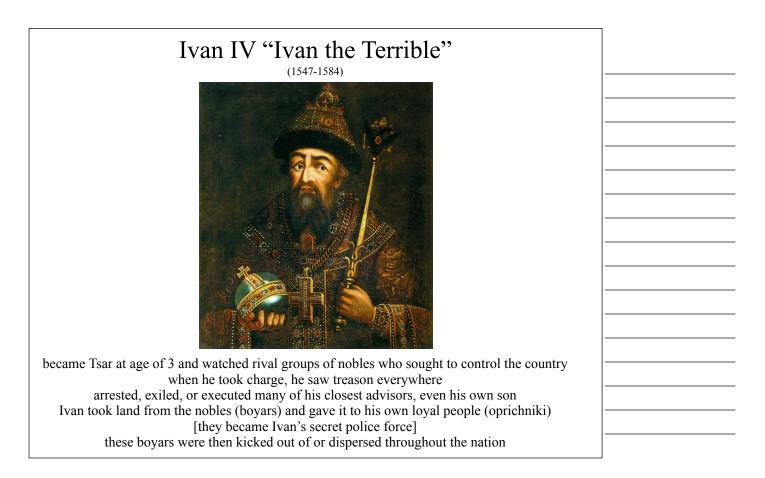
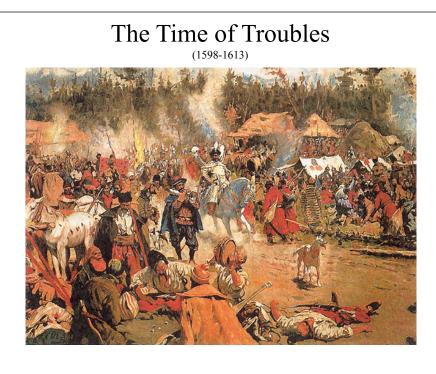
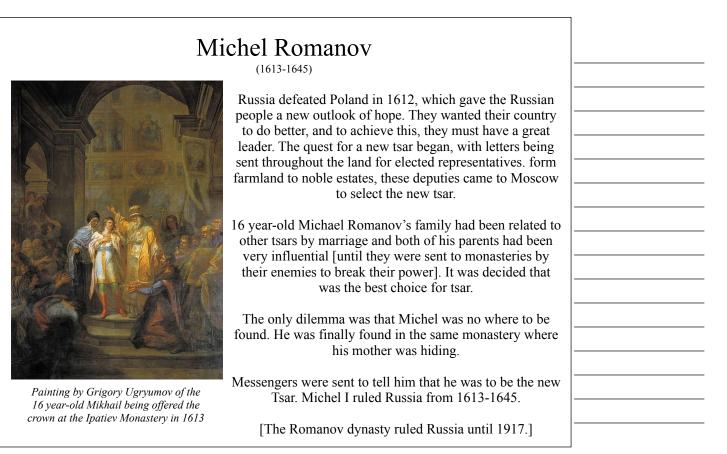
### Eastern European and Russian Absolutism







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 [about two million]



### Peter the Great The Early Years



When Peter's father, Tsar Alexis I, died in 1676, Peter's elder half-brother, the weak and sickly Feodor III took his place, until he died in 1682. As Feodor did not leave any children, a dispute arose over who should inherit the throne. Peter's other halfbrother, Ivan V, was next in line for the throne, but he was chronically ill and of infirm mind. Consequently, the Boyar Duma (a council of Russian nobles) chose the 10-year-old Peter to become Tsar with his mother as regent. This arrangement was brought before the people of Moscow, as ancient tradition demanded, and was ratified.

Some relatives, including his halfsister Sophia, were very opposed. They insisted that Peter and Ivan be proclaimed joint Tsars, with Ivan being acclaimed as the senior.

Sophia acted as regent during the minority of the sovereigns and exercised all power. For seven years, she ruled as an autocrat. A large hole was cut in the back of the dual-seated throne used by Ivan and Peter. Sophia would sit behind the throne and listen as Peter conversed with nobles, while feeding him information and giving him responses to questions and problems



### Peter the Great/Peter I

As Acting Regent



Fun Fact: Peter the Great was GREAT very tall (nearly 7 ft) toured England and the Netherlands and upon returning home forced the Russian nobility to adopt Western European ways: wear Western European clothing, shave beards

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

built new capital in St. Petersburg on coast of the Baltic Sea it would be more accessible to the West - called it Russia's "window to the West"

expanded borders took control of Siberia from China took control of Alaska through Bering Strait took eastern end of Baltic region from Sweden

changed the Russian government created central bureaucracy under his control (like France) brought Eastern Orthodox Church under his authority ruled by a Holy Synod, group of bishops under his control

## Peter the Great/Peter I

Results of his Reign (1682-1725)



Peter the Great on his death bed, 1725, by Nikitin

economic changes instituted by Peter

created the dvorianie, a new class of feudalistic nobles given land and control of the serfs on the land promised to work for the government until death they didn't pay taxes - the peasants did

gave incentives to increase production in areas such as mining and metalworking new production centers given land, money, and workers workers tied to their trade like serfs were to the land

overall effects of his reign divided those who wanted to continue old Russian ways and those who adopted Western culture brought Russia into mainstream European culture

### "Catherine the Great"/Catherine II (1762-1796)



after Peter's death in 1725, Russia was ruled by a series of weak rulers she seized the throne from her weak husband, Peter III originally believed it was wrong for serfs to essentially be slaves and thought of freeing them when they revolted against her rule, she changed her mind freed nobles from their required government service, allowing them to treat their serfs as they wished more peasants were forced into serfdom under her rule than ever before Russian commoners had it worse than any others in Europe when they tried to revolt, she crushed them mercilessly defeated Ottoman Turks to secure warm-water port of Black Sea and took territory from Poland was the most renowned and the longest-ruling female leader of Russia reigned from July 1762 until her death in 1796 at the age of sixty-seven

her reign was called Russia's Golden Age

### Maria Theresa

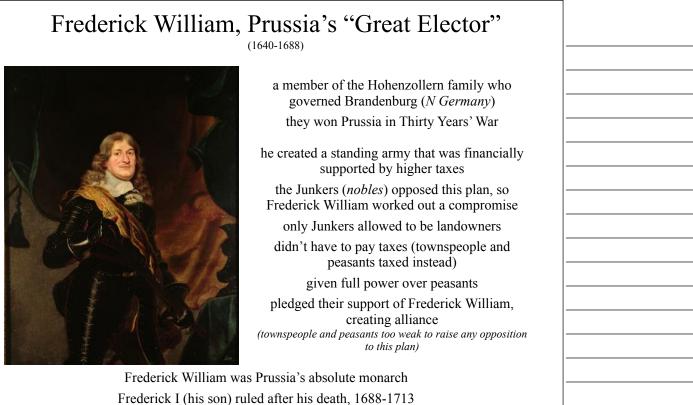


(1740-1780) Hapsburgs built a strong Austrian monarchy repelled Ottoman attack in 1683 regained Balkan Peninsula territory [had been taken by the Ottomans] received Italian and Dutch lands as a result of the War of Spanish Succession in 1718, Austrian ruler Charles VI convinced European rulers to accept a pragmatic sanction *(royal decree having the force of law)* agreed to accept his daughter, Maria Theresa, as the next ruler of Austria

[but wait - women weren't supposed to rule Austria? AHA - Austrian lands wouldn't have to be divided!]

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 last ruler of the House of Habsburg 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 ended trade barriers between Austria and Bohemia used government funds to boost production of textiles and glass



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

# Frederick William I, the "Royal Drill Sergeant"

(1713-1740)



powerful leader

centralized Prussian gov't into one bureaucracy completely controlled by him

supported production and trade and made lots of money for Prussia

devoted his life to army, making it the most efficient fighting force in Europe

royal agents recruited men from rural areas of Germany

specifically recruited tall men and trained the "regiment of giants" himself



# Frederick II "Frederick the Great"

(1740–1786)

#### War of the Austrian Succession

(1740-1748) Frederick II, rejecting the pragmatic sanction [*Maria Theresa rules Austria*] attacked Austrian province of Silesia w/backing of Spain and France Great Britain and Dutch Netherlands backed Austria

#### **Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle**

Frederick allowed to keep Silesia Maria Theresa retained control of rest of Austria, Hungary, and Bohemia *[not satisfied, she changed alliances from Great Britain to France]* gained support of Russia (Russian Empress Elizabeth enemies w/Frederick II)

### Seven Years' War

(1756-1763) Austria, Russia, France, and others v. Prussia and Great Britain Frederick II retained control of Silesia Great Britain and France fought overseas in America (French and Indian War) and in India

### **Treaty of Paris**

(1763)

ended war between France and Great Britain France gave North American lands in French Canada and east of Mississippi River and control of India to Great Britain Great Britain now strongest colonial power in the world