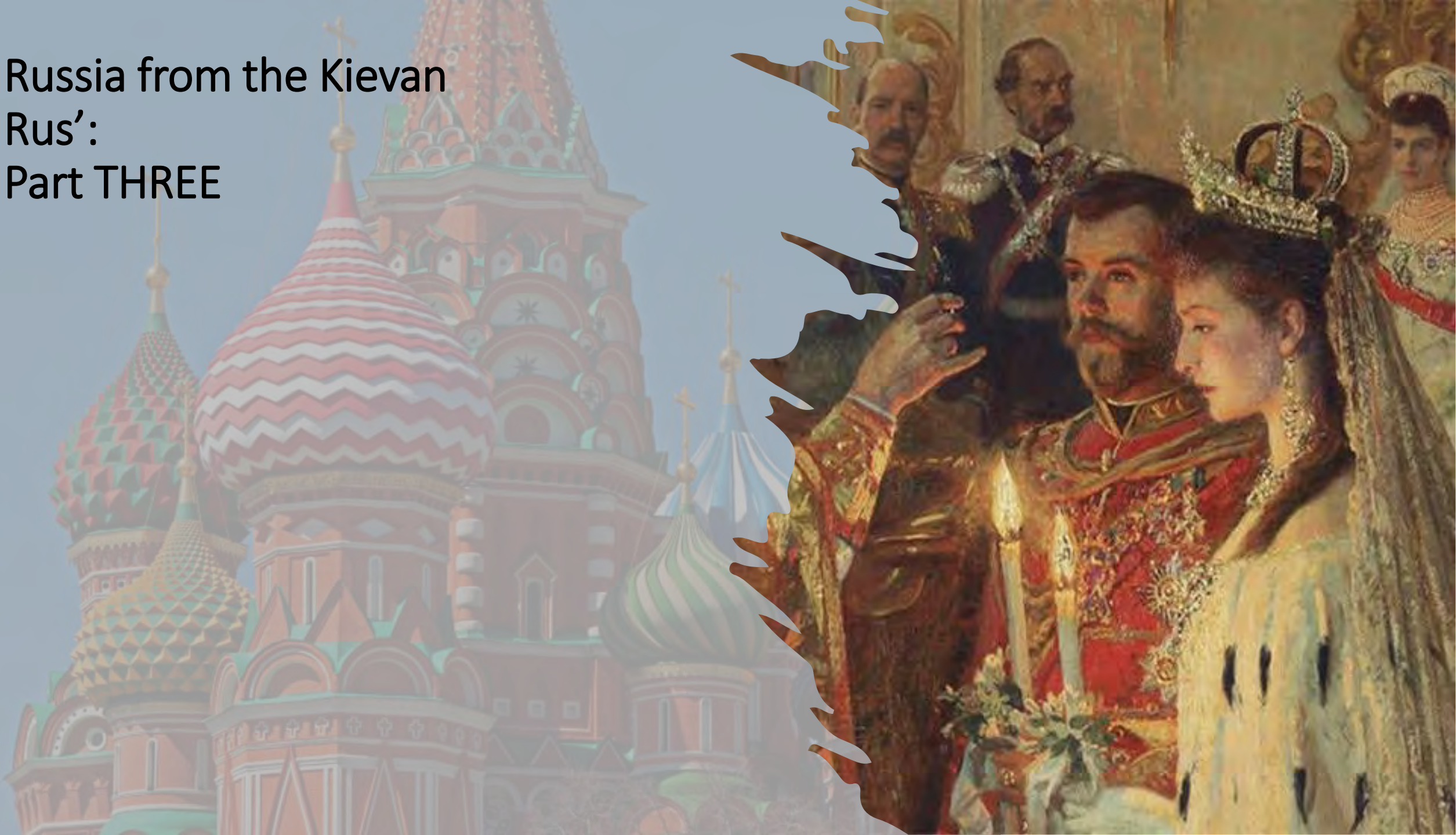


Russia from the Kievan  
Rus':  
Part THREE



## The Court of the Tsar

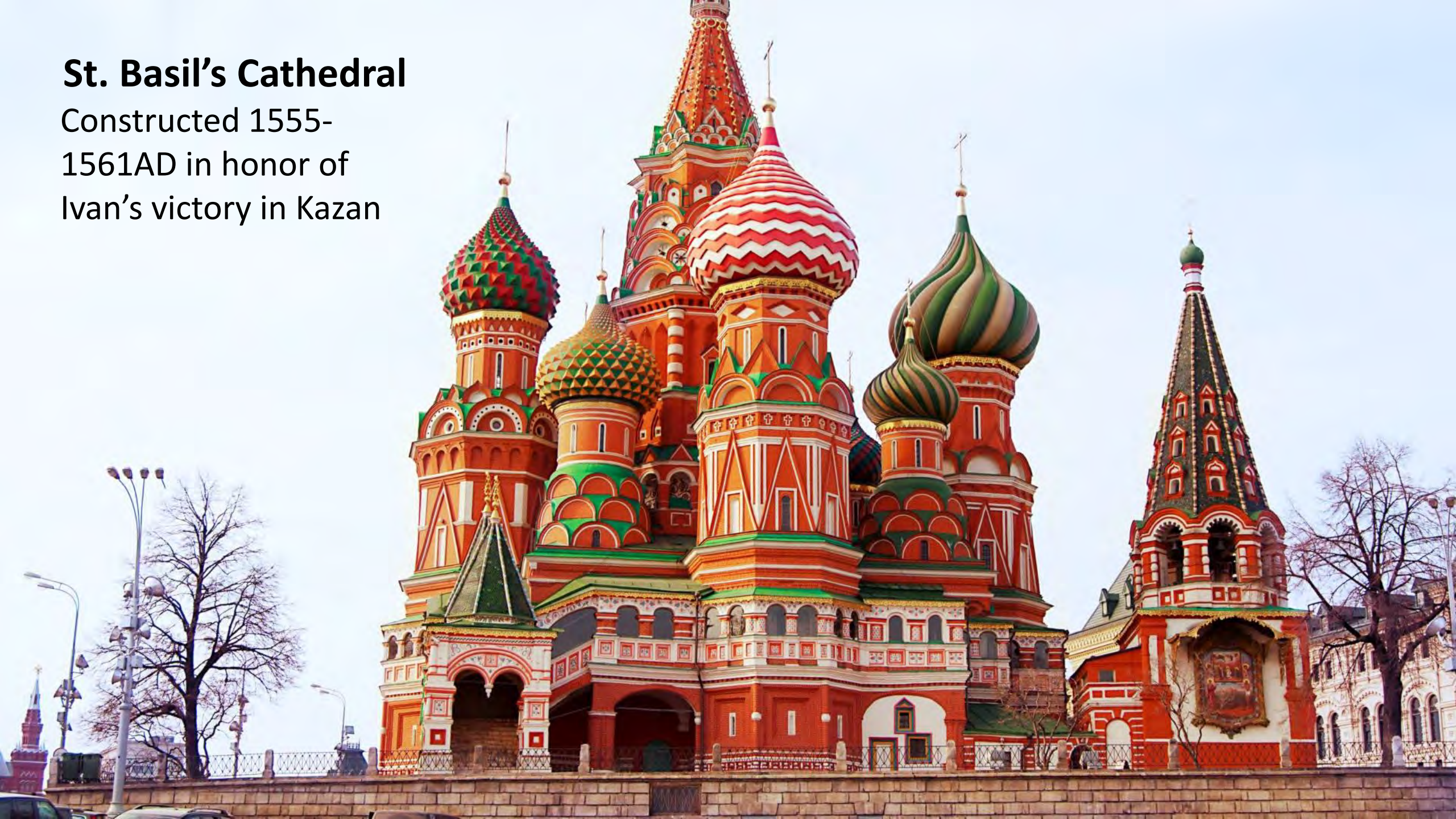
- The court evolved from the military retinues of the Kievan princes
- These princes had owned sufficient landed estates to support themselves, even after Mongol invasion and Muscovite expansion. They used the option of offering their military service or administrative expertise to any of the numerous remaining princely courts or even to Lithuania
- But as Muscovy continued to expand, their range of options had narrowed. Meanwhile those lower in status than princes rose to prominence as functionaries in Moscow government

## The Mestnichestvo System

- A complex system of seniority that determined which government posts a boyar or next-lower ranks could hold, based on the individual's seniority within the aristocratic families
- Length of service in administrative or military positions and one's social position at birth determined the rank; higher-ranked members often sued when appointed to a position serving beneath a lower-ranked member
- Newly added Princes from domains in Lithuania or those absorbed by Moscow could however bypass lower-level positions, creating resentment from long-serving Muscovite non-royal bureaucrats
- A handful of the highest boyars comprised an informal "Counselor Duma" which advised the Tsar, co-signed important documents and met with foreign dignitaries

# St. Basil's Cathedral

Constructed 1555-  
1561AD in honor of  
Ivan's victory in Kazan



## The Result of Ivan's Military Triumphs

- After Khanate of Kazan conquered 1552, then Astrakhan, total access to Volga River
- Enormous military expenses result from these campaigns and the ongoing cost
- Sophisticated standing armies are now more often controlled and financed directly by the czar
- Russian settlers arrive and challenges with multi-ethnic newest part arise
- Ivan suspended **Mestnichestvo** during the campaign



## A Transition in Land “Ownership”

- Although some aristocrats continued to hold hereditary landed estates, the **Pomestie, or "service landholding,"** appeared during Ivan’s grandfather reign
- For either Hereditary or Pomestie system, compensation for services to the grand prince became their main source of income
- Participation in victorious military ventures supplemented those incomes with booty. In addition, often as a reward for fulfilling military or court assignments, servicemen might be given provincial administrative appointments, for which they also received payment.
- As the issuer of these rewards, however, the grand prince also acquired the power to retract his favor and the benefits he had bestowed.

## **Increase Royal Revenues**

- Obligations, traditionally paid in labor or in kind, were changed to cash fees; It expands the direct taxes that had been pursued during Vasily III's reign
- New land surveys conducted virtually throughout the realm, were authorized, to obtain an accurate inventory
- The data were to be used as a basis for distributing the additional **Pomestie, or "service landholding,"** as well as for determining taxes on all landholding

## **A Threat to Stability**

- In 1553, shortly after the triumphant Kazan victory, Ivan falls ill
- Fearing his death, he asks the Boyar leaders of his council to swear allegiance to his infant son
- Many boyars however see another long minority governance, coming so soon after the turbulent thirteen years before Ivan's coronation
- Ivan recovers, but senses little loyalty from Boyars



## England Established the Muscovy Company

- Ivan attempts to attract Western specialists in 1547, but runs afoul of the Hanseatic League and the Livonian Order blocking their entrance
- England searching for Arctic route to China in 1553 found a route to the White Sea and established trade through the Arctic port of Archangel
- Ivan grants preferential trade agreements with England, and expanding Russia's international contacts



## Wars in the West

- Ivan attacks the Livonian Order in 1558 over Russian access to the Baltic, as earlier attempts to bring Western technicians had been blocked by the Order and the Hanseatic League
- Initial gains were followed by collapse of the Order and the entry of Poland-Lithuania into the war; later joined by Sweden and Denmark with Crimean Tatars allied to Poland Lithuania
- The war would drag on through 1583, with losses ultimately causing Ivan to make unparalleled political shifts



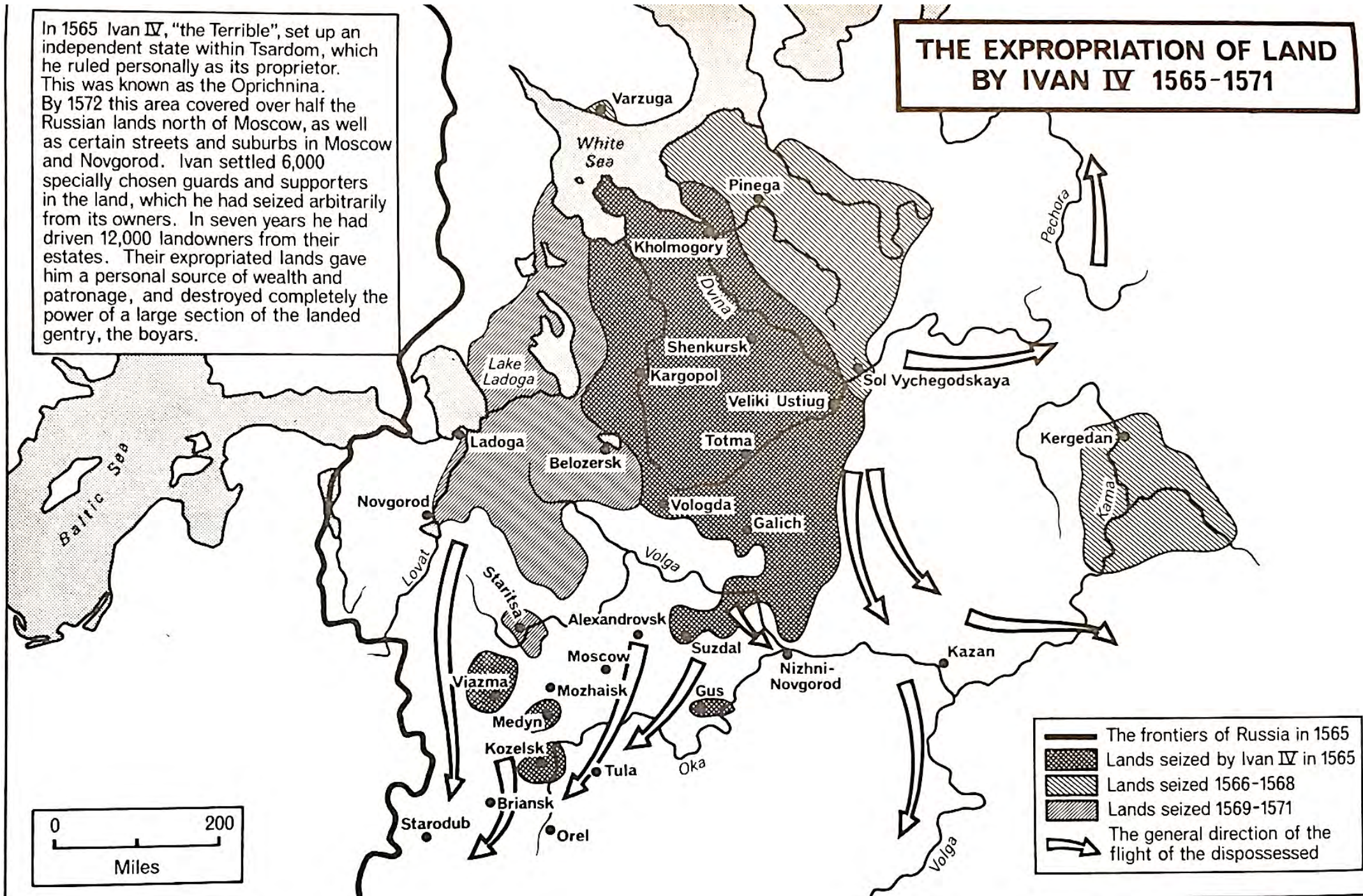


## Death of Ivan's Wife Anastasia – 1560AD

- Ivan loses a moderating force; it recalls the loss of his mother, who had been poisoned
- Accusations swirl of either poisoning or insufficient medical care
- Ivan's personal priest Sylvester and his closest advisor Alexei Adashev are fired and eventually killed
- These two had previously been critical of the Livonian War, whose fortunes have now turned from triumph to impending disaster
- Ivan remarries, but broods over political situation and as the war deteriorates, he leaves Moscow and appears to abdicate
- Ivan resumes the throne, but only after wide-ranging concessions from boyars

In 1565 Ivan IV, "the Terrible", set up an independent state within Tsardom, which he ruled personally as its proprietor. This was known as the Oprichnina. By 1572 this area covered over half the Russian lands north of Moscow, as well as certain streets and suburbs in Moscow and Novgorod. Ivan settled 6,000 specially chosen guards and supporters in the land, which he had seized arbitrarily from its owners. In seven years he had driven 12,000 landowners from their estates. Their expropriated lands gave him a personal source of wealth and patronage, and destroyed completely the power of a large section of the landed gentry, the boyars.

## THE EXPROPRIATION OF LAND BY IVAN IV 1565-1571



## Ivan's Legacy Marred

- Massive population transfers from the terror campaign weaken the state
- The “new state” Ivan created with essentially the same complement of officials cannot wage an effective war and is no more efficient than the remaining “conventional state”
- Population terrors accelerate ongoing attempts to “Fix” peasants in landlord estates, eventually leading to formal legislation after Ivan's reign that leads to serfdom
- No major triumphs beyond the opening of Siberia to fur exploitation and salt industry by Stroganoff family



## Feodor Reigns After Ivan's Death

- The intended heir Ivan Ivanovich, had earlier died from a wound he suffered when an enraged Ivan IV struck his son with an iron staff
- Feodor 1557-1598AD the eldest of two remaining sons was frail mentally and physically, but ascended the throne in 1584AD
- His wife Irina Godunova was however intelligent and sophisticated
- Irina worked in concert with her brother, Boris Godunov to direct the government; the Tsar's reign was relatively successful



## **Feodor's Death and Instability**

- The next heir in line would have been a much younger half-brother Dmitri, whose eligibility suffered from a non-canonical (seventh) marriage between Ivan IV and Dmitri's mother
- Dmitri however had died during Feodor's reign from mysterious circumstances
- Boris Godunov ascended the throne
- Famine and lingering doubts about Boris's possible involvement in Dmitri's death poisoned what would otherwise have been a successful reign
- "False Dimitriis" (plural) accompanied by shifting political alignments spelled the end of order

## False Dmitrii

- Grigorii Otrepiev, a young man of service class origin, had become a monk and then left the monastery, first to Moscow and hence to Lithuania-Poland
- His support by conversion-bound Jesuits there resulted in an army of Poles, Cossacks and assorted peasants lead by Grigorii invading in 1604
- Boris Godunov, to defend his position, had violently purged many boyars
- Invasion proceeded with unexpected success, capped by Boris passing away in 1605 gave False Dmitrii the throne, but dying in a boyar revolt a year later





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## Vasili Shuisky's Reign (1606-1610)

- His reign was marked by opposition from boyars and foreign powers
- The last Rurik descendant
- In 1607, another pretender, referred to as False Dmitriy II, appeared and established a rival court in southern Russia.



## Polish Intervention (1609-1618)

- Polish king Sigismund III, seeing an opportunity, intervened in Russian affairs, initiating the Polish-Muscovite War
- In 1610, boyars deposed Vasili Shuisky and sought to put Sigismund's son, Władysław, on the Russian throne
- Moscow was occupied by Polish troops between 1610 and 1612
- A national militia, led by Kuzma Minin and Prince Dmitry Pozharsky, was formed to expel foreign invaders. They successfully drove the Polish forces out of Moscow in 1612



## End of the Time of Troubles (1613)

- The Russian Zemsky Sobor (national assembly) elected Michael Romanov as the new tsar, marking the beginning of the Romanov dynasty which would rule Russia until 1917
- The Treaty of Deulino in 1618 officially ended the war with Poland, securing Russia's borders and establishing a period of relative peace and stability.

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**Noted Historian Kliuchevsky noted the change in the Russian people:**

- They abandoned the tradition of patient suffering
- The legacy of devastation and discord would point to rebellions of later years
- The peculiar role and importance of the “False Dmitrii” pretenders highlighted Russians’ political immaturity