

Russian Czars Increase Power

The Emergence of Absolutism in
Russia

Learning Target:

I will learn about Absolutism in Russia and especially the reforms that Peter the Great brought to Russia

Ivan to the Romanovs

- After fall of Golden Horde (Tatar) rule in Russia, Moscow center of new state
- 1533 Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) came to power when he was only 3
- Since he was so young, the nobles (known as the Boyars) wanted to take control.
- Ivan took over officially when he was 16 and gave himself the name “Czar” (Caesar)
- Ivan leads Russia’s first major phase of expansion against Kazan
- Had two periods: the good period and the terrible

Ruling by Terror

- After Ivan's hot wife died, he sort of lost his mind and accused the boyars of poisoning her.
- Made own police force that would kill people that Ivan considered traitors
- Killed thousands of people – you had to stay loyal or he'd kill you
- He also killed his oldest son and only competent heir



Ivan – to the left
looking strange and
below killing his son



Ivan & the Time of Troubles

- Ivan from line of Rurik of Kiev (Viking lineage)
- Beats daughter-in-law for wearing “immodest clothing”, possibly causing miscarriage
- In resulting argument with son, beats in head with rod and kills him
- Increasingly uses secret police against Russian nobles he sees as resistant to rule



Rise of the Romanovs

- Ivan's son was an incompetent leader, so the boyars started fighting for power
- Time of Trouble
- Finally in 1613 Michael Romanov took power and was appointed czar. The Romanovs then ruled Russia for 300 years.
- Romanov flag:



Peter the Great

- Great reformer – came to power after the Romanovs had calmed things down
- When Peter came to power, Russia was a land of boyars and serfs
- Could give serfs away or use a serf to pay a debt!
- Not connected to the rest of Europe b/c was geographically isolated, and different religiously (Eastern Orthodox Christians- not Catholics or Protestants)

Pictures of Peter

- Young Pete



- Old Pete (he was tall)



Peter Visits the West

- Really into western technology
- Wanted to have a warm water port – thought trade was necessary in order to compete with the West
- Actually went to Europe to learn about modern technology and industrial techniques
- Did all his traveling undercover as to not attract attention

Peter Rules Absolutely

- Main goal after his trip to the West was to “Westernize” Europe
- Increased power of monarchy to make everyone comply with his ideas
- Took over the Russian church
- Reduced power of the great landowners and gave new land/power to the lower-class in order to make them loyal

Russia



NOR

SWEDEN

Stockholm

FIN.

Helsinki

Murmansk

Novaya Zemlya

Arkhangel'sk

St. Petersburg

Nizhniy Novgorod

MOSCOW

Ukr.

Penza

Volgograd (Stalingrad)

Krasnodar

Grozniy

Caspian Sea

TURK.

UZB.

KAZAKHSTAN

Astana

Lake Balkhash

KYR.

TAJ.

AFG.

IRAN

Arctic Ocean

Barents Sea

Ural Mts.

Ob'

Yenisey

Lena

Siberia

RUSSIA

Volga

Perm

Yekaterinburg

Chelyabinsk

Omsk

Novosibirsk

Novokuznetsk

Irkutsk

Ulan Ude

Chita

MONGOLIA

Ulaanbaatar

CHINA

Sea of Okhotsk

Magadan

Sea of Japan

Yellow Sea

60°

Sea of Okhotsk

40°

JAPAN

Mladivostok

NORTH KOREA

SOUTH KOREA

0 250 500 mi

0 250 500 km

120°

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More of Peter's Reforms

- Wanted a tight military – hired European officers to come train Russian officers
- A job in the military = lifetime commitment
- Heavy taxes to pay for giant army of 200,000 men

Westernizing Russia



- Introduced the potato to Russia
- Started first newspaper
- Allowed women to attend social gatherings
- Made nobles dress more like people from Europe

Legacy of Peter

- Fought Sweden to get a port on the Baltic Sea (a warm water port)
- Named the town St. Petersburg and every year would force thousands of serfs to go to St. Petersburg and work
- Many people died due to harsh working conditions and widespread disease
- By time of death in 1725, Russia was a power that could compete with the rest of Europe

- Peter, checking out the Baltic Sea and on his death bed. Even though he killed his own son, he effectively reformed Russia

