CHAPTER 18

The Rise of Russia

CHAPTER SUMMARY

The rise of the Russian Empire, unlike the rise of Western colonial empires, although altering power balances through Eurasia, involved only limited commercial exchange. After freeing themselves from Mongol domination by 1480, the Russians pushed eastward. Some extension of territory also occurred in eastern Europe. Regional states, many differing from Russia, were present, with Lithuania and Poland rivaling Russia into the 17th century. Russia, with its Byzantine-influenced culture, had been unimportant in world affairs before the 15th century. Russia then entered into new contacts with the West without losing its distinct identity. Between 1450 and 1750, many lasting characteristics of the eastern European world were formed.

Russia’s Expansionist Politics under the Tsars. During the 14th century, the duchy of Moscow took the lead in liberating Russia from the Mongols. Ivan III gave his government a military focus and used a blend of nationalism and the Orthodox Christian religion to succeed by 1480, in creating a large independent state.

The Need for Revival. The Mongols, content to leave local administration in indigenous hands, had not reshaped basic Russian culture. The occupation did, however, reduce the vigor of cultural and economic life. Literacy declined and the economy became purely agricultural and dependent on peasant labor. Ivan III restored the tradition of centralized rule, added a sense of imperial mission, and claimed supervision of all Orthodox churches. Russia, asserted Ivan, had succeeded Byzantium as the Third Rome. Ivan IV continued the policy of expansion. He increased the power of the tsar by killing many of the nobility (boyars)—earning the name of Ivan the Terrible—on the charge of conspiracy.

Patterns of Expansion. Territorial expansion focused on central Asia. Russians moved across their region’s vast plains to the Caspian Sea and the Ural Mountains. By the 16th century, they moved into western Siberia. Peasant adventurers (cossacks) were recruited to occupy the new lands. Loyal nobles and bureaucrats received land grants in the territories. The conquests gave Russia increased agricultural regions and labor sources. Slavery existed into the 18th century. Important trading connections opened with Asian neighbors. The Russian advance, along with that of the Ottomans to the south, eliminated independent central Asia as a source of nomadic invasions. Russia became a multicultural state. The large Muslim population was not forced to assimilate to Russian culture.

Western Contact and Romanov Policy. The tsars, mindful of the cultural and economic lag occurring under Mongol rule, also began a policy of carefully managed contacts with the West. Ivan III dispatched diplomatic missions to leading Western states; under Ivan IV, British merchants established trading contacts. Italian artists brought in by the tsars built churches and the Kremlin, creating a distinct style of architecture. When Ivan IV died without an heir early in the 17th century, the Time of Troubles commenced. The boyars tried to control government, while Sweden and Poland seized territory. In 1613, the boyars chose a member of the Romanov family, Michael, as tsar. The Time of Troubles ended without placing lasting constraints on the tsar’s power. Michael restored internal order, drove out the foreign invaders, and recommenced imperial expansion. Russia secured part of Ukraine and pushed its southern border to Ottoman...
lands. Alexis Romanov increased the tsar’s authority by abolishing the assemblies of nobles and restoring state control over the church. His desire to cleanse the church of changes occurring during the Mongol era created tensions because conservative believers resisted changes to their established rituals. The government exiled these “Old Believers” to Siberia or southern Russia.

**Russia’s First Westernization, 1690-1790.** By the end of the 17th century, Russia, although remaining more of an agricultural state than most leading civilizations, was a great land empire. Peter I, the Great, continued past policies but added a new interest in changing the economy and culture through imitation of Western forms. It was the first Westernization effort in history. Peter traveled incognito to the West and gained an interest in science and technology. Many Western artisans returned with him to Russia.

**Tsarist Autocracy of Peter the Great.** Peter was an autocratic ruler; revolts were brutally suppressed. Reforms were initiated through state decrees. Peter increased the power of the state through recruitment of bureaucrats from outside the aristocracy and by forming a Western-type military force. A secret police was created to prevent dissent and watch over the bureaucracy. Foreign policy followed existing patterns. Hostilities with the Ottomans went on without gain. A successful war with Sweden gave Russia a window on the Baltic Sea, allowing it to be a major factor in European diplomatic and military affairs. Peter’s capital, reflecting the shift of interests, moved to the Baltic city of St. Petersburg.

**What Westernization Meant.** Peter’s reforms influenced politics, economics, and cultural change. The bureaucracy and military were reorganized on Western principles. The first Russian navy was created. The councils of nobles were eliminated and replaced by advisors under his control. Provincial governors were appointed from the center, while elected town councils were under royal authority. Law codes were systematized and the tax system reformed to increase burdens on the peasantry. In economic affairs, metallurgical and mining industries were expanded. Landlords were rewarded for using serfs in manufacturing operations. The changes ended the need to import for military purposes. Cultural reforms aimed at bringing in Western patterns to change old customs. Nobles had to shave their beards and dress in Western style. Peter attempted to provide increased education in mathematics and technical subjects. He succeeded in bringing the elite into the Western cultural zone. The condition of upper-class women improved. The first effort in Westernization embodied features present in later ventures in other lands. The changes were selective; they did not involve ordinary people. No attempt was made to form an exporting industrial economy. Westernization meant to Peter the encouragement of autocratic rule. These changes brought resistance from all classes.

**Consolidation under Catherine the Great.** Several decades of weak rule followed Peter’s death in 1724. Significant change resumed during the reign of Catherine (1762-1796). She used the Pugachev peasant rebellion as an excuse to extend central government authority. Catherine was also a Westernizer and brought Enlightenment ideas to Russia, but centralization and strong royal authority were more important to her than Western reform was. She gave new power over serfs to the nobles in return for their service in the bureaucracy and military. Catherine continued patronage of Western art and architecture, but the French Revolution caused her to ban foreign and domestic political writings. Russian expansionist policies continued. Territories, including the Crimea on the Black Sea, were gained in central Asia from the Ottomans. Catherine pushed colonization in Siberia and claimed Alaska. Russian explorers went down the North American coast into northern California. In Europe, Catherine joined
Prussia and Austria to partition Poland and end its independence. By the time of her death, Russia had completed an important transformation. Over three centuries, the tsars created a strong central state ruling over the world’s greatest land empire. New elements from the West had entered and altered Russia’s economy and culture.

Themes in Early Modern Russian History. Russian society was very different from that of the West. Serfdom and a deep-rooted peasant culture did not mesh with Westernization efforts. The Russian nobility, through state service, maintained a vital position. A minority of great landholders lived in major cities and provided important cultural patronage. Smaller, incompletely Westernized landowners lived less opulent lives.

Serfdom: The Life of East Europe’s Masses. Before the Mongol conquest, Russia’s peasantry had been relatively free. The government from the 16th century encouraged serfdom as a means of conciliating the nobility and of extending state control over peasants. A 1649 act made serfdom hereditary; other 17th- and 18th-century laws tied serfs to the land and augmented the legal rights of landlords. Serfs were almost slaves; they were bought, sold, and punished by owners. Peasant conditions were similar in eastern Europe. Peasants labored on large estates to produce grain for sale to the West. Western merchants in return bought the serfs’ owners manufactured and luxury items. Peasants did have some rights; village governments regulated many aspects of life. Most peasants remained poor and illiterate; they paid high taxes and performed extensive labor services in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. Their condition deteriorated throughout the 18th century.

Trade and Economic Dependence. There were few large cities in Russia; 95 percent of the population was rural. Artisans also were few, since most manufacturing was rurally based. Small merchant groups existed, but most trade was handled by Westerners. Peter the Great’s reforms increased trade, yet the nobility managed to prevent the emergence of a strong commercial class. Russia’s social and economic system had strengths. It produced adequate revenue for the expanding empire, supported the aristocracy, and allowed significant population growth. Commerce was carried on with independent central Asian regions. There were important limitations. Agricultural methods remained traditional, and peasants lacked incentives to increase production for the benefit of landlords. Manufacturing suffered from similar constraints.

Social Unrest. By the end of the 18th century, Russian reformers were criticizing their nation’s backwardness and urging the abolition of serfdom. Peasant discontent was more significant. Peasants remained loyal to the tsar, but blamed landlords for the harshness of their lives. Periodic rebellions occurred from the 17th century, peaking with the Pugachev rising of the 1770s. The tsar and nobility triumphed, but peasant discontent remained a problem.

Russia and Eastern Europe. Regions west of Russia formed a fluctuating borderland between western and eastern European interests. In the Ottoman Balkans, trade with the West spread Enlightenment concepts. Poland and the Czech and Slovak areas were a part of the Western cultural orbit. Copernicus participated in the Western Scientific Revolution. Some eastern regions were participants in the Protestant Reformation. Many of the smaller states lost political autonomy. Hungary and Bohemia were incorporated into the Habsburg Empire. The largest state, Poland, was linked to the West by shared Roman Catholicism. By 1600, Polish aristocrats weakened the central government and exploited peasants. Urban centers and a merchant class were lacking. The kingdom was partitioned by Russia, Prussia, and Austria.
In Depth: Multinational Empires. During the early modern period, Russia created the longest-lasting multinational empire. The Mughal Empire ended during the 19th century; the empires of the Ottomans and Habsburgs disappeared early in the next century. Special characteristics of the Russian Empire were the presence of a large core of ethnic groups prepared to spread widely and establish new settlements, and Russian ability to adopt Western techniques. During the period of new empire creation, the importance of the western European, culturally more cohesive, nation-state was confirmed. Such states included minority ethnicities but developed methods to achieve national unity. From the 19th century onward, there have been serious clashes between national loyalties and multinational empires. Most of the latter have collapsed.

Global Connections: Russia and the World. Russia’s emergence as a key player in both Europe and Asia was a crucial development in the early modern era. The Russian Empire was different from those in the West, but its effect was enormous on two continents in this era.

KEY TERMS

Ivan III (the Great): Prince of the duchy of Moscow; responsible for freeing Russia from the Mongols; took the title of tsar.

Third Rome: Russia, with Moscow as its capital, claimed to be the successor of the Roman and Byzantine empires.

Ivan IV (the Terrible): Confirmed power of tsarist autocracy by attacking the authority of the boyars; continued policy of expansion; established contacts with western European commerce and culture.

Boyars: The Russian nobles.

Cossacks: Peasant adventurers with agricultural and military skills recruited to conquer and settle in newly seized lands in southern Russia and Siberia.

Time of Troubles: Early 17th-century period of boyar efforts to regain power and foreign invasion after the death of Ivan IV without an heir; ended with the selection of Michael Romanov as tsar in 1613.

Romanov dynasty: Ruled Russia from 1613 to 1917.

Alexis Romanov: Second ruler of the dynasty; abolished assemblies of nobles; gained new powers over the Orthodox church.

Old Believers: Russians who refused to accept the ecclesiastical reforms of Alexis Romanov; many were exiled to southern Russia or Siberia.

Peter I (the Great): Tsar from 1689 to 1725; continued growth of absolutism and conquest; sought to change selected aspects of the economy and culture through imitation of western European models.
St. Petersburg: Baltic city that was made the new capital of Russia by Peter I.

Catherine the Great: German-born Russian tsarina; combined selective Enlightenment ideas with strong centralizing policies; converted the nobility to a service aristocracy by granting them new power over the peasantry.

Partition of Poland: Three separate divisions of Polish territory among Russia, Prussia, and Austria in 1772, 1793, and 1795; eliminated Poland as an independent state.

Obrok: Labor obligations of Russian peasants owed either to their landlords or to the state; part of the increased burdens placed on the peasantry during the 18th century.

Pugachev rebellion: Unsuccessful peasant rising led by Cossack Pugachev during the 1770s; typical of peasant unrest during the 18th century and thereafter.

Westernization: Process in which traditional cultures come under the influence of Western culture.

Serfdom: Institution in which a peasant is attached to a feudal estate.

LESSON SUGGESTIONS

Leader Analysis Peter the Great

Peoples Analysis tsarist autocracy

Conflict Analysis Old Believers versus ecclesiastical reforms

Change Analysis Peter the Great’s reforms

Societal Comparison Russia versus western Europe

Document Analysis Nature of Westernization

Dialectical Journal In Depth: Multinational Empires

LECTURE SUGGESTIONS

Compare the development of the Russian Empire from 1480 to 1800 and the expansion of the West during the same period. Both expansions were based on military superiority over less technologically advanced peoples. There were economic zones along frontiers and a colonial system, and incorporating ethnic diversity resulted. Russian expansion was different because the Russians created a land-based empire; they lacked a mercantile fleet and had only a limited military navy. The Russians failed to achieve economic parity with Western empires, and they did not cause a demographic disaster similar to the European effect on the Americas and Polynesia. The Russians did not establish the same economic dominance over frontiers as
did the West. The Russians failed to develop merchant classes, and the state, unlike in the West, was in charge of capitalizing ventures. Russian retention of an estate agricultural system was more typical of dependent economic zones than of Western core regions. They retained a coercive labor system, depended on the export of raw materials, and imported manufactured goods and luxuries.

Describe the effect of Westernization in Russia during the 17th and 18th centuries and whether the process overcame the separation of Russia and the West. Westernization introduced Western art forms; Peter the Great mandated Western dress styles. Western political organization was used to establish an effective tsarist autocracy, although grants of local authority to the nobility under Catherine the Great reduced the ability of the central government to control the masses of the people. Although the economy remained largely agricultural, economic reforms enabled the development of industry essentially devoted to military production (mining and metallurgy). Economic development was based on the increasing exploitation of a peasant labor force. Westernization failed to overcome the separation between Russia and the West because the reforms affected only the nobility and did not make complete changes among them. The masses continued to rely on the Orthodox church as the primary cultural influence. Social organization remained typical of large estate agricultural systems. Unlike the Western development of a proletariat less tied to the land, Russia maintained a rigid serfdom. Russia was drawn into the global trading network as a dependent zone.

CLASS DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

Describe the effects of Mongol occupation on Russian civilization.

The effects of the Mongol occupation can be seen in the reaction of the Russians. Although local administration was left to the Russians, literacy and culture declined. The economic life of the Russians also plummeted. The reaction led to Tsar Ivan III’s policies and ideas. Also, the Russians started the idea of building buffer states to insulate the core from future attacks. This marked the beginnings of the Russian feeling of not trusting non-Russians.

Trace Russian expansion under the Ivans.

Under the Ivans, Russia began a policy of carefully managed contacts with the West. Ivan III dispatched diplomatic missions to leading Western states; under Ivan IV, British merchants established trading contacts. Italian artists brought in by the tsars built churches and the Kremlin, creating a distinct style of architecture.

Summarize the extent of Westernization under Peter the Great.

Peter inherited the throne and went to the West to observe and study. As tsar, Peter the Great continued past policies but added a new interest in changing the economy and culture through imitation of Western forms. It was the first Westernization effort in history. Peter traveled incognito to the West and gained an interest in science and technology. Many Western artisans returned with him to Russia. There were successes politically by curtailing the power of the aristocracy. He created a navy and altered archaic law codes. Unfortunately for Russia, Peter the Great instituted social policies that were very superficial and extremely unpopular with Russian nobles.
Summarize the extent of Westernization under Catherine the Great.

Catherine was also a Westernizer and brought Enlightenment ideas to Russia, but centralization and strong royal authority were more important to her than Western reform. She gave new power over serfs to the nobles in return for their service in the bureaucracy and military. Catherine continued patronage of Western art and architecture, but the French Revolution caused her to ban foreign and domestic political writings.

Describe the nature of Russian serfdom.

Before the Mongol conquest, Russia’s peasantry had been relatively free. The government from the 16th century encouraged serfdom. A 1649 act made serfdom hereditary. Serfs were almost slaves. Most peasants remained poor and illiterate; they paid high taxes and performed extensive labor services in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. Their condition deteriorated throughout the 18th century.

Trace how Russia become economically dependent on the West.

The entrance of Western ideals by Peter the Great open a floodgate of new items for trading. This imbalance of trade grows exponentially all the while the aristocracy fails to modernize.

Describe the basis of the culture of the Russian masses.

Russia is a long-lasting multicultural society consisting of European, Asian, and Middle Eastern influences.

Compare characteristics of eastern Europe with Russia.

At this time eastern Europe shared a common culture. However, most of eastern Europe was closely tied into western European ideas and movements.
MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. Ivan III was responsible for the
   A) abolition of serfdom in Russia.
   B) military campaigns that freed much of Russia from the Mongols.
   C) policies of Westernization that required changes in dress among the Russian elite.
   D) conversion of Russia to Roman Catholicism.
   E) founding of the Romanov dynasty.

2. Ivan the Great’s claim that Russia was the successor of the Byzantine Empire implied that Russia was the
   A) “next Byzantium.”
   B) Golden Horde.
   C) “pax Romana.”
   D) Mandate of Heaven.
   E) “Third Rome.”

3. What group did Ivan the Terrible attack as a means of furthering tsarist autocracy?
   A) The Old Believers
   B) The Orthodox priesthood
   C) The growing merchant class
   D) The peasants
   E) The boyars

4. Cossacks were
   A) those who objected to reforms in the Orthodox church.
   B) members of the Russian nobility.
   C) peasants recruited to migrate to newly seized lands in the Russian Empire.
   D) the designated heirs of the tsars.
   E) a secret organization that opposed the tsars’ autocracy.

5. The Time of Troubles followed the death of which Russian tsar?
   A) Ivan III
   B) Peter the Great
   C) Ivan IV
   D) Alexis Romanov
   E) Michael Romanov
6. Old Believers were
   A) Russians who refused to accept tsarist reforms of the Orthodox church.
   B) Roman Catholics in western Russia.
   C) opponents of the Romanov dynasty’s claims to authority.
   D) Russian heretics who believed in Christian dualism’s divine forces of both good and evil.
   E) people who refused to accept any contact, no matter how minimal, between Russia and western Europe.

7. Where was Peter the Great’s program of economic development concentrated?
   A) Cloth production
   B) Mining and metallurgical industries
   C) Urbanization
   D) Pottery production
   E) Shipbuilding and seafaring

8. Peter the Great’s policy of cultural Westernization was directed primarily at the
   A) merchants.
   B) peasants.
   C) nobility.
   D) Orthodox church.
   E) government officials.

9. The government of Catherine the Great
   A) controlled all aspects of central and local administration.
   B) advocated the abolition of the peasantry and removed some of the worst abuses of the coercive labor system.
   C) was so besieged by peasant rebellions that it scarcely functioned by the end of the reign.
   D) was strongly centralized, but yielded virtually all local control to the nobility.
   E) was never considered legitimate.

10. In 1649, Russian serfdom
    A) was abolished.
    B) was converted to legal slavery.
    C) became hereditary.
    D) began to modify to a free peasantry under the influence of Westernization.
    E) became a source of unrest that led to its abolition within the next decade.
SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

1. Under __________, who claimed succession from the old Rurik dynasty and the old Kievan days, a large part of Russia was freed from the Mongols after 1462.

2. Russian tsars insisted that Russia had succeeded Byzantium the “__________,” with all that this implied in terms of grandeur and expansionist potential.

3. Following the death of Tsar Ivan IV, Russia entered a politically disturbed era known as the __________.

4. The first Romanov tsar, __________, established internal order following the era of political disturbance.

5. The tsarist government exiled thousands of the “__________” attached to the former rituals and beliefs of the Orthodox church to Siberia or southern Russia.

6. Tsar __________, son of Alexis, changed selected aspects of Russian economy and culture through imitation of Western forms.

7. Peter the Great moved his capital from Moscow to a new Baltic city that he named __________.

8. The 18th-century female ruler of Russia, __________, flirted vigorously with the ideas of the French Enlightenment and invited French philosophers for visits.

9. __________, a Cossack chieftain who claimed to be the legitimate tsar, launched a rebellion against tsarist authority and promised to abolish serfdom, taxation, and military conscription.

10. In 1500, __________, formed by a union with Lithuania, was the largest state in eastern Europe aside from Russia.
TRUE/FALSE. Write ‘T’ if the statement is true and ‘F’ if the statement is false.

1. As a reformist, Peter the Great concentrated on improvements in political organization, on selected economic development, and on cultural change.

2. Unlike Peter the Great’s attempts at Westernization, Catherine the Great’s reforms went beyond appearances to offer real substance.

3. Because of its great estates, its local political power, and its service to the state, the Russian nobility maintained a vital position in Russian society.

4. Pugachev was an intellectual who criticized serfdom.

5. Three partitions in 1772, 1793, and 1795 eliminated Poland as an independent state and gave Russia the lion’s share of the spoils.

6. Ivan III, called the Terrible, continued the policy of Russian expansion with emphasis on confirming the power of the tsarist autocracy.

7. Peter the Great abolished the assemblies of nobles and gained new powers over the Russian church.

8. In 1613, an assembly of Russian nobles chose a member of the Romanov family as tsar.

9. The duchy of Kiev served as the center for the liberation effort beginning in the 14th century against Mongol domination of Russia.
ANSWER KEY

Multiple Choice

1. B
2. E
3. E
4. C
5. C

6. A
7. B
8. C
9. D
10. C

Short Answer

1. Answer: Ivan III
2. Answer: Third Rome
3. Answer: Time of Troubles
4. Answer: Michael
5. Answer: Old Believers
6. Answer: Peter I
7. Answer: St. Petersburg
8. Answer: Catherine the Great
9. Answer: Pugachev
10. Answer: Poland

True/False

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T

6. F
7. F
8. T
9. F
CHAPTER 18

TIMELINE

Insert the following events into the timeline. This should help you to compare important historical events chronologically.

- election of first Romanov tsar
- beginning of reign of Peter the Great
- Pugachev revolt
- Ivan III frees much of Russia from the Mongols
- hereditary status of serfs fixed
- Time of Troubles begins

____ 1462
____ 1604
____ 1613
____ 1649
____ 1689
____ 1773-1775

TERMS, PEOPLE, EVENTS

The following terms, people, and events are important to your understanding of the chapter. Define each one on a separate sheet of paper.

Catherine the Great  Radishev  Peter III
Copernicus  serfdom  Ivan III
Third Rome  Rurik dynasty  Kremlin
partitions of Poland  obruk  instruction of 1767
Peter I (the Great)  St. Petersburg  Westernization
Pugachev rebellion  Cossacks  Romanov dynasty
Time of Troubles  Old Believers  Alexis de Tocqueville
Ivan IV (the Terrible)  boyars  Chancery of the Secret Police
Alexis Romanov
MAP EXERCISE

The following exercise is intended to clarify the geophysical environment and the spatial relationships among the important objects and places mentioned in the chapter. Locate the following places on the map.

Moscow        St. Petersburg
boundaries of the Russian Empire by 1800

Compare the boundaries of the Mongol Empire of Chinggis Khan to the Russian empire by 1800. To what extent could the Russians claim to be heirs of Chinggis Khan and the unifiers of central Asia? How were these empires different?
Chapter 18 Notes

I. Introduction
   A. Land empire created between 1450-1750
      1. Involved limited commercial exchange
      2. Altered balance of power Asia/Europe
      3. Expanded eastward into Asia
   B. Link to Eastern Europe
      1. Some regional kingdoms
      2. Conflict with Poland and Lithuania
   C. Changes of nation
      1. Sense of separate identity
      2. Reaction to Western influence – accept it, select from it, shun it

II. Russia’s Expansionist Politics Under the Tsars
   A. First step – Break free from Mongol control
      1. Moscow princes strong as tax collectors
      2. Ivan III – Ivan the Great – large army – 1462 frees chunk
         i. Utilized support for Orthodox Church
         ii. Played off nationalism
         iii. 1480 totally freed of Mongol control
   B. Need for Revival
      1. Basic Russian Values
         i. Under Mongols
            1. Some adopted dress
            2. Christianity maintained
            3. Arts diminish
            4. Economic hit – trade down/manufacturing limited
               a. Purely agricultural economy
      2. Centralized Rule
         i. With imperial mission – make an empire
         ii. Connection to Byzantine Empire – married niece of empero
      3. “Third Rome” – Caesar – Tsar
      4. Ivan IV – Ivan the Terrible
         i. Killed many nobles (boyars) for alleged conspiracy
            1. Nobles couldn’t stand up for selves – no tradition
   C. Patterns of Expansion
      1. Central Asia
         i. Why? Push back Mongols
         ii. Vast plains easy to conquer/stage battles
         iii. Cossacks – Russian pioneers – horse + farm
            1. Took over then settled lands
            2. Skilled horsemen – think American cowboys/Mongol
      2. Usages of expansion
         i. Land given to nobles for allegiance
         ii. Further east opened new trading relationships
      3. Eliminated independent Central Asia
         i. Nomads gone
         ii. Diverse peoples added to Russia – multicultural empire
            1. Like Mughal Empire/Ottoman Empire
            2. Large Muslim minority
   D. Western Contact and Romanov Policy
      1. Carefully managed contacts with the west
         i. Early contacts with British merchants
         ii. Imported Italian artists/architects to work on churches/palaces – onion
         iii. Nobles look to west for style/art/status - precedent
      2. Conflict over heir to the throne
         i. After Ivan IV – Time of Trouble – disputes for throne – boyars
         ii. Romanov Dynasty chosen by boyars
      3. Romanov’s reestablish order
         i. Stopped Swedish/Polish attacks
         ii. Expanded empire
            1. Met Ottoman Empire
2. Part of Ukraine

4. Alexis Romanov’s new powers
   i. Abolished noble assemblies – think Louis XIV
   ii. State control of Orthodox faith – get rid of superstitions of Mongol era
      1. Exiled to Siberia – Old Believers

III. Russia’s First Westernization
   A. Introduction
      a. Unusually agricultural existence
         i. Peter the Great extended tsarist control
         ii. Expanded territory
         iii. Imitated Western forms
      b. Peter the Great – exceptional leader
         i. Traveled to west in disguise – picture 6’8” guy in disguise
         ii. Visited manufacturing centers – empires for alliances
            1. Gained interest – brought back artisans, scientists

   B. Tsarist Autocracy of Peter the Great
      a. Autocrat
         i. Put down revolts with cruelty
            1. Organized military
         ii. Devalued parliament
         iii. Recruited bureaucrats from outside nobility
         iv. Secret police to watch bureaucrats/prevent dissent
            1. Chancery of Secret Police to 1990
      b. Foreign policy
         i. attacked Ottoman Empire, but didn’t win a ton of battles
         ii. weakened Sweden – sea port
         iii. shifted capital to St. Petersburg

   C. What Westernization Meant
      a. Political changes
         i. Small bureaucratic departments (think Ministries or Departments)
         ii. Military
            1. Improved weaponry
            2. First Russian navy
         iii. Got rid of nobility for advisors – got specialized people
         iv. Tsar-appointed local magistrates – can control provinces
         v. Systemized law codes/tax system (stuff China did 2000 years ago)
         vi. New training institutes for bureaucrats
      b. Economic changes
         i. Metallurgy and mining
         ii. Unlike W. Europe, didn’t urbanize, develop middle class
            1. Serfs used for manufacturing – nobles rewarded
         iii. Economics funded military
      c. Cultural changes
         i. Power to upper class women
            1. stopped the pass the whip ceremony (whipped?)
            2. wear Western clothing
            3. Attend public events
            4. Peasant relations stayed the same
         ii. Take power from elite
            1. shave beards, wear western clothes – Mongol connection
            2. altered appearance
      d. Borrowing from the West
         i. Education in math/sciences
         ii. Western cultural zone
            1. imported ballet from France
            2. Christmas trees from Germany
      e. To what extent was West imitated? Selective
         i. Didn’t change poor
         ii. Not wage labor, but serf (slave/coerced) labor
         iii. Economics for military purposes not for commercial expansion
         iv. Ideas to strengthen aristocracy, not create political rebellions
      f. Hostile Responses
i. Peasants resented nobles – some didn’t speak Russian
ii. Elite discouraged Western change – losing Russian identity
iii. Set precedent for cycle of enthusiasm > revulsion

D. Consolidation Under Catherine the Great
   a. Weak rule following Peter the Great
      i. Military leaders fought for power
      ii. Anti-western leaders emerged
      iii. Peter the Great’s daughter’s nephew – Peter III – mentally challenged
          1. Wife Catherine – German princess – takes over
             a. Put down rebellions
             b. Centralized power
             c. Used Pugachev Rebellion as an excuse for more power
   b. Catherine II – fascinating women rulers
      i. Hated husband/son
      ii. Helped overthrow husband
      iii. Enlightened leader + realist/needed to centralize
      iv. Active personal life – doubt you need to know that
   c. Selective westernizer
      i. Brought some ideas of French Enlightenment
      ii. Brought some reformers to discuss law codes
   d. Image vs. Reality – centralized authority – serf life gets worse
      i. New powers to nobility – could increase punishment
          1. Nobles then gave more power to central authority
          2. Became service aristocracy – sold out?
      ii. Role of landlord
          1. Requisition peasant labor
          2. Levy taxes
          3. Impose punishments
   e. Fading from Western influence – still selective
      i. Improved St. Petersburg
      ii. Encouraged nobles to travel
      iii. Closed Russia after French Revolution – hmmm…why?
          1. Censored intellectuals – here’s a pattern/precedent
   f. Russian expansion
      i. Fought Ottoman Empire
      ii. Extended holdings all the way down to modern day Alaska, Oregon, N. California
   g. Russia’s interests in Europe
      i. Divided Poland between Austria and Prussia
         1. Poland’s parliament kept crippling gov’t flexibility
      ii. Set precedent of involvement in W. Europe
         1. Eventually, Russia would stop Napoleon
   h. Success by 1800 – summary – here’s what they accomplished
      i. Won independence
      ii. Centralized gov’t
      iii.

IV. Themes in Early Modern Russian History
   A. Introduction
      a. Nobility extremely important
      b. Two types
         i. Great landowners/absentee owners living in the cities – westernized
         ii. Smaller owners live out in the countryside – less Westernized
   B. Serfdom: The Life of East Europe’s Masses
      a. Nobles power over serfs increases
         i. Free farmers before
         ii. Fell into debt – repay through servitude
             1. worked land, but didn’t own it
         iii. Gov’t encouraged process – why?
             1. Made nobles happy – won’t revolt
             2. Method of controlling masses, when bureaucracy wasn’t effective
      b. Serf laws
         i. 1649 – hereditary status – born a serf – can’t escape
      c. Similarity to slavery
i. Bought and sold  
ii. Gambled away  
iii. Punished by masters  
iv. Differences  
   1. Nation enslaved own people, not outsiders  
   2. Relied on community ties (see precedent for communism)

d. Similarity to Eastern Europe  
   i. Nobles in Poland, Hungary benefited from system  
      1. Supported political control  
      2. Allowed them to have distinctive/Western life

e. Eastern Europe subordinate to the West  
   i. Russian grain traded for luxury items for nobility

f. Life of serfs on estates  
   i. Whole villages could be sold for manufacturing jobs  
   ii. Poor/illiterate  
      1. Paid high taxes/obligations – impossible to escape
   iii. Catherine the Great created model villages to show off

C. Trade and Economic Dependence  
   a. Classes between serfs and landlords  
      i. Prevented emergence of merchant class  
         1. Western European merchants lived in Russian cities/controlled trade

b. Success of Russia’s social and economic system  
   i. Enough money to support empire  
   ii. Exported furs/commodities to central Asia – balanced trade  
   iii. Significant population growth  
      1. Surprising considering harsh climate

c. Limitations of Russia’s social and economic system  
   i. Man labor not technological innovation  
      1. No motivation – extra profit just goes to lord  
   ii. Manufacturing lagged behind Western Europe

D. Social Unrest  
   a. System leads to protests  
      i. Western-oriented aristocrats push for change – end of 18th century  
      ii. Peasants – loyal to tsar, but resented lords

b. Peasant Rebellions  
   i. Pugachev rebellion – Cossack chieftain – promised  
      1. End to serfdom  
      2. End to taxation  
      3. End to military conscription  
      4. End to landed aristocracy
   ii. Eventually put down after roaming Southern Russia  
      1. Cut into pieces in Moscow square

E. Russia and Eastern Europe  
   a. Eastern Europe  
      i. Changing boundaries  
      ii. More embracing of enlightenment/scientific revolution – contributed scholars

b. Nationalities lose autonomy  
   i. Hungary part of German Hapsburgs  
   ii. Czech part of Hapsburgs - Bohemians

c. Decline of Poland  
   i. Link to west – Catholic  
   ii. Political aristocrats chose weak kings on purpose  
      1. Vetoed reform efforts
   iii. Poland split into three parts

V. Global Connections  
   A. Why so significant?  
      a. Huge land empire – 10 time zones  
      b. Different from Western Europe, but huge impact
The Rise of Russia (1450 – 1800)
The Moscovites

- Mongols of the Golden Horde, called Tatars, invaded the Russian steppes and influenced Russian society and government.

- Ivan III, known as Ivan the Great drove out the Mongols and moved the capital from Kiev to Moscow.

- By 1462, much of Russia freed from the Mongols.

- By 1480, Moscow freed from paying tribute to the Mongols.

- He expanded the Russian empire and laid the foundation for extreme absolute power by limiting the power of the boyars and took the title Czar.

- He organized a strong army, giving the new government a military emphasis it would long retain.
During the reign of Daniel (1263-1303), Moscow was little more than a small timber fort lost in the forests of Central Russia.
Ivan the Terrible

- Ivan IV was the first Russian ruler to claim the title Czar (Tsar), a derivative of Caesar.
- He further centralized royal power and continued the policy of expansion conquering the Mongols to expand into central Asia and western Siberia.
- He was known for his ruthlessness and reduced the power of the boyars by eliminating opponents, becoming increasingly unstable.
- He recruited peasants, called **cossacks**, to migrate to the newly seized lands in the south.
End of Ivan IV and Beginning of the Romanovs

- Ivan the Terrible organized the *oprichniki*, or agents of terror, to enforce his will.
- After the death of his wife, in a fit of anger he killed his son.
- His death plunged Russia into the “*Time of Troubles*” that lasted from 1604 to 1613.
- Finally in 1613, the *zemsky sobor*, an assembly of nobles, clergy, and townsmen chose Michael Romanov to be the new czar.
Effects of the Mongol Conquest

In the early 1200s, Mongol armies, led by Ghengis Khan, conquered Russia. The Mongols ruled Russia for 240 years.

- Kiev and other Russian towns were destroyed.
- Many Russians were killed.
- The Mongols tolerated the Russian Orthodox Church, which grew more powerful.
- Russians adopted Mongol practice of subjugating women.
- Trade routes opened up between China and Eastern Europe.
- Absolute power of the Mongols served as a model for later Russian rulers.
- Russia was cut off from Western Europe at an important time.
Moscow Emerged as the Chief Russian Power

- During the Mongol period, the princes of Moscow steadily increased their power.

- Moscow benefited from its location near important river trade routes.

- Moscow was made the capital of the Russian Orthodox Church.

- Ivan the Great and Ivan the Terrible centralized power and recovered Russian territories.
The Romanovs

- The Romanov Dynasty would rule from 1613 until the great revolution in 1917.

- **Michael Romanov** reestablished internal order, drove out foreign invaders, and continued the expansionist policies of his predecessors.

- In a war against Poland he gained part of Ukraine, including Kiev.

- In the South he expanded the boarders to meet up with the Ottoman Empire.

Michael Romanov, Tsar of all Russia
Alexis Romanov, successor to Michael, abolished the assemblies of the boyars.

He returned the church to its Orthodox tradition by purging Mongol influences and resumed state control of the Church.

Dissident religious conservatives, called Old Believers, were exiled to Siberia or southern Russia.

*Tsar Alexei chooses his bride* by Grigory Sedov (the result of the Tsardom-wide contest organized by Boris Morozov was his relative Maria Miloslavskaya)
Peter the Great was committed to a policy of **westernization** in Russia. However, persuading Russians to change their way of life proved difficult. To impose his will, Peter became the most autocratic of Europe’s absolute monarchs. During his reign he:

- forced the **boyars**, or landowning nobles, to serve the state.
- imported western technology and culture.
- insisted that the boyars shave their beards and wear western-style clothing.
- used autocratic methods to push through social and economic reforms.
- imposed policies which caused the spread of serfdom.
- brought all Russian institutions under his control.
Expansion Under Peter

- Peter created the largest standing army in Europe and set out to extend Russian borders to the west and south.

- Peter unsuccessfully fought the Ottomans in an attempt to gain a **warm-water port** for Russia.

- Peter engaged in a long war with Sweden, and eventually won land along the Baltic Sea. On land won from Sweden, Peter built a magnificent new capital city, St. Petersburg.

- Peter signed a treaty with Qing China which recognized Russia’s right to lands north of Manchuria.

- Peter hired a navigator to explore what became known as the Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska.

*Peter the First Looking at the Baltic Sea.*
Peter Built St. Petersburg in the style of Western Europe

The most famous (1782) statue of Peter I in Saint Petersburg, informally known as the *Bronze Horseman*
An efficient, energetic empress, who ruled in the tradition of absolute monarchs, Catherine:

- reorganized the provincial government, codified laws, and began state-sponsored education for boys and girls.
- embraced and encouraged Western ideas and culture.
- gained a warm-water port on the Black Sea.
- agreed to partition Poland and gained the eastern portion.
- granted special privileges to the boyars.
- allowed the boyars to increase their control of the peasants and repressed peasant rebellions.
Expansion of Russia, 1689 – 1796