

Russian Empire (1500-1800)

Mongol power dissolved

Moscow became new major city

Major state = Muscovy (absorbed Kiev and Novgorod)

-Conquered Khanates of Kazan, Astrakhan, and northern Caucasus Region

Ivan IV “The Terrible” became Czar (1543-1584)

First person to be crowned czar.

Did not trust anyone.

Many fits of rage (temper).

oprichnina – political police of Ivan the Terrible.

agents of terror.

dressed in black robes on black horses. They slaughtered disloyal towns and disloyal boyars.

Symbol: dog’s head and broom –meaning- “The watchful eye”

Russian expansion – eastward

Siberia

Led by Cossacks (defeated Khanate of Sibir)

Siberia – valuable for furs and timber

After 1700 – gold, coal, iron

Penal colony

Russian Society to Politics to 1725:

Empire expansion – diverse peoples, cultures, religions

Result: internal tensions

Cossacks: tight-knit bands

Temporary alliances – paid for military services

Performed important services for empire

Autonomous

17th Century – threats and invasions from Sweden and Poland

Internal aristocratic disputes

Aristocrats (boyars)

Muscovite rulers overthrown

Mikhail Romanov (1613)

Romanov’s consolidated authority

Russian peasant status decreased

1649: became serfs

Made laws that bounded serfs to the noble’s land.

serfs – peasants. (bought, sold, could not move, marry, nor learn to read or write without permission and subjected to taxes).

Peter the Great (ruled 1689-1725)

Fought Ottoman Empire – wanted to gain the Black Sea for **warm-weather ports**

Wanted to liberate Istanbul (Constantinople) from Moslem Rule

Failed in his goals

Treaty of Nerchinsk (1689):

Chinese-Russian Agreement

Russian lands west of Mongolia recognized, however the Russian land east of Mongolia must be withdrawn

-China recognition of Russia because China felt Russia was a powerful and important neighbor

Success:

Great Northern War (1700-1721)

Defeated Sweden

Sweden lost total control of Baltic Sea

Established direct contact between Europe and Russia

Built new capital = St. Petersburg (1712)

Built on land captured from Sweden

Symbol of Russian sophistication

Window of the West

Westernization of Russian elites

Russian men were forced to shave their beards, and they replaced their robes with western-style clothing.

Broke power of boyars: Reduced their role in government and army

Increase in European Technology

Increased autocracy

Brought Russian Orthodox Church under Czar's control

Banned Jesuits from Russia – Peter felt they were subversive and backwards

Built factories for military

Increased burdens of taxes and labor on serfs

Russian foodstuffs depended on Russians

Created Ministers of government.

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army navy foreign affairs

Built largest standing army in Europe.

Social Policies.

Increased education.
Established academies (math, science, English).
At parties, wealthy women were allowed to dance with men.
Civil Service System (destroys the power of the boyars).

Economic Policies.
Increase western technology.
Mercantilist policies.
Encouraged exporting of goods.

Russia expanded into Alaska and American northwest
Search for furs
British also interested in American northwest
Russia controlled Siberia
Dominated fur and shipping industries in North Pacific

Catherine the Great (ruled 1762-1796)
Husband Czar Peter III was murdered, Catherine became the ruler of Russia.
Russia expanded south to the Black Sea and west to Poland.
Introduced European Enlightenment ideas.
Ex. Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot.

Codified laws.
Expanded opportunities.
Reformed local government.
Upper-class: Culture and intellect increased.
Serfs: Serfs lost the right to complain about their masters.
(rights decreased)
Peasant Rebellion (1773-1774).
Leader: Emelyan Pugachev
Lost rebellion.
Executed.
Russia was world's largest land empire
Economy: based on its large territory (agriculture, logging, fishing, furs)

Comparison:
China and Russia: grew dramatically in territory and population
Japan's size, homogeneity, and failure to add colonies – disqualify it from being called a true empire
Japan and Russia: greater progress in improving military than did China
Out of Japan, Russia, and China – Russia did the most to build up its imperial navy
China and Russia – policies tolerated diversity while promoting cultural assimilation
Russia and Chinese leaders – did think their culture was superior
Merchants precarious position in both Japan and China