THE RISE OF RUSSIA

FROM GRAND PRINCE OF MOSCOVY TO TSAR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS
EASTERN EUROPE & RUSSIA

Elbe River Boundary, Eastern/Southern Europe
- Lands east and south of line Elbe River to Port of Trieste on Adriatic
- Created a historical region dominated by nobles, landlords, serfs, conflict, tensions
- Tended to escape most of the Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment

Change over Time
- 1450: Poland-Lithuania was the largest state; Hungary was second; many states
- 1750: Austria, Prussia, Russia, Ottoman Empire dominate; Poland about to depart

Deep Ethnic and Religious Divisions
- Catholics: Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Slovenes, Hungarians, Poles, Lithuanians, Ruthenians
- Orthodox: Russians, Belarus, Ukrainians, Bulgars, Rumanians, Greeks, Serbs
- Protestants: Finns, Estonians, Latvians, Germans, some Hungarians
- Muslims: Turks, Bosnians, Albanians, Tatars, Mongols
- Many ethnic groups, religious minorities include Jews, Gypsies

Multinational States, Autocratic Governments
- One dominant ethnic group (Russians, Germans, Poles, Hungarians) dominates state
- Many lesser ethnic groups subject to assimilation, exploitation by largest ruling group
- Russia, Austria, Ottoman Empire, Poland were multinational
- Most states had autocratic rulers who could ignore assembles, nobles in decisions
- Constant drive to increase state power at expense of all opponents including nobles, faith

Social and Economic Themes
- Elites: Land nobility (Russian = Boyars) controlled vast estates
- Serfdom, forced peasant labor wide spread, serfs often exploited, mistreated
- Few cities, small to no merchant or urban class
- Agricultural economies with little industry; exports limited to grain, primary products
MULTINATIONAL EASTERN EUROPE
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE 1450
RUSSIA AT THE START

Grand Duchy of Moscovy c. 1450
- Largest of Russian principalities but not alone
- Had been Mongol tribute collector
- Grand Prince used power to conquer others
- Peasants turned into serfs to guarantee taxes, supply of labor
- Metropolitan of Kiev moved to Moscow, became patriarch

Grand Princes Ivan I and II
- Had grown rich off of tribute
- Built the Kremlin in Moscow
- Raised an army of musketeers
- Prepared to throw off Mongols at first chance

Khanate of the Golden Horde
- Remnants of Mongols in Russia, on steppe
- Had converted to Islam
- Each passing year their rule more challenged

Russia primitive, backward society
- Had missed Renaissance, Reformation
- While European prior to Mongols, now often more Oriental
GATHERING IN THE RUSSIAS

Ivan III (or Ivan the Great, reigned 1462-1505)
- Declared Russian independence from Mongol rule, 1480
- “Gathering the Russian land"
  - Acquire Russian speaking lands under Moscovy
  - Incorporated trading city Novgorod, 1470s

Cossacks
- Free peasants settled on newly conquered lands
- Recruited to settle steppe, serve as cavalry
- Live as Orthodox steppe nomads
- Extended Russian influence south into the steppes
- Conquered Volga River valley, north Caucasus
- Crossed Urals, conquered, settled Siberia

The Third Rome
- Name given to Moscow in sixteenth century
- Ivan built strong centralized government
- Modeled after the Byzantine empire
- Married daughter of last Byzantine Emperor
- Called himself tsar (after Greek title "caesar")
- Tsar head of both the state and Russian Orthodox church
- Russians saw themselves as God’s successors to Rome, Constantinople
TIME OF TROUBLES

**Ivan IV (reigned 1533-1584), Ivan III's grandson**
- Known as Ivan the Terrible (Or Dread in Russian)
- Notorious for erratic, often violent rule
- Wife murdered; beat own son to death
- Reshaped the Russian government
  - Chosen Council—advisors chosen for merit
  - "Assemblies of the land" = local assemblies
- Confiscated large estates
- Redistributed land to supporters

**Ivan IV's reign of terror**
- *Oprichniki:* Private, secret “police”
- Used terror, cruelty to subdue civilian populations

**War and famine followed Ivan's death in 1598**
- Died without an heir
- Fifteen years (1598-1613) of turmoil followed
- Numerous tsars, imposters, peasant revolts
- Invasions by Poland, Sweden repelled by volunteer armies, 1610

**Romanov Dynasty establishes an autocratic monarchy**
- Mikhail Romanov chosen as new tsar in 1613 by representatives
  - Son of Russian Patriarch
  - Founder of Romanov dynasty, lasted until 1917
- Alexis Romanov limits power of nobles, Orthodox Church
Peter I (reigned 1682-1725): known as Peter the Great
- Fascinated with technology he found in the foreign quarters of Moscow
- As tsar, imposed program of rapid modernization
  - Russian industries to incorporate the most advanced science and technology
  - Russians sent abroad to study
  - Peter himself traveled to Europe to study government, military, and industry

Peter's reforms: progressive but autocratic
- Military reform: to build powerful, modern army
  - Offered better pay and modern weapons to peasants
  - Aristocratic officers ordered to study mathematics and geometry
  - Built largest European army; defeated Sweden in Great Northern War, 1700-1722
- Bureaucratic reform: to facilitate collection of taxes
  - Only nobles educated to serve as government officials
  - Table of Ranks allowed social mobility for civil servants by merit and service
  - Created new nobles based on service, loyalty, success in army
- Social reform: challenged established customs
  - Abolished the seclusion of women; encouraged social mixing of the sexes
  - Ordered subjects to wear western clothing; ordered men to shave beards

St. Petersburg, the "window on the west"
- New capital on the Baltic Sea built by Peter in 1703
- Headquarters for Russian navy, administrative center for government
IMAGES OF PETER
WESTERNIZATION AS THEME

Russia’s path raises question of history
- Westernization
  - Imitating, copying of the west
  - Done at expense of local institutions, traditions
  - Usually begins with military, technology
  - Includes social, economic, political, intellectual
- Modernization
  - Modernize ancient institutions
  - Avoid losing heritage
  - Borrow technology; avoid cultural borrowing
- Peter’s Process
  - From the top down at expense of Russian traditions
  - Goal: give Russia ability to win war
  - Peter decreed dress, hair length, shaving
  - Peter insisted that boyars (nobles) be educated, cultured

Russia’s path creates model, shows problem
- Imitate the west to surpass the west
- Many traditional elements oppose, fight westernization
- Dependence on western technology, trade, ideas creates problems

Note: Westernization, Modernization not the same
LIMITS OF WESTERNIZATION

Catherine I, Anna I, and Elizabeth I: A Century of 4 Tsarinas
- No rules prohibiting female rules: ruled Russia with iron fists;
- All continued policies of westernization, expansion

Catherine II (reigned 1762-1795)
- Married Peter's grandson, unpopular tsar
- Replaced him as ruler when he was murdered
- Made deal with boyars: back me, keep serfs
- Continued Peter's policies of westernization
- Attracted to Enlightenment
- Rejected changes that would weaken her rule

Pugachev's rebellion in Caucasus (1773-1774)
- Cossacks, exiles, peasants, and serfs
- Protest taxes, rebel
- Led by Pugachev, claimed to be Peter III
- Killed thousands of nobles, officials, and priests
- Crushed by imperial army, 1774

The end of Catherine's reforms
- Pugachev's rebellion and French Revolution soured Catherine on reform
- Reversed policy of westernization
- Tried to restrict foreign influence in Russia
RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN EUROPE

Neighbors as Enemies
- Sweden to North, Poland to West, Ottoman Empire to the South
- For Russia to expand, had to confront, defeat its enemies

Poland-Lithuania
- A dual republican state; two societies, one king and parliament; Catholic
- Large Slavic Orthodox minorities in Belarus and Ukraine
- During Time of Troubles tried to conquer Russia; remained permanent enemy

Absorption of Ukraine
- Ukrainian peasants led by Bodhan Khmelnitsky sought union with Moscow
- Long revolt against Poland ended, 1667
- Ukraine and Kiev absorbed into Russia

Great Northern War with Sweden, early 18th Century
- Peter the Great tried to take advantage of Swedish king’s youth
- Charles of Sweden turned out to be a military genius and nearly destroyed Russia
- Only Russian winter, recklessness of Charles saved Peter, who won territory on Baltic

The partition of Poland, 1790s
- Polish parliament ineffective and unstable; country poorly defended
- Polish-Lithuanian republic carved up between Austria, Prussia, and Russia
- Partition is the most blatant example of the Balance of Power

Southern expansion of Russian empire into Ottoman territories
- Begun by Peter but only minor gains; Catherine finished conquest of N. Black Sea
- Tsarist forces pushed into Balkans, welcomed by Greek Orthodox minorities
- Further expansion halted by England and France
POLAND DISAPPEARS

Polish nobles strong, king weak; no Reform allowed; Russia makes state a puppet-state with no freedom.

Russia defeats Ottoman; to avoid upsetting Balance of Power, Russia, Austria, Prussia partition Poland.
RUSSIAN ASIAN EMPIRE

The Caucasus Area
- By late 18TH century Russia controlled Volga River to Caspian Sea
- Georgia: Orthodox Christians; absorbed into Russian empire, 1783
- Armenia and Azerbaijan also annexed

Northern Asia (Siberia)
- This is the forested zone called the Taiga; runs north of the steppe
- Less hospitable, but rich in resources, especially furs, timber, gold
- Conquest began in 1581 when Cossacks crossed the Ural Mountains
- Conquest considered necessary to prevent return of Mongols, nomads
- Local peoples forced to pay tribute in furs at Russian forts

Native peoples of Siberia
- Lived by hunting, fishing, or herding reindeer
- Some groups welcomed Russian trade
- Yakut people resisted, brutally crushed; 70 percent of population killed
- Smallpox reduced more than half of total Siberian population
- Few Siberians converted to Christianity; remained shamanistic, animistic

By 1763: Add Europeans to the population of Siberia
- Russian government settles convicts, poor forcibly in Siberia
- Doubled with addition of Cossacks, trappers, soldiers, serfs

American and Pacific explorations
- Vitus Bering led two maritime expeditions across Asia to the Pacific Ocean
- Other Russian explorers pushed further into Alaska and west Canada
RUSSIAN SIBERIA
GROWTH OF RUSSIA FROM 1300 TO 1796
MOSCOVITE SOCIETY

✦ Rural life
  – Centered on peasant villages, church, local market: very isolated
  – Large, extended families; males headed household, ran village affairs
  – Women could own property, responsible for arranging marriages
  – Land held in common by mir or community of peasant, serfs
  – Life hard: men worked fields, women home; great illiteracy

✦ Russian serfdom more flexible before seventeenth century
  – In European Russia, serfs bound to noble’s lands, crown, monasteries
  – In Siberia, peasants mostly free in Siberia, as payment for settling there
  – On Steppe, Cossacks mostly free as payment for defense, settlement
  – Serfdom in Eastern Europe: Poland, Hungary, too

✦ Law Code of 1649 placed serfs under strict control of landlords
  – Serfs were not slaves but could be sold as private property
  – Also fixed occupational castes; sons forced into trades of their fathers

✦ Types of Serfs
  – State: Often worked in government mines, factories
  – Proprietary serfs, house peasants: paid rent to lord, generally worked land
  – Church and Crown serfs: owned, worked lands of church, tsar

✦ Catherine gave nobility greater control over lands and serfs
  – Nobles supported her reforms in exchange
  – Most serfs subject to harsh and arbitrary rule of noble landlords
THE LIFE OF A SERF
TRADE AND INDUSTRY

European trade with Russia began in mid-sixteenth century
- Handled through Archangel on White Sea; port only open 4 months of year
- Handled through Novgorod to Baltic Sea; dependent on Swedish permission
- Europeans bought Russian furs, leather, and grain
- Russians bought western European armaments, textiles, paper, and silver
- English, Dutch came to dominate trade
- Russia becomes a major grain exporter

Asian trade increased with expansion
- Astrakhan on Volga: market to Muslims
- Merchants came to Caspian Sea from India

Russian merchants demanded restrictions
- Feared competition of foreign merchants
- Ignored by tsars as they needed western goods

Industrial development was primary goal of Peter the Great
- Invited engineers, shipbuilders, officers, teachers, technicians to Russia
- Opened new industrial plants opened: iron, arms, textiles, glass, paper
- Begin shipping industry along Baltic once conquered
- No urban working class; factory owners allowed to draft serfs

Population doubled in 18th century from 15 to 30 million
- Most population was rural; mostly villages and hamlets
- Cities rare: St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev and a few smaller
CRISIS IN THE SOCIETY

Efforts to reform the Russian Orthodox Church led to schism
- Mid-17\textsuperscript{th} century, Patriarch Nikon of Moscow promoted reform
  - To standardize Orthodox rituals
  - To promote religious instruction in Greek and Latin
  - Although backed by tsars, Nikon's reforms denounced by conservatives
- Avvakum, Orthodox priest and leader of religious conservatives
  - Old Believers refused to accept reforms of Nikon
  - Also attacked government policies of serfdom and taxation
  - Old Belief outlawed by tsar; Avvakum executed for treason
  - Old Believers were not wiped out, but split into different sects thereafter
- Tsarist control over church tightened between 16\textsuperscript{th}/18\textsuperscript{th} centuries
  - State control over church strengthened by the religious schism
  - Peter changed calendar, introduced western practices into church
  - Peter the Great made Orthodox church part of state
  - Peter considered anti-Christ by the Old Believers

Social Unrest
- Tensions between Westernizers, Slavophiles
- Tensions between nobles, serfs
- Tension between towns, villages
- Tensions between tsars/government, boyars
- Tensions between state, western educated intellectuals
ENLIGHTENMENT IN RUSSIA

Peter's westernization included art (e.g., ballet), literature, and ideas
Peter recognized the role of education in western progress
- Created first secular education system; elementary schools in capital cities
- Founded academy of sciences
- Catherine expanded elementary schools to all children except serfs

Catherine introduced the ideas of the Enlightenment to Russia
- Introduced western literature; promoted Russian literature
- Great friend of Voltaire
- Promoted inoculation against smallpox

The intelligentsia, a new unofficial social class of intellectuals
- Compiled and published in "Thick journals" latest ideas in science and arts
  - Encouraged by Catherine
  - But always subject to government censors
- Many advocated abolition of serfdom; liberalism
  - Western inspired radical Radishev is best example
  - Persecuted by Catherine

Intellectual, cultural experimentation ended
- French Revolution scared Catherine
- Pugachev’s Rebellion ended experimentation