Chapter 18 Reading Guide: The Rise of Russia

CHAPTER SUMMARY
The rise of the Russian Empire, unlike Western colonial empires, although altering power balances through Eurasia involved only limited commercial exchange. After freeing themselves from Mongol domination by 1480, the Russians pushed eastward. Some extension of territory also occurred in eastern Europe. Regional states, many differing from Russia, were present, with Lithuania and Poland rivaling Russia into the 17th century. Russia entered into new contacts with the West without losing its distinct identity.

1. What Classical AND Postclassical empire did Ivan IV (a.k.a. Ivan the Terrible) link Russia to and why?

2. What did Ivan IV refer to Russia as in light of those two empires?

RUSSIA’S EXPANSIONIST POLITICS UNDER THE TSARS.
3. What service did Russian princes provide to the Mongols?

4. What Russian prince gained Russian its independence from the Mongols?

THE NEED FOR REVIVAL.
5. What negative consequences were the result of Mongol domination?

6. How did Ivan III tie Russia to the Byzantine Empire in the minds of his people and gain control over the Orthodox Church?

7. Where does the word “tsar” come from?

8. What was Ivan IV’s other name and how did he gain mastery over the Russian nobles, called boyars?

PATTERNS OF EXPANSION.
9. What geographic challenge did Russia face that led to its expansion?

10. What were “cossacks” and how did both Ivans use them?

11. How did the Ivans use expansion to gain control over the nobles and bureaucrats?

12. Why can Russia be described as a multicultural empire?
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?

RUSSIA’S FIRST WESTERNIZATION, 1690-1790.
18. Peter the Great: describe the 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.
19. 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: 1643-1715 & p. 379) Why?

20. China used civil service exams to dilute the power of the landed gentry by rewarding people of from various social classes with government power. How did Peter the Great accomplish something similar without using exams?

21. What Chinese innovation did Peter the Great use to maintain power that lasted into the 1990s (and maybe until today)? Give the names of both the Chinese and Russian versions. (for China - see p. 260, Vietnam also copied this – p. 279)

22. Your text uses the term “window on the sea” Other sources refer to it a “window on the West”. Explain what this “window” was and how did it influence Russia.

WHAT WESTERNIZATION MEANT.
23. What region influenced Russia’s military structure the most?
24. Peter the Great incorporated another Chinese method of keeping the aristocracy from controlling the bureaucracy. What was it?

25. What two connected industries did Peter focus on and why (other than the fact that Russia had a lot of the materials needed for both)?

26. 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.

27. All of Peter’s efforts at Westernization were clearly aimed at what group and NOT at what other group in Russia?

28. How effective do you think his efforts were, esp. 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.)

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

CONsolidation Under Catherine the Great.

30. What was Catherine’s nationality? (FYI – if you want some lascivious info or think that only males with power act like Tiger Woods, Google Catherine and read most 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.)

31. When peasants rebelled (remember question 33 above?), what was Catherine’s response?

32. How is that response like both Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great?

33. What was Catherine’s impact on the serfs?
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34. Why do you think Catherine sided with the nobility over the serfs considering she was an autocrat? (and don’t forget question 33 above – the mother of all peasant rebellions lies ahead in a future chapter - payback is … BAD)

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

36. What was the “partition of Poland” and how did this unusual event come to pass?

DOCUMENT: THE NATURE OF WESTERNIZATION

37. How did Peter the Great coerce nobles into learning math and geometry?

38. Examine #’s 8 – 13 under the “Instruction” of 1767. Catherine gives three justifications that helps determine her true motivation. What are the three justifications and what is her motivation? (HINT: She refers to 32° N to give Russia’s southern boundary. She refers to 165° E to give the eastern boundary. The northern and western boundaries are not given but assumed. You can use the map on the inside rear cover if needed. #9 sheds light on #8)

THEMES IN EARLY MODERN RUSSIAN HISTORY.

39. Describe the division within the Russian nobility.

SERFDOM: THE LIFE OF EAST EUROPE’S MASSES.

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

41. What happened in 1649?

42. 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?

43. Examine the use of forced labor on p. 400. How was this use nearly identical to the American South during the 17th - 19th centuries? (You learned that in 8th grade. Look it up if you have to.)

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 __________.

**TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE.**

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

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

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

**SOCIAL UNREST**

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

49. How did Pugachev appeal to peasants?