This chapter covers the impressive evolution of the Russian empire from a minor city-state in the late 15\textsuperscript{th} century to a vast empire by the end of the 18\textsuperscript{th} century that stretched from the Baltic Sea across Asia to the Pacific Ocean. The contributions of several forceful rulers--Ivan III, Ivan IV, Peter I, and Catherine II--are discussed in some detail. Russia became, like other Asian empires, autocratic, conservative, and resistant to change; yet in some respects, the Russian state proved more dynamic and innovative. Some aspects of the Russian empire to consider:

- An autocratic state. Russian rulers were directly involved in the governance of the empire and imposed strict authority over their subjects. There was no tradition of participation in gov’t and no tolerance of dissent.

- An agricultural economy. Wealth and power were linked to land and to farming. Nobles forced serfs to work their lands and resisted alternative forms of labor. Peter actively promoted industry, science, and technology but not free enterprise. The structures of capitalism did not emerge in Russia before the 19\textsuperscript{th} century.

- A rigid social structure. Russian society was divided between nobles and peasants. Social rank was hereditary and strictly enforced. Between 1500 and 1800, Russian peasants actually lost freedom and status at the very time that peasants in western Europe were gaining basic legal and civil rights.

- Aggressive empire building. Starting in the 15\textsuperscript{th} century, the principality of Moscow was the core of what became an immense empire, first taking over the lands of the Golden Horde, then Siberia, and the Caucasus. In the 18\textsuperscript{th} century, Russia pushed to the Pacific Ocean and began to intrude on the Ottoman Empire to the south and Poland-Lithuania to the west.

- Ambivalence toward change and innovation. Peter I imposed sweeping reforms in the military, gov’t, education, and industry, and Catherine continued many of those policies. Russians were forced to accept western models and learning, but these reforms stopped short of significant social changes. By 1800 the momentum for change had ended.

1. Foundations of the Absolutist State

   A. The Gathering of the Russian Land
   1) Ivan III (or Ivan the Great, reigned 1462-1505)
      a. Declared Russian independence from Mongol rule, 1480
      b. Adopted policy of “gathering the Russian land” through various means
      c. Incorporated the trading city Novgorod into Muscovite territory, 1470s
   2) Cossacks, class of free peasants, settled on newly conquered lands
      a. Recruited by Ivan, they extended Russian influence south into the steppes
      b. In the 16\textsuperscript{th} century, they conquered Volga River valley, crossed Urals into Siberia

Note: This chapter not “updated” to reflect the Key Concepts
3) The Third Rome: name given to Moscow in 16th century
   a. Ivan built strong centralized gov’t modeled after the Byzantine empire
   b. Called himself tsar (after Greek title “caesar”) aka “czar”
   c. Tsar head of both the state and Russian Orthodox church

   How was Russia different after he took over and what results lasted?

B. The Time of Troubles
   1) Ivan IV (reigned 1533-1584), Ivan III’s grandson
      a. Known as Ivan the Terrible; notorious for erratic, often violent rule
      b. Reshaped the Russian gov’t
   2) Chosen Council--advisors chosen for merit
   3) “Assemblies of the land” were regional representatives
      a. Confiscated large estates and redistributed them to supporters, 1564
   4) Ivan IV’s reign of terror
      a. Oprichniki: new aristocracy and a private army of supporters
      b. Used terror and cruelty to subdue civilian populations
      c. Ivan’s eccentric behavior may be explained by his medical problems
   5) War and famine followed Ivan’s death in 1598 without an heir
      a. Fifteen years (1598-1613) of turmoil followed
      b. Invasions by Poland and Sweden were repelled by Russian volunteer armies, 1610
      c. Mikhail Romanov chosen as new tsar in 1613 by representatives
      d. Founder of Romanov dynasty, lasted until 1917

2. Westernization and Empire

   A. A Window on the West
      1) Peter I (reigned 1682-1725): known as Peter the Great
         a. Fascinated with technology he found in the foreign quarters of Moscow
         b. As tsar, imposed program of rapid modernization
            (1) Russian industries to incorporate the most advanced science and technology
            (2) Russians sent abroad to study
            (3) Peter himself traveled to Europe to study gov’t, military, and industry
2) Peter’s reforms: progressive but autocratic
   a. Military reform: to build powerful, modern army
      (1) Offered better pay and modern weapons to peasants
      (2) Aristocratic officers ordered to study mathematics and
           geometry
      (3) Built largest European army; defeated Sweden in Great
           Northern War, 1700-1722
   b. Bureaucratic reform: to facilitate collection of taxes
      (1) Only nobles educated to serve as gov’t officials
      (2) Table of Ranks allowed social mobility for civil servants
           by merit and service
   c. Social reform: challenged established customs
      (1) Abolished the seclusion of women; encouraged social
           mixing of the sexes
      (2) Ordered subjects to wear western clothing; ordered men to
           shave beards

3) St. Petersburg, the “Window on the West”
   a. New capital on the Baltic Sea built by Peter in 1703
   b. Headquarters for Russian navy, administrative center for gov’t

B. The Limits of Westernization
   1) Catherine II (reigned 1762-1795) aka Catherine the Great
      a. Married Peter’s grandson, an unpopular tsar; replaced him as
         ruler
      b. Continued Peter’s policies of westernization; appointed
         educated officials
      c. Attracted to the ideals of the Enlightenment; corresponded
         with philosophes
      d. Rejected any changes that would weaken her autocratic rule
   2) Pugachev’s Rebellion in Caucasus (1773-1774)
      a. Cossacks, exiles, peasants, and serfs, led by Emelian
         Pugachev, protesting taxes
      b. Killed thousands of nobles, officials, and priests; crushed by
         imperial army, 1774
   3) The end of Catherine’s reforms
      a. Pugachev’s Rebellion and French Revolution soured Catherine
         on reform
      b. Reversed policy of westernization; tried to restrict foreign
         influence in Russia

This chapter talks a good deal about the influence of the West on Russia, especially under the reign of Peter I.

In what practical ways did the developments in the West impact Russia?
C. The Russian Empire in Europe

1) Poland-Lithuania, a dual republican state; two societies, one king and parliament
   a. Poland-Lithuania was Roman Catholic, whereas Russia was Orthodox
   b. Slavic Orthodox minorities in Belarus and Ukraine

2) Absorption of Ukraine
   a. Ukrainian peasants led by Bodhan Khmelnitsky sought union with Moscow
   b. Long revolt against Poland ended, 1667; Ukraine and Kiev absorbed into Russia

3) The partition of Poland, 1790s
   a. Polish parliament ineffective and unstable; country poorly defended
   b. Polish-Lithuanian republic carved up between Austria, Prussia, and Russia

4) Southern expansion of Russian empire into Ottoman territories
   a. Tsarist forces pushed into Balkans, welcomed by Greek Orthodox minorities
   b. Further expansion halted by England and France

D. The Russian Empire in Asia

1) By late 18th century Russia controlled Volga River to Caspian Sea
   a. Georgia: Orthodox Christians; absorbed into Russian empire, 1783
   b. Armenia and Azerbaijan also annexed

2) Siberia less hospitable, but rich in resources, especially furs
   a. Conquest began in 1581 when cossacks crossed the Ural Mountains
   b. Local peoples forced to pay tribute in furs at Russian forts

3) Native peoples of Siberia lived by hunting, fishing, or herding reindeer
   a. Some groups welcomed Russian trade
   b. Yakut people resisted and were brutally crushed; 70 percent of population killed
   c. Smallpox reduced more than half of total Siberian population
   d. Few Siberians converted to Christianity

4) By 1763 population of Siberia doubled with addition of trappers, soldiers, serfs

5) American and Pacific explorations
   a. Vitus Bering led two maritime expeditions across Asia to the Pacific Ocean
   b. Other Russian explorers pushed further into Alaska and west Canada

Besides the obvious explanation, why is land and the pursuit of land so important to the tsarist state?

How does this help one understand the development of the military, trade, and society?
3. A Society in Tension

A. Muscovite Society Before Westernization
1) Rural life centered on peasant villages
   a. Extended families; male heads of households determined village affairs
   b. Women had property rights, took responsibility for arranging marriages
2) Russian serfdom more flexible before 17th century
   a. Peasants mostly free in Siberia, as payment for settling there
   b. In European Russia, serfs bound to land of nobles, the crown, and monasteries
3) Law Code of 1649 placed serfs under strict control of landlords
   a. Serfs were not slaves but could be sold as private property
   b. Also fixed occupational castes; sons forced into trades of their fathers
4) Catherine gave nobility greater control over lands and serfs
   a. Nobles supported her reforms in exchange
   b. Most Russians were now subject to harsh and arbitrary rule of noble landlords

B. The Growth of Trade and Industry
1) European trade with Russia began in mid-16th century
   a. At Archangel on White Sea, Europeans bought Russian furs, leather, and grain
   b. Russians bought western European armaments, textiles, paper, and silver
2) Asian trade increased with expansion to south and east
   a. Astrakhan on Volga delta provided access to Islamic empires
   b. Merchants came to Caspian Sea from as far away as India
3) Russian merchants demanded restrictions on more competitive foreign merchants
4) Industrial development was primary goal of Peter the Great
   a. Invited one thousand engineers, shipbuilders, officers, teachers, technicians to Russia
   b. About two hundred new industrial plants opened: iron, arms, textiles, glass, paper
   c. No urban working class; factory owners allowed to draft serfs
5) Population doubled in the 18th century from 15 to 30 million, in cities and country

Describe pre-modern Russian society, and give examples of the changes that took place after Russia embraced western influences, if any occurred.

What is a serf and how does the institution of serfdom change during this period?

Why is it so important to the Russian empire?
4. Cultural Clashes

A. Crisis in the Church

1) Efforts to reform the Russian Orthodox Church led to schism
   a. Mid-17th century, Patriarch Nikon of Moscow promoted reform
      (1) to standardize Orthodox rituals
      (2) to promote religious instruction in Greek and Latin
   b. Although backed by tsars, Nikon’s reforms denounced by conservatives

2) Avvakum, Orthodox priest and leader of religious conservatives
   a. Old Believers refused to accept reforms of Nikon
   b. Also attacked gov’t policies of serfdom and taxation
   c. Old Belief outlawed by tsar; Avvakum executed for treason
   d. Old Believers were not wiped out, but split into different sects thereafter

3) Tsarist control over the church tightened between 16th and 18th centuries
   a. State control over church strengthened by the religious schism
   b. Peter the Great made the Orthodox church a state department

B. Westernization and the Enlightenment in Russia

1) Peter’s westernization included art (e.g., ballet), literature, and ideas

2) Peter recognized the role of education in western progress
   a. Created the first secular education system; elementary schools in capital cities
   b. Founded academy of sciences
   c. Catherine expanded elementary schools to all children except serfs, even girls

3) Catherine introduced the ideas of the Enlightenment to Russia
   a. Introduced western literature; promoted Russian literature
   b. Promoted inoculation against smallpox

4) The intelligentsia, a new unofficial social class of intellectuals
   a. Compiled and published in “thick journals” latest ideas in science and arts
   b. Encouraged by Catherine, but always subject to gov’t censors

5) Intellectual and cultural experimentation ended after the French Revolution of 1789