

① The Rise of Russia ██████████ 1500-1800

- Along with Africa & the Americas, Russia & Eastern Europe were dramatically affected by the rise of the West b/t 1500-1750. In the Russian case, Western innovations & successes encouraged Russian Emperors (Tsars) to begin a process of selective imitation of Western ways. This began during the sixteenth century & then dramatically accelerated in the 18th Century under Peter and Catherine the Great.

- Beginning in the early 1500s, Russia would join the West in an aggressive period of expansion, reinforced by ① a new sense of national identity and ② a sense of historical mission reinforced by Christianity.

- However, although we might conceive these developments as similar in time and direction, Russian civilization remained distinctly different from the West.

① Lagged far behind in commercial, economic development

- primarily an agricultural economy until 20th Century

② Far behind the West technologically
* lacked merchant tradition and commercial expertise of West

* these disadvantages would motivate Russian rulers to engage more closely with the West, and thus as Russia emerges as a powerful & distinct civilization, contacts between Westerners & Russians would steadily grow.

* Modern Russian Civilization begins in and around the modern capital, Moscow, which had previously served as the regional capital of the Mongols. (2)
- There, ~~under the independent~~ the first independent Slavic state would emerge, known as the Grand Duchy of Moscow. Originally a vassal state, under its leader Ivan III (1462-1505), the principality would begin a process of steady territorial expansion through conquest, moving south and east against the Mongols & Turks.

* Fall of Constantinople in 1453 crucial to this process
- All of the Eastern Orthodox Church's hierarchy moved to Moscow and Ivan married the niece of the last Byzantine Emperor.

* This symbolic act generates an image of Moscow as the "Third Rome", after Rome and Byzantium, the legitimate successor as the center of Christianity.

* Moscow now considered an imperial city, and Ivan II begins calling himself Tsar (Caesar), and he adopted the Roman two-headed eagle as the symbol of the Russian throne.

* As a symbol of its new stature, the original fortification of Moscow - the Kremlin - now was vastly upgraded and expanded through the efforts of Italian artisans.

③ Russia (cont.)

(1533-1584)

Ivan III would be succeeded by his grandson, Ivan IV, nicknamed "The Terrible". He would take the next steps toward the imposition of imperial, autocratic rule. Taking power in the 1540s, he drafted a series of internal reforms.

① Published new law code *

② Opened trade with the West by inviting British merchants to Russia *

③ extended Russian territory south, east ~~to~~ by encouraging Slavic peasant adventurers known as Cossacks to settle newly-conquered lands. This process, known as Russification, would continue for the next 300 years.

④ destroyed rival power structures - in a move similar to that of Louis XIV, Ivan launched a campaign against Russian aristocrats, or boyars, who were financially & politically independent, and replace them with a service nobility loyal to him.

- He created Russia's first security police to complete this task - the oprichniki - masked men of legendary cruelty dressed in black, riding black horses, carrying broomsticks topped with dog skulls. Through their efforts, 15-20,000 Russians died in the 1560s and Ivan's terror campaign soon ran out of control. He lost control of himself killing his own

Russia

- son & heir to the throne. Finally he achieved his goals, and by the 1580s the terror diminished.
 - His death led to a succession of weak & ineffective rulers, and for the first years of the 1600s Russia was effectively leaderless; a period known as the "Time of Troubles".
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→ During this time the move toward imperial centralization suffered ② setbacks

- ① The nobility, or boyars, attacked tsarist power
- ② neighboring states, including Sweden & Poland, captured Russian territory

- To head off these threats, in 1613 an assembly of Russia's most powerful noble families elected one of their own, the Romanovs to form a new imperial dynasty - this would be Russia's 'last ruling family'; they would rule Russia until 1917.

- The most famous of the the early Romanovs was the third Tsar, Peter I, known as Peter the Great (1689-1725), a man of exceptional size and intelligence. Peter would continue the efforts of his predecessors

- 1) Increase Russian territory at the expense of its neighbors, in particular the Ottoman Turks
- 2) Increase central control of the state under the Tsar.

However, ① Russia under Peter & Catherine
Peter would ~~begin~~ ^{encourage} increased connection with the West, a process that established permanent relations between the two civilizations. ~~+~~ Early in his reign, ^{in 1697} he traveled incognito as part of the largest Russian delegation ever to visit the West. In Holland he worked as a ship's carpenter, learning skills he would later apply to the creation of Russia's first national navy. He admired western military skill and technology, and would selectively emulate and adopt western tactics and weapons for his army during his reign. His ^{"selective westernization"} reforms led to significant and impressive results for Russia.

① Military successes against Sweden in the Baltic led to the establishment of Russia's first ice-free port, the "window on the Baltic" named St. Petersburg. Peter supervised the construction of the city personally. With its completion, Russia now had the strategic presence to be a major player in diplomatic & military conflict over the next 300 years. * Became Russia's new capital until 1917.

② ~~With~~ With Western assistance, created ~~the~~ state-controlled munitions industry that freed Russia from dependence on the West for weapons. Spinoff industries such as iron and lumber also began during this period. Although these efforts did not completely transform Russia's economy, they provided a foundation for further expansion and also a lasting legacy; acceptance of *

3) ~~series~~ series of internal political reforms that streamlined (bureaucracy and furthered creation of service nobility)

① Creates first system of state ministries, effectively ending aristocratic autonomy & replacing them with career aristocrats loyal to the Tsar. * many of these men came from outside traditional nobility

② Standardized tax and legal systems thout the Empire.

④ Extended Westernization process into the public realm

- In a series of imperial edicts, Peter

(a) forced Russians to abandon traditional Russian dress

- such as Mongolian-style beards and clothing - and adopt Western standards. ^{Upper class} Women were encouraged to become less isolated, and were permitted to attend the ballet & the theater.

* Peter also abolished the wedding tradition whereby the bride's father handed a whip to the groom, symbolizing the transfer of male power * Russia also began practicing the custom of Christmas trees;

* These reforms are more than cosmetic; they were designed to ① further subjugate the nobles to Tsarist power ② enhance Russia in Western eyes.

Although most of these efforts were inspired by Western innovations, it is important to note that Peter did not wholeheartedly embrace Westernization, but approached it selectively.

1) Although education & culture of the upper classes was transformed, the conditions of the Russian masses changed little.

2) All the bureaucratic & structural changes