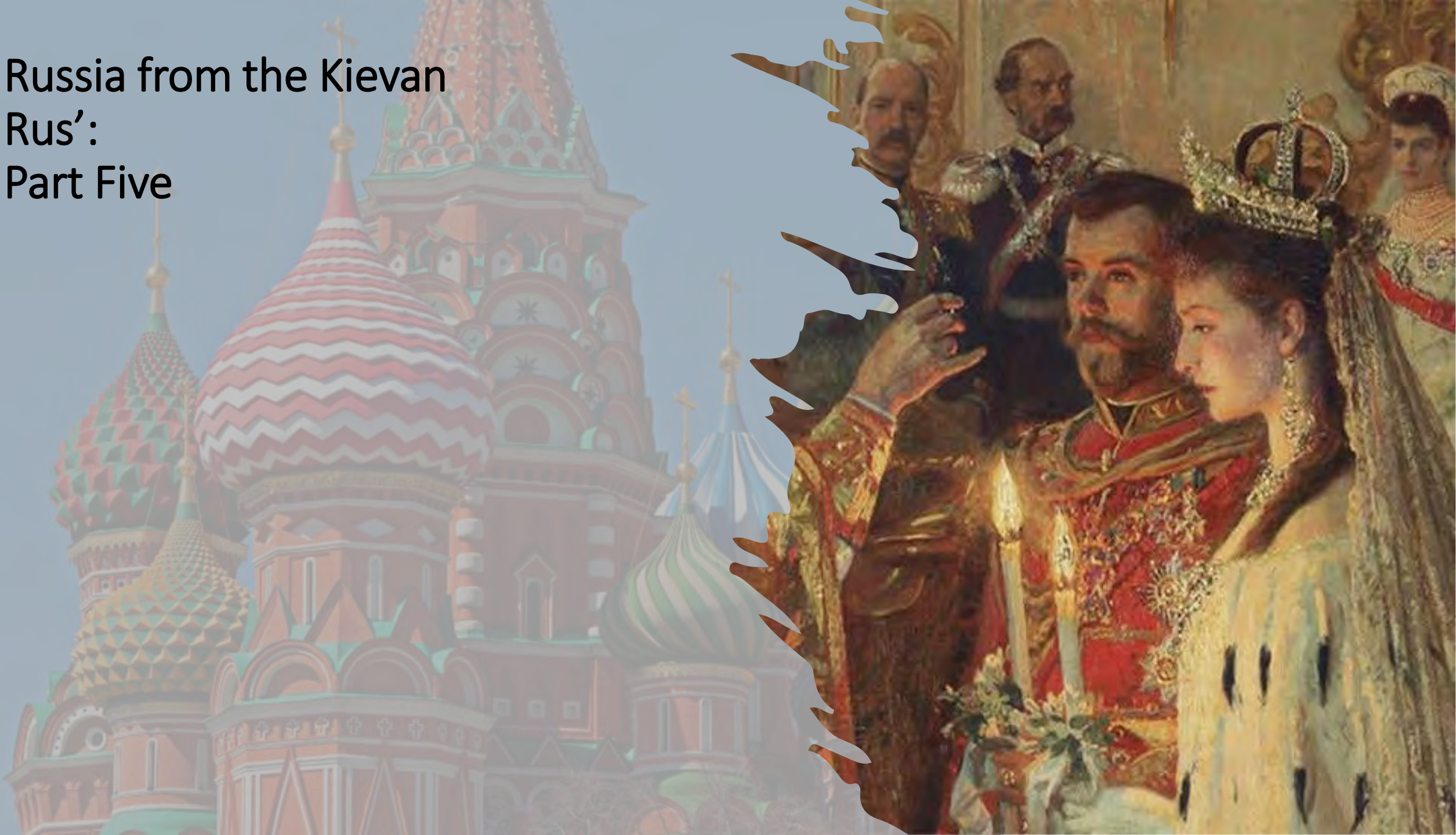


Russia from the Kievan
Rus':
Part Five



After Peter the Great: the General Situation in Russia



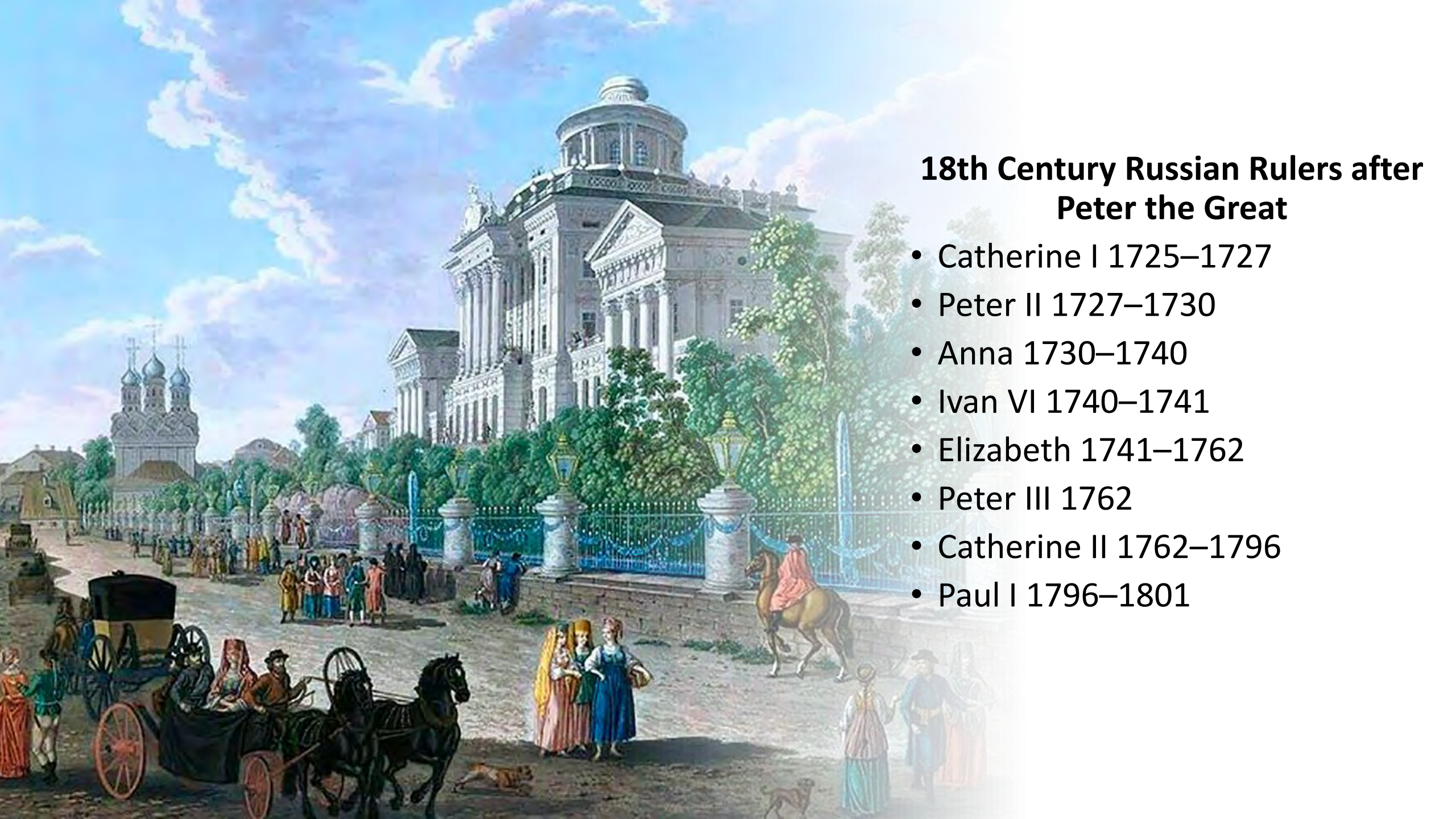
- Little progress made under Peter's plans for an efficient state regulated by fixed laws
- Peter's requirement for gentry to state service, would be eliminated in mid-18thC, but this step saw little growth of any alternative path the gentry for a greater role in governing or fulfilling a larger role in civil society
- Because the nobles did not establish an institutional basis for themselves as a class, they were unable to turn their freedom into a regularized device for limiting the autocracy
- When the nobles no longer officially owed service to the state, the political and moral justification for their role as serf owners was weakened

- Instead, the gentry did continue to adopt Western European cultural attributes, while avoiding dealing with serfdom, lack of industrialized factories, or develop a workable alternative to autocratic rule
- The continued growth of the administration in complexity found itself increasingly ill-equipped to carry out the will of the Tsar, since there were no separate power centers that could independently take on solutions to at least a “partial chunk of challenges;”
- The stand-out ruler during this period, Catherine II had the capacity to understand potential solutions to seemingly intractable problems. Even one as powerful as her however, found it difficult to accomplish them



- Despite a burgeoning bureaucracy, the political system remained, largely dependent on the personal authority and quasi-religious image of the tsar
- The privileged status and role of the topmost nobility who filled the chief military and administrative positions in the imperial government completed the governing duo
- No competing sources of power emerged to challenge those forces and to push them toward modernity.





18th Century Russian Rulers after Peter the Great

- Catherine I 1725–1727
- Peter II 1727–1730
- Anna 1730–1740
- Ivan VI 1740–1741
- Elizabeth 1741–1762
- Peter III 1762
- Catherine II 1762–1796
- Paul I 1796–1801

Five Empresses Sat on the Russian Throne from 1725 to 1796

- The question of who was to sit on the tsarist throne created political turmoil in the Russian Empire
- In 1723, Peter had declared he had the power to select the next Tsar
- When he died in 1725, none had been selected
- Irregular selection of the Tsar was the usual means for the next one hundred years



Including Anna Leopoldovna,
who was regent 1740-41

Succession Controversy (1)

- Catherine I, the second wife of Peter the Great, was of humble Latvian origins, but possessed the backing of Peter's colleagues and friends, although Peter's grandson, Peter II, was the logical heir
- Pressure from the Guards regiments, set up originally by Peter the Great and manned in all ranks mainly by nobles, finally settled the issue in Catherine's favor
- On four more occasions in the 1700s, the Guards, who directly represented noble interests, intervened to determine who should be tsar

Catherine I, Empress of Russia 1725-27



Succession Controversy (2)

- Supreme Privy Council offered the throne to Anna, a daughter of Peter the Great's stepbrother, Ivan V. In so doing, they asked Anna to accept conditions that sharply limited her autocratic power
- However, less privileged members of the nobility, jealous of the ploy effected by the council, demanded their share of the political pie
- When Anna arrived to be crowned, the Guards demonstrated in her favor. Taking advantage of this turmoil, Anna tore up the conditions and dissolved the Supreme Privy Council

Anna, Empress of Russia 1730-40



Continued Succession Controversy (3)

- Anna had appointed her infant grandnephew, Ivan VI, as successor, with the “German Party” continuing its influence, with Anna Leopoldovna as regent
- Elizabeth brought Peter the Great’s zeal for life into the arts and high culture; his intelligence and shrewd judgement:
 - Staged a coup in 1741; dismissed the “German Party”
 - Built a grand & expensive Winter Palace
 - Diplomatic & military victory in the Seven Years War
 - Ended capital punishment during her reign
 - Paved the way specifically and temperamentally for Catherine the Great

Empress Elizabeth



Continued Succession Controversy (4)

- In 1762, when Elizabeth died, Peter III, Peter the Great's grandson by his oldest daughter and a German princeling, succeeded to the throne
- Peter III's crude, adolescent, and unpredictable behavior gave the people little hope for improvement in his rule. The result was yet another palace revolution, carried out by elements of the Guards regiments, with his wife Catherine's connivance.



Mikhail Lomonosov 1711-1765

- Polymath, scientist, and writer
- Discovered the atmosphere of Venus and the Law of Conservation of Mass in Chemical Reactions
- First great Russian linguistics reformer, pioneering Russian style of literature and vocabulary
- Established University of Moscow 1755





Ivan Shuvalov

- First Russian Minister of Education; Instituting Russia's first theatre, Academy of Arts in 1757 (see left) and in concert with Mikhail Lomonosov, the University of Moscow
- Coordinated financing of grandiose Baroque projects of Empress Elizabeth's favorite architect, Bartolomeo Rastrelli; worsened financial situation but left Russia with lasting beauty
- Initiated reform of the judicial system, though not completed until the reign of Catherine II the Great

Catherine the Great

- Pictured wearing Colonel's uniform of the Palace Guard
- Astride her favorite horse
- During the coup to dethrone her husband Peter III



Catherine the Great – Reigned 1762 - 1796

- Expanded Russian Territory included large portions of Poland through three partitions, the annexation of Crimea, and territory in the Caucasus
- Promoted some aspects of the European Enlightenment, Catherine corresponded with many of its leading thinkers, like Voltaire and Diderot
- She attempted to modernize and reform the Russian legal system and governance based on Enlightenment principles, although these efforts were not always consistently applied.



Partitions of Poland

- By the 18th century, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was weakened due to internal strife, notably the veto power of any member of the parliament to halt legislation, leading to political paralysis
- Russia, Austria and Prussia exploited this weakness
- Although recapturing some territory formerly part of Kievan Rus', many new citizens were Catholic or Jewish and hostile to those preventing a unified Polish state



Wars with Ottoman Empire

- Access to the Black Sea and construction of ports there
- Abundant and rich lands
- German settlers that Catherine first sent to areas around Kazan
- More from Rhenish Palatinate followed to settle “Novorossiya”
- Catherine’s most capable advisor **Grigoryi Potemkin** effectively ruled this entire area



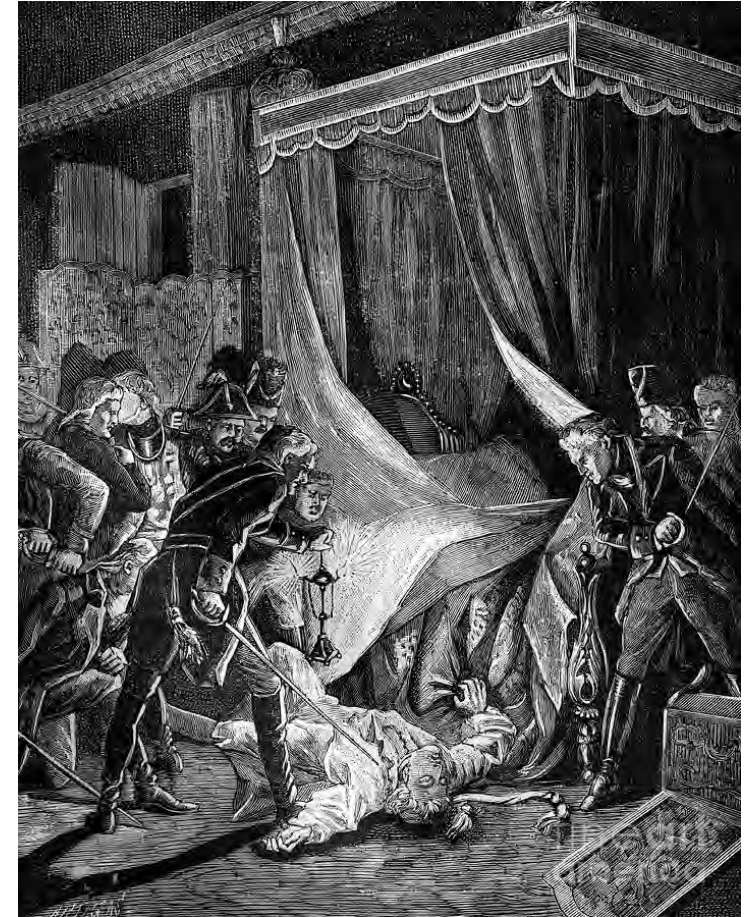
The Progress of Western Europe

- Other nations' improvements in industry and efficiency and agriculture would diminish Russia's relative power
- Ultimately, military capabilities ultimately rest upon the country's economic strength and a leadership skilled enough to direct its resources to long-term security
- Russia was struggling with an increasingly dangerous social system that could not outweigh its continuing military accomplishments



Emperor Paul I of Russia (lived from 1754–1801)

- Reigned from 1796, having been sidelined by his mother Catherine the Great, who saw Paul as by convention, more entitled to the throne than she. He grew up embittered, developing a temperament unsuited for rule
- Instituted male-only primogeniture for selection of successors
- Paul was a conservative, concerned with institutional efficiencies and elimination of aggressive military expansion, while adopting Prussian Military-style reorganization. His alliances against and for Napoleon aggravated both foreign allies and domestic support
- Scaled-back some advantages granted previously to nobility, encouraging plotters who gained assent of Alexander for a coup, leading however to Paul's murder



Alexander I (1)

- Well-educated at the insistence of his grandmother Catherine the Great, Alexander instituted liberal reforms in education policy, establishment of new institutions, and a more lenient censorship policy
- He promoted Russian culture, especially literature, arts, and sciences, with notable figures like the poet Alexander Pushkin beginning their careers during this period.
- Despite initial promises and attempts, Alexander failed to deliver on major reforms, especially the abolition of serfdom. The serf population faced even more restrictions during his reign. Additionally, his early liberalism eventually gave way to conservatism, especially after the Napoleonic Wars.



Alexander I (2)

- Alexander's most prominent advisor, Mikhail Speranskii wanted to stimulate the development of a civil society that could ultimately assume a leading role in government
- Caution led him to mask the most radical ideas from Alexander, who was therefore inclined to believe Speranskii's enemies when they accused him of intrigue and subversion
- Tainted by association with Napoleonic rationalism, Speranskii was exiled in March 1812, three months before Napoleon invaded.
- Although the inflexible Count A. A. Arakcheev replaced Speranskii as the tsar's principal adviser, Speranskii enjoyed a partial return to favour when charged with the reform of Siberian administration in 1819-22
- Alexander continued to experiment until 1820 with the abolition of serfdom in the Baltic lands, constitutional reform in Finland and Poland, and multi-denominational religion in Russia itself. Peasant emancipation and a constitution might possibly have followed there, too, had the tsar not been unnerved by recurrent disorder both at home and abroad

Alexander I (3)

- Alexander established the Third Section, a forerunner to later Russian secret police organizations
- His reputation soared with the defeat of Napoleon (see battle of Borodino next slide) and the subsequent organization of European nations dedicated to restoring a stable and conservative-oriented social and political policy
- His involvement in the affairs of Poland, particularly the establishment of the Congress Poland with him as its king, led to tensions and paved the way for later uprisings under his brother Nicholas I
- Alexander organized military-agricultural colonies, reluctantly directed by Arakcheyev (pictured right) who did so with unrelenting rigor. The hardships of military service combined with the hardships of peasant life created terrifying conditions in those settlements.





Allied army entering Paris in 1814, Tsar Alexander, King of Prussia and Austrian Field Marshal Schwarzenberg at the head – NEXT SLIDE

- The officers of the Russian army were young noblemen with European education
- This victory brought an enormous pride and gave these officers great confidence in themselves
- As the army had moved west in 1813–14, many of them saw Western Europe for the first time, and with an almost universal knowledge of French and German were able to observe and investigate unfamiliar phenomena in detail
- They dined in Parisian cafes, read newspapers, attended lectures, and met their counterparts in French and German salons. They came prepared, for their education had familiarized them with the basis of European thought – Kant and Montesquieu, Goethe and Rousseau.



Serfdom Disappears Elsewhere

- After the heady years of victory and fuller acquaintance with Western European life and thought, the return home was a cold bath for many
- The young officers knew that serfdom had been a matter of debate and condemnation since the mid-eighteenth century and that Napoleon had abolished it in Poland and the Prussian reformers in their own land
- Russia was now for the first time the only European country to have such an institution
- Furthermore, their own tsar, as everyone knew, had insisted on a constitution for the French, and within his own empire for Poland and Finland. What about Russia?