



Autocracy in Russia

Autocracy in Russia

- Peter the Great (1672–1725)
 - Mercurial personality
 - Policies were decisive in making Russia a great European power
- The early years of Peter's reign
 - The Romanov dynasty
 - The time of troubles



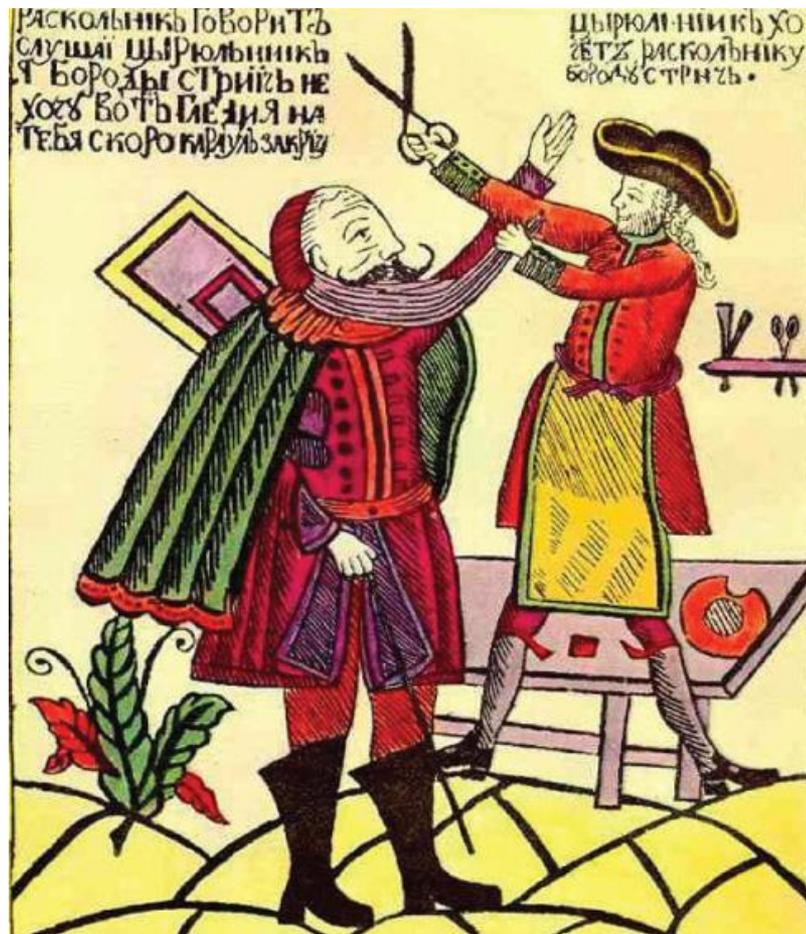
Map 15.2 The Growth of Russian Empire

Autocracy in Russia

- The early years of Peter's reign
 - Stenka Razin rebellion (1667–1671)
 - Supported by oppressed serfs and non-Russian tribes in the lower Volga
 - Tsar Alexis I (r. 1654–1676)
 - Peter comes to the throne as a young boy
 - Political dissension and court intrigue
 - Overthrew regency of Sophia (1689)
 - Traveled to Holland and England to study shipbuilding and recruit skilled workers

Autocracy in Russia

- The early years of Peter's reign
 - The *streltsy* rebellion
 - Peter crushed the rebellion with savagery
- The transformation of the tsarist state
 - Western influences
 - Peter published a book of manners
 - Encouraged polite conversation between the sexes
 - Russian nobility sent their children to European schools



Autocracy in Russia

- The transformation of the tsarist state
 - Peter's goal
 - Make Russia a real military power
 - New taxation system (1724)
 - Table of Ranks (1722)
 - Insisted that all nobles work themselves up from lower landlord class to highest military class
 - Reversed the traditional hierarchy of Russian nobility
 - Peter as absolute master of his empire
 - Russian peasants legally the property of their masters (1649)

Autocracy in Russia

- The transformation of the tsarist state
 - By 1750, half were serfs; the other half lived on lands owned by Peter
 - State peasants could be conscripted, work in factories, or be forced to work on public projects
 - The Duma was replaced by nine administrators
- Religion
 - Peter took direct control over the Russian Orthodox Church
 - Noble status depended on service to the government

Autocracy in Russia

- Peter's foreign policy
 - Goal was to secure warm-water ports on the Black and Baltic seas
 - Began a war with Sweden (1700–1721)
 - Secured the Gulf of Finland
 - Began building Saint Petersburg
 - Peace of Nystad (1721)
 - Realignment of power in eastern Europe
 - Gulf of Finland, Livonia, and Estonia passed to Russia

Autocracy in Russia

- Peter's foreign policy
 - The cost of war
 - Direct taxation increased 500 percent
 - Aroused resentment among the Russian nobility
 - Peter dies (1725) with no heir to the throne

Autocracy in Russia

- Catherine the Great (r. 1762–1796) and the partition of Poland
 - Came to the throne after Tsar Peter III was deposed and executed in a palace coup
 - The image of the enlightened Catherine
 - Determined not to lose the support of the nobility
 - Summoned a commission to codify Russian law (1767)



Autocracy in Russia

- Catherine the Great (r. 1762–1796) and the partition of Poland
 - The Pugachev Rebellion (1773–1775)
 - Forced Catherine to centralize her government
 - Tightened aristocratic control over the peasantry
 - War and diplomacy
 - War with the Ottoman Turks
 - Russia won the northern Black Sea and secured the independence of Crimea

Autocracy in Russia

- Catherine the Great (r. 1762–1796) and the partition of Poland
 - Russian gains alarmed Austria
 - The Partition of Poland (1772)
 - The Partition of Poland (1795)