

Russian History Review

- Mid-1200s Mongols conquer Kievan principality → **Mongol Yoke**
- Eastern Slavs unify
 - Russian princes loyal to Mongols are given some authority (rise of Muscovite princes)
- 1300s-1600s A bunch of tsars – the **Ivans** and **Romanovs**
- Ivan I, “Moneybags” (r. 1328-1341) – stingy, tax collector, great prince
 - Ivan III (r. 1462-1505) – free of Mongol rule, rise of Russian absolutism, monarch gains power over **boyard nobility**, (+rise of **service nobility** loyal to tsar)
 - **Ivan IV, “the Terrible”** (r. 1533-1584) – 1st to take title of tsar, expansionistic wars, subjugates nobles, formation of **Cossacks** (outlaw peasants fleeing oppressive service nobility), traders and artisans bound to towns so tsar could tax them
 - **Time of Troubles** (1598-1613) – conflict over accession to throne, Cossack rebellion under Bolotnikov, invasions by Swedes and Poles
 - Michael Romanov (r. 1613-1645) – fighting ends, power restored to tsar (Romanovs rule until 1917!)
 - Alexis (r. 1645-1676) – peasants enserfed, split in Orthodox church (reformers vs. **Old Believers**), Cossack Rebellion under Razin

17th c.

To what extent was Russia before Peter the Great like and unlike Europe?

<i>Like Europe</i>	<i>Unlike Europe</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>feudal system / serfdom (though more oppressive in Russia ... almost like American slavery, as serfs could be sold away from the land)</i> - <i>constitutional crises (push for more rep. gov't.)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>orientation towards Asia (Russia literally looked eastward ... expansion into Siberia vs. the west)</i> - <i>cultural practices:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>women – veils, seclusion</i> • <i>men’s clothing and beards</i> • <i>very superstitious (elite too)</i> • <i>alternating drunkenness and religious repentance</i> • <i>torture/killing, etc. common</i> - <i>Russian church didn’t support education or charities and feared western influence</i> - <i>Behind in learning and science</i>

17th-18th c.

Europeanization of Russia

- *purpose: obtain western sci/tech/military knowledge to strengthen Russia*
- *Russia had not been a part of general European development for a long time b/c:*
 - *Eastern Orthodoxy (vs. West’s Catholicism/Protestantism)*
 - *Under Asian rule for 250 years (Mongol Yoke)*

- *Geography – far from Europe, not easy to trade or communicate (no easy/warm seaports ... did not have St. Petersburg yet)*
- *Q: To what extent did Russia become truly European?*

r. 1682-1725 **Peter the Great** (absolutist)

- absolutist + reforms → Russia becomes European Great Power
- expansionistic (only 1 year of peace):
 - Russia, Austria & Poland vs. Ottoman Empire → won
 - **Great Northern War** – Russia, Denmark & Poland attack Sweden (under Charles XII) → won after difficulty ... **Battle of Poltava** in 1709 ... take Estonia and Latvia + end Sweden’s period of dominance
- 18-month tour of W. Europe ... learn ways to increase Russian strength
- reforms:
 - military
 - all nobles serve in army or civil service for life
 - increase service requirements for commoners
 - replaced rebellious old army elite (*streltsi*) with a new one
 - hired officers from other countries
 - westernized uniforms
 - modern weapons
 - government
 - all nobles must serve in army or civil service for life
 - meritocratic civil service system
 - eliminated old forms of local gov’t. → made “senate” dependent on tsar and defined territorial administrative areas
 - abolished hereditary rule, gave tsar power to choose his successor
 - religion – put church under government authority
 - education
 - new schools/universities
 - 5 years compulsory education away from home for noblemen
 - study abroad
 - simplified Russian alphabet
 - first newspaper appeared
 - economy – adopted Colbert’s mercantilism
 - cultural
 - book of etiquette – no spitting, scratching; how to socialize with women
 - forbade beards
 - lack of reform – commoners:
 - increase taxes on peasants
 - serfdom worsens (ex. serfs could be sold off the land and even into cities = helped to build industry with forced labor)

- forced labor on St. Petersburg
- built St. Petersburg (capital until 1917)
- analysis: social revolution!
 - priority became state service over personal ambition (went back to old ways a generation later)
 - elimination of old Russian ways
 - ↑ division b/t rich and poor

r. 1762-1795 **Catherine the Great** (enlightened absolutist)

- lover Orlov – kills husband
- westernized Russia:
 - Voltaire, Diderot, art
- domestic reforms:
 - legal – prep for new law code, restrict torture
 - increased religious toleration
 - increased education
 - strengthen local government
 - limitation: serfs oppressed, brutal repression of Pugachev rebellion, pandered to nobles
- territorial expansion:
 - Mongols, Crimea, Caucasus
 - **partition of Poland** (all 3)

r. 1801-1825 **Alexander I**

- enlightened absolutist; educated by grandmother Catherine the Great
- Napoleonic Wars – fought with and against Napoleon (“the man who defeated Napoleon”)
 - 1805 – against Napoleon (Third Coalition w/ GB) ... wanted to take over Ottoman and Mediterranean lands
 - 1807 (Treaty of Tilsit) – w/ Napoleon (against GB) ... accepted Napoleon as an Emperor of West (wanted to play similar role in East)
 - 1810 – withdrew from Continental System (embargo against GB goods)
 - 1812 – Napoleon invaded Russia ... won at Borodino but forced to retreat from Moscow ... forces decimated by Russian winter (like Germans in WWII) = beginning of the end for Napoleon

1825 **Decembrist Revolt**

- Russian military revolt over Alexander’s successor: Constantine or Nicholas?
 - military favored more liberal Constantine vs. Nicholas was rightful heir
- outcomes: Nicholas I becomes tsar (Constantine renounced claim) and clamps down on Russia
- significance: 1st sign of modern revolution, driven by ideology vs. general unrest, in Russia

- r. 1825-1855 Nicholas I (yucky, harsh absolutist)
- 1853-1856 **Crimean War**
- France, GB, Sardinia, Ottomans vs. Russia
 - issue: French vs. Russia over protection of Christian shrines in Ottoman Empire
 - Russia loses = has fallen behind → modernize!
- 1856-1914 Russia modernizes (ebbs and flows based on the tsar)
- r. 1855-1881 **Alexander II**
- Great Reforms:
 - abolition of serfdom (1861)
 - **zemstvo**
 - legal reforms –independent courts, equality before the law, juries
 - liberalization of education
 - decreased anti-Semitic laws
 - decreased censorship
 - industrialization surge #1 (1860s)
 - assassinated by an anarchist, terrorist group, People’s Will (rise of these types of societies in this period ... hated tsarists + liberals too)
- r. 1881-1894 Alexander III
- political reform ends
 - industrialization surge #1 (1890s ... Sergei Witte)
- r. 1894-1917 **Nicholas II**
- last tsar
- 1904-1905 **Russo-Japanese War**
- 1st time an Asian country defeats a European one
 - sparked Revolution of 1905
- 1905 **Revolution of 1905**
- goal: more representative government
 - **Bloody Sunday** – attack on peaceful protestors at Winter Palace
 - **October Manifesto** – granted full civil rights; est. **Duma** (but Nick II took its power away)
- 1917 **Russian Revolution**
- Feb./March: Revolution #1: overthrow tsar → **Provisional Gov’t.** under **Kerensky**
 - causes: desire for democracy, poverty (Petrograd bread riots)
 - **Petrograd Soviet** (radical) rivaled Prov. Gov’t. (moderate)
 - Oct./Nov. Revolution #2: **Bolsheviks** overthrow Kerensky

- causes: Prov. Gov't's failure to redistribute land, cont. war exhaustion and food shortages

1917-1924 **Lenin**

- Peace of Brest-Litovsk (Jan. 1918) – withdrawal from WWI
- civil war (1918-1921) / Red Terror
- **war communism** (1918-1921) – central planning, all resources toward the war
- **New Economic Plan (NEP)** (1921-1927) – cap/soc mix
- formation of USSR (1922-1991)

1922-1991 **USSR**

1924-1953 **Stalin ☹**

- came to power after struggle ... won Central Committee support... Trotsky exiled and later murdered in Mexico
- 5 year plans
- collectivization
- show trials
- gulag
- WWII (1939-1945)
- started Cold War (1945-1989)

1953-1964 **Khrushchev ☺**

- de-Stalinization
- periods of détente begin (relaxation of Cold War tensions)
- squashed 1956 Hungarian revolt
- space race starts: *Sputnik* (1957)
- confrontations with the US over Cuba: Bay of Pigs (1961) & Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)
- Berlin Wall (1961)

1964-1982 **Brezhnev ☹**

- re-Stalinization
- 1968 Prague Spring
- Brezhnev Doctrine (1968) – proclaimed Soviet right to intervene in any Communist country to protect communism
- SALT treaties
- 1979 – invasion of Afghanistan (to prop up pro-Soviet regime) → “USSR’s Vietnam”

1985-1991 **Gorbachev ☺**

- president of USSR ... lost job when USSR dissolved in 1991
- brought Cold War/communism to an end
- reform policies:
 - **perestroika** (economic “restructuring”)
 - **glasnost** (“openness”)
 - democratization

1990-2000 **Yeltsin**

- president of Russia ... started as Russian pres. while Gorby was Soviet pres. ... replaced Gorby as head of state when USSR dissolved
- reformer who wanted to see USSR dissolved

2000-2008

Putin

- Russian nationalist
- really successful in rebuilding the Russian economy
- very popular in Russia, but not in the West

2008-2012

Medvedev

- lackey for PM Putin ... installed as pres. so that Putin could still keep running the show from behind since the constitution limits the number of presidential terms

2012-present

Putin (again!)

- 2014 annexation of Crimea