

Eastern European and Russian Absolutism



Ivan IV “Ivan the Terrible”

(1547-1584)



became Tsar at age of 3 and watched rival groups of nobles who sought to control the country
when he took charge, he saw treason everywhere

Ivan took land from the nobles (boyars) and gave it to his own loyal people (oprichniki)
these boyars were then kicked out of or dispersed throughout the nation

The Time of Troubles

(1598-1613)



a time of noble feuds over the throne, peasant revolts, and foreign invasions

Russia suffered a famine from 1601–1603 that killed 1/3rd of the population

Michel Romanov

(1613-1645)



Painting by Grigory Ugryumov of the 16 year-old Mikhail being offered the crown at the Ipatiev Monastery in 1613

Russia defeated Poland in 1612

wanted their country to do better

needed a great leader

letters were sent throughout the land

deputies came to Moscow to select the new tsar

the Romanov family were related to former tsars

it was decided that 16 yr-old Michel was the best choice

couldn't find him

[was hiding in a monastery with his mother]

messengers were sent to tell him that he was the new Tsar

[The Romanov dynasty ruled Russia until 1917.]



Peter the Great

The Early Years

Tsar Alexis I died in 1676

his son, the weak and sickly Feodor III took his place

he died in 1682, leaving no heir

a dispute arose over who should inherit the throne

Ivan V, was next in line for the throne
[was chronically ill and of "infirm mind"]

the Boyar Duma (Russian nobles council) met

they chose Alexis' 10 yr-old son Peter to become Tsar
[with his mother as regent]

his half-sister Sophia was very opposed

she and others insisted that Peter and Ivan be joint Tsars

Sophia acted as regent and exercised all power

she ruled as an autocrat for seven years



Peter the Great/Peter I

As Acting Regent

(1682-1725)



forced Russian nobles to adopt Western European ways

sent Russians abroad to learn, esp. shipbuilding, naval warfare, foreign languages, and mathematics

built new capital in St. Petersburg on the Baltic Sea coast
it would be more accessible to the West

expanded borders:

took control of Siberia, Alaska, and
the eastern end of Baltic region

changed the Russian government:

created central bureaucracy under his control

brought Eastern Orthodox Church under his authority,
ruled by a Holy Synod

Fun Fact: Peter the Great was GREAT - very tall (nearly 7 ft)

Maria Theresa

(1740-1780)



Hapsburgs built a strong Austrian monarchy
repelled Ottoman attack in 1683
regained Balkan Peninsula territory
received Italian and Dutch lands as a result of the
War of Spanish Succession

in 1718, Austrian ruler Charles VI convinced European
rulers to accept a pragmatic sanction
agreed to accept his daughter, Maria Theresa, as the next
ruler of Austria

in 1740, at 23-yrs-old, Maria Theresa inherited throne from her father, HRE Charles VI
she became the only female ruler of the Habsburg dominions

was the sovereign of Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bohemia, Mantua, Milan, Lodomeria and Galicia,
the Austrian Netherlands, and Parma

she reorganized the bureaucracy, improved tax collection, and furthered the building of roads

used government funds to boost production of textiles and glass

Frederick William, Prussia's "Great Elector"

(1640-1688)



a member of the Hohenzollern family who
governed Brandenburg

they won Prussia in Thirty Years' War

he created a standing army supported by taxes

the Junkers opposed this plan,
so Frederick William worked out a compromise

only Junkers could be landowners

didn't have to pay taxes

given full power over peasants

pledged their support to Frederick William

*(townspeople and peasants too weak to raise any opposition
to this plan)*

Frederick William was Prussia's absolute monarch

Frederick I (his son) ruled after his death, 1688-1713

sided w/Austria in War of Spanish Succession, won title of "King"

