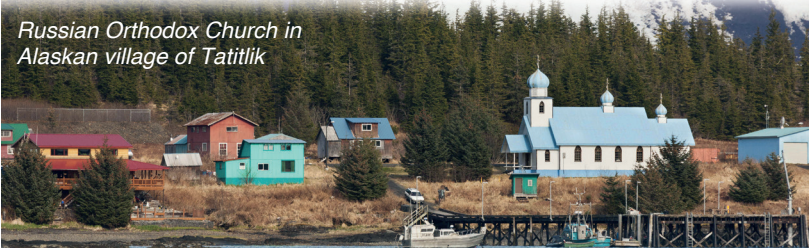


Enduring ties between Russia and Alaska

Russian influence in Alaska – the setting for the high-stakes meeting between Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin – still lingers in parts of the state the U.S. bought from Russia more than 150 years ago

Russian Orthodox Church in Alaskan village of Tatitlik



■ Local dialect blending Russian and Indigenous languages survived for decades near Anchorage, but has now essentially vanished

■ **1728:** Danish explorer **Vitus Bering** leads Russian expedition that sails for first time through Bering Strait

■ **1799:** **Tsar Paul I** sets up Russian-American Company to exploit lucrative fur trade – venture that often brings it into conflict with Indigenous peoples

■ **1867:** Russian empire sells territory to Washington for \$7.2 million

■ There are some 80 active Russian Orthodox Churches across state. Alaska's Orthodox diocese maintains a seminary on Kodiak island