

Russia: 1450-1750

Geographic Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquired land back from Mongols in mid 1400s Territorial expansion policy focused particularly on central Asia to push Mongol overlords further East Early tsars pushed southward to the Caspian Sea and eastward past the Ural mountains- Third Rome Mentality All tsars were expansionists From its base in the Moscow region, Russia expanded outwards Cossacks moved into Siberia= gained new settlements and political control (similar to westward expansion in early US) Under Peter the Great, territory extended all the way from Black Sea to Bering Sea and down into China Catherine the Great sends explorers to Alaska, coast of California and even Hawaii Large, vast are of land with a generous supply of natural resources
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known as the "Third Rome" after the Roman and Byzantine Empires Earned title mainly because they continued the Orthodox Church (Byzantine) and had the potential to expand greatly like past two empires Tsarist autocracy; absolute monarchy Boyars were the nobles <u>Ivan the Great</u>: freed much of Russia from Mongol control by 1462 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> : utilized a blend of nationalism and led Russia to become a large independent state : organized a strong army which gave government a long lasting military emphasis <u>Ivan the Terrible</u>: succeeded Ivan the Great (III) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> : continued policy of expansion : increased the power of the tsar by killing off many of the nobles : although he was terrible, he did establish contacts w/ Western European commerce and culture The Time of Troubles followed the death of Ivan the Terrible (IV) because he had no heir; boyars attempted to gain back some of their power but were unsuccessful Michael Romanov was selected as tsar in 1613 which ended the Time of Troubles and began the long-lasting Romanov Dynasty not ending until 1917 <u>Peter the Great</u>: ruled from 1689-1725 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> : increased power of the state through recruitment of bureaucrats from outside of aristocracy : began process of selective westernization : formed Western-type military force : revolts were brutally suppressed : formed secret police : moved capital to St. Petersburg; modeled after Venice and Versailles : his reforms influenced politics, economics cultural change : created first Russian navy : law codes systemized and tax systems reformed to increase the burden on peasantry : nobles had to shave their beards and dress in dress in Western style instead of former Mongol influence : his changes were mostly affecting the elite <u>Catherine the Great</u>: ruled from 1762-1796 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> : extended central government authority; continued Westernization : she brought Enlightenment ideas to Russia; stopped once French Rev began : patronized Western art and architecture : after the French Revolution, she banned foreign and domestic political writings : under her rule, Russia gained Crimea (warm water port) Alaska, and parts of Poland she also pushed colonization in Siberia
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mongols caused Russia to "miss out" on the Commercial Revolution, Renaissance and later changes in Europe→ Russia's economy was backwards compared to the West There were few large cities 95% rural→ agriculturally based Most trade was handled by Westerners No strong commercial class/middle class Peter the Great did attempt change by introducing mining and metallurgy; also encouraged shipbuilding Peter the Great's reforms increased trade but nobility manages to prevent the rise of a strong middle class
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly Russian Orthodox Because Russia was a multinational empire, there were other religions also such as Judaism, Islam, Roman Catholicism and Protestant

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Largest multinational empire ☞ Heterogeneous→ many ethnic groups ☞ As land increased because of expansionism, serfdom increased also ☞ Little social change ☞ Tsar was at the top with the most power ☞ The small class of boyars and clergy were below the tsar ☞ Landlords controlled the peasants ☞ Small merchant class ☞ Large peasant/serf class ☞ Peasants and serfs labored on large estates to produce grain for sale to the West, they had some rights but village governments regulated many aspects of life ☞ Most peasants were poor and illiterate and paid high taxes ☞ Peasants performed extensive labor services in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing ☞ There was not much social mobility ☞ Women were subordinate to men ☞ The status of noble women improved under Peter the Great ☞ Peasant unrest→ peasants remained loyal to the tsar but blamed landlords for the harshness of their lives ☞ Periodic rebellions including were suppressed and peasant discontent remained a problem ☞ The condition of the peasants/serfs deteriorated throughout the time period; as western Europe improves
Intellectual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Russia missed the Renaissance because the Mongols cut them off from Western influences ☞ Mongols were known to have spread culture; Byzantine influences preserved ☞ Literacy declined ☞ Peter the Great and Catherine the Great made many Western-style reforms unfortunately before the Industrial rev ☞ Catherine the Great based many of her reforms on Enlightenment ideas before the French Revolution (1789)
Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Mongols stifled art development ☞ There were few artisans because most manufacturing was rural-based ☞ Greatly influenced by Byzantine art (Greco-Roman) under Catherine the Great→ entered through Dniper trade ☞ The tsars imported Italian artists and craftsmen to design church buildings and the magnificent royal palace in the Kremlin in Moscow and St. Petersburg at the Baltic Sea
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ The Romanov dynasty continued into the early twentieth century until tsar Nicholas II and did not decline at the 1750 marking point (end of Unit 3)
Global Connections/ Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Mongols cut Russia off from Western influences including the Commercial Revolution, Renaissance and later European events like industrialization; Russia wouldn't industrialize until 1930s ☞ Russia was mainly agricultural and had a small merchant class/middle class (bourgeoisie) ☞ Nobles dominated peasants ☞ Increase in serfdom during the time period as each Czar continues expansion and gives Boyars local authority in the frontier regions ☞ Most trade was done by foreigners ☞ Under Peter the Great and Catherine the Great many attempts to Westernize were made but unfortunately at a time before Europe reaches its height ☞ Russia was moving "backwards" from the Western world politically, economically, and culturally and it would take them centuries past 1750 to finally catch up and make a mark for themselves globally (Cold War era)