

**DISCLAIMER: I'M JUST ANOTHER STUDENT GUYS, I'M NO TEACHER AND I CANNOT PREDICT EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING TO BE ON THIS TEST. SO, IF SOMEHOW THESE NOTES DIDN'T COVER WHEN CATHERINE THE GREAT FIRST PIMPSLAPPED HER HUSBAND THEN DON'T BLAME ME.**

This summary does not include the yellow documents, I think those are pretty easy to read and understand, you can message me on facebook if you want me to translate one of them.

Make sure to thank me for putting this up, too. I'm not really a very humble guy, I need some credit pls. My number is 238-6484, I EXPECT MANY THANK YOU'S! (not really the best way to thank me is to ace Conrad's test).

**Alright, I'm going to go in the order the book goes, and I'm basically going to be summarizing the paragraphs first then pulling out some key events and themes from the chapter. The key points are on Austin's website if you need them, as you should know already, and this should basically repeatedly kick chapter eighteen in the guts and make it your female dog. Ready, steady, go.**

#### **Chapter Paraphrasing:**

**This is where I paraphrase the chapter into easier English, and this is where I'm going to pull my key points and events out of. Remember, this is not a summary, this is a paraphrase, meaning it's going to be about the same size as the paragraphs, maybe a bit longer, and this isn't me speaking, it's like a book that didn't have an oxford stick rammed up its behind. Some of these sentences may be exactly the same as they are in the book if they are impossible to dumb now, but you should still be able to get the, After all, you ARE an AP student.**

## **NOTE:**

**If the first part is too long for you, DON'T WORRY, this is a PARAPHRASE. The summaries and major events and ideas are below the paraphrase, they're WAY shorter. I wanted to make this as complete as possible, so please bear with me.**

## Paraphrase:

### INTRO:

Russia's empire was founded and expanded from 1450 through 1750. Unlike the expansion of western empires though, Russia had limited trade with other nations. Even so, it fundamentally changed power balances from Europe to Asia.

Russian leaders got rid of the Tatars (Mongols) from 1450 through 1480 and then started expanding. Most of the new territory they acquired was Asian, but they also started becoming important in Western Europe by the time of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Regional kingdoms were still present in western Europe, and many of them were different from Russia in important ways. Poland and Lithuania were rivals of Russia into the 17<sup>th</sup> century. But Russia became more and more important as it became an important force in world history.

Russia was not very important before the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and the country was influenced culturally greatly by the Byzantine Empire (East Roman Empire) from the 9<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Russia also converted to Orthodox Christianity. But, after two centuries of Mongol rule, Russia had dropped in educational, cultural, trade, and the quality of its cities.

Russia's development after 1450 interests us not just because they expanded their territory and they grew in importance, but because of the changes they went through as a part of their move to the center stage of the world. Russians built on a strong sense of individuality before relating with Western society. Controversy on whether to be Western or not still remains today in Russia.

In conclusion, the times of 1450 to 1750 set the basis for many of the characteristics that have lasted through our own time: the dominance of Russia, the formation of a Eurasian Russian empire, the potential for change, and an uncertainty towards the West. Defining a Russian civilization, amid influences from several influences and selection of Western processes are some of the things that contributed to today's Russian difficulties.

### **Russians Expansionist Politics Under The Tsars (Czars)**

Summary: Between 1450 and 1650, Russia began expanding while strengthening the Tsarist state in its early modern development.

Russia becoming significant in Eastern Europe and Asia depended on whether it could gain independence from the Mongols. The duchy center in Moscow was the center for the independence cause beginning in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Local princes started gaining more freedom, and the Mongol importance started fading. Ironically, the princes gained more independence by serving as tax collectors for the Mongols, but they gradually moved to regional independence. Under Ivan the Third (Or Ivan the Great), who succeeded the throne from the Rurik dynasty and the old Kievan days, a large part of Russia was free after 1462. Ivan made a strong army giving

the new government a military emphasis that would stick for a long time. He also used ties to Orthodox Christianity and to Russia (to religion and to the nation) to get into power. By 1480 Moscow was free from paying taxes to the Mongols and had gained a lot of territory stretching from Poland and Lithuania to the Ural Mountains.

### **The Need For Revival**

Mongol rule didn't change basic Russian values because they were only interested in tribute, not actual ruling. Many Russian landlords took social habits and fashion from the Mongols, but most of them remained Christians, and most of the regional issues were decided by the landlords, princes, and peasant villages. With this said, Russia was ready to go back to their old ways after they gained independence. But, because of Mongol rule, Russia's cultural and educational levels went down, as well as the economic life (trade). With trade down and their manufacturing limited, Russia had to resort to a purely agricultural economy founded on peasant labor. In these senses, independence brought a challenge for revival and reform.

Ivan the Great took an old tradition from the Rurik dynasty and added it to the new, marrying the niece of the last Byzantine emperor, which gave him the chance to influence all of the Orthodox churches, whether they were in Russia or not. Ivan then declared Russia "the third Rome", and crowned himself Tzar, Csar, etc., a variation of Caesar, or "autocrat of all the Russians".

The next important emperor was Ivan the Fourth, also known as Ivan the Terrible, and he continued Russian expansion. He also put importance on controlling the autocracy (a government where one person alone has all power), and killed many of the *boyars*, or Russian nobles, who he suspected of treason. The nobles did not have heavy influence like the ones in Western Europe.

### **Patterns of Expansion**

Russian expansion focused mainly on central Asia. The expansion was motivated by a desire to drive away the Mongols further back. Russia was a land of flat plains with few natural barriers that stopped invaders, and the early Tsars used this to their advantage by going southward to the Caspian sea and moved east to the Ural Mountains and Beyond. Both Ivan III and Ivan IV sent peasants to live in the newly conquered territories. These peasants were called *Cossacks*, who were both farmers and explorers. The expanded territories had a frontier like feel, gradually settling down to a more regular administration. The spirit of the Cossacks encourage volunteers and made expansion easier, because many of the Cossacks resented Tsarist rule in the new territories they went to, leading them to conquer more territory. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Cossacks conquered the Caspian sea and moved into western Siberia across the Urals, and began to take over and settle these areas of vast plains that had previously been lived in by Asian nomads. Expansion also served as a way for Tsars to reward loyal nobles and bureaucrats by giving them land grants in new territories. This expansion also provided new land for agriculture and sources of labor, Russians used slaves till the eighteenth century for manufacturing work. Even if Russia was not dependent on expanding its territory for control and economic purposes, it was still a good thing to do. Russia also created trade connections with its new Asian territories and their neighbors.

Russia's early expansion, along with the Ottoman empire to the south, acquired central Asia which made it a multicultural empire. Still important was the acquisition of a large Muslim territory, which was controlled by the Tsarist government but not forced to join with Russian culture.

### **Western Contact and Romanov Policy**

Along with expansion and enforcement of Tsarist control, the Tsars also had one more thing on their list: very carefully managed contacts with Western Europe. The tsars realized that the Russians culturally and economically submitting to the Mongols had a negative effect on their commerciality and culture. Ivan the third was eager to send diplomats to the Western states. During the rule of Ivan IV, British merchants established trading contacts with Russia, selling manufactured products in exchange for raw materials. Soon, western merchants put outposts in Moscow and other Russian centers. The tsars imported Italian painters and architects to design churches and a royal palace in Kremlin, a place in Moscow. The artists modified renaissance styles to take Russian styles into account, and made the famous onion shaped domes that are most well known in Saint Basil's Cathedral. All these things symbolized Russia looking up to the west, starting from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Ivan IV died without an heir, which led to some claims to power from the Boyars, this time was referred to as *The time of Troubles*. There were also Swedish and Polish attacks on Russian territories. In 1613, an assembly of Boyars chose a member of the Romanov family to become Tsar. This dynasty, *The Romanov Dynasty*, was going to rule Russia till the revolution of 1917. Also many of the individual Romanov rulers were weak, and tensions with the claims of nobles were recurrent, the Time of Troubles did not put any restrictions on the power of the Tsars. The first Romanov, Michael, put back together internal order without much difficulty. He drove out foreign invaders and resumed the expansionist policy of his predecessors. A successful war against Poland brought Russia a part of the Ukraine, including Kiev. In the south, Russia's boundaries expanded to reach the Ottoman empire. Expanding further at this point was beginning to have diplomatic implications as Russia ran into other established governments.

Alexis Romanov, Michael successor, abolished assemblies of nobles and gained more power in the Russian church. He was eager to get rid of many superstitions and errors that, in his opinion, had crept in during Mongol times. His rule signified the old ways of Orthodox rule that gave him control over the church. Old conservative religious men, called Old conservatives, were banished to Siberia or to Southern Russia, where they clung to their religion and extended Russia's colonizing activities.

### **Russia's First Westernization, 1690-1790**

By the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, Russia was about to go through selective, but dramatic internal changes. Peter The Great led the first Westernization attempts in history, Changing Russia forever and providing as a model for further attempts. He used these attempts to support expansion without becoming truly western.

By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Russia had become one of the great land empires, but it was still unusually agricultural compared to the West and the great Asian civilizations. The rule of Peter I, the son of Alexis and known to most as "Peter The Great", signified many new features into the framework between 1689 and 1725. In essence, Peter extended his predecessor's policies of building up Tsarist control and expanding Russia. He changed selective aspects of Russian economy and culture by imitating the West.

Peter was a great leader of great intelligence and extreme energy, and was very tall, 6 feet 8 inches. He wanted to move Russia further into western ideas without making it too western. He travelled a lot in the west, seeking allies against Turkish power in Europe. He visited many Western Manufacturing Centers, even working as a carpenter for a ship in Holland, and then he gained an interest in Western Science and technology. He brought many western artisans with him to Russia.

### **Tsarist autocracy of Peter The Great**

Peter was an autocrat in politics; he put down revolts with great cruelty, in a special case killing one of the ringleaders personally. He had no interest in Western parliaments, but he took absolutist ideas from them instead. Peter made the power of the Russian state more powerful by using it as a reforming force, trying to show that even aristocratic habits could be modified by the state. Peter also continued an earlier policy of by recruiting bureaucrats from outside aristocratic ranks and giving them the titles of nobles to reward them for bureaucratic service. This was a way of freeing the state from sole dependence on aristocrats, who might stray from their power bases. Peter imitated the western military organization, creating a specially trained fighting force that put down local militias. Furthermore, Peter The Great made a sort of secret police to prevent resistance and resentment towards him and to supervise his bureaucracy, this paralleled an earlier Chinese technique but it went above and beyond the usual want of control over the bureaucracy that most western absolutist rulers wanted. This secret police continued under different names till the 1990s since it was refounded after 1917 when some people tried to overthrow the Tsarist systems. Peter's foreign policies maintained well established contacts. He attacked the Ottoman empire but he didn't win any great things. He went to war with Sweden, who was at the time one of the most important powers in Europe, and gained territory on the east coast of the Baltic sea, which drove Sweden to second rate military status. Russia now had a territory by the Sea, and could make an ice free port. From this time onward, Russia became important in European diplomatic and military alignments. The Tsar signified the new Westernization effort by moving the capital from Moscow to the newly built city Saint Petersburg.

### **What Westernization Meant**

As a reformist, Peter concentrated on political, cultural, and selective economic changes. He tried to streamline the bureaucracy and change military structure by using western

organizational ideas. He created a more well defined military hierarchy while developing specialized bureaucratic developments. He improved much of the army's weaponry and created a Russian navy with help from Western advisors. He eliminated the old noble councils and made a set of advisors that were under his control. Governors of provinces were appointed from St. Petersburg, the capital, and although city councils were elected, a town magistrate appointed by the Tsar was the final word in provincial matters. Peter's ministers changed the law codes so that they were the same for each part of the Empire and revised the tax system so that the peasants were taxed increasingly. Training institutes were made for people that wanted to be bureaucrats and officers as an attempt to bring in talented non nobles into his system.

Peter's economic efforts focused on building up metallurgical and mining industries, using Russia's vast iron supplies to supply materials for building ships and making ammunition and weapons. Without urbanizing a lot or making Russia a commercial economy, Peter changed the Russian economy. Landlords were rewarded for using their serfs to staff new manufacturing projects. This was a limited but important goal, as it gave Russia internal economic means to maintain a military presence for almost two centuries.

Finally, Peter thought it important to make Russian culture acceptable in western eyes. Cultural change was not superficial, it supplemented bureaucratic training and provided greater technical expertise. Peter also wanted to break the Russian elite's traditions, to enhance the power of the state, and to make the elite look different than they usually did, making nobles shave off their beards and wear western clothes. In symbolic ceremonies he cut off the long sleeves and pigtailed that the boyars were usually dressed like, which was a fashion effect from the Mongols. This was an example of when traditions were cut off in order to be more western, although this case only affected the upper class Russians. Of other things were attempts to give more education in Math and other technical things for the nobles. Peter and his successors made scientific institutes and academies like the western ones, and discussion of scientific things became common. At the elite level, Peter made Russia into a Western cultural zone, and western fads and fashions extended easily into the new capital city. Ballet, originally French, was imported and became a Russian specialty, along with the putting up of Christmas trees which was from Germany. He also wanted to improve the status of upper class women, and let them attend public events like their counterparts in Western Europe. An old wedding tradition where the bride's father handed a whip to the groom was a symbol of power was abolished. The westernization process can be compared to many imitations in other later societies. These changes were selective, not involving the ordinary people in Russia, only the nobles. The new manufacturing efforts used a form of labor that was somewhat forced, not like the more independent system of wage labor that spread through the west. Peter had no interest in worldwide trade, and he used western ideas to support his autocratic state, not reform or challenge it like many ideals in the west did. This was real change, but it did not turn Russia completely into a Western country, because there was a very important theme of selectivity of reforms. To elaborate, the westernization processes that occurred in Russia brought hostility, many peasants resented the westernizations of their landlords, some who no longer knew Russian but spoke French. Elements of the elite opposed Peter's thirst for change, arguing that

old Russian traditions were better than new western ideas. As a priest wrote to Tsar Alexis, "You feed the foreigners too well, instead of bidding your folk to cling to the old customs." This attitude continued in Russian history, leading to many conflicts on western ideas.

### **Consolidation Under Catherine The Great:**

The death of Peter the great in 1724 was followed by several decades of weak rule, characterized by attempts at power from army officers that guided the selection of many weak and ineffective emperors/empresses. This period of weakness signaled some grumpiness and a little reform back to old Russian ways by the church, but no major changes were made that affected Russia. Expansion of territory continued, with more wars against the Ottomans and more territory gained in Siberia, with more settlement there too. In 1761, Peter III, the nephew of Peter the great's youngest daughter, came to power. Too bad Peter was mentally retarded (literally), which made his wife, Catherine III, the ruler of Russia after his death. She continued the policies of Peter the Great, defending the powers of the central monarch and using a put down peasant rebellion to gain more power in regional affairs. Catherine II (The Great) (1729-1796) was born as a Prussian princess and converted to the Orthodox faith after her marriage to the heir to the Russian throne was confirmed. Her marriage was miserable, she hated her husband (Peter III) and her son. She eventually dethroned her husband and had him killed, making her the new ruler in 1762.

Her policies were a combination of enlightenment principles and an effort to consolidate her power as a Russian ruler. She had many lovers and an active personal life. She was also a selective westernizer like Peter, which was proven in her "instruction of 1767" (see the yellow document). She also flirted with French enlightenment ideas, bringing with her back to Russia French scholars and supported the arts and sciences. She also reformed law codes to be less harsh.

Catherine's image was not always consistent with her policies, though. Seeing as she was a centralizer and supported a stronger tsar. She also gave powers to the nobility over their serfs, and made a trade off. In the trade off, nobles served as bureaucrats and officers. They were in this sense a service aristocracy, they also accepted newly ennobled officials chosen by the Tsars. In return, most of the peasants were controlled by this group of nobles/landlords. These landlords could demand peasant labor, levy taxes in money and goods, and even decide punishments for crimes because the local courts were dominated by the landlords. Catherine also increased the amount of punishments landlords could give to serfs.

Catherine patronized Western style art and architecture, and continued to build St.Petersburg in the classical styles popular in the West at the time and encouraging nobles to tour the west and even sent their children to go to school there. But, she tried avoiding western cultural influence. When the French revolution started in 1789, Catherine quickly closed off all liberal or democratic writings of the French. She also censored a small group of Russian intellectuals who urged a

western reform. One of the first western inspired radicals, a noble named Radishev, who wanted to abolish serfdom and wanted a more liberal political rule, was harassed by Catherine's police and had his writings banned.

Catherine continued Russian expansion with great success, and resumed campaigns against the Ottoman empire, winning new territory in Central Asia, including Crimea, a sort of island in the Black sea connected to the mainland by strips of land. The Russian ottoman war was a major thing in both governments, and Russian was in a position of dominance. Catherine accelerated colonization of already conquered territories in Siberia, and encouraged exploration, claiming territories in modern day Alaska and California. Finally, Catherine became active in Europe, playing power politics with Prussia and Austria, but without risking any major wars. She increased Russian interference in Polish affairs, whose government was extremely weak, almost paralyzed by a government that let nobles veto any new rule, which let neighboring countries gain interest in taking it over. Russia was able to agree with Austria and Prussia for the partition of Poland. Three partitions, in 1772, 1793, and 1795 eliminated Poland's independence and Russia held the majority of the spoils. This was the basis for Russian interference in European affairs, and this would show most when Russia would put down the French armies of Napoleon after 1812, which would be the first time Russia moved into the heartland of Western Europe.

By the time Catherine died in 1796, Russia had passed through three centuries of extraordinary development. It has won independence and made a strong central state, even if it had to balance the local political and economic interests of the nobles. It had brought new elements into itself of culture and economy, and it had extended into being the largest land empire in the world. In the east it bordered china, where an 18<sup>th</sup> century Amur river agreement set up new frontiers. A tradition of careful but successful military expansion had been established, along with a pioneering spirit. A bit after 1800, French observer Alexis de Tocqueville, said that Russia and the newly emerging United States of America were going to be the most important countries in the world.

### **Themes in Early Modern Russian History:**

Russian society differed greatly from the west, focusing on serfdom and a deep rooted peasant culture. The gap between Russia's economy and social structure and it's selective Westernization set up continuing tensions visible even today. Although Russian serfdom was severe, a similar social system developed in other Eastern European Areas.

Intro:

Because of it's great estates, it's local political power, and it's service to the state, the Russian nobility still remained powerful in society. In Russia and Eastern Europe, nobles tended to be divided between a minority of people with great importance and smaller land owners, whose culture and ideals were less Westernized.



## **Serfdom: The Life Of East Europe's Masses**

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the power of the nobility over the serfs increased. Before the Mongol conquest, Russian peasants had usually been free farmers with a position more superior to their Western counterparts. After the driving away of the Mongols, though, many peasants fell into debt and had to accept being servants to landlords when they could not repay them. They still had access to their land, but they did not own it. The Russian government encouraged this process from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Serfdom gave the government a way to keep the nobles happy and keep the peasants in check when the government itself had no way of directly controlling the common people. As new territories were conquered, serfdom spread to them accordingly. By 1800, half of Russia's peasants were enslaved to their landlords, and much of the other half had debt to the state. Laws passed that tied the serfs to their land and increased the power of nobles over the serfs. An act in 1649 made serfdom hereditary, meaning that you were born into serfdom and could not escape it. Russia set up its system of serfdom so that it was almost outright slavery, which said serfs could be gambled away, sold, and punished by their masters. This was different from other slave systems in the West, which usually used outsiders (people not from their own country) for slaves. This increasing serfdom also signaled Eastern Europe's growing economic subordination to the west. Serfdom was used to produce grain, which was sold to western merchants for furnishings and materials essential to the aristocratic lifestyle.

Serfs on the estates of Eastern Europe were taxed and policed by their landlords, sometimes whole villages being sold as manufacturing labor, which was a process Peter the Great actively encouraged. Peasants were not literally slaves, but they paid heavy taxes and were most often illiterate. The labor obligation, or *Obrok*, tended to increase steadily. Both the legal and economic situations of the peasants continued to deteriorate. Although Catherine selected some cities to show to the Westerners to demonstrate her "enlightenment ideals", she gave the nobles the rest of the cities, making the landlords owners of the cities and lands more than ever before. In 1785, a law founded stated that landlords had the right to harshly punish and serfs for their crimes.

## **Trade and Economic Dependence**

In between the serfs and the landlords, there were not many middle classes. Cities were small, and 95% of the population was rural. (Most manufacturing took place in the countryside, which meant that there was no well defined artisan class.) Government growth encouraged some non noble bureaucrats and professionals. Small merchant groups existed also, but most of Russia's European trade was handled by westerners in the main Russian cities and relied on Western shipping. The nobility, concerned about competition, prevented the emergence of a defined noble class. Russia's social and economic system worked in many ways, it produced enough revenue to support an expanding state and empire. Russia was able to trade in furs and other commodities with areas in central Asia outside its boundaries, which meant that its exports were not totally directed towards the West. It supported the influential aristocrats and their westernized culture. This system also provided for greater population growth, during the 18<sup>th</sup> century Russia's population doubled to 36 million. This system also suffered from many

limitations though. The agricultural methods were highly traditional, and there was not much motivation for the peasants to work harder because most extra yield was taken from their landlords.

### **Social Unrest**

Russia's economic and social system led to protest, and by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century a small but growing number of Western Orientated Aristocrats such as Radishev were criticizing the government's backwardness and urging the abolition of serfdom. These were the seeds of a radical movement that would grow with time despite government repression. Even more significant were the peasant rebellions, who were for the most part loyal to the Tsar but hated their landlords. Who they thought took away their land that was rightfully theirs. Periodic rebellions saw peasants destroying manorial records, seizing land, and sometimes killing their landlords and the officials. Peasant rebellions had been occurring from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onward, but the Pugachev uprising of the 1770s was a particularly strong one. Pugachev was a Cossack chieftain that claimed to be the legitimate Tsar and promised an end to serfdom, taxation, and military conscription as well as the abolition of the aristocrats. His forces roamed over south Russia till they were defeated. Pugachev was brought to Moscow and cut into quarters in public, which signified the dominance of Catherine and the nobility. Even with this, resentment and protests were still active.

That's the end of the paraphrase, summaries and major points to come soon 😊

Call me up or message me and thank me.