

*Anything Going On
in Russia?*

Themes in Russian History

Not part of general development of Europe

- Eastern Orthodox
- Mongols had invaded in 1200s – Russia under Asian domination for 250 years

Expansion by conquest:

- Geography

Need for warm-water ports

Commerce and communication difficult

The necessity of a strong, central government.

Kievan Rus

- Begun by invasion of Viking tribes – also known as Slavs – from north of the Baltic.
- Both trade partner and sometime enemy of the Byzantine Empire.



Viking Invasions



Rulers of the Kievan Rus

Vladimir I (980)

- ✦ **Extremely war-like ruler of Kiev. Invited missionaries from Judaism, Islam and Christianity to offer reasons for conversion.**
- ✦ **Married the Byzantine emperor's sister.**
- ✦ **Brought Christianity and Greco-Roman civilization to Russia.**



Rulers of the Kievan Rus

Yaroslav I (1010 – 1054)

- ✦ Created a Russian law code based on Justinian's Code.

- ✦ Instituted a Golden Age of Kievan Russia. Built churches and a new capital city.

- ✦ Allied Russia with the rest of Europe by marrying his children to European rulers.



Early Byzantine Influences: Orthodox Christianity



Expansion of Byzantine culture northward was through conversion of Kiev to Orthodox Christianity



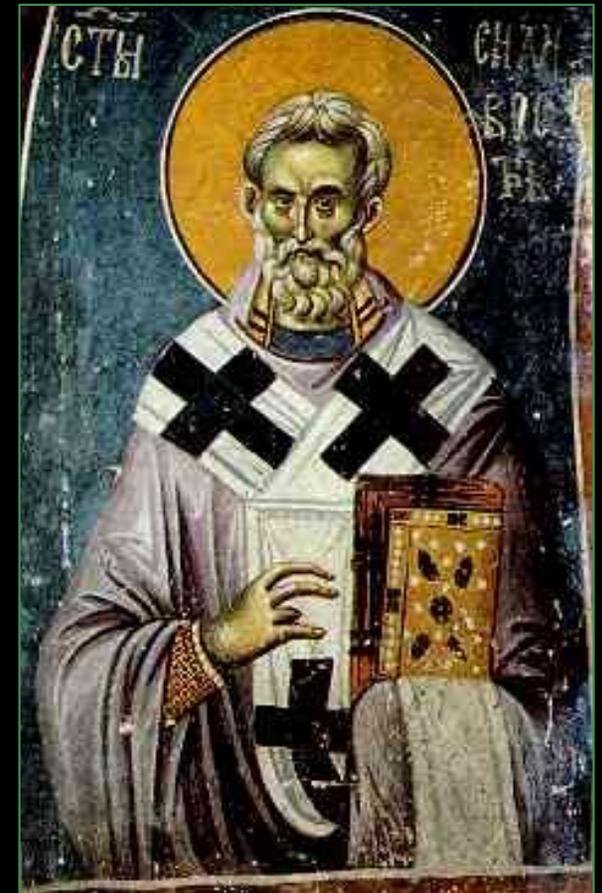
Influenced by Byzantine Politics

- Russia adopted the concept of divinely inspired monarchy with close relations to state-controlled church
- Were unable to adopt the Byzantine trained bureaucracy however

Early Byzantine Influences: Cyrillic Alphabet

Byzantine missionaries, Cyril and Methodius sent to convert eastern Europe and the Balkans created the script

Russian letter - English analog		Russian letter - English analog	
А а	A	Р р	R
Б б	B	С с	S
В в	V	Т т	T
Г г	G	У у	U
Д д	D	Ф ф	F
Е е	E	Х х	H
Ж ж	ZH	Ц ц	TS
З з	Z	Ч ч	CH
И и	I	Ш ш	SH
Й ъ	I-short	Щ щ	SCH
К к	K	Ъ ъ	- hard
Л л	L	Ы ы	-(maybe y)
М м	M	Ь ь	- soft
Н н	N	Э э	E
О о	O	Ю ю	IU
П п	P	Я я	IA



Russian Expansion



The Mongols Invade Russia

Tartars conquered Russian cities during the 13th century and left Russian church and aristocracy intact, as long as tribute was paid.



Russia in Bondage

- The Russians became vassals of the khan of the Golden Horde, a domination which lasted for 250 years
- Peasants had to meet the demands from both their own princes and the Mongols, and many sought protection by becoming serfs, changing the Russian social structure until the 19th century
- Some cities like Moscow benefited from Mongol rule by increased trade, but when the Golden Horde's power weakened, it led the resistance
- Although Mongols remained active in the region through much of the 15th century, Moscow became the center of political power in Russia
- The Mongols influenced Russian military and political organization, but most significantly isolated them from developments in Western Europe → did not experience the Renaissance or Reformation

Regional Effects: Russia under the “Golden Horde”

Destroyed most cities & demanded **high tribute**.

- However, the Mongols left Russia largely to its own devices & few Mongol officials were there (**INDIRECT** rule). Russia had lots of independent principalities, each required to send tribute ...or else.
- New places --like **Moscow** (Muscovy) to the north -- began to grow with the Mongols' implementation of a postal system, financial structures, & census. Moscow became a cultural & economic center.
- Armenians, Georgians, & Russians thought Mongols were a punishment from God who “fetched the Tartars against us for our sins.”
- **Limited Russia's interaction** with Western Europe (e.g. Russia was isolated from the cultural effects of the Renaissance) --a period of cultural decay except in northern Russia.

Mongols in Russia

Good:

- Centralization politically
- Protected Russia from attacks (Teutonic Knights)

Bad:

- Russia cut off from political, economic, and intellectual development

“Third Rome”

- Russians re-emerged after Mongol control ended in the 15th century and claimed to be the successors of the Roman and Byzantine states
- Moscow was considered to be the “Third Rome”

Ivan the Great (1462-1505)

- ✦ Absolute ruler. Took the title of **czar**
- ✦ **Czar – Absolute ruler of Russia: from Roman word – Caesar**
- ✦ Defeated the Mongols, who had gained control of Russia
- ✦ Extended Russian territory



Ivan the Terrible (1533-1584)

- Ferocious to those who opposed him
- POSITIVES → Did expand the Russian territories AND centralize the government, AND gained an outlet to the Baltic Sea.
- BUT → Passed a series of laws binding the formerly free peasants to their land as serfs.
 - Serfdom, which had disappeared from England and Western Europe, was now a new and permanent part of Russian life.
- His death led to the “Time of Troubles”
 - no direct heir (Ivan killed him)
 - Russia in bad shape → Civil wars



Serfdom in Russia

- The worst!
- Peasants started out free, and slowly were gobbled by serfdom
- Closer to slave plantations in New World than to serfdom of the west
 - Landlord could reclaim serf up to 15 years after escape
 - If you killed another man's serf, you just had to give him another one
 - 1625 → lord allowed to sell his peasants!



Russian Orthodox Church

- A tool of the tsar
- Instilled superstitious feelings
- The Old Believers
 - People who were so superstitious they did not want ANY change made to the Bible (not even spelling corrections!)

The Romanovs

- Started in 1613 → Would rule Russia until 1917
- Elected 17 year-old Michael, thinking he was too young to be a source of conflict
- The country still remained divided, with **boyars** (Russian nobility) and **streltsy** (palace guards) too strong.
- In 1680s, Russia was still a backward and disorganized state.

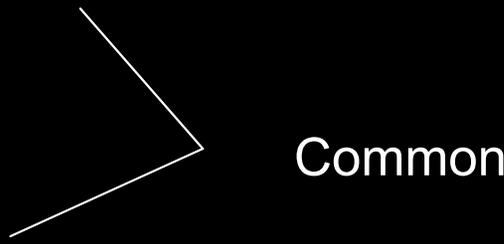
Peter the Great Russia



Beginning

- 1682 becomes tsar
- Starts social revolution of Russia

Before Peter the Great

- Women secluded and wore veils
 - Men had beards and skirts
 - Crude manners
 - Drunkenness abounded
 - Superstition was high
 - Life didn't have much value
 - Murder
 - Kidnap
 - Torture
- Common
- 

Backwards

- Learning a sin (geometry especially!)
- Calendar date back to the start of the world
- Ability to predict an eclipse was magic
- Clocks were amazing inventions brought from the west

Western Exposure

- German quarter of Moscow
- Archangel – only sea port
- Spent time in W. Europe, especially Holland and England.
 - Became aware of backwardness of own country
 - Learned about / to do technology and machines → “real work”
 - Visited workshops, mines, commercial offices, art galleries, hospitals, & forts
 - Mixed well with lower class

Cultural Changes By Peter the Great

- **Traveled in disguise throughout the Netherlands and England to search for the key that made Western European Societies wealthy and powerful**
- **After he returned home to Russia, he abolished the older Russian fashions which were similar to those of the Orientals and ordered French styles to be worn throughout Russia**
- **Houses were to be built of stone and brick**
- **He paid special attention to ships and weaponry while in Western Europe**
- **Made no moves to abolish serfdom as Russia was dependent on the labor**

Goals

- Did not care about culture → wanted only state & army that could compete with the West
- Partly defensive
- Partly expansionist
 - Needed seaports, “windows to the west”
- All but 2 years of his reign Russia would be at war!

War & Russia

- Modernized army
- Old army – streltsy (mostly nobles)
 - Rebel against state – Peter liquidates them
- Peter rebuilds army from ground up
 - Uniforms like west
 - Organized
 - Modern weaponry
- Holds Russia together with military might

The Great Northern War

- 1700-1721 against Swedes
- Russia gains Baltic seaport!
- Used Russian winter to defeat them (this will happen again → Napoleon & Hitler)

St Petersburg

- A city much like Versailles (built at same time)
- Chief window to the west
- Nobles required to have homes there
- Favorable to merchants
- Symbol of new Russia
- Capital of Russia until 1917

Internal Changes

- All reform requires money
- Taxes
 - Heads
 - Poll taxes
 - Land
 - Inn
 - Mills
 - Hats
 - leather
 - Coffins
 - Right to marry
 - Sell meat
 - Wear beard
 - Be an Old Believer
- Burden falls mainly on peasants
- Borderline people now classified as serfs

Mercantilism

- Encourages exports
- Industry to support army
- Gave companies serfs to use as labor

Serfs in Industry

- Not tied to land
- Mines
- Towns
- Un-free labor
- Even management had to do what tsar says

Administration

- Overseeing
 - Tax collection
 - Recruiting
 - Economic controls
 - “Serf hunting”
 - Repressing internal rebellions
 - Church → Holy Synod (council headed by a layman)
 - Tsar at head of it all
 - All nobles required to work in army or civil admin.

Social Revolution

- New government
 - A party system (a body of men working zealously for the new system with personal interest in its preservation)
- New Russia
 - Contempt for old
 - New schools
 - Simplified Russian alphabet
 - First newspapers
 - 1st book on etiquette
 - No spitting
 - No gnawing on bones
 - Respectful to ladies
 - Converse pleasantly
 - No beards!

- **Forced men to shave beards to conform to European styles (baroque style)**
 - **Some men saved their beards after they were shaved and placed them in small coffins for fear that they would not be allowed to enter heaven without them**
 - **Decreed that gentlemen, merchants, and other subjects, except priests and peasants, should each pay a tax of one hundred rubles a year if they wished to keep their beards; the commoners had to pay one kopek each.**
- **Peter attempted to bring women out of the normal seclusion of upper class Russian women, by requiring they be brought to social gatherings with their husbands**

Results

- Some resisted, moving too fast
- Hated foreign influence
 - Church against tsar
 - Own son against, Alexis, said would stop all when he was tsar . . . Peter puts him to death
 - Peter says tsar can choose his own heir

- But changes hold – new culture forced on Russia
- Sets up future of Russian empire
- But only changes the aristocrats
 - Spoke French
 - More European than Russian
 - Peasants and serfs not connected! Strangers in their own country