



Catherine the Great's Advisors, 1762 (CATHERINE)

MUNUC 34



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIR LETTER.....3

CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER.....5

SENSITIVITY NOTE.....7

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE & MECHANICS.....10

LETTER FROM CATHERINE.....12

TOPIC: CATHERINE THE GREAT’S ADVISORS.....13

 History and Context.....13

 Current State of Affairs.....25

 Character Biographies.....39

 Appendix: Parliamentary Procedure.....49

 Bibliography.....57

CHAIR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Catherine the Great's Advisors, 1762! I will be your Chair for this committee, and I am beyond excited to see what ideas you will all bring to the table. In this committee, you will all be helping me, "Catherine", to successfully take over as Empress of Russia and steer the Empire toward the path of enlightenment (or whatever path you all see fit). Personally, I am a big fan of Russian literature (*The Brothers Karamazov* is my favorite book) and I find this period of Russian history quite fascinating, so I am quite enthusiastic about this committee topic and hope that you all are as well!

I am currently a fourth year at the University of Chicago studying Neuroscience on a pre-med track and minoring in Health and Society. For MUNUC 33, I was a CD for the Roman Republic of 1849, and the year before I was a Moderator for SOCHUM at MUNUC 32. Along with MUNUC, I am the Secretary-General for ChoMUN, our collegiate conference, and I compete on our traveling team. Outside of MUN, I do research in an Alzheimer's lab, teach sex ed on campus as a Peer Health Advocate, and volunteer with the American Red Cross. In my spare time, I also thoroughly enjoy doing crossword puzzles, seeing plays/operas downtown, and playing Wizard101 with Kelsey while cooking dinner (fun fact, we're roommates)!

As your Chair, I am thrilled to see what interesting ideas and creative solutions you come up with in the frontroom. While Model UN is of course meant to be fun, I also believe that it is a fundamentally educational activity. To this end, while I encourage you to lean into the time period and your characters, please be respectful of your fellow delegates and be mindful that some rhetoric that may have been considered acceptable in 1762 will certainly not fly at MUNUC this year. I expect that we should have minimal issues in that regard, and I look forward to delving into the world of Catherine the Great with all of you in February.

Above all else, we here at MUNUC are committed to making Model UN as accessible as possible. MUN, especially crisis, can be very confusing at first. If you are feeling confused, stuck, lost, or if you just want to send me pictures of your cats, please do not hesitate to reach out! I am looking forward to meeting all of you soon in Chicago!

Best wishes,

Shayna Cohen

shaynacohen@uchicago.edu

CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

I'm ecstatic to welcome you to Catherine the Great, a riveting adventure to be. I can't wait to delve into this era of history with y'all.

A bit about me: I'm a fourth-year at the University of Chicago originally from DC. I'm majoring in Physics and Gender & Sexuality studies with a minor in English & Creative Writing. I do physics research at school and I've interned at/worked for NASA for the past three years. I've also been doing MUN for, like, forever, and it's a huge part of my life. My first year at MUNUC I served as an AC on the ad hoc and last year I CD'd for MUNUC's one and only experimental committee. I also serve as Director of the UChicago MUN traveling team, and as a Crisis Director for ChoMUN, our collegiate conference. Outside of school and MUN, I love to write poetry and fiction, and I've recently gotten vert into audiobooks. I love feminist science fiction and am obsessed with The Bone Season series by Samantha Shannon.

As crisis director for this committee, I really want to see delegates engage with the wealth of interesting history at your disposal during this time period. We will go further into depth on this topic in the background guide, but the 1700s were a massive period of change all around the world, with many different ideologies and movements coming into the forefront. I encourage everyone to find something in this time period that they are interested in and run with it. I want delegates to have fun, while also honoring the complexity of some of these topics and being respectful of the weight of this history.

I will be going over my expectations for crisis notes and crisis arcs at the beginning of the committee and I will be available to answer questions and give feedback all weekend. However, I encourage you to prepare ahead of time and have a sense of what you and your character might want to do over the course of the times we've outlined in the background guide. To this end, please check out the crisis preparation modules on the MUNUC website.

I can't wait to meet y'all in February!

Best regards,

Kelsey Gilchrist, Crisis Director

SENSITIVITY NOTE

Things have certainly changed a lot since Catherine the Great was in power, and while we want to see you engage with the rich history of this time period, maintaining historical accuracy cannot and will not be an excuse for bigotry of any kind, such as racism, sexism, antisemitism, homophobia, islamophobia, etc.

We would be remiss to not directly acknowledge the oppression and violence that occurred during Catherine's time as Empress. Specifically, Catherine directly targeted many different religious and ethnic groups with some of her policies, especially toward the beginning of her reign. While not explicitly using force, upon integrating Muslim-majority regions into the Russian Empire, Muslims were pressured to convert to Orthodox Christianity, and had mosques and other holy sites burned down by Orthodox peasants. Eventually, the "Toleration of All Faiths" Edict in 1773 made it much easier for Russian Muslims to practice their faith, but this certainly did not erase the evident islamophobia in Russia at this time.¹ Additionally, Jewish people were essentially ostracized in the Catherinian Era, as Catherine completely separated Jewish Russians off into the Pale of Settlement and levied additional taxes against them.² The Jewish people were considered to be inherently not Russian and were acknowledged only as foreigners in Russian society.³ Much of the antisemitism in this time also played into well-known antisemitic tropes and dog-whistles that have appeared throughout history and the present day, such as the idea that all Jewish people somehow have more control over banks and finances or are globalist, wealthy elites that exert power over established governments. These are objectively antisemitic conspiracy theories, and they were used in the Catherinian Era to unjustly exclude Jewish people from the Russian political economy.⁴ All of these actions and policies will not be explicitly discussed in committee, and we will not tolerate any similar policies being proposed that directly target any minority religious or ethnic group. We encourage

¹ Alan W. Fisher, "Enlightened Despotism and Islam Under Catherine II," *Slavic Review* 27, no. 4 (1968): 542–53, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2494437>.

² "The Pale of Settlement," accessed August 23, 2021, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-pale-of-settlement>.

³ "Pale of Settlement, Jewish," *Britannica Student Encyclopedia*. Accessed August 23, 2021, <https://staff.washington.edu/rmcnamar/link269/article1.html>.

⁴ John D. Klier, "The Ambiguous Legal Status of Russian Jewry in the Reign of Catherine II," *Slavic Review* 35, no. 3 (1976): 504–17, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2495122>.

you to do further reading on antisemitism and dog-whistles, and resources are provided at the end of this section.

Additionally, although this history does not directly pertain to the time period of committee, we would like to briefly address some of the history behind the Soviet Union, since sometimes Joseph Stalin and other Soviet Union leaders are invoked when discussing any aspect of Russian history or culture. The Soviet Union's record has certainly been unsavory and even genocidal. While we encourage you to think critically about different economic theories and truly think about how to improve the Russian Empire, we will not tolerate any glorification of the outright oppressive actions undertaken by Stalin in the USSR. At the end of the day, this is meant to be a committee about Catherine the Great and her vision for a new Russia in the mid-1700s, not Stalin or the Soviet Union, so please bear that in mind when giving speeches, writing directives, and sending in crisis notes.

We realize this is a lot of information to take in at once, so please know that as your dais, we are here to answer any questions that you have regarding these aspects of Russian history or our plan to keep committee productive, respectful, and inclusive. It is our hope that this committee serves as a vessel to have an engaging, fun, and educational time at MUNUC. If at any point you have questions or have concerns about a fellow delegate's behavior that you would like to voice, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our committee staff. Additional literature regarding some of the terminology used is linked below. Thank you for taking the time to read all of this, and we're looking forward to a wonderful time in committee!

Additional Resources

Microaggressions:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/08/872371063/microaggressions-are-a-big-deal-how-to-talk-them-out-and-when-to-walk-away>

Antisemitism:

<https://www.adl.org/anti-semitism>

Dog Whistles:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/dog-whistle-political-meaning>

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE & MECHANICS

What is this committee?

You are the advisors of Catherine before she becomes Catherine the Great. At the moment, she is empress-consort, which is an honorary title given to the spouse of the person ruling. This body comprises lords and ladies of the court, loyal palace servants, nobles from outlying regions, notable scholars, members of the army, and a few religious figures.

What is crisis?

A crisis committee is made up of a frontroom and a backroom. In the frontroom, you can give speeches and write directives with your fellow delegates to take collective action as Catherine's advisors in response to crisis updates. In the backroom, you can write crisis notes detailing actions you individually would like to take to cause a crisis update for the committee to respond to. You can also work with your fellow delegates to write joint crisis notes to cause even bigger crises for the committee. A more detailed overview of crisis and the associated terminology can be found on the MUNUC website and in the Appendix section of this background guide!

What are our goals?

Since there are all walks of life represented on committee, there are a variety of different goals which will be detailed in your character bios. One thing is for certain: everyone on the committee believes in a better Russia and has their doubts about Peter's ability to rule. While not everyone is completely sold on Catherine as a potential empress, they all have faith in their empress-consort and know that she is a valuable ally. Big questions around goals will be explored further in the background guide.

What power do we have?

Everyone in the committee contributes different powers to the whole. Collectively, you are able to conduct covert operations around the palace since you have some support in the nobility and from the servants. You have some military power, and some reach to the outlying regions, including in trade. Committee can gather more power by expanding in influence and rallying people to its cause while also gathering information and resources.

Delegates are encouraged to gather resources and carry out their own plans backroom but these will be considered separate from the total power of the committee unless a delegate specifically mentions that they want to use their own resources for committee purposes. Delegates are welcome to share their personal resources with the committee but are NOT expected to.

What interesting things can we expect?

As this is Catherine's trustees and advisors, it is expected that the committee will take steps to seize power for her in some capacity. Additionally, delegates should expect to revise/reestablish the Russian law code by writing a constitution or other document for when Catherine expands her influence. These events will likely take place in the first or second session. As such, at the beginning of the first session we will provide information about constitution-writing and details of the palace that may come in handy for whatever reason.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out or ask them at the beginning of the first committee session.

LETTER FROM CATHERINE

My dearest friends and advisors,

I write to you to tell you that I believe our beloved Russia is in grave danger. My husband, Peter III, has driven our country into the ground, starting wars he cannot win and failing to enact enough of the reforms that Russia so desperately needs.. I believe it is time that we change things. And so, I write to you, my most trusted and loyal group of confidantes, to help me bring about a new golden age for Russia, filled with rich literature and the ways of the Enlightenment.

Attached to this letter is a dossier about Russian history and the current state of affairs in the Empire. The dossier itself was printed on one of the finest printing presses in Russia after being written up by my handmaidens Shaynovna and Kelserina. I hope you find it useful - there's a lot to know for the coming revolution.

I'll leave you with this: though I may not be Russian by birth, I am in spirit and in mind. My heart is filled with love for this country, and I have great faith that the same goes for all of you. Together there is nothing that we cannot do.

May we lead Russia into peace and prosperity!

*Tours,
Catherine*

TOPIC: CATHERINE THE GREAT'S ADVISORS

History and Context

In the Time of Vikings: Early Russia and the Kievan Rus'

Russia as we know it today is an enormous country that spans many biomes and multiple continents. The land we currently call "Russia" wasn't always divided up and settled this way, however. Borders have grown and shrunk through the ages as the territory has changed hands over and over.

Settlements in Russia date back to the Lower Paleolithic period (over 200,000 years ago), and it was inhabited by mostly migrant tribes that moved all over the land. At the time of the founding of the Kievan Rus', Russia was mainly populated by Slavic (Eastern European) tribes interspersed with assimilated Nordic people, the Varangians (another name for Vikings).⁵ According to lore, in the early 800s, after a long conflict driving back the Varangians, the Slavic people invited them back to rule over the land and coordinate government efforts.⁶ The Varangians divided the land between three brothers—Rurik, Sineus, and Truvor. When Sineus and Truvor died, Rurik took over the ruling of their lands under the purview of the newly-founded Rurik dynasty, home to the Rus'. The Rus' held many cities, including Kiev, for a long time until the end of Rurik's life when it was recaptured by invaders.



⁵ Image: SeikoEn. "Principalities of the Later Kievan Rus." 2011.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Principalities_of_Kievan_Rus%27_\(1054-1132\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Principalities_of_Kievan_Rus%27_(1054-1132).jpg).

⁶ "История России с Древнейших Времен, Глава Первая, Глава 1 - Профессор Сергей Михайлович Соловьев - Читать, Скачать," accessed November 9, 2021, https://azbyka.ru/otechnik/Sergej_Solovev/istorija-rossii-s-drevnejshih-vremen/1_1.

After Rurik died, his nine-year-old son Igor and Igor's regent, Prince Oleg, rapidly expanded the Rurik territory and took Kiev back. Upon their conquest of Kiev, they declared it the capital city of their new empire—Kievan Rus'.⁷

Kievan Rus' thrived because its location allowed it to control the main trade routes between Central Asia, Northern Europe, and its outlying Eastern European areas. The biggest industries that traded through these ports were furs and honey, and these luxuries were the main source of the Rus' wealth.⁸ It is important to note that there was also a prominent slave trade through these regions;

however, discussion of this in committee or use of this in arcs is not acceptable.⁹

The Kievan Rus' lasted centuries until the invasions of the Mongols, combined with the decline of Constantinople—a major trading partner—caused the region to fracture.¹⁰ Eventually, the region was conquered and taken by the Golden Horde.



Medieval Evils: The Grand Duchy of Moscow, 1263-1547

After the fall of Kievan Rus', Moscow was one of the few remaining cities that offered shelter to many former Rus' inhabitants. This was at least in part due to Moscow's lack of development at the time; in the 1200s, Moscow was simply a trading outpost in what was then a remote part of Kievan Rus'.¹¹ Additionally, the natural geography surrounding Moscow was quite useful to the Rus'

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ "Kyivan Rus'," accessed November 9, 2021, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages%5CK%5CY%5CKyivanRushDA.htm>.

⁹ Image: Briangotts. "Map Showing the Major Varangian Trade Routes." 2007. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Varangian_routes.png.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Maureen Perrie, D. C. B. Lieven, and Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Cambridge History of Russia: Volume 1, From Early Rus' to 1689* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

refugees. Moscow is situated near a variety of rivers, such as the Volga River, that lead off to the Baltic Sea to the north and the Black Sea to the south.

While Kiev had been the hub of the (aptly named) Kievan Rus', Moscow began to overtake it as the most important metropole in what we now know as Russia. Though Moscow had relatively humble beginnings, it soon grew from a trading outpost to one of the largest states throughout Europe, thanks to the many expansionist princes who ruled it as a principality throughout the 1300s. The first of these many rulers was Daniel I¹², also known as Daniel of Moscow (what a surprise!). Daniel's tenure as prince featured a large focus on religion and the development of monasteries; Daniel himself became a monk shortly before his death in 1303. Daniel also initiated the expansion of the Duchy of Moscow, seizing Kolomna, a region southeast of modern day Moscow, and other nearby territories.¹³

After Daniel's death, his firstborn son Yuri took control of the principality. In line with his father, Yuri also expanded Moscow past its former borders, primarily moving westward to the Moskva River Basin and Mozhaisk. Despite this, Yuri still faced significant challenges in the forms of the Golden Horde, a large region formerly of the Mongol Empire that was then administered by Uzbek Khan, and Mikhail of Tver, the Grand Duke of the nearby Duchy of Vladimir. After traveling to the Golden Horde and spending a few years there, Yuriy developed a close relationship with the khan, and married his sister, Konchaka. Consequently, Uzbek eventually deposed Mikhail, and gave Yuriy the title of Grand Duke of Vladimir, further expanding Moscow's dominant presence.¹⁴ Not everyone was such a fan of Yuriy's newfound power; Mikhail's son, Dmitry the Terrible Eyes (who surprisingly had impeccable eyesight) sought vengeance against Yuriy and eventually killed him in 1325, bringing an end to his time as prince. Yuriy's younger brother Ivan (who ruled as Ivan I) took power and managed to stabilize the situation for Moscow, largely by collaborating with the Mongols. These actions

¹² We like to think that Dan Rowe is directly related to Daniel of Moscow. He too lives the monastic life, and if you ask us, we might be able to provide some completely legitimate and irrefutable proof.

¹³ Maureen Perrie, D. C. B. Lieven, and Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Cambridge History of Russia: Volume 1, From Early Rus' to 1689* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

allowed for Ivan and his principality to ascend over the nearby Tver. Under Ivan's rule, the Grand Duchy of Moscow grew in size and in wealth, which continued with many of his successors.¹⁵

All was going relatively well for Moscow, until the Black Death, a quite fatal plague spreading across Europe at the time, came to Rus' in the 1350s. Dmitry Ivanovich, the son of Ivan II and grandson of Ivan I, was only nine years old when his parents died, so power was left temporarily to one of his relatives. Dmitry took power when he was older, and devoted much of his rule as Grand Duke to uniting Rus' against the Golden Horde. These actions culminated in the Battle of Kulikovo in 1380, which featured multiple Rus' principalities fighting together against the Horde and returning victorious.¹⁶ The Battle of Kulikovo propelled Dmitry into regional renown, and he became known as Dmitry Donskoy ("Dmitry of the Don"), since the battle took place on the Don River.

Dmitry's son, Vasily I, continued his legacy of fighting against the Golden Horde, mostly by continuing to expand the Duchy of Moscow to the east and to the north. Primarily, Vasily conquered the provinces of Suzal, Nizhny Novgorod, and Vologda, expanding the empire until his death in 1425.¹⁷ All in all, Vasily I's reign was relatively peaceful, but the same cannot be said for his successor. Vasily II, also known as Vasily the Blind after being blinded in a battle, had a reign marked by the Muscovite Civil War, also known as the Great Feudal War. The Civil War began the minute Vasily II took the throne; since he was only ten years old, his uncle Yury Dmetrivich felt entitled to the throne in his place, not unlike the arrangement that existed when Dmitry Donskoy was underage. Although Vasily II managed to hold on to the throne throughout the many different periods of the war, its mere existence cast a shadow over his entire reign, and limited his ability to enact other reforms. Nevertheless, Vasily managed to orchestrate the Russian Orthodox Church's independence from the Patriarch of Constantinople 1448.¹⁸ Shortly after, Constantinople would become a part of the Ottoman Empire, which we will discuss later as it relates to the politics of our empire here in 1762.

After his death in 1462, Vasily passed on the throne to his son Ivan III, who centralized the Grand Duchy and in some sense, began the transition from Rus' to Russia. When Ivan III took power, there

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

were still other rulers with claims to smaller areas of Rus', but Ivan III, also known as Ivan the Great, consolidated all of their land under him and the rule of Moscow as a whole. Ivan III's reign also marked the end of the Golden Horde after Ivan defeated Akhmat Khan on the banks of the Ugra River in 1480. After essentially taking control of all of Russia, Ivan III was known as the "*Ruler of all Rus*" and informally became known as a tsar.¹⁹ While the formal Tsardom of Russia began with his grandson Ivan the Terrible, Ivan the Great and his consolidation of the remaining fragmented powers in Rus' brought about both the end of the Grand Duchy of Moscow and the beginning of a new era: The Tsardom of Russia.

The Fault in Our Tsars: The Tsardom of Russia, 1547-1721

Thanks to the Grand Duchy of Moscow, Rus', also known as Russia around the dawn of the 15th century, became much more unified and powerful, especially compared to its fragmented origins with Kievan Rus'. Following his grandfather's lead, Ivan IV, also known as "Ivan the Terrible," centralized his power and served as Russia's first official Tsar. After his father Vasili's death in 1533 when Ivan himself was only 3 years old, a number of powerful Rus' nobles protected him until the age of 16, when they declared him "Tsar and Grand Duke of all Rus'." Notably, the first mentions of *Russia* as opposed to *Rus'* were in the Tsardom Era, so the area controlled by the Tsars at the time will be referred to as Russia from now on in this dossier, though at this time *Russia* and *Rus'* were used relatively interchangeably. This development, along with the institution of the Tsardom itself, was meant to emphasize new authoritarian rule over Russia, on par with old traditions of Byzantine and ancient Roman Empires, and further showcase Russia's strength and might on an increasingly global scale.

The authoritarian ideals of the new Tsardom reached their peak during Ivan the Terrible's rule. Ivan implemented a great number of reforms to further modernize Russia, including creating the first standing army, revising the law code to increase the power of local and rural governments, and established Russia's first printing press at the new Moscow Print Yard.²⁰ Ivan also oversaw the construction of St. Basil's Cathedral in order to celebrate the military conquest of the city of Kazan;

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Isabel de Madariaga, *Ivan the Terrible* (Yale University Press, 2006).

St. Basil's Cathedral is a well-known landmark in Moscow, and we like to think it might remain this way for a number of years even beyond 1762.

Another key tenet of Ivan's time as Tsar was rapid expansion. In fact, Russia essentially doubled in size throughout Ivan's rule. Along with conquering Kazan, Ivan expanded southeast toward the Caspian Sea and Volga River, securing a key water supply and trade route connecting Russia to countries throughout Central Asia.²¹

Ivan also attempted to expand further northwest toward the Baltic Sea, but this proved significantly more difficult due to the forces of Denmark, Sweden, and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth,

and little progress was made. Although much of this expansion was military in nature, Russia also became more economically connected to countries not immediately nearby. For instance, Ivan's rule oversaw the establishment of the English Muscovy Company, and trade significantly increased between Russia and Elizabeth I's England.²²

Despite these changes, Russia faced many hardships in the 1560s, including droughts, famines, trading blockades, and unsuccessful wars. Ivan's wife Anastasia also died suddenly in 1560 due to a suspected poisoning, and this event is believed to have brought about a significant decline in Ivan's mental wellbeing. Subsequently, Ivan abdicated



²¹ Map: Shepard, William Robert. "The Growth of Russia in Europe, 1300-1796." 1911.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Shepherd-c-138-139.jpg>.

²² *Ibid.*

his throne, alleging mass fraud and treason among members of the Russian aristocracy, known as the boyars. The boyars had difficulty ruling and maintaining control in Ivan's absence, and consequently implored him to return as Tsar. Ivan returned on one condition: that he would have essentially absolute power, especially over the aristocracy. The boyars agreed, and this deal brought about the *Oprichnina*, a time in Ivan's rule marked by oppression of the aristocracy, restricted social mobility (which would later give way to serfdom), and the development of a political police force known as the *Oprichniki*.²³ During this period, trade decreased drastically, peasants faced significantly increased taxes, and people began to leave Russia in droves. Famously, the *Oprichniki* launched an attack on Russian citizens due to Ivan's claims of treason by the Russian Church; this devastating act of violence would come to be known as the Massacre of Novgorod.²⁴ Between the *Oprichnina* and Ivan's deteriorating mental state, it quickly became apparent that this new era would not be a Russian Golden Age. Before his death in 1584, Ivan murdered his eldest son and grandson in a fit of rage, leaving his other son Fyodor the heir to the throne.

Fyodor I grew up without any interest in politics, so though he was Tsar in name, his brother-in-law Boris Godunov was the real administrator. Fyodor's reign was relatively short and unproductive; his main action was eliminating the exclusive trade deal Russia had with England under Ivan the Terrible, thus opening up opportunities to trade more with other countries. In fact, Elizabeth I even offered an alliance between Russia and England, but Fyodor and Boris turned it down. Fyodor's death in 1598 proved to be the most consequential part of his time as Tsar. Fyodor bore no children, and thus ended the Rurik Dynasty and created a succession problem for all of Russia. The period following Fyodor's death soon became known as the Time of Troubles.²⁵

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ Sinelschikova, Yekaterina. "'Dog-Headed People': What Was Ivan the Terrible's 'Oprichnina' Force," August 4, 2017. https://www.rbth.com/arts/history/2017/08/04/dog-headed-people-what-was-ivan-the-terribles-oprichnina-force_816772.

²⁵ Dmitry Shlapentokh, "The Time of Troubles: Did It Ever End?," Institute of Modern Russia, May 15, 2019, <https://imrussia.org/en/analysis/3021-the-time-of-trouble-has-it-ever-ended-in-russia>.

The Time of Troubles featured anarchy and chaos as many pretenders to the throne attempted to gain influence in the newly created power vacuum. Among the first of these pretenders to gain some traction was a man claiming to be Fyodor's long-lost brother Dmitry, and he ruled as Dmitry I for less than a year in the early 1600s. While there were a number of False Dmitrys, this particular false Dmitry had a great deal of support from the Poles, which ultimately led to his decreasing popularity as Tsar. Dmitry was then killed by an angry mob, with his Polish friends and advisors also killed or imprisoned. Vasiliy IV Shuysky then seized power, as the House of Shuysky was distantly related to the Rurik Dynasty of Ivan and Fyodor, but he proved to be a weak and unpopular ruler as well.²⁶ A key aspect of his time in power was signing a military alliance with Sweden, a major rival to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth that had supported the False Dmitrys. Eventually, Vasiliy IV Shuysky was forced to abdicate by a group of Russian nobles, and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth gained even more control over Russian politics. Sigismund III Vasa, the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, seized the Russian throne and initiated the state conversion from Russian Orthodoxy to Roman Catholicism.²⁷ At this point, Russia was essentially occupied by Poland and had a vacant throne.²⁸



The civil unrest among the Russian populus eventually culminated in the Battle of Moscow in 1612. The first turning point was when some Polish soldiers resigned due to low wages and poor working conditions, significantly weakening the strength of the Polish army. As a result, an army made up primarily of volunteer merchants from Novgorod organized and established a Russian provisional government. The Polish army then attempted to siege the city of Moscow and oust the provisional government, thus beginning the Battle of Moscow. Miraculously, the Russian merchants won, ousted the Poles, and brought an end to the Time of Troubles.

²⁶ "Time of Troubles | Russian History | Britannica," accessed November 10, 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Time-of-Troubles>.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Image: Miloradovich, Sergey. *Defense of the Troitse-Sergiyeva Lavra against the Poles in 1610*. 1894. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Miloradovichdefense.jpg>.

An assembly of the old Russian parliament was held to crown a new Tsar, and Mikhail Romanov was chosen due to his great-aunt Anastasia's marriage to Ivan the Terrible connecting him to the Rurik Dynasty.²⁹ Following the Time of Troubles, the main objective of Mikhail's reign was restoring order.³⁰ Through the Peace of Stolbovo in 1617 and the Truce of Deulino in 1618, the war between Sweden and Poland ended and Mikhail's father Fyodor was able to return after being exiled as a boyar. Following his return, Fyodor took on a relatively unofficial role of Patriarch, ruling Russia while Mikhail stepped back. Mikhail's successor Alexis instituted a new legal code that exerted more state influence over aspects of Russian society. The boyars merged with other elites to form a new noble class known as the *dvoryanstvo*, and *serfdom*, a form of indentured servitude that will be discussed later on in this dossier, became officially state-sanctioned.³¹ Taxes and regulations increased, and peasants began fleeing the country under Alexis and his successor, Feodor III. After Feodor's death in 1682, Peter I, later known as Peter the Great, took charge.³²

Peter's reign was a significant turning point for Russia, as he served as both the last Tsar and the first Russian emperor. In the beginning of his reign, Peter technically co-ruled with his brother Ivan V, though Peter did much more of the governing; this arrangement would last until Ivan's death in 1696.³³ Peter instituted sweeping reforms and rapidly modernized Russia, which was now the largest country in the world. Peter also created the Russian navy, and instigated a new war against Sweden after allying with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. This war would be known as the Great Northern War, and ended when Sweden pursued a peace deal with Russia in 1721.³⁴ In this deal, Russia gained additional territory southeast of the Gulf of Finland, including the city of St. Petersburg. Peter declared St. Petersburg the new capital city as a means of "opening a window toward Europe," and this move, among other sweeping reforms, marked Russia's transition from Tsardom to Empire.³⁵

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ Alexey Timofeychev, "The Romanovs: How the Royal Dynasty Began with a Kindhearted Teenager Who Liked Flowers," September 15, 2017, <https://www.rbth.com/history/326180-romanovs-how-dynasty-began>.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² Ian Grey, *Peter the Great, Emperor of All Russia* (Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1960), <http://archive.org/details/petergreatemperooogrey>.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Ibid.*

The Empire Strikes Back: The Beginnings of an Imperial Russia, 1721-1762

Since Peter the Great established Russia as an empire, his dynasty, the House of Romanov, has been in power ever since, including the current emperor, Peter III. Once Russia became imperial in nature, Peter adjusted some aspects of the government accordingly. Most notably, Russia became more of an absolutist state, as the old council of nobles was replaced by a small, nine-person senate.³⁶ The new senate primarily collected taxes among the newly divided and established provinces throughout Russia. Additionally, the Russian Orthodox Church was incorporated into the structure of the government, but instead of having a patriarch as the religious head of the country, there was a council of bishops known as the Holy Synod.³⁷ Peter certainly made a lasting impact in establishing Russia as an imperial power, but he died 14 years after its establishment in 1725. Peter's widow, Catherine I (what a beautiful name!), ruled briefly for 2 years until she also died in 1727.³⁸

Peter's grandson Peter II then took the throne, as his father, Alexei Petrovich, despised Peter the Great and defected to Austria, before dying after being interrogated and tortured by the Russian government.³⁹ Peter II was only twelve years old by the time he ascended to the throne, and died an untimely death 2 years later due to what was believed to be smallpox. Though Peter II is reported to have been stubborn and witty like his grandfather, his reign could not have been more different. Peter II had no taste for actually governing, and instead spent most of his time partying and imbibing with his friends.⁴⁰ Peter was supposed to marry Ekaterina Dolgorukova, but died on the day that he

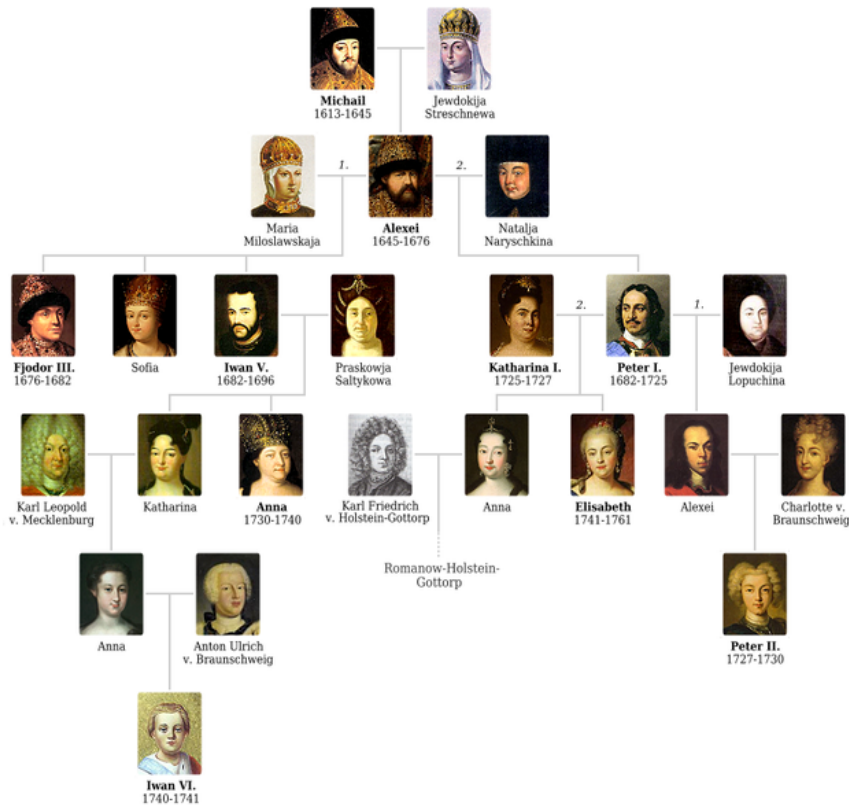
³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ "Peter II | Emperor of Russia | Britannica," accessed November 10, 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Peter-II-emperor-of-Russia>.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*



was meant to marry, leaving no heir and ending the direct male line of succession for the House of Romanov.⁴¹

Following Peter II's death, there were 5 eligible candidates for the throne. Three of these candidates were daughters of Ivan V, Peter the Great's original co-ruler; they were Catherine, Anna, and Praskovy (named after his wife). The two other candidates were the two daughters of Peter the Great, named Anna and Elizabeth. All these people are featured in the family tree we have attached to this background guide for clarity. After some deliberation, the Russian Supreme

Privy Council selected Anna, the daughter of Ivan, to be the next monarch, largely due to the fact that she had no foreign connections and posed the least risk for creating any foreign influence in Russian affairs.⁴² This reasoning proved to be faulty, since a defining feature of Anna's reign was the prominence of foreigners being involved in the government, with a particularly large number of Germans holding advisory positions. Anna continued a number of projects initiated by Peter the Great such as continuing to fund the Russian Academy of Science and proposing new architectural projects in St. Petersburg. Anna also founded the Cadet Corps, a military training program for young boys, but arts and sciences began to be included in their curriculum as well. Additionally, Anna led Russia through two wars, one of which was against the Ottoman Empire and significantly weakened the Crimean Khanate. Before her death in 1740, Anna declared her grandnephew Ivan as her

⁴¹ Image: KaterBegemot, English: Simplified Romanov Family Tree (from Mikhail Fyodorovich to Elizaveta Petrovna), February 14, 2010, February 14, 2010, Own work., https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Romanov_tree_1_simple_de.png.

⁴² "Tsar Elizabeth of Russia," accessed November 10, 2021, https://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/elizabethtsar.html.

successor in an attempt to protect her father's legacy while eliminating the opportunity for Peter the Great's descendants to take the throne.

Ivan VI technically took the throne, but he was only two months old when he ascended to the role, and his mother was declared regent in his place. Elizabeth, one of the aforementioned daughters of Peter the Great, managed to gain enough momentum and popularity to take power in a coup, and became monarch less than a year after Ivan took power.⁴³ Ivan was then imprisoned and currently remains so, though Peter III visits him frequently. Elizabeth took heavily after her father, and continued many of his educational reforms, leading to the establishment of the first Russian university in Moscow.⁴⁴ Elizabeth also led Russia through two major European conflicts: the War of Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War. When it came time for Elizabeth to select an heir, the decision was complicated by the fact that Elizabeth never married and never produced any children. She ultimately selected her orphaned nephew Peter, and even orchestrated his marriage to our beloved Princess Sophie of Prussia, now referred to as Catherine in honor of Peter the Great's wife. Elizabeth died not too long ago, in January of 1762, leaving Peter having just ascended to the throne.⁴⁵ Here ends the historical background relevant for the impending coup, and we now turn your attention to some current information that is fresh off our printing presses.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

Current State of Affairs

A Primer on Peter III

Now that you understand how Peter became Emperor, it's important that you learn a bit more about our beloved Catherine's rather foolish husband. Peter was born outside of Russia in Kiel in 1728 as the son of Charles Frederick, the Duke of Holstein-Gottorp (listed on the earlier family tree as Karl Friederich) and Anna, the sister of Elizabeth and daughter of Peter the Great. Peter's blood connection to the Russian monarchy comes from his mother; his father was a Prince of Sweden and has German ancestry.⁴⁶ For this reason, Peter grew up speaking German more fluently than he spoke Russian, and now as Emperor tends to pursue policies in favor of Prussia and Sweden.

When Peter was still a young child, Elizabeth brought him to Russia and declared him to be the presumptive heir to the throne in 1742. Earlier that same year, Peter was declared King of Finland (which at this point in time is an autonomous duchy within the Russian Empire) and later was even declared to be the presumptive heir to the Swedish throne, following the Russo-Swedish War. Naturally, this created some confusion when the Swedish envoy arrived in St. Petersburg. Peter's rights to the Swedish throne were retracted, and Peter officially converted to Russian Orthodoxy, cementing his place in the Russian line of succession.⁴⁷

Elizabeth arranged the marriage between Peter and Catherine, who as you may know was then known as Sophia. Sophia officially took the name of Catherine upon converting to Russian Orthodoxy, and married Peter in 1745. Thus far, Peter and Catherine have had two children: Paul, born in 1754, and Anna, who was born in 1757 but unfortunately died at the age of 2.

As Emperor thus far, Peter has largely supported religious freedom and has begun instituting some democratic reforms throughout Russia that increased the ability for commoners to participate in political discussions and decisions. Peter's current economic policies emphasize exporting many goods from Russia without importing too many items, and he also has recently founded the first

⁴⁶ Carol S. Leonard, "The Reputation of Peter III," *The Russian Review* 47, no. 3 (1988): 263–92, <https://doi.org/10.2307/130591>.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

state bank.⁴⁸ Despite this, most of Peter's legacy at this point is based on his personality around court; Peter is known for really only taking genuine interest in military matters, strongly disliking many Russians (and instead preferring those of the Holstein-Gottorp duchy), and taking pride in the performance of strength and power more than possessing it.⁴⁹

Around the World in 80 Days: A Briefing on Russian Geopolitics

If you're going to be a part of the team eventually governing Russia, it's of the utmost importance to know about some of Russia's main geographical features and resources. Due to its incredible size, Russia is made up of a number of regions that spread across different biomes and geographical landmarks. As of 1762, the Russian Empire extends to the Baltic Sea to the northwest, the Caspian Sea to the southwest, just above the Black Sea to the south, and from there extends eastward to the Sea of Okhotsk (seen in brown, gray, and red on the map below - pay no attention to the other colors, my niece decided to use my one and only map as a bit of a coloring book).⁵⁰ Most of the northern half of Russia is considered to be a taiga biome, consisting of snowy, coniferous forests. The bottom half of Russia is mostly in the temperate forest and steppe biomes, meaning there a number of deciduous forests along with grassy plains at warmer temperatures than those found in the taiga biome.⁵¹ Finally, along the very northern border of Russia with the Arctic Ocean, the landscape mostly features an icy tundra, which makes up about 10% of total Russian land mass.⁵² Due to Russia's immense land area, our empire also contains a wide variety of natural resources. Primarily, Russia has stores of cobalt, copper, gold, zinc, and iron in the Ural and Caucasus mountain ranges. While it may seem that having so much land provides quite an advantage in many respects, it

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ Image: Marxist Internet Archive. "Russian Expansion in Eurasia between 1533–1896." 2009.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Russia_1533-1896.gif.

⁵¹ "Climate of the World: Russia | Woeurope.Eu," accessed November 10, 2021,
<https://www.woeurope.eu/reports/climate/Russia.htm>.

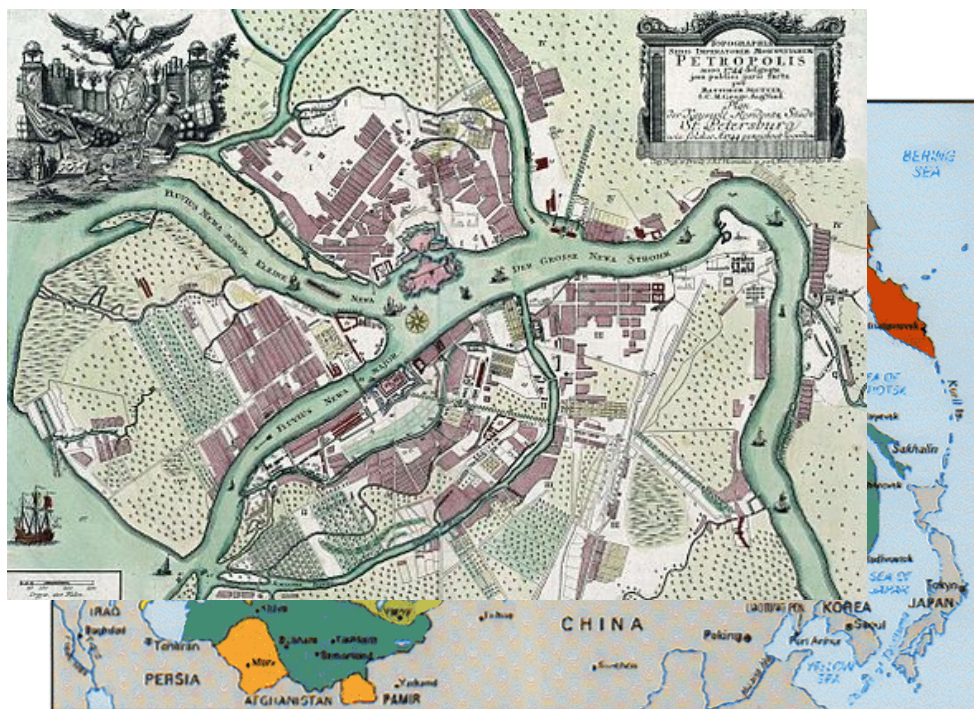
⁵² *Ibid.*

is also quite difficult to traverse across the different regions and it makes collecting and trading these resources all the more onerous.

As for demographics, Russia currently has a population of around 19 million people, with the largest cities being St. Petersburg (where we will be meeting with Catherine soon) and Moscow. St.

Petersburg sits along the Neva

River and is an incredibly strategic port that leads to the Baltic Sea. The city was divided into five boroughs following a fire in 1737, which allowed for the city center to be moved to the direct intersection of the Neva and Fontana rivers, as seen in this illustration from 1744.⁵³ The Winter Palace, the Emperor's



official residence, sits in the heart of the city, south of the Neva River. St. Petersburg is one of Russia's closest cities to other countries in Western and Eastern Europe, making the strong defense of St. Petersburg absolutely imperative for the success and stability of the Empire.

Russia's geopolitical relationships with our neighbors have been a bit tumultuous, to say the least. Empress Elizabeth, Peter III's aunt and predecessor, took a violent approach toward the Kingdom of Prussia and their ruler, Frederick II. Elizabeth initiated a war against Prussia as a part of the Seven Years' War, a global conflict consisting of many wars in various theatres across Europe and the Americas.⁵⁴ Just as Elizabeth was about to defeat Frederick II following a crushing victory at the Kunersdorf in 1759, Elizabeth died in 1762 and Peter III took the throne. Peter III is known to be quite

⁵³ Image: "Карты Санкт-Петербурга," accessed September 15, 2021, http://www.spbin.ru/maps/map_stoyter_1744.htm.

⁵⁴ "Tsar Elizabeth of Russia," accessed November 10, 2021, https://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/elizabethtsar.html.

close to Frederick II, and as a result swiftly ended the Russian offensive against Prussia and recently signed a treaty of peace and friendship with Frederick II.⁵⁵ This quick reversal has often been referred to as “the Miracle of the House of Brandenburg” and has formally allied Russia with Prussia despite being enemies only a few years earlier, shifting the seat of power in Europe from Austria to Prussia.

Russia has also maintained a complicated relationship with Sweden. Ever since the Middle Ages, Sweden and Russia have engaged in a number of wars with each other, but Peter III again has allied with Sweden against a common enemy: Denmark. As of right now, Peter is preparing troops with Sweden and England to move against Denmark, but has not yet faced the Danes in battle and is waiting for the Russian-Danish Freedom Conference to be held on July 1st, 1762, before militarily resolving the issue of land ownership between them.⁵⁶ Despite the fact that England and Russia were technically on opposite sides during the Seven Years’ War, no combative war between England and Russia has broken out and England remains a committed trade partner and ally for Russia.

I Think, Therefore I Am: The Age of Enlightenment

The Enlightenment, also known as the Age of Reason, is a European intellectual movement centered around individual liberty, religious freedom, and scientific innovations. The Enlightenment first began to take hold in the mid-1600s, with the advent of Rene Descartes’ *Meditations on First Philosophy*.⁵⁷ Through this text, Descartes ignited a debate about the separation of the body and the mind in a way that challenged existing religious thought. As such, the Enlightenment was characterized by a developing conflict between church and state.

In many ways, the Enlightenment built on the ideas of the Renaissance period a few centuries earlier, with humanism, a philosophical notion emphasizing the power of the individual, and innovation being central tenets of the movement.⁵⁸ Along with promoting individual liberty and questioning the role of religion in political affairs, Enlightenment thinkers circulated their ideas even further than had

⁵⁵ Carol S. Leonard, “The Reputation of Peter III,” *The Russian Review* 47, no. 3 (1988): 263–92, <https://doi.org/10.2307/130591>.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ William Bristow, “Enlightenment,” in *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. Edward N. Zalta, Fall 2017 (Metaphysics Research Lab, Stanford University, 2017), <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2017/entries/enlightenment/>.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

been possible in the past. This spread of information was due in large part to the increased accessibility of the printing press.⁵⁹ Though it was initially created in the mid-1400s, the printing press became widely more available for use during the Age of Enlightenment, allowing all sorts of people to print their ideas on paper and convey them to others easily. This development has been key in supporting revolutionary movements, since the aristocracy has less control over the spread of information.

Enlightenment thinkers also developed new theories for a variety of disciplines, but particularly physics and philosophy. Following Galileo's famous dispute with the Church about heliocentrism, Newton's development of his laws of motion paved the way for science to become more widely respected and understood.⁶⁰ For Russia, the center of Enlightenment thinking as it pertains to science is at the Imperial Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, which was founded by Peter the Great in 1724.⁶¹ Over the years, this academy has attracted many foreign scientists to come study in Russia, including the mathematician Leonard Euler and the astronomer Nevil Maskelyne. The Academy has also supported expeditions to more remote parts of the Russian Empire, including the Kamchatka Expedition in the 1730s and additional expeditions to Siberia.⁶²

As for philosophy, a number of Enlightenment philosophers like John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau sought to identify the natural state of humanity, and how society might distort this natural state of existence in order to provide protection. These conversations about the so-called "state of nature" and the "social contract" fundamentally changed how common people considered themselves in relation to those that governed over them, and contributed to revolutionary sentiment across Europe. In general, Enlightenment philosophy values rationality and empiricism above all else. This manifests through a number of theories and suggestions for governmental organization; ideas of separation of church and state are especially popular among those interested in Enlightenment ideals.⁶³ Throughout the 18th century, Paris has been the

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ ELISE KIMERLING WIRTSCHAFTER, "Religion and Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century Russia: Father Platon at the Court of Catherine II," *The Slavonic and East European Review* 88, no. 1/2 (2010): 180–203.

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ *Ibid.*

unofficial center of the Enlightenment movement, with a number of Enlightenment thinkers coming from French backgrounds.

For the Russian Empire, Peter III has pushed through some reforms that support some ideas of the Enlightenment, such as proclaiming religious freedom throughout Russia, abolishing the secret police, and protecting serfs from extrajudicial killings.⁶⁴ Catherine herself is very fond of many Enlightenment thinkers like Montesquieu and Voltaire, and firmly believes that Russia must continue to modernize and accept the Enlightenment, beyond the few actions Peter has already taken. One of Catherine's main goals is to make education and literacy more accessible for commoners throughout the Empire, and as a result she has surrounded herself with advisors who mostly share these ideals.

Current Technological Capabilities and Developments

Note: We intend on staying true to the time period in terms of technology capabilities as they may be used in frontroom directives and backroom crisis notes. If you wish to use something that has not been "invented" yet, we encourage you to find creative ways to replicate it, within reason. We hope the following section provides some context for this, and as always feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.

There have been a number of recent developments that can be used to your advantage in executing the various plans and ideas you may devise over the course of our time together. One of the most important of these inventions is the printing press. The first iteration of the printing press was invented in China in around the 11th century, but it was further developed by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany around 1440. The printing press exponentially increased the number of pages that could be printed in a single day. While in 1762 the printing press is in relatively wide use across Europe, especially for wealthier classes, in Russia access to printing thus far has remained largely under state and Church control, in part due to widespread illiteracy among the public.⁶⁵

Importantly, the Russian Army has been reorganized relatively recently once Peter the Great formally established Russia as an empire. The Imperial Russian Army is made up of regular units

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

featuring infantrymen with muskets, dragoon units featuring mounted infantrymen that rode horses but could also dismount to fight on foot, and reitar units made up of strictly cavalry. The Russian Navy was also modernized by Peter the Great, and it now contains mostly galley ships powered primarily by rowing and brigantines, which feature two large masts with sails.

When it comes to medicine and healing, developments in Russia have still been relatively rudimentary. In 1762, it was reported that every seventh child born in Russia died of smallpox. Medical interventions are mostly used to treat reported symptoms instead of curing the patient of their ailment, and can sometimes involve herbs and plants. Variolation has been reported to treat smallpox with some success throughout Western Europe, but this method has not yet spread to the Russian Empire.

Finally, transportation and postal systems in Russia have also been further developed in recent years. Postal relay routes have increasingly been established between St. Petersburg and the provinces, but the nature of transport is still based largely on horses and other animals, so letters can often be misplaced and Russia's more remote areas are underserved.⁶⁶ For transportation, there are similarly a number of roads used for horses and their passengers but they do not yet extend to all corners of the empire.

Education, Religion, and Gender

The Russian education system in 1762 is a legacy of the educational goals of Peter the I. He sought to establish a more thorough and accessible system of education throughout Russia. However, these systems were never fully developed and at this point they are in disarray. Primary schools are scattered throughout rural regions, but there are not enough to give everyone access. Most of the schools that do exist are private schools run by priests, which creates a staunch class divide in who can afford an education. Similarly, there are around 6000 students enrolled in secondary school, but most secondary schools pull from clerical circles and prioritize admission of upper-class Russians.⁶⁷

⁶⁶ John Randolph, "5. Communication and Obligation: The Postal System of the Russian Empire, 1700–1850," in *Information and Empire : Mechanisms of Communication in Russia, 1600-1850*, ed.

⁶⁷ Isabel De Madariaga, "The Foundation of the Russian Educational System by Catherine II," *The Slavonic and East European Review* 57, no. 3 (1979): 369–95.

The academy—the system of academics that controls education and research—is mainly made up of people prominent in the church. While students from other walks of life are sometimes accepted and propelled to higher status, this is rare. There are many other schools of art, trade, and military, especially in cities, which have higher rates of acceptance of lower-class students, but these have come in and out of fashion based on the political climate. Around the 1750s, as Western European influence began to exert more influence on Russian culture, teachers began being screened to ensure their “fitness” to teach Russian values.⁶⁸

These education systems perpetuate the hierarchical systems of power in Russia, including within the realm of religion. Schools cement the monopoly that the Russian Orthodox Church—the official religious organisation of Russia—has on religion. While other forms of Slavic mysticism and Gnostic practices are allowed, they are only allowed to accentuate or add on to the beliefs of Russian Orthodoxy and cannot openly contradict it. The Russian Orthodox Church is not as politically powerful as it was before Peter the I, but they still exercise much religious influence over the general public and aristocracy alike. Peter the III has declared religious freedom across Russia, but it has been poorly implemented and not applied equally to all religious groups, so religious intolerance (especially towards Jewish people) remains prominent throughout much of Russia. *Note: While we encourage delegates to learn about different Russian religions, cults, and mystic practices, (and potentially use these historical facts in your solutions and backroom notes) **no religious discrimination or intolerance will be allowed.** This includes phrases suggesting one religion shouldn't exist, that all people practicing it fit a stereotype, or that religious persecution is in any way justified. It is important historically to note that Jewish Russians were largely persecuted during this time, but this will not be a topic of discussion in committee, nor will it be allowed in backroom notes.*

Women also suffer under the current education system. Women are barred from education since going to school is taboo for upper-class women, and very few lower-class individuals in general are allowed into school.⁶⁹ The patriarchy is embedded quite heavily in Russian society, and stems largely from men's control of economic resources and the military. Additionally, the patriarchy is present in the Russian government structure, which depends heavily on the court and advisors to the monarch

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

as well as regional representatives that come and speak to the court.⁷⁰ While there have been female monarchs in the past, many of the advisors and regional representatives remain male, since the heads of households are the ones that represent families. Even when there have been female rulers, these advisory structures tend to be domineering and actively undercut the will of the female monarchs. These dynamics are not as present in lower-class society, since everyone must work and serve, often in terrible conditions. While women's education is a great first step at equality, Catherine and her advisors must look at what change can be made in the structures of the Russian government to create a more egalitarian society.

Finally, schools serve to reinforce the power of the aristocracy and legitimize the class system. One example of this is that while almost everyone in Russia speaks Russian, many among the aristocracy speak French to emphasize their education. This further excludes lower class individuals from rising in society. Catherine dreams of creating a flourishing education system that focuses on secular philosophy and science in general rather than purely on religious or Russian texts. She also wants to expand the accessibility of education and ensure that women and men receive the same quality of education. While she faces much misogyny from much of Peter's court, she is a staunch advocate of women's rights, and this is one of her highest priorities. Catherine's political power is derived from her ability to balance the demands of nobility with her desires for enlightenment change.⁷¹ It is thus up to her advisors to find a way to work around current Russian values and economic norms (ie. what jobs are available) to encourage education in general, and specifically open it up to non-nobles and women without alienating Catherine's power base.

Serfs Up: What War Does to An Economy

Catherine, while historically in favor of serfdom, will not tolerate any abuse of these poor souls and actively encourages people to not reinforce structures that make this exploitation more permanent. *There will be no promoting serfdom on this committee.*

The economic class of serfs developed in the early 17th century in Russia because of how land was allocated under the monarchy, handed out to favorites of the monarch at the time. Local landowners

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

⁷¹ *Ibid.*

and landowning families had become fixed, so people who were not the direct descendants of the original landowners or people who did not have the influence or capital to originally receive land did not have the means to produce their own food.⁷² Knowing this, the landowners rented out pieces of their land for the newly-formed “peasant class” to farm or work the land in other ways, but since the peasants did not have much money to start, the landowners also provided the loans to the peasant class. Now, the peasant class was indebted to the landowners and was responsible for farming enough to pay back the loans as they came out each month, being able to keep the rest of the crop or money for them and their families. This cycle of worker exploitation and indebtedness based solely on who was allocated land during Russian expansion and the founding of the Romanov dynasty is known as **serfdom**.

Currently, serfs create most of Russia’s tradable goods (this includes classic agricultural products like grains, but also includes other natural resources like lumber, minerals, fruits, etc.) and are the reason why the aristocracy and monarchy exist in such wealth. Serfs do not control the output of their labor and they do not reap the benefits of it. The aristocracy, on the other hand, collects the benefits of this system while “leading” and “protecting.” While these systems do provide limited protection for serfs, through the recent wars serfs have become increasingly angry about the growing abuse by their landlords and the lack of protection against foreign invaders.⁷³ To this day, there have been a number of serf rebellions, some ending with heavy casualties, however none have been broadly successful—and probably won’t be without military support.

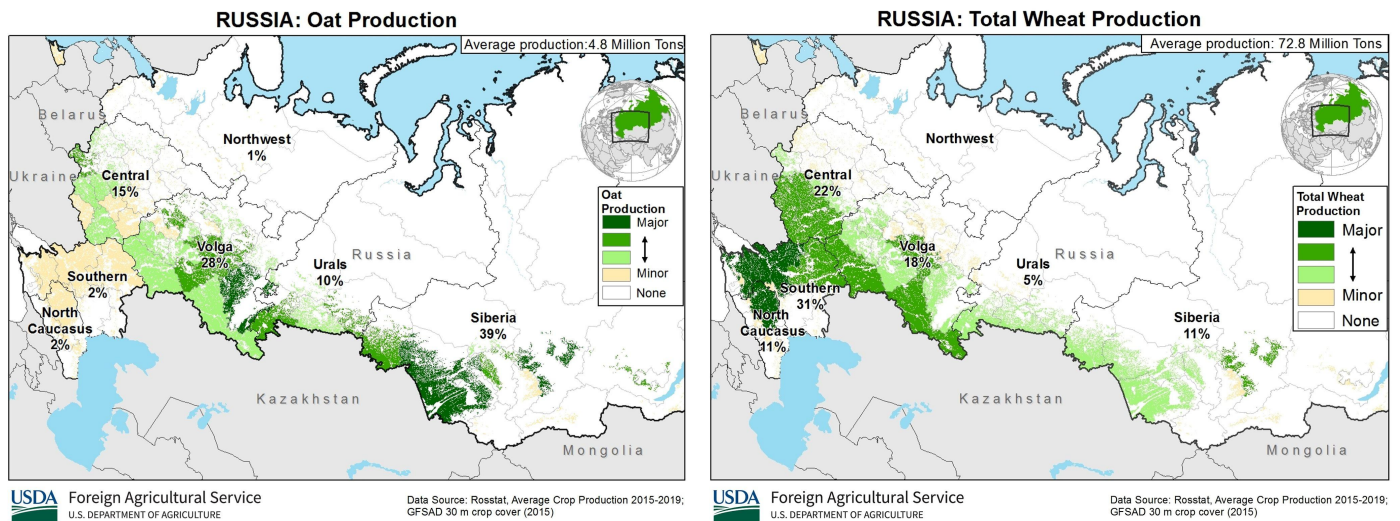
Outside of serfs there are multiple other socioeconomic groups that exist. Not all peasants were serfs, and there are many who make their way in a variety of trades. There is also a middle class made up of traders—the purveyors of wealth from the peasants up to the aristocracy. The traders take goods produced by the peasants and move them around so that peasants can receive payment for their goods. Under Peter the Great, these traders and merchants were required to form merchants’ councils, supposed to echo the “trading companies” of Western Europe.

⁷² James Mavor, *An Economic History of Russia* (London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1914).

⁷³ *Ibid.*

While Peter was sure that this would increase the trading might of Russia, it came with other consequences for the aristocracy. As a result of their new merchant councils, the merchant class was able to get together and decide the prices at which they would all buy and sell certain goods, eliminating the need to compete and allowing them to maximize profits.⁷⁴ The increased cooperation boosted trading efficiency and also created a system where the merchants are much more involved in the production of goods, creating artificial “industries” where the merchants have more power.

Due to its size and the diversity between regions, most trade takes place within the Russian empire. Different climates in different regions have led to them producing different crops, and trade between them allows for all the subjects of the empire to reap the benefits. Russia is not a huge producer or exporter of grain but was mostly self-sustainable in this respect; a lot of the land that was worked by serfs produced other raw materials. *This is exemplified by the modern-day maps of oat and wheat production. While this does not represent exactly where grains were growing in 1760 and how much grain was being produced, it gives a general idea of how different regions are better for different grains.*^{75 76}



⁷⁴ Artur Attman, “The Russian Market in World Trade, 1500–1860,” *Scandinavian Economic History Review* 29, no. 3 (September 1981): 177–202, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03585522.1981.10407958>.

⁷⁵ Image: “Russia: Oat Production.” Foreign Agriculture Service U.S. Department of Agriculture, n.d. https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/rssiws/al/crop_production_maps/Russia/Russia_Oats.jpg.

⁷⁶ Image: “Russia: Total Wheat Production.” Foreign Agriculture Service U.S. Department of Agriculture, n.d. https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/rssiws/al/crop_production_maps/Russia/Russia_Total_Wheat.jpg.

In the earlier part of the 18th century the Dutch were the primary trade partner, but since 1730 they have been outpaced by England in volume of exchange.⁷⁷ England has a high demand for flax, hemp, timber, tar, and iron to expand its shipbuilding capabilities, and in recent years it has become increasingly reliant on Russia to provide these raw materials. This has been aided by the fact that outside of Russia, many other major producers of these resources have been at odds with England. In return, Russia has imported masses of gold and silver coins and bars, allowing the empire to amass enormous wealth.⁷⁸

War and trade have long been intertwined in Russian history. When Peter the Great ruled, the largest impediment to trade was the Swedish occupation of the seas and ports on the gulf of Riga and in other connections to the Baltic, which connects Russia to the rest of Europe. Thus, Peter the Great decided to wage war against Sweden and took back control of Riga and the ports, which became a major Russian trade hub for decades to come. The 1750s war with Prussia was also partially motivated by trade, since Prussia retained control of many ports on the Baltic sea. When he came into power, Peter III called off the war with the Prussians because of his desire to have them as a trading partner and his respect for the Prussian leadership, to whom he was related. Prussia and Sweden have since become Russian trading allies, which was important when Peter III started the war against Denmark.⁷⁹ While war may seem beneficial for establishing control of trade ports, war also has other economic impacts.

Every war requires a people in the army, arms for the army, and strong strategic leadership. When Russia goes to war, the first army sent out is the reserve—people who work for and train in the army and imperial guard as their job. As their next resort, Russia conscripts people into the army. These conscripts are mainly peasants and serfs, and although Russia has many people, if too many serfs and peasants get conscripted it will empty the foundation of the economy.⁸⁰ Conscription also tends to lead to political tension, as people are resistant to join the army and leave their homes and families. Additionally, wars require arms, and procuring weaponry from other nations is expensive yet necessary. Many of these costs are offset by higher taxes on the aristocracy, and if it seems like

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ James Mavor, *An Economic History of Russia* (London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1914).

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

the monarchy and military generals are not making good use of Russian wealth and arms, they will get angry and dissatisfied with the government. War impacts economies on many levels and these are all factors that Catherine's advisors should take under consideration before wading into war too hastily.

Some Things to Know about Our Beloved Catherine

While we know some of you are quite well acquainted with Catherine, we also acknowledge that she can be very private at times, especially with the impending coup. Consequently, we felt it appropriate to provide some insight into Catherine's likes and dislikes to ensure that you all stay in her favor throughout our time together.

Likes:

- Her beloved cat, Rusty
- Legends of vampires found in some French literature
- Riddles, witty wordplay, and poetry
- Dancing and horse riding
- Fresh fruit (preferably strawberries)
- A local musician known as Taylorisa Swiftov



Portrait of Rusty commissioned by Catherine, Oil on Canvas

Dislikes:

- Smallpox
- Peter III (I'm sure most of you have heard Catherine refer to him as a "good-for-nothing idiot")
- Macarons
- Snakes

Character Biographies

1. Grigory Orlov, Count

As the son of an established general from a strong military background, Grigory is no stranger to violence, coups, and power grabs. Grigory is a military man through and through. Most of his expertise and connections comes from his time serving in the Seven Years' War and his years under the tutelage of his father. As a member of the Orlov family, Grigory already has a number of connections within the Russian Empire, but his charm, talent, and pure ambition have allowed him to become one of Catherine's closest confidantes in her time as Empress consort.

2. Ivan Betskoy, Education Consultant

Ivan comes from noble Russian lineage, as his father was a prominent field marshal in the Russian Army, but he was born in Stockholm while his father was held prisoner during the Great Northern War. After growing up in Sweden, Ivan went to Denmark to receive a military education and serve in the Danish forces, but eventually was called back to Russia before his father died in 1750. Like many of Catherine's trustees, Ivan has read a number of Enlightenment thinkers, and firmly believes in equality and equity in education, particularly when it comes to gender roles.

3. Denis Fonvizin, Playwright

Born into a large family of noble rank, the world was truly Denis's oyster as he was growing up. Denis is a recent graduate of the Imperial Moscow University, where he saw a production of Shakespeare's *Henry V* and immediately fell in love with the emphasis on history alongside the introduction of comedic characters like Falstaff. Though he is young and a bit naive, Denis certainly has a talent for writing that has been noticed by Nikita Panin and other political leaders. As a wealthy socialite, when Denis picks up his pen, Russia's elite always listens.

4. Ivan Osterman, Ambassador to Sweden

Ivan's family has a bit of an unfortunate history with coups. When Empress Elizabeth took power in 1741, Ivan's father Andrei lost his position as Vice-Chancellor after failing to support her rise to power. Determined to regain his noble standing and not to make the same mistake as his father, Ivan has largely supported Catherine and the possibility of a coup attempt. After his father's misstep, Ivan was sent abroad to finish his schooling, and has now taken up a post as a diplomat to Paris and Stockholm. As of right now he maintains a particularly strong relationship with Sweden, for reasons unknown.

5. Voltaire, Philosopher

If anyone close to Catherine could be considered a celebrity, it would certainly be Voltaire. Born as Francois-Marie Arouet in Paris, Voltaire supposedly found his pen name in an anagram of AROVET LI, a latinized spelling of Arouet and some letters from *le jeune* ("the young"), though the real origins are unclear. Voltaire has written a number of texts and plays, but his most well-known is the satire *Candide*, published in 1759. Catherine is rather fond of his works, and as a result Voltaire wishes to exert his influence and connections to help Catherine bring the French way of thinking to Russia through her rule.

6. Nikita Ivanovich Panin, Foreign Policy Consultant

A prominent Russian statesman, Nikita Ivanovich Panin, was both well traveled and well read, making him a perfect foreign policy consultant to Catherine. Born in Gdansk, Poland, he later moved to Estonia where his father was stationed as a general, and then went on to follow in his father's footsteps, joining the Russian army in 1740. A favorite of the former Empress Elizabeth and called an "encyclopaedia" by Catherine, Panin's intellectual prowess made him well suited to politics. First serving as a minister in Denmark and later in Sweden, Panin developed strong anti-French sentiments and an affinity for constitutional forms of government. These more liberal beliefs lay the foundation for a partnership between him and Catherine that was solidified when he was appointed governor of Catherine's son, grand duke Paul, in 1760.

7. Grigory Potemkin, Statesman

Grigory is a prominent military official and man of the Royal court. He was born into middle-class nobility and enlisted in the army. While he was a proud military man he fell into debt, but worked himself out of it by joining the Royal Guard. He often accompanies the monarchs on their visits abroad, to their treaty negotiations, and to grand state dinners that they attend. Through their travels, he has become quite close with Catherine and notices her political acumen. He respects her greatly and his influence in the military and as a diplomat definitely lends Catherine a great deal of credibility abroad. Additionally, his position in the guard allows him to keep tabs on the goings-on in the castle since members of the Guard are the only armed men allowed in the Royals' quarters in the palace.

8. Mikhail Lomnosov, Polymath

Mikhail is a genius. There is no other way to put it. He knows everything from literature to science to art. He is not as adept at music, however, but don't tell him we said that. He received extensive schooling in Russia before going abroad and learning with the best of the European tutors. He is an artist, chemist, astronomer, physicist, writer, and historian. He is currently one of the most renowned people in science and can invent anything he puts his mind to. He has also redefined the field of physics and brought enlightenment values into Russia. Mikhail cares deeply about academics and believes that schooling needs to be the number one priority in Russia. He researches and teaches at universities across Russia. Mikhail loves Catherine's openness towards science and the enlightenment and hopes she will revamp the school system.

9. Yekaterina Vorontsova-Dashkova, Princess and Academic

Yekaterina is a noblewoman in the royal court and is a big proponent of Russian Enlightenment. She grew up very close to the monarchy and was exposed to literature, philosophy, math, science, and diplomacy from a young age. She is well-spoken and generally well-respected with a knack for politics. She married a Prince on the Imperial Guards and became a Princess in the court, bringing her in very close proximity to Catherine, who she became fast friends with. She and her husband have never liked Peter, and she supports anything Catherine does to undermine him and build a

better, more enlightened Russia. She also fears Peter's support for Prussia. Among other things, she admires Catherine's conviction to support education and she one day hopes to lead a national sciences academy.

10. Samuel Greig, Naval Captain

Samuel Greig is a prominent seaman who enlisted in the Russian Navy after working on his father's boats for most of his childhood. Due to his naval expertise, he quickly rose up the ranks after several massive military victories. His position in the Russian Navy gave him access to many different rulers from all over the Baltic region. He has a very dutiful following of young soldiers who look up to him. His family, also, is very impressive and many of his kids take after him in their sailing and mercantile expeditions. Recently, he has become more prone to illness, and wants to make his lasting mark on Russian history.

11. Fyodor Ushakov, Admiral

Fyodor is an admiral in the Russian Navy who is very focused on ramping up naval technology and using modern strategies in battles. He has never lost a battle, or even a ship for that matter, and he doesn't plan to start now. His career thus far has been focused on guarding Russian merchant ships through the Mediterranean. He has a love-hate relationship with the Ottomans, since he loves to beat them in battle and hates the fact that a Russian-Ottoman military-trade alliance is extremely lucrative. He knows Catherine because he commands her yacht. It is high praise, being trusted to guard the Empress Consort through a sea filled with pirates. Fyodor has been getting more and more involved with trade lately and has his eye on Constantinople.

12. Ippolit Bogdanovich, Poet

Ippolit is a Ukrainian-born poet and literary figure who specialized in Russian classics. His family was very wealthy, so he was integrated with the upper class from birth. He went to school in Moscow before working as a secretary at a Russian embassy in Germany, where he had access to a lot of sensitive information. As a result, he knows a lot about German politics and has many friends in the government there. After that, he moved to St. Petersburg and was the editor of the official

newspaper, *Vedomosti*. He was the editor there for a very long time and many who work there still know of him. He is currently Director of the State Archives, where he translates European work into Russian at his leisure. Catherine is a big fan of his writing and wants to commission him to write plays for her theater group. He is a soulful man at heart.

13. Dmitry Semenov, Finance Expert

Dmitry Semenov is the premier finance expert in Russia. He is part of Peter's inner court and advises Peter on many economic decisions. He has a lot of knowledge stored in his brain, so he is capable of doing many economic schemes and calculations. He's very interested in how European stock and trading companies work and has lots of friends over yonder. He yearns to give Russia a central bank and paper currency, dreaming since he was a kid about a broader flourishing economy. He is allying with Catherine not because he particularly likes her, but because he thinks Peter is a menace to Russia's economy as a whole. Dmitry thinks his decisions to call off the war with Prussia and start a brand new one are not strategic and will be terrible to the economy. He wants to name this central bank the "Assignment Bank."

14. Thomas Dimsdale, Catherine's Doctor

Though he's from England, Thomas has always taken an interest in Russian affairs. As a man of science, Dr. Dimsdale fully supports the Enlightenment movement, and often treats his patients (including Catherine) as a captive audience for his ramblings on variolation, medical ethics, and other new ideas in the medical field. His main research interest is smallpox, and he's written a number of papers on the spread of smallpox both in England and in Russia. He has a great deal of influence and connections in London society, and is often regarded as a trusted source for both medical advice and local gossip he hears from his patients. Thomas has access to a number of medicines and medical devices and actively seeks to provide medical care to those who are poor and underserved. In his heart of hearts, Thomas wants smallpox and other horrific diseases to be eradicated, but he knows this will not come without wealthy Russian aristocrats understanding the severity of the disease firsthand.

15. Oksana Petrov, Liaison to the People (Member at Large)

Oksana is a lady of the court and her job is to take stock of the attitudes of the people of the land. She certainly knows every attitude of every person in the court, and she is full of secrets. She loves to meet people and hear about their lives, though she is not allowed to leave the palace as much as she would like. Peter often dismisses her opinions and does not give her the resources to do her job properly. She would like to be out in schools, in the country, surveying the people of Russia on what they want from their leadership. However, Peter does not value the people's opinions and does not respect her. When she does go out in the field, she is much loved by the people and often brings them food and other supplies. She is allied with Catherine because she wants a leadership that listens to the people's needs and makes things more egalitarian for women.

16. Mariel Volkov, Catherine's Lady-in-Waiting

Catherine's lady in waiting Mariel is a short-tempered but loving woman. She aids Catherine in all aspects of her life and has the most uninterrupted access to Catherine as well as what she eats, drinks, wears, etc. Mariel is a big source of inspiration to Catherine, and she hates Peter. She and her family used to be aristocrats before Peter stripped them of their titles due to their vocal disapproval of the war against Denmark. It is rumored that it was Mariel who planted the idea of a coup in Catherine's head, and while Mariel is ostensibly loyal to Catherine, Mariel's true loyalty lies with her family. Her primary motivation is returning her family to their station. Mariel has many connections within the palace due to her position as servant, she knows the ins and outs of all the aristocratic drama. She also has loose connections within the church due to her family's past relationships with high-ranking members.

17. Alexei "Alyosha" Federov, Monk

The youngest of 3 boys, Alyosha is known in his family for being kind-hearted, incredibly devout, but a bit naive. While his older brothers Dmitri and Ivan are agnostic at best, Alyosha has found a great amount of meaning in the Church, particularly under the mentorship of Elder Zosima, a central figure at the Smolny monastery where Alyosha spends most of his time. Alyosha believes that having a bit more of an emphasis on faith would greatly benefit the people of Russia, and worries

about academic individuals like his brother Ivan losing all ties to religion. All in all, Alyosha values empathy above all else, and believes that the monastic lifestyle is the best way to practice virtue. Rather than focusing on bureaucracy and political reforms, Alyosha is content to be at one with nature and those around him, and is known as an enigmatic individual who never fails to make people smile and feel welcome.

18. Nikolai Vasiliev, Palace Cook

Nikolai Vasiliev is the finest cook in the land. He was born into a servant family and grew up working as a servant to a lord on the outskirts of Moscow. He was constantly around food and began to fill in for the kitchen staff when they were sick or too tired. Soon, the lord became aware that Nikolai was cooking some of the best meals the lord had had in years. Since the lord regularly hosted guests from all across Russia, Nikolai's talents became renowned and he was offered a job at the palace when the last cook was executed. Even though Nikolai has risen to fame, he is aware that most people do not have the same opportunity and stands with the servants on most issues even though he is of higher status than the other palace staff. He oversees all food preparation in the palace and is the one who organizes all of the food tasting to protect against poisoning. He also is in charge of purchasing food for the kitchen, so he has access to a vast culinary network across Europe.

19. Rodya Antonov, Expeditionist

Rodya Antonov is an explorer at heart, and is currently tasked with surveying land and resources all over Russia for the purpose of expanding the population out into potentially resource-dense areas in Western Russia. Rodya has amazing relationships with indigenous groups in the west and has set up some preliminary trade with them. Rodya focuses a lot on respecting the people already living on the land, since they know best. Rodya has a wide knowledge of different foods, cultures, and military tactics from around the world due to his wide travels across Europe, Asia, and Africa. He loves sharing and promoting a worldly view and supports Catherine due to the fact that she wants to open Russia up to different influences.

20. Fyodor Rokotov, Portrait Painter

Fyodor is a prominent Russian artist and portrait painter who is well-known among the aristocracy for his immense talent. His time is coveted and he is very high in demand. He was originally born into a serf family overseen by Prince Vasily Anikitovich Repnin, Peter the III's tutor and prominent military general. By schmoozing with Prince Vasily and showing off his talent, he got himself sent to the Saint Petersburg Academy of the Arts. There, he discovered the value of education and improved greatly upon his skill and style as a painter while making friends with many other prominent Russian artists, musicians, and writers. He also made enough painting to fully buy his way out of serfdom. After that, he continued on his career as a painter and academic, but never forgot his upbringing. He is a big advocate for serf rights and the abolition of serfdom, as well as universal education and more funding for the arts.

21. Daneil Dumaresq, Reverend

Reverend Dumaresq was an Oxford-educated scholar and member of the Fellowship of the Royal Society. He consulted on educational policies for the Russian and Polish governments, favoring religious education, but promoted widespread education nonetheless. The Russian Orthodox Church is not a big fan of Catherine, but the Reverend assures Catherine that she is much loved by the clergy of Western Europe. Reverend Dumaresq works with a lot of nobility through his travels. He promotes Western values and wants to help Catherine reform Russian society.

22. Stanislaw August Poniatowski, Aristocrat

Stanislaw is the King of Poland and the Grand Duke of Lithuania. He served as the ambassador to Russia for most of his life, and he quickly befriended Catherine. He is quite politically savvy and his alliance with Catherine helped him gain the Polish throne after the death of the previous King. Peter III, along with his Prussian allies, are working very hard to limit the territory and wealth of Poland, which Stanislaw has grown tired of. Stanislaw is a big proponent of enlightenment values and hopes to reform Poland from within, but he needs more support-- perhaps it can come from within Russia.

23. Ivan Gudovich, General

Ivan's father was an influential member of the elite Ukrainian military organization called the "Cossack starshina." Aspiring to follow in his father's footsteps, Ivan Gudovich studied at the Königsberg Albertina University and the University of Leipzig. Ivan arrived in St. Petersburg in 1759, eager to utilize his military knowledge. He already had connections in Russia, as his brother, Andrey, was a close advisor to Peter III. When Ivan joined the Russian Army, he quickly ascended the ranks, to the status of General. At this time, Ivan feels a great obligation to Peter III. However, Ivan is growing increasingly skeptical of Peter III's ability to lead. Given the opportunity, Ivan would love to support the ambitions of a powerful woman such as Catherine.

24. Geordania Tankov, Art Advisor

From a young age, Geordania aspired to be an actress. After the death of her mother, she ran away to join a circus troupe, where she excelled in acrobatics, music, and dance. Geordania quickly became fascinated by the wealthy attendees at the circus, and thought of ways to scheme money from them. Through cons and tricks, she amassed a small fortune by the age of 14. When the troupe visited Moscow, Geordania decided to stay in the bustling city. She bought a theater named "The Unaccompanied Woman," in the neighborhood of Tverskoy, which quickly became successful. When Catherine attended one of the performances at The Unaccompanied Woman, she wrote a formal letter for Geordania to join her court as an Art Advisor. Geordania immediately accepted. Now, Geordania buys artworks and invests in theater on Catherine's behalf. She hopes to make Russia the art capital of the world, and hopes to make plenty of money along the way.

25. Tanya Zaitsev, Private Investigator

When she was only eight years old, Tanya solved her first mystery. Granted, the mystery was about who stole her baklava, and the culprit was her sister. Tanya was an excellent student, and spent her free time reading mystery novels. She later worked as a secretary for her town's police post, and regularly helped in local investigations. Realizing she was especially talented in detective-work, Tanya moved to St. Petersburg in 1755 to set up a small Private Investigation Agency. Tanya immersed herself into the underground societies of St. Petersburg, and was able to catch many high-

profile outlaws. In 1758, Catherine hired Tanya to bring down a ruble-counterfeit ring in the city. After Tanya successfully toppled this criminal organization, Catherine asked Tanya to be her court's justice advisor. Tanya appreciates this new role, but also continues to conduct her own investigations. So far, Tanya has found no evidence of wrongdoing in Catherine's court, as these are all trusted people. However, Tanya has become increasingly worried about other Russian elites who oppose Catherine. With her underground connections and experience in investigation, Tanya hopes to protect Catherine's court and to advance Catherine's personal interests.

Appendix: Parliamentary Procedure

N.B. Big thanks to UChicago alumna Katie DeLong who developed most of this guide!

Parliamentary procedure is the foundation of debate in Model United Nations and allows for efficient discussion and resolution of the challenges you will face in committee. We here provide a guide to the most commonly used motions and points, with explanations of their application in committee, below. These procedural formalities are based on Robert's Rules of Order, rules which are still in use in many discussion-oriented forums today. Do not expect to memorize all of these without prior MUN experience; the Chair's main responsibility is to clearly and quickly guide you through debate, and they will work with you to shape debate in your interests. We do, however, encourage you to become familiar with some of the terms, and the rest will come with time.

The Chair presides over committee in the Frontroom and holds the ultimate responsibility and power of deciding the procedural rules of committee. As such, in the interest of time and flow of committee, some parliamentary rules may be adjusted to adapt to the committee's needs. If you ever have concerns or questions about the decisions of the Chair or the rules themselves, do not hesitate to raise a Point of Order or ask for clarification after a session.

Common Terms and Motions

Common terms:

- **Dais:** The area at the front of the room where the Chair and other committee staff members may sit to moderate debate.
- **Dilatory:** This motion is not applicable or useful at this time and so will not be entertained by the Dais
- **In order:** This motion is applicable and will proceed as is customary
- **Abstentions:** Delegates may not abstain from voting on Procedural matters but may abstain from voting on Substantive matters (e.g. only directives or amendments). Abstentions will change the number of "Yay" votes required for a majority.
- **Chair's discretion:** As the procedural decision-maker, the Chair retains all ability to allow, reject, or change proposed motions by delegates.
- **Sponsor:** Delegates who write substantial parts of a directive are known as sponsors. Merged directives have all of the original authors as sponsors.
- **Signatories:** Delegates who wish to see a directive introduced and voted upon. Signatories do not have to vote for a directive. Directives will require a certain number of signatories before being introduced to the Chair, and this number will be made clear to all delegates at the start of committee.

In order of most disruptive to least disruptive, the common motions of debate are as follows:

1. Motion to Modify Debate
 - a. Open, Adjourn, or Close Debate
 - b. Suspend the Rules
2. Points
 - a. Of Order (May Interrupt Speeches)
 - b. Of Personal Privilege (May Interrupt Speeches)
 - c. Of Inquiry (May Not Interrupt Speeches)
3. Motion to Enter Voting Procedure
 - a. With Modifications
 - i. More Speakers / Addendums
 1. Roll Call Vote
 - ii. Less Speakers / Addendums
 1. Unanimous Consent
 2. Standard For & Against
 - b. Without Modifications
4. Motion to Extend the Previous Moderated Caucus
 - a. Total Time (Longest to Shortest)
5. Motion to Introduce Directives
 - a. All Directives
 - b. Some Directives
 - c. A Directive
6. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus
 - a. Total Time (Longest to Shortest)
7. Motion for a Moderated Caucus
 - a. Strawpoll
 - b. Round Robin
 - c. Number of Speakers
 - d. Total Time (Longest to Shortest)

Motion Math Table

	Length of Moderated Caucus										
		3 min	4 min	5 min	6 min	7 min	8 min	9 min	10 min	11 min	12 min
Time of Speech	30 s	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
	45 s	4			8			12			16
	1 min	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

The numbers inside the cells are the number of speakers per moderated caucus - if it's gray that means it isn't divisible by 45 sec!

Common Motions Ranked in Order of Disruptiveness

1. Motion to introduce all directives and move into voting procedure **2 for 2 against**, 45 s speaking time
2. Motion to introduce all directives and move into voting procedure **1 for 1 against**, 45 s speaking time
3. Motion to introduce all directives and move directly into voting procedure
4. Motion to **extend** the current moderated caucus **by half**
5. Motion for a **10 min unmod**
6. Motion for a **5 min unmod**
7. Motion for a **round robin** with 45s speaking time on the crisis update
8. Motion for a **10:30** on the crisis update
9. Motion for an **8:30** on the crisis update
10. Motion for a **9:45** on the crisis update
11. Motion for a **6:30** on the crisis update
12. Motion for a **6:45** on the crisis update

Beginning a Committee Session

A session may begin with announcements about logistics, social events, feedback, etc. Crisis sessions often open with a crisis break, which gives the delegates new information and goals to debate.

Roll Call and Vote Majorities:

After announcements, the Chair will take a roll call to establish voting members and voting majorities. As you will note, some motions require simple ($\frac{1}{2}$) majorities, while others will require $\frac{2}{3}$ majorities.

Any majority will be calculated with the exclusion of abstentions: for example, a simple majority in a committee of 15 would normally be 8 delegates. If two delegates abstained, the number of voting members would fall to 13, and a simple majority would be 7.

Motion to Open Debate:

After announcements and roll call delegates may Motion to Open Debate. This formally opens the floor for points and motions.

Procedural Matters

While moderating, the Chair will return to certain phrases that open the floor for delegates to propose new directions for committee through the proposal of points and motions.

The most common is as follows: *Chair: "Are there any points or motions on the floor?"*

Point of Order

This is allowed to interrupt a speech, and these are used when the delegate believes there is an error in parliamentary procedure or a lapse in decorum. These should be raised immediately after the infraction to highlight it to the Chair. In some cases, the Chair will bend rules to maintain flow and efficiency of committee, so delegates must use their discretion.

Delegate: *"Point of Order, unmoderated caucuses are more disruptive than moderated caucuses."*

Point of Personal Privilege

This is allowed to interrupt a speech, and these are used for any non-committee personal discomforts. Typical requests include speaking volume, air conditioning, and paper movement.

Delegate: *"Point of Personal Privilege, can the speaker please speak louder? It is hard to hear."*

Delegate: *"Point of Personal Privilege, could someone send the link to the directive again? I cannot find it."*

Point of Inquiry

This should not interrupt a speech, but may interrupt the Chair regarding debate proceedings. These are used to ask questions about the committee rules or pertinent information to the topic at hand.

Delegate: *"Point of Inquiry, what is the voting order for the directives on the floor?"*

Right of Reply

This is ONLY in order when a delegate personally insults, or questions another delegate's right to be in the committee. Note that an aggressive or even insulting speech directed at another delegate's ideas or papers does not warrant a Right of Reply. A request for a formal Right of Reply must be submitted to the Chair in writing, and is ONLY allowed at Chair's discretion. Please submit such requests through the Zoom chat and by subsequently raising your hand through Zoom to alert the chair to the note.

- Warranted: *"There's no reason for the Minister of Agriculture to even be here!"*
- Unwarranted: *"The Minister of Finance's plan sounds like garbage."* Or, *"Your policies are a clear example of imperialism."* Or, *"Your plan does not address crumbling infrastructure"* even if the statement appears false.

Motion for a Moderated (Mod) Caucus

A form of debate in which the duration, speaking time, and the topic of discussion must be requested when the motion is made. These are generally 5-12 minutes long with a speaking time of 30, 45, or 60 seconds. Ensure that the duration is divisible by the speaking time, and calculate the total number of speakers to determine order of disruptiveness. Motions with more speakers will have priority over proposed moderated caucuses with longer times.

Delegate: *"Motion for a 9-minute Moderated Caucus with a 45-second speaking time on the topic of appropriate responses to the crisis update."*

- If the motion passes, then the delegate who proposed it may choose to give either the first or last speech.
Chair: *"This Motion passes. Delegate, would you like the first or last speech?"*
- A moderated caucus ends immediately if there are no delegates wishing to speak.
- A moderated caucus may be disrupted by new motions at Chair's discretion.

Motion to Extend the Previous Moderated Caucus: The committee may vote to extend the previous moderated caucus. The extension cannot be longer than the original moderated caucus, and the original speaking time and topic must be kept.

Motion for an Unmoderated (Unmod) Caucus

A form of debate in which delegates may move around the room and speak freely about merging, directives, etc. A total time must be requested when the motion is made, but the topic is not

formalized. Delegates will often give a topic to clarify why an unmoderated caucus is needed, which is recommended procedure, but these are not always required and should not be restated by the Chair. Delegate: *"Motion for a 6-minute Unmoderated Caucus."*

Motion to Extend the Previous Unmoderated Caucus: Technically, unmoderated caucuses cannot be extended, but use Chair's discretion if the extension is warranted e.g., session is about to end or there is an urgent need to merge directives.

Motion for a Round Robin

This is used when a delegate wants every individual in the committee to give a speech on a particular issue in a rotating fashion around the table. A Round Robin proceeds clockwise to or from the motioning delegate. Delegates may "pass" and refuse their speech, but cannot be returned to. Round Robins can be productive when opening a session, during tense talks on controversial issues, and on discussions of how to proceed, but rarely in other situations and so may be deemed dilatory.

Delegate: *"Motion for a Round Robin with 1-minute speaking time."*

- If the motion passes, then the delegate who proposed it may choose to give either the first or last speech. Speaking proceeds clockwise around the table to the delegate's left.

Chair: *"This Motion passes. Delegate, would you like the first or last speech?"*

Motion for a Strawpoll

This is used when a delegate wants to know the current sentiments of the room on an issue. They are non-binding and do not affect the state of any directives or amendments on the table. Strawpolls may at times be accepted by Chair's discretion.

Delegate: *"Motion for a Strawpoll on whether we should seek peace with the Austrians."*

Chair: *"By Chair's discretion this motion passes."* Or *"That motion is in order. Any other points or motions on the floor?"*

Motion to Suspend the Rules

This can be used to avoid technicalities in procedure and do anything creative. A Motion to Suspend the Rules **requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote**. Many common motions are technically suspensions of the rules (e.g., Round Robin and Strawpoll), but are treated as standard motions requiring a simple majority. As Chair, you may decide what to consider a suspension of the rules, but it is important to remain consistent.

Delegate: *"Motion to Suspend the Rules and censor the General's voting rights." ; "Motion to Suspend the Rules and place the Minister of Intelligence on trial for treason" ; "Motion to Suspend the Rules and expel the Police Chief from the body" ; "Motion to Suspend the Rules and have a Q&A before entering voting procedure." ; and "Motion to Suspend the Rules and declare directives A and B mutually exclusive."*

Motion to Censor

A censor may be in order if a delegate has committed or are convicted of a serious crime. Censoring is by Chair's discretion and then by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote. It is not to be taken lightly in committee. If a delegate is censored, they may have their voting rights, directive signatory rights, or in serious cases their speaking rights removed for a period of time.

Delegate: *"Motion to Suspend the Rules and Censor the General's voting rights for acts of treason until their formal Trial Ruling."*

Motion for a Question and Answer (Q&A): This is used when delegates want to hear what the authors of the directive or proposal think and how they address any of the committee's concerns. A time duration must be stated, but is only expended during answering; questions are not included in the time limit.

Delegate: *"Motion to Suspend the Rules for a 2-minute Q&A on each directive on the table."*

Motion for a Trial: A trial occurs when a committee decides that a delegate must be questioned and investigated, often for asserted crimes against committee. Trials take time away from debate and substantive work, and so must only be allowed sparingly and by Chair's approval. As trials vary between committees, due to the potential complexity and nuance of the accusations, a plan for a trial should be outlined and passed to the Chair in written form. The Chair will decide, by Chair's discretion, whether to adapt the plan (putting in place time limits, changing the number of speakers in a Q&A session, or otherwise changing the trial structure) to keep the trial streamlined and efficient. Then the Chair, if they so please, will allow the committee to vote on whether or not to hold the trial. As trials can end with harsh sentences for individual delegates, it is recommended that the Committee Executives, including the Crisis Directors, work with the accused delegate ahead of time to create a new character so that the delegate may continue debating and participating in committee. For an example of a trial outline, please refer to your Chair (as a delegate) or your USG (as a Chair).

Substantive Matters

Introducing and Voting on Directives at once:

While here discussed in two separate parts, the motions to Introduce and Vote upon directives are often proposed in conjunction. This is in order with traditional MUN parliamentary procedure and so will be allowed at conference. If this is proposed, then it takes priority over simple Motions to Introduce and will therefore be voted upon first. The directives included and terms for voting, including number of speakers for/against and the times of those speeches, must be included in the motion and remain the same for all directives to which the motion applies. The Chair will read/summarize an individual directive and then vote on that directive immediately, moving on to the next after the previous one passes or fails. **This motion does not allow for introduction of amendments, friendly or unfriendly, as the room is considered to enter voting procedure directly after introductions end.**

Motion to Introduce Directives

This is used when a delegate wants to introduce all of the directives on the floor with enough signatories. Directives are introduced in the order received. By default, the motion regards all directives, but a delegate may also motion to introduce a subset of directives or even a single directive. Delegate: *"Motion to Introduce All Directives."*

- If this motion passes, then the Chair should introduce the directives by reading them aloud. While the Chair is reading, the Front Room AC should summarize each directive in writing and share the summaries with the CD(s).
- Directives must have a certain number of signatories and sponsors to be introduced (generally 25-30% of committee members). Sponsors and signatories are additive.

Chair: "As we have 20 present delegates, I will require a minimum of 5 delegates as sponsors and signatories in order to accept any directive to the dais. This may be 1 sponsor and 4 signatories or vice versa."

Motion to Introduce Amendments

This is used when a delegate wishes to introduce friendly or unfriendly amendments to an introduced directive. Amendments must be introduced after the directive has been introduced, and before voting procedure.

Delegate: "*Motion to Introduce Amendments for Directive 'Fake News'*"

- Friendly amendments are written or agreed to by sponsor(s) and will generally be included at Chair's discretion if all the sponsors agree to the change.
- Unfriendly amendments are written by non-sponsor(s) and introduced with sufficient signatories. Unfriendly amendments can be passed with the consent of the sponsor(s) or, failing that, a simple majority vote in committee.

Motion to Enter Voting Procedure

This is used to vote on a directive or amendment. Only introduced directives or amendments may be voted on. When voting in Voting Procedure, no delegate is allowed to leave the room. All delegates must respond with a "Yay," "Nay," or "Abstain" vote.

Delegate: "*Motion to Enter Voting Procedure on all of the directives on the floor.*"

Motion to Enter Modified Voting Procedure

This is used to vote on a directive or amendment with any additional aspect to the motion. Commonly, this includes for and against speakers and the Chair's summary of each directive.

Delegate: "*Motion to Enter Voting Procedure on all directives with 2 speakers for and 2 speakers against with a 30-second speaking time.*"

Motion to Divide the Question

This is used when a delegate wants to separate out specific clauses from the directive, and is commonly used when a directive is agreeable except for a few contentious clauses.

Delegate: "*Motion to Divide the Question on clauses 3 and 4.*"

- If this motion passes, then the Chair will allow or encourage the delegates to Motion to Enter Voting Procedure, first on the clauses that were divided out of the directive, and second on the clauses that remained in the original directive.

Chair: "*The Chair would look favorably upon a Motion to Enter Voting Procedure on clauses 3 and 4.*" And, "*Next, the Chair would look favorably upon a Motion to Enter Voting Procedure on the original directives without clauses 3 and 4.*"

- If this motion fails, the directive will be voted on as a whole.

Motion for a Roll Call Vote

This is used when a delegate wants each individual in the committee to vote by roll call rather than voting by a show of hands. Technically, this motion does not require a vote, and is immediately adopted. However, use Chair's discretion if the roll call vote would be unproductive. If you are unsure whether or not it might be productive, you may call for an informal straw poll regarding the roll call vote.

Delegate: "*Motion for a Roll Call Vote.*"

Chair: *"By Chair's discretion this will not be entertained."*

Motion for a Vote by Unanimous Consent

Voting by Unanimous Consent is used only when the delegates wish to move quickly through directives that have the support of the entire body. When voting, the chair will say *"No Objections"* three times, with a pause in between each time, to allow for any delegate to raise an objection.

- If an objection is raised before the third statement of *"No Objections,"* the room automatically enters standard voting procedure.
- If no objections are raised, the directive passes unanimously and immediately.

Ending a Committee Session

Closing Remarks

A session may end with announcements about logistics, social events, feedback, etc. The Chair will lead committee through closing remarks. Instructions on how to receive feedback will be given during closing remarks.

Motion to Close/Adjourn Debate

After closing remarks, the Chair will allow or encourage the delegates to Motion to Close/Adjourn Debate. This formally closes the floor to points and motions. Technically, the Chair should announce a motion to "Close" debate if committee is officially over, and a motion to "Adjourn" debate for breaks during and in between sessions.

Chair: *"The Chair would look favorably upon a Motion to Close/Adjourn Debate."*

Bibliography

- Attman, Artur. "The Russian Market in World Trade, 1500–1860." *Scandinavian Economic History Review* 29, no. 3 (September 1981): 177–202.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03585522.1981.10407958>.
- Briangotts. "Map Showing the Major Varangian Trade Routes." 2007.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Varangian_routes.png.
- Bristow, William. "Enlightenment." In *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Edward N. Zalta, Fall 2017. Metaphysics Research Lab, Stanford University, 2017.
<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2017/entries/enlightenment/>.
- "Climate of the World: Russia | Woeurope.Eu." Accessed November 10, 2021.
<https://www.woeurope.eu/reports/climate/Russia.htm>.
- De Madariaga, Isabel. "The Foundation of the Russian Educational System by Catherine II." *The Slavonic and East European Review* 57, no. 3 (1979): 369–95.
- Encyclopedia Britannica. "Catherine the Great | Biography, Facts, Children, & Accomplishments." Accessed September 15, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Catherine-the-Great>.
- Fisher, Alan W. "Enlightened Despotism and Islam Under Catherine II." *Slavic Review* 27, no. 4 (1968): 542–53. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2494437>.
- Grey, Ian. *Peter the Great, Emperor of All Russia*. Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1960.
<http://archive.org/details/petergreatemperooogrey>.
- KaterBegemot. English: Simplified Romanov Family Tree (from Mikhail Fyodorovich to Elizaveta Petrovna). February 14, 2010. Own work.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Romanov_tree_1_simple_de.png.
- Klier, John D. "The Ambiguous Legal Status of Russian Jewry in the Reign of Catherine II." *Slavic Review* 35, no. 3 (1976): 504–17. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2495122>.
- "Kyivan Rus'." Accessed November 9, 2021.
<http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages%5CK%5CY%5CKyivanRushDA.htm>.
- Leonard, Carol S. "The Reputation of Peter III." *The Russian Review* 47, no. 3 (1988): 263–92.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/130591>.
- Madariaga, Isabel de. *Ivan the Terrible*. Yale University Press, 2006.

- Manaeu, Georgy. "The Madness of 3 Russian Tsars, and the Truth behind It," January 7, 2019.
<https://www.rbth.com/history/329825-madness-of-3-russian-tsars>.
- Marxist Internet Archive. "Russian Expansion in Eurasia between 1533–1896." 2009.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Russia_1533-1896.gif.
- Mavor, James. An Economic History of Russia. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1914.
- Miloradovich, Sergey. Defense of the Troitse-Sergiyeva Lavra against the Poles in 1610. 1894.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Miloradovichdefense.jpg>.
- "Pale of Settlement, Jewish," Britannica Student Encyclopedia. Accessed August 23, 2021,
<https://staff.washington.edu/rmcnamar/link269/article1.html>.
- "The Pale of Settlement." Accessed August 23, 2021. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-pale-of-settlement>.
- Perrie, Maureen, D. C. B. Lieven, and Ronald Grigor Suny. The Cambridge History of Russia: Volume 1, From Early Rus' to 1689. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- "Peter II | Emperor of Russia | Britannica." Accessed November 10, 2021.
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Peter-II-emperor-of-Russia>.
- "Political Poruka in Muscovite Rus' on JSTOR." Accessed November 9, 2021.
https://www.jstor.org/stable/130622?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents.
- Randolph, John. "5. Communication and Obligation: The Postal System of the Russian Empire, 1700–1850." In Information and Empire : Mechanisms of Communication in Russia, 1600-1850, edited by Katherine Bowers and Simon Franklin, 155–83. OBP Collection. Cambridge: Open Book Publishers, 2018. <http://books.openedition.org/obp/4750>.
- "Russia: Oat Production." Foreign Agriculture Service U.S. Department of Agriculture, n.d.
https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/rssiws/al/crop_production_maps/Russia/Russia_Oats.jpg.
- "Russia: Total Wheat Production." Foreign Agriculture Service U.S. Department of Agriculture, n.d.
https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/rssiws/al/crop_production_maps/Russia/Russia_Total_Wheat.jpg.
- Shepard, William Robert. "The Growth of Russia in Europe, 1300–1796." 1911.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Shepherd-c-138-139.jpg>.
- Shlapentokh, Dmitry. "The Time of Troubles: Did It Ever End?" Institute of Modern Russia, May 15, 2019. <https://imrussia.org/en/analysis/3021-the-time-of-trouble-has-it-ever-ended-in-russia>.

- Sinelschikova, Yekaterina. "'Dog-Headed People': What Was Ivan the Terrible's 'Oprichnina' Force," August 4, 2017. https://www.rbth.com/arts/history/2017/08/04/dog-headed-people-what-was-ivan-the-terribles-oprichnina-force_816772.
- SeikoEn. "Principalities of the Later Kievan Rus." 2011. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Principalities_of_Kievan_Rus%27_\(1054-1132\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Principalities_of_Kievan_Rus%27_(1054-1132).jpg).
- "Time of Troubles | Russian History | Britannica." Accessed November 10, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Time-of-Troubles>.
- Timofeychev, Alexey. "The Romanovs: How the Royal Dynasty Began with a Kindhearted Teenager Who Liked Flowers," September 15, 2017. <https://www.rbth.com/history/326180-romanovs-how-dynasty-began>.
- "Tsar Elizabeth of Russia." Accessed November 10, 2021. https://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/elizabetsar.html.
- WIRTSCHAFTER, ELISE KIMERLING. "Religion and Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century Russia: Father Platon at the Court of Catherine II." *The Slavonic and East European Review* 88, no. 1/2 (2010): 180–203.
- "История России с Древнейших Времен, Глава Первая, Глава 1 - Профессор Сергей Михайлович Соловьев - Читать, Скачать." Accessed November 9, 2021. https://azbyka.ru/otechnik/Sergej_Solovev/istorija-rossii-s-drevnejshih-vremen/1_1.
- "Карты Санкт-Петербурга." Accessed September 15, 2021. http://www.spbin.ru/maps/map_stoyter_1744.htm.