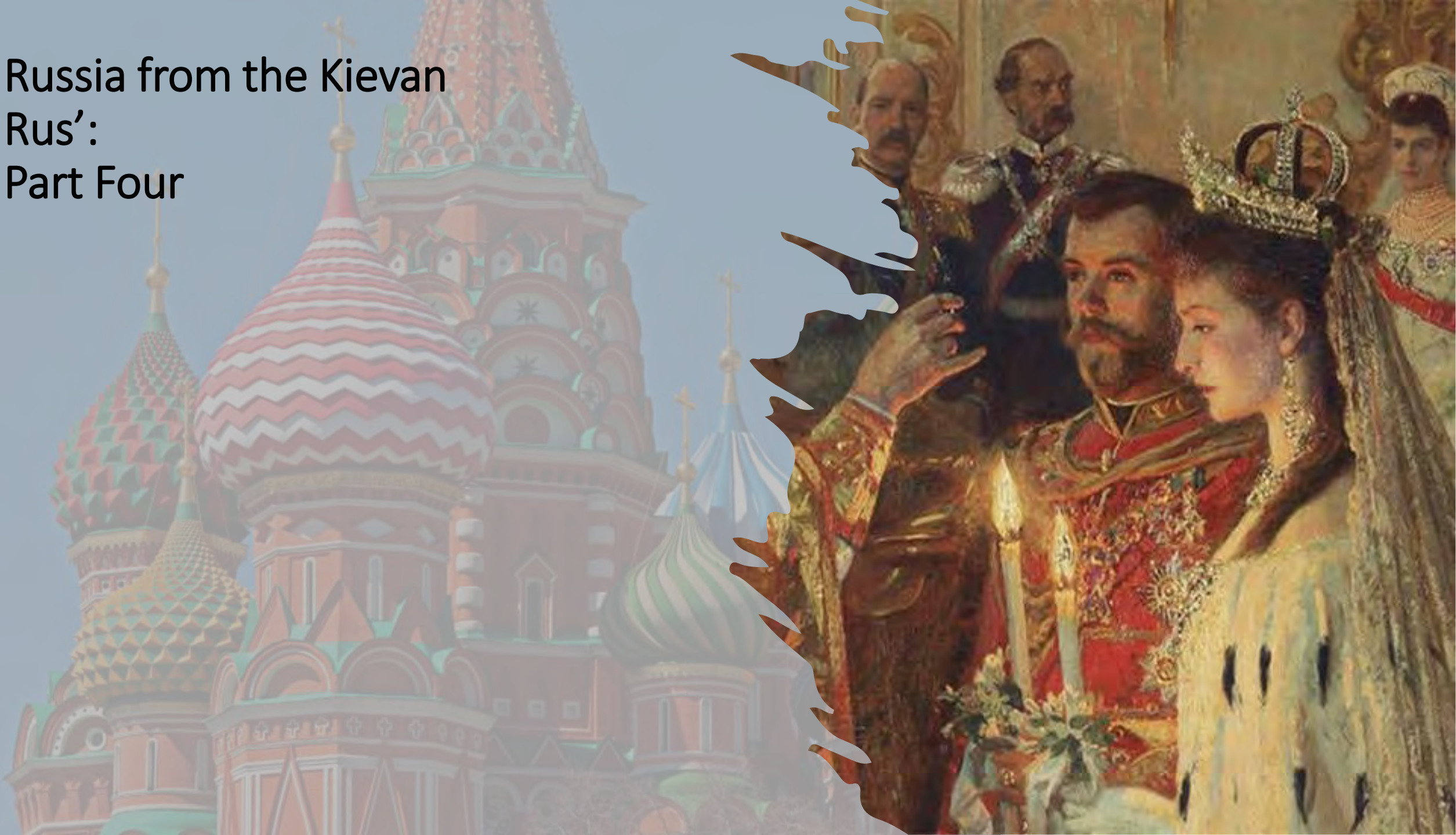


Russia from the Kievan  
Rus':  
Part Four



## The End of the Time of Troubles Brought:

- Restoration of the social and political order
- Increased focus on Poland
- A new dynasty



## **Romanov Dynasty begins with: Michael of Russia 1613-1645**

- Territorial losses in the West and Polish king Wladyslaw IV eventually gives up his claim to the Russian throne in 1634
- But, in the East:
  - commercial development
  - Cossacks help conquer Siberia



## Border Defense

- Michael builds a thousand miles of defenses in the South, from the Polish Border to the Urals:
  - Constructs lines of forts at the main river fords and on hills
  - Fells trees in the woods between these forts, creating a tangle to slow Tatar cavalry
- Reduced Tatar raids attracted farmers to the rich black earth of the steppe; Settler-soldiers maintain the line of fortifications. A whole society of petty gentry and peasant-soldiers grew up along the line of forts
- The Cossacks faced the Tatars along the southern rivers, the Don, the Volga, and farther east.

## Tsar Alexis I of Russia 1645-1676

- Attracted foreign craftsmen, scholars, and theologians
- Code of Law of 1649, covered a wide range including criminal law, regulations for town markets and serfdom
- Serfdom's effects:
  - Harder for peasants to leave their land
  - Became a pillar of Russian agricultural and economic life
  - The agricultural and cultural aspects persisted long after serfdom officially abolished in mid-19<sup>th</sup>
- “Old Believers” Crisis (see next two slides):





Vasili Surikov painted Boyarynya Morozova during her arrest

## Schism in Russian Orthodox Church

- In the 1650s Patriarch Nikon introduced reforms to bring the Russian Church in line with other Orthodox churches; mostly apparently subtle, such as three-fingers, vs. two-fingers when making the sign of the cross
- These changes led to a split between the Old Believers and those who accepted Nikon's reforms
- Alexis supported Nikon's reforms, leading to persecutions of the Old Believers.

## Old Believers Persist in Modern Russia



## Polish and Kievan Influence Grows

- Russian Orthodox hierarchy interacted closely with the church of Kiev, which from the 1630s to the 1690s was a major center of influence on Russian thought and life
- Ukrainian Cossacks anger at Poland – brought Russia into a war and ultimately changed the political balance in Eastern Europe in Russia's favor
- For most of the seventeenth century the politics and culture of Poland and the resurgent Kievan area were crucial to Russian affairs





# Thirteen Years' War 1654–1667

- Cossack alliance with the Tsar resulted in war with Poland
- Russia gained control of large parts of Ukraine, including Kiev



## Stenka Razin Revolt

- Cossacks were instrumental in Siberian expansion and expansion into formerly Catholic-controlled lands in the West, BUT:
- The revolt in the 1660s underscored the tensions between the centralized Russian state and the Cossack and peasant populations on its peripheries
- Painting next slide: "Zaporozhian Cossacks write to the Sultan of Turkey" by Ilya Repin (1844–1930)





## **Feodor III 1676 to 1682**

- Feodor III ended the policies of his father that had favored the state at the expense of the nobility
- To reform the central government, he abolished the age-old system of mestnichestvo
- He patronized the arts, sciences, and education, moving towards European customs and manners, which influenced those further shifts under Peter the Great

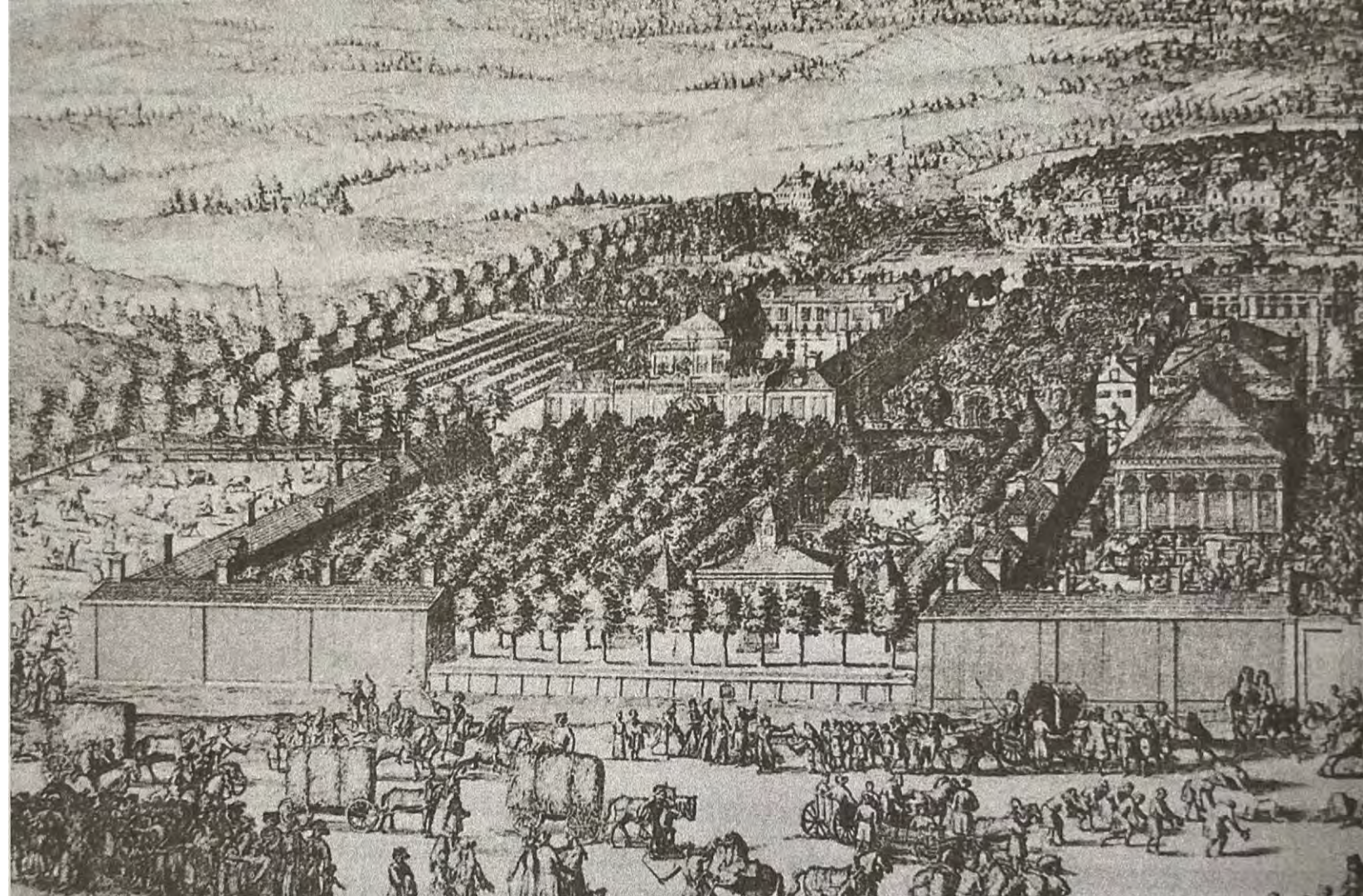


# Europe at the Time of Peter the Great 1694-1725



## The “German Suburb”

- Foreign merchants, mercenary officers, and others were consigned by the church to a small replica of northern Europe outside of Moscow’s walls
- Peter the Great spent time there and developed an interest in adopting Western techniques



## Development of the Russian State in the Late 17<sup>th</sup> Century

- Several hundred clerks staffed dozens of offices to administer the vast Russian land, using complex procedures and practices
- The tsar's decrees that defined their actions were matched with voluminous records of their own decisions on innumerable rolls of paper housed in their archives
- Their main concerns were collection of taxes, the administration of justice, and military recruitment



## Administration of Taxes (for Wars)

- Survey for tax purposes every fifteen or twenty years at best, and then not in the most efficient of ways
- Moscow sent its officials to a few district centers because local officials were scarce, and so and relied on the gentry and village elders to provide them with information about each village and household
- Landholders, peasants and town folks had an interest in underreporting assets





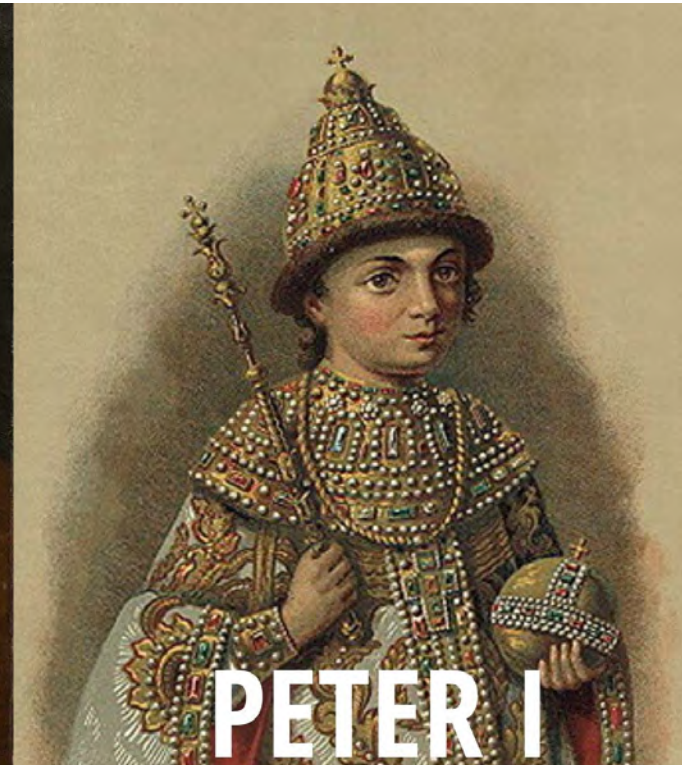
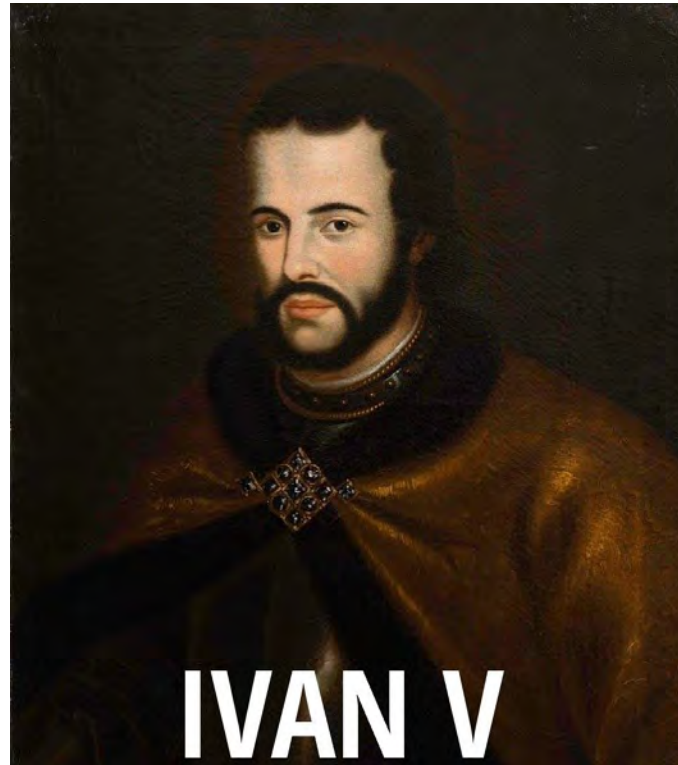
## Administration of Justice

- There were no dedicated class of lawyers, so those who administered justice erred as much ignorance as arbitrariness in their interpretation of customs
- The Law Code of 1649 was however circulated widely in the provinces as well, among officials and gentry alike, as a step to improve legal consistency, BUT:
- Provincial governors were already to administer areas the size of small European countries with only a handful of assistants and no effective armed force.



## Transition of Power to Peter the Great (1)

- Feodor III died young with no male heir
- His half-brothers Ivan V and Peter I (1672-1725) were overseen by their sister, Sophia Alekseyevna, as regent
- This period of joint rule was unstable and set the stage for Peter the Great's sole rule and his transformative reign



## Peter the Great (2)

- Sophia generally ruled effectively during her regency. However, her reign was marked by an attempt to marginalize Peter and his immediate family
- During the intrigues in this period Peter's life was often under threat
- Despite the political chaos, these years were crucial in Peter's personal and intellectual development. He was known for his insatiable curiosity
- He learned about shipbuilding from a local Dutch shipwright, himself restoring a disused sailing vessel found on the family estate
- He then inspected ships and shipping in Arkangel, helping to construct a new ship there, though upon his mother's advice, did not venture on a voyage



## Peter the Great (3)

- By 1688 he was delving into the Moscow bureaucratic offices, questioning the workers about their methods and interests
- In the foreign quarters he attracted attention of several westerners in Russian service and began his lifelong study of mathematics, science and military tactics.
- Peter also created the "Playful Company," a group of young nobles that participated in mock battles and other military exercises. This group eventually evolved into a disciplined military unit and laid the foundation for reforms in the Russian army



## Sophia Alekseyevna

### Peter the Great (4)

- Sophia was eventually overthrown in 1689 and forced into a convent; Peter I and Ivan V continued as co-tsars.
- Natalya Naryshkina, Peter's mother then exercised a strong influence until her death in 1694
- Peter became the sole ruler, when Ivan died in 1696 without male offspring



## Peter Captures Azov 1696

- Lack of warm water ports for Russia drew his attention to the Black Sea with the aim of controlling the southern mouth of the Don River to gain access to the Sea of Azov
- Russian siege in 1695 failed to capture the fort; Turks were able to be resupplied. Peter therefore built a fleet upriver and, accompanied by a naval force, in July 1696, took the fort, marking the first major Russian victory against the Turks



## The Mission to "Europeanize" Russia

- This included introducing Western clothing, customs, and etiquette
- Shortly after attaining sole control of the government, he traveled to Holland and England, acquiring detailed, personal knowledge of shipbuilding and a wide range of scientific and trade skills necessary to implement advanced manufacturing
- He even ordered Russian noblemen to shave their traditional long beards, a symbolic act of embracing Western styles

## Peter Learning Shipbuilding in Holland



## The Great Northern War 1700 to 1721

- Against the Swedish Empire, under its young King Charles XII, who was also a brilliant military commander leading Europe's most skilled soldiers
- The war ended with the Treaty of Nystad, allowing Russia to gain substantial territories along the Baltic Sea
- Russia now established as a major military power, while allowing access to the Baltic Sea
- Construction of St Petersburg ongoing throughout this war





## Peter the Great: Summary (1)

- Established the Table of Ranks
  - a formal list of positions and ranks in the military, naval, and civil services
  - It allowed individuals to attain hereditary nobility based on their service to the state rather than by birth, promoting meritocracy
- State and Administrative Changes
  - Peter overhauled the Russian government structure, dividing the country into provinces and introducing a more streamlined bureaucracy
  - Concept of service to the STATE, not the Tsar



## Peter the Great: Summary (2)

- Church Reforms
  - Peter subordinated the Russian Orthodox Church to the state by abolishing the Patriarchy and establishing the Holy Synod
  - Which was a council of clergy that ran the church under the guidance of a secular official appointed by the Emperor
  - Gregorian Calendar
- Promotion of Industry and Trade
  - Promoted domestic industries, especially shipbuilding
  - Encouraged foreign trade
  - Gained more access to the seas to facilitate this, made more likely by founding the Russian Navy



## Peter the Great: Summary (3)

- Communication & Education
  - First Russian newspaper
  - Introduced a more logical, slimmed-down script
  - Laid plans for not only technical schools but a real university
- Relations with the West
  - Destroyed Sweden's military domination of the Baltic
  - Founded Saint Petersburg
  - Secured Russia's status as a EUROPEAN empire



# Saint Petersburg



# EXPANSION OF RUSSIA 1462-1796



- Present-day Russia
- Other present-day country boundaries
- Grand principality of Moscow 1462
- Territory acquired by 1505 during reign of Ivan the Great

- Territory acquired by 1598, year of death of Feodor I
- Territory acquired by 1689, start of reign of Peter the Great
- Acquired by Peter the Great and his successors by 1762
- Acquired by Catherine the Great by 1796

Present-day country names shown in gray