is represented by more than 400 species of vertebrate and 200 species of birds. It is worth emphasize European bison that inhabit Belovezhskaya, Boreiskaya, Kniazhinskaya Pushcha and Beschady. There are also deer, roes, dappled deer, wild boars, hares, foxes, badgers, martens and beavers in Poland. The largest representative of the fauna is elk, the main living area of which is Bebrzhansky bogs. Marmots can be found in arduous Tatry. There are brown bears and wild cats in mountain forests (Homich K. , 2004). Lake landscape is the habitat of different species of ducks, swans and wild geese. Black storks, cranes, herons and birds of prey, for example eagle rays, golden eagles and ospreys, inhabit swamps. Owls, buzzards, windhovers and hawks are found in any part of the country. Lakes are rich in fish: perches and breams. Crayfish are found in some rivers and lakes (Simonia, 2004). The network of specially protected natural areas is formed to preserve biological and landscape diversity in Poland. It is a resource basement for ecological tourism development determining its territorial organization. Specially protected areas occupy 32,5% of the whole territory (Homich K.A, 2004).

There are 25 national parks in Poland. Their total area is 300 thousand hectares (1% of the whole territory). Mostly visited parks are Babegursky, Belovezhsky, Bebzhansky, Beschansky, Bory Tuholske, Dravensky, Gorchansky, Volinsky, West Carpathians, West Poleskie, etc. There are 650 reserves in

the country. The status of Ramsky property has 13 natural objects, the status of territories important for birds has 80 objects. Besides, protective measures concern 7 thousand natural objects – separate trees (for example millenary oaks), walkways, rocks, rock shelters and caves, glacial boulders circled more than 10 meters (Gaidukevich, 2003). The diversity of flora and fauna and well-developed network of specially protected natural areas are factors for the development of ecological, hunting, fishing and sightseeing tourism in the country. Unique natural objects (Belovezhskaya pushcha is the greatest woodland in Europe, Slovinsky national park with moving dunes) have the status of international objects of ecological tourism. Thus, Belovezhskaya pushcha is presented in the UNESCO list of world heritage objects, Slovinsky national park is included in the list of world biosphere reserves of UNESCO, lake Luknaino is included in the list of biosphere reserves of international importance, Vigersky national park with lake Vigra is in the worldwide program of water ecosystem protection AQUA (PTO, 2017).

3. Naturel Features of Belarus

The Republic of Belarus is situated in the middle of Europe. It borders with Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia. The republic is related to the countries with mid territory. Total area of Belarus is 207,6 thousand km^2, it is no more than 2% of the total area of Europe. Belarus is on 13th place among European countries areally. Belarus occupies rather dense territory. It is 560 km from north to south and 650 km from west to east (*Figure* 3). The republic is situated within moderate geographical belt between 51 and 56° northern latitude (Brilevsky & Smoliakov, 2012)

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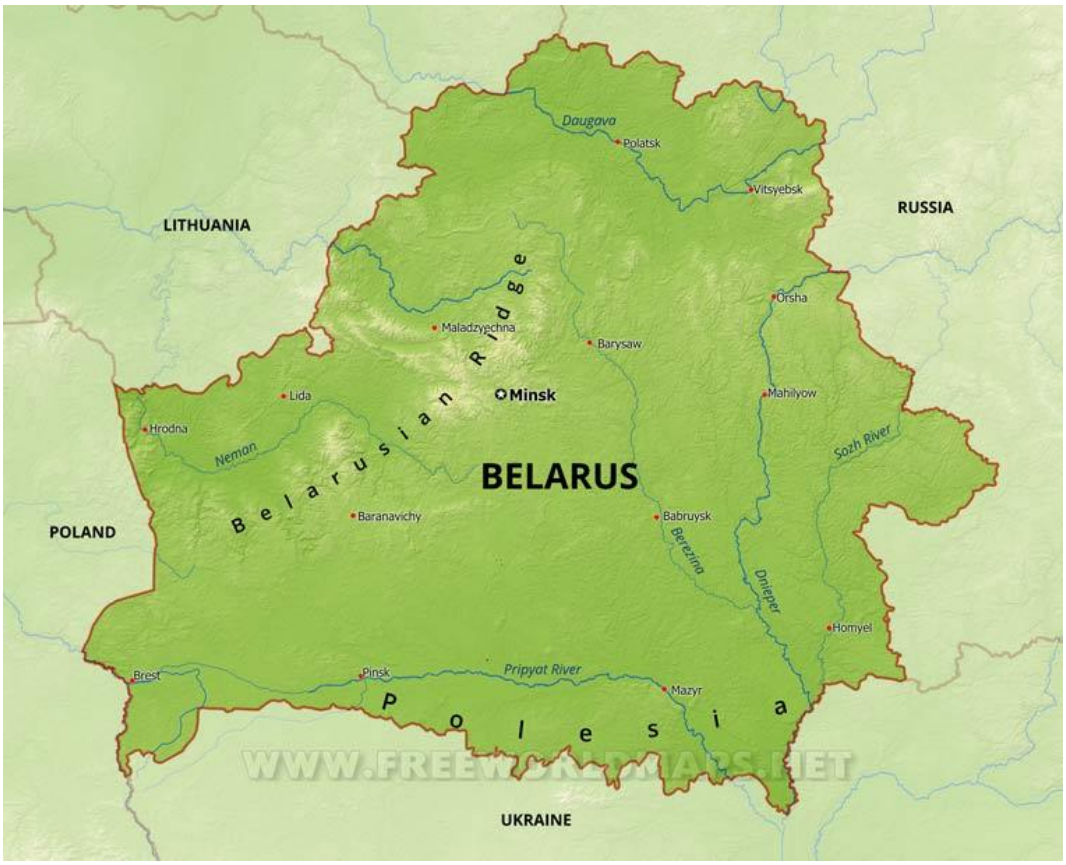

Figure 3. Physical Map of Belarus.

Belarus is situated within Russian valley, drainage divide of the Baltic and Black seas. The relief is characterized by domination of flat and undulating plains and hollows, river valleys and hollow-undulating complexes. Mid height is 160 meters. Maximum absolute height (mount Dzherzhinskaya) is in the Minsk highlands. Minimum absolute height is up to 80 meters in the river valley Neman on the border of Lithuania. The lowlands occupy about 30% of the territory of Belarus with absolute marks of height from 81 to 150 meters. They are characterized by flat relief with relatively small elevations (1-2 meters). Flatlands with absolute heights from 150 to 200 meters occupy more than half of the territory. The highlands occupy a bit more than 20% of the territory (Brilevsky & Smoliakov, 2012). They are crossed by river valleys, ravines and Cloughs (*Figure 3*).

Morphological characteristics and age of Belarussian relief change from north to south. Glacial relief with a great number of lakes, inland cupholes, flat marsh areas, hills, margin ridges is mostly developed in the northern part of the country. Aerial, glacial relief prevails in the central part. The system of margin highlands and plateau-like plains is developed here. Absolute height is 200-250 meters and higher. Aerial, glacial relief as well as alluvial and lake-alluvial relief is spread in the south of the country. Prevailing heights are 120-160 meters. 2-3 level alluvial land and 2 terraces above flood-plain are distinguished in the valleys of large rivers. Anthropogenic relief (open-pit mines, mounds, barrows, etc.) is often compared with natural forms of relief, they occupy 4-5% of the whole territory (P. Brouky, 2009).

Belarus has moderate continental climate with comparatively warm winter and summer, considerably long vegetation period and sufficient amount of precipitation. Its main characteristics are predominated by the position of the country in mid-latitudes, absence of mountains, relative distance from the Atlantic Ocean. Incidence angle of sun beams, day and sunglow duration, the amount of sun radiation are determined by the position of Belarus between 51 and 56° of northern latitude. During the year incidence angle of sun beams at noon changes on 47°, day duration – more than 10 hours. Annual sums of radiation balance change within 1300 and 2000 mj/m^2, increasing from north-east to south-west. Annual rate of total solar radiation is increasing from north to south, from 3500 to 4100 mj/m^2. Gradual increase in the temperature from north-east to south-west (in summer to southeast) is typical for heating rate in Belarus. Average annual temperature in this direction changes from 4,5 to 7°C, average monthly temperature of July increases from 17 to 18,5°C, January – from -8 to 4,5°C. The winds influence the weather formation in Belarus. In winter south-west and west winds prevail in the country, in spring – southeast winds, in summer – northwest, in autumn – west. Gentle winds (2-5 m/s) are most typical for Belarus, their frequency is 60-70% (Brouky, 2010). Changeable and unstable weather with unfavourable weather conditions (frosts, droughts, etc.) is closely connected with geographical position of the country.

The territory of Belarus serves as a watershed of the Baltic and Black seas. Approximately 55% of stream flow comes to the rivers of the Black basin and 45% - the Baltic basin. There are more than 20,8 thousand rivers and streams which form the river network of 90,6 thousand kilometres in Belarus. The largest rivers are Neman, Berezina, Vilia (begins in Belarus), West Dvina, Dnepr, Sozh, Pripiat, Gorin, West Bug (transitional). River valleys occupy mostly 10% of the whole territory. Average density of river network is 0,44 km/km^2. River falls change from 0,1 to 2-3%. Current speed of large and middle rivers is not high, 0,5-0,7 m/s. The main power source is precipitations. Obvious spring overflow (duration is 30-120 days) and comparatively stable summer-autumn (160-205 days) and winter (85-110 days) low-water period are typical for the rivers behaviour. Low water periods are broken by overflows as a result of rains and thaws (Brouky, 2010). Spring overflow if the water rises higher than normal levels sometimes leads to floods.

There are 11 thousand lakes total area of which is 1,6 thousand km^2 in Belarus. Most lakes are situated in the northern part of the republic (Belarussian lake district), in the basin of the West Dvina and Neman, and also in the southern part (Belarussian Polesie). The largest lakes are Naroch (total area is 79,2 km^2), Osveiskoe, Chervonoe, Lukomskoe, Driviaty, Nescherdo. The deepest ones are Dolgoe (depth is 53,7 m), Richi, Ginkovo, Voloso Juzhny, Bolduk. Creation of the most lakes of Belarussian lake district is connected with the activity of lake glacier and its ice waters (Figure 1). Glacial lake hollows are various: barrier (Naroch, Miadel, etc.), rill (Senno, Bolguk), pot-holes (Rudakovo, Svito), thermocast (Lisitskoe, Kanashy) (Brouky, 2010). The hollows in Polesia are more young, mainly oxbow, karst (Vulka, etc.), flooding lakes (Chervonoe, etc.).

More than 150 reservoirs and 1,4 thousand ponds are created in Belarus. The largest reservoirs are Vileiskoe, Zaslavskoe, Krasnoslobodskoe, Soligorskoe, Lubanskoe, etc. As a result of a large-scale melioration 3,4 million hectares of swamps and waterlogged lands are drained, about 170 thousand kilometres of soil reclamation canals are built . Dnepro-Bugsky, Avgustovsky, Oginsky and other canals are created for the connection of navigable rivers. Modern natural green cover of Belarus is represented by forest, meadow and swamp types of vegetation. The type of green cover is predetermined by the specific geographical position of the territory: from north to south it loses boreal layout, eastern European needle-leaved forests of south-taiga and taiga types change into broad-leaved forests of central European type.

Forest vegetation is represented by pine (58,3% of the forest covered area), birch (15,4%), fir (9,4%), sticky alder (8,5%), broad-leaved, mainly oak (4,1%), asp (2,9%) forests. The subzone of oak-taiga forests takes northern part of the republic. Pine forests with the high spread of fir trees predominate in it. There are birch, asp trees. The subzone of hornbeam oak taiga forests occupies the central part of Belarus between the northern border of hornbeam and the southern border of complete fir expansion. Forest vegetation is characterized by the combination of conifer and hardwood forests. Total area of fir forests decreases to the south. They are changed by hardwood fir and broad-leaved forests. The subzone of hardwood pine forests is typical for Belarussian Polesie. There are pines, oaks, rare hornbeams in the forests. Oak forests with hornbeams and ashes are well spread. Sticky alder and bushy birch forests occupy large areas in the hollow marshes (Brouky, Nature of Belarus, plants, mushrooms, animals, 2014).

Meadow vegetation of the republic is presented mainly by dry (47,8%) and noninundated lowland (43,5%) meadows; total area of flood meadows is insignificant, 3,7% of the whole meadows (Brouky, Nature of Belarus, plants, mushrooms, animals, 2014). Swamp vegetation is characterized by forest grasses, grass-moss and moss phytocenosis. Vascular plants are presented by 1476 local species, moss ones include 430 species, lichens – 470 species, weeds – 2200 species. Grass plants are considered to be the most numerous ones in Belarus. Most part of flora is local.

The structure of biological animal diversity in Belarus is still not completely explored. There are 81 species of mammals (325 species of birds, 7 species of reptiles, 13 species of amphibians, about 70 species of fish, 3 species of lampreys) (Brouky, Nature of Belarus, plants, mushrooms, animals, 2014). The data about the amount of invertebrate species (30 thousand) is ratable. Forest inhabitants are distinguished by the most variety. Animal world of broad-leaved forests, especially oak forests, is particularly rich. There are royal stags, bisons, some species of bats, jays, dormice, hickwalls and grey-headed woodpeckers, nuthatches, etc. Elements of taiga fauna such as common martens, crossbills, bullfinches, golden-crested kinglets are typical for fir woods.

Belarus is considered to be one of the main reservations of high bogs of Europe. There are numerous amphibians (frogs), reptiles (water snakes and adders), birds (ducks, curlews, herons, etc.) in the bogs. There are numerous field voles, mice, European hares, quails, weasels and ermines on the meadows. Animal distribution is determined by the type of the green cover, ways of land use and level of synantropization of the different regions of Belarus. Thus, similarities and differences are estimated while analysing natural features of Poland and Belarus.

There are four national parks in Belarus: Bialowieza Forest, Naroch National Park, Braslav Lakes, Pripyat National Park, and two reserves: Berezinsky and Polesye Radiation and Ecology Reserve. The most famous and largest national park is the "Bialowieza Forest", located in the Brest region. It is the largest remnant of the relic primeval lowland forest in Europe. In 1992, UNESCO's decision was to include the State National Park "Bialowieza Forest" in the World Heritage List. Bialowieza Forest has a number of species of plants and animals unique in Europe. In this national park, there are hundreds of old oak trees, whose age is more than 500 years. There also natural habitat of the European Bison.

4. Result

While world regional geography teachers analyse the causes and results of global and regional problems, they should have students grasp that events and problems can be approached by using various outlooks, different thoughts and viewpoints. They should also train students to become individuals who can learn and make deductions from these problems; compare different regions and countries; objectively examine the advantages and disadvantages of these countries; make sound connections between the problems of the country and global problems and freely create individual worlds in their own heads.

If it makes a general comparison of Poland and Belarus examined in this study; Both Poland and Belarus reflect the general physical characteristics of Europe with their simple shape and wide plains. Both countries have a mild climate feature due to the effect of marine climate, but the temperature values of Poland are higher than Belarus due to the proximity to the sea. Both Flora and Fauna are very rich in both Poland and Belarus. Especially in terms of protected areas, it can be said that both countries are very sensitive.

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