Chapter 18

The Rise of Russia

(1450 – 1800)
The Moscovites

- Mongols of the Golden Horde, called Tatars, invaded the Russian steppes and influenced Russian society and government.
- Ivan III, known as Ivan the Great drove out the Mongols and moved the capital from Kiev to Moscow.
- By 1462, much of Russia from freed from the Mongols.
- By 1480, Moscow from freed from paying tribute to the Mongols.
- He expanded the Russian empire and laid the foundation for extreme absolute power by limiting the power of the boyars and took the title Czar.
- He organized a strong army, giving the new government a military emphasis it would long retain.
During the reign of Daniel (1263-1303), Moscow was little more than a small timber fort lost in the forests of Central Russia.
Ivan IV was the first Russian ruler to claim the title Czar (Tsar), a derivative of Caesar.

He further centralized royal power and continued the policy of expansion conquering the Mongols to expand into central Asia and western Siberia.

He was known for his ruthlessness and reduced the power of the boyars by eliminating opponents, becoming increasingly unstable.

He recruited peasants, called cossacks, to migrate to the newly seized lands in the south.
End of Ivan IV and Beginning of the Romanovs

- Ivan the Terrible organized the *oprichniki*, or agents of terror, to enforce his will.

- After the death of his wife, in a fit of anger he killed his son.

- His death plunged Russia into the “*Time of Troubles*” that lasted from 1604 to 1613.

- Finally in 1613, the *zemsky sobor*, an assembly of nobles, clergy, and townsmen chose Michael Romanov to be the new czar.
Effects of the Mongol Conquest

In the early 1200s, Mongol armies, led by Ghengis Khan, conquered Russia. The Mongols ruled Russia for 240 years.

- Kiev and other Russian towns were destroyed.
- Many Russians were killed.
- The Mongols tolerated the Russian Orthodox Church, which grew more powerful.
- Russians adopted Mongol practice of subjugating women.
- Trade routes opened up between China and Eastern Europe.
- Absolute power of the Mongols served as a model for later Russian rulers.
- Russia was cut off from Western Europe at an important time.
Moscow Emerged as the Chief Russian Power

- During the Mongol period, the princes of Moscow steadily increased their power.

- Moscow benefited from its location near important river trade routes.

- Moscow was made the capital of the Russian Orthodox Church.

- Ivan the Great and Ivan the Terrible centralized power and recovered Russian territories.
The Romanov Dynasty would rule from 1613 until the great revolution in 1917.

Michael Romanov reestablished internal order, drove out foreign invaders, and continued the expansionist policies of his predecessors.

In a war against Poland he gained part of Ukraine, including Kiev.

In the South he expanded the boarders to meet up with the Ottoman Empire.
Alexis Romanov

- Alexis Romanov, successor to Michael, abolished the assemblies of the boyars.
- He returned the church to its Orthodox tradition by purging Mongol influences and resumed state control of the Church.
- Dissident religious conservatives, called Old Believers, were exiled to Siberia or southern Russia.

Tsar Alexei chooses his bride by Grigory Sedov (the result of the Tsardom-wide contest organized by Boris Morozov was his relative Maria Miloslavskaya)
Peter the Great was committed to a policy of *westernization* in Russia. However, persuading Russians to change their way of life proved difficult. To impose his will, Peter became the most autocratic of Europe’s absolute monarchs. During his reign he:

- forced the *boyars*, or landowning nobles, to serve the state.
- imported western technology and culture.
- insisted that the boyars shave their beards and wear western-style clothing.
- used autocratic methods to push through social and economic reforms.
- imposed policies which caused the spread of serfdom.
- brought all Russian institutions under his control.
Expansion Under Peter

- Peter created the largest standing army in Europe and set out to extend Russian borders to the west and south.

- Peter unsuccessfully fought the Ottomans in an attempt to gain a warm-water port for Russia.

- Peter engaged in a long war with Sweden, and eventually won land along the Baltic Sea. On land won from Sweden, Peter built a magnificent new capital city, St. Petersburg.

- Peter signed a treaty with Qing China which recognized Russia’s right to lands north of Manchuria.

- Peter hired a navigator to explore what became known as the Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska.

*Peter the First Looking at the Baltic Sea.*
Peter Built St. Petersburg in the style of Western Europe

The most famous (1782) statue of Peter I in Saint Petersburg, informally known as the Bronze Horseman
Catherine the Great

An efficient, energetic empress, who ruled in the tradition of absolute monarchs, Catherine:

- reorganized the provincial government, codified laws, and began state-sponsored education for boys and girls.
- embraced and encouraged Western ideas and culture.
- gained a warm-water port on the Black Sea.
- agreed to partition Poland and gained the eastern portion.
- granted special privileges to the boyars.
- allowed the boyars to increase their control of the peasants and repressed peasant rebellions.
Expansion of Russia, 1689 – 1796