

Chapter 18 Reading Guide
The Rise of Russia p.400-413

Russia Under Peter the Great



- ❖ Locate Moscow & St. Petersburg on the map.
- ❖ Compare Russia under Peter the Great in 1725 (map on page 406) to the Mongol Empire of Chinggis Khan in 1227 (use page 315, the GREEN area). Which is larger?
- ❖ How do their locations differ?

RUSSIA'S EXPANSIONIST POLITICS UNDER THE TSARS p.400

1. What service did Russian princes provide to the Mongols?
2. What Russian prince gained Russia its independence from the Mongols?
3. Your text states that Russia was similar to Classical Macedonia and Rome in that it was a new state on the fringes of civilization gaining in power. What civilization during the Early Modern period influenced Russia the most? (Hint: it's not distant China nor their archenemy, the Ottoman Empire)

The Need for Revival

4. What negative consequences were the results of Mongol domination?

5. How did Ivan III tie Russia to the Byzantine Empire in the minds of his people and gain control over the Orthodox Church?
6. Where does the word “tsar” come from?
7. What was Ivan IV’s other name and how did he gain mastery over the Russian nobles, called *boyars*?

Patterns of Expansion

8. What geographic challenge did Russia face that led to its expansion?
9. What were “cossacks” and how did both Ivans use them?
10. How did the Ivans use expansion to gain control over the nobles and bureaucrats?
11. Why can Russia be described as a multicultural empire?
12. Your text states that there was a large Muslim minority included when Russia expanded but it was not forced to integrate with Russian culture, i.e. they weren’t forced to convert to Orthodox Christianity. Explain why, especially given that the Tsar is an autocrat (has all the power) and represents the Orthodox Church. (NOTE: The answer is not in your book. THINK. A hint for ONE possibility – Mongols)

Western Contact and Romanov Policy

13. What did the tsars realize the effects of the Mongols were on Russia?
14. How did the tsars attempt to make up for this backwardness? (Hint: remember question 6 above)
15. What was the “Time of Troubles?”
16. What was the name of the last Russian dynasty?
17. Who were the “Old Believers” and what religious denomination did they spin off from?

THINKING HISTORICALLY: Multinational Empires (p.404 insert)

18. The article discusses multinational (aka multicultural) empires in comparison to nation-states. Which does it state is more lasting and why?
19. List three multinational empires other than Russia’s.

RUSSIA'S FIRST WESTERNIZATION, 1690-1790 p.405

20. Peter the Great: describe both the man and his policies to justify why he is called “the Great.” (Make sure you look up the word “incognito”)

Tsarist Autocracy of Peter the Great

21. Your text clearly states that Peter was influenced by the West. However, he was not influenced by the political structures of Great Britain or Holland. What Western nation’s political structure do you think did influence him? (Hint: right column p. 405) Why?
22. China used civil service exams to dilute the power of the landed gentry by rewarding people from various social classes with government power. How did Peter the Great accomplish something similar without using exams?
23. What Chinese innovation did Peter the Great use to maintain power that lasted into the 1990s (and maybe until today)?
24. Your text uses the term “window on the sea.” Other sources refer to it as a “window on the West.” Explain what this “window” was and how did it influence Russia.

What Westernization Meant

25. What region influenced Russia’s military structure the most?
26. Peter the Great incorporated another Chinese method of keeping the aristocracy from controlling the bureaucracy. What was it?
27. What two connected industries did Peter focus on and why (other than the fact that Russia had a lot of materials needed for both)?
28. What group did Peter focus on to try to bring Russia’s image up to Western standards? Identify the changes he brought to this group.
29. All of Peter’s efforts at Westernization were clearly aimed at what group and NOT at what other group in Russia?
30. How effective do you think his efforts were, especially given who was left out and some of his “Western” mandated policies like shaving of beards? (He also forced them to stop wearing bearskin capes)

31. What reforms did he make that may have helped Russia in the long run?

32. All of Peter's reforms were mainly centered on improving Russia's military position (prob. influenced by Mongol domination). Considering both who benefitted and who suffered from Westernization the most, given its military and non-commercial focus, AND what group ends up bearing the brunt of any military conflict, what do you think will eventually happen in Russia between groups?

Consolidation Under Catherine the Great

33. What was Catherine's nationality? (FYI – if you want some interesting info on the scandalous lives of royals, google Catherine and read almost any entry on her, including Wikipedia. Note: the horse thing is a lie by the French who didn't like the idea of a female with that sort of power)

34. What was Catherine's response to the peasant rebellion?

35. How did that response like both Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great?

36. What was Catherine's impact on the serfs?

37. Why do you think Catherine sided with the nobility over the serfs considering she was an autocrat?

38. Who did Catherine send to the West to be educated?

39. What was the "partition of Poland" and how did this unusual event come to pass?

THEMES IN EARLY MODERN RUSSIAN HISTORY p.410

40. Describe the division within the Russian nobility.

Serfdom: The Life of East Europe's Masses

41. What happened to the serfs throughout the 17th and 18th centuries in their relationship to both the land and landlords?

42. What happened in 1649?

43. Slavery is a continuity in world history. It has appeared in many different societies across all parts of the world in every period. However, the Russian serf/slavery system was unique. How?

44. Two differences between American slavery and Russian serfdom:

1. American slaves were “outsiders” and primarily raised cotton
2. Russian serfs were “insiders” and primarily raised _____.

VISUALIZING THE PAST: Oppressed Peasants (p.411 insert)

45. The tax collector (center) is wearing a beard and a bearskin coat. What time period is indicated by this?

46. Notice the demeanor of the peasants standing around the tax collector. Notice the inclination of their heads and also the children standing nearby. What emotion(s) is the 20th century artist trying to evoke from the viewer?

Estate Agriculture, Trade and Dependence

47. Why was the development of a vibrant merchant class discouraged?

48. Despite the flaws you’ve seen in the Russian social and economic system, your text states it worked well. What was the clearest evidence of its success?

49. Why did peasants reject the use of new agricultural innovations that would have allowed them to produce more in less time?

Social Unrest

50. Where did the leading criticism of the Russian government come from and who influenced this group?

51. How did Pugachev appeal to peasants?

Russia and Eastern Europe

52. What happened to some Eastern European countries like Hungary and Poland during the Early Modern period?