

Russia in the XVII century

Russia defended its independence, but suffered serious territorial losses. The result of the intervention and the peasant war led by I. Bolotnikov (1606-1607) was a severe economic devastation. Contemporaries called it "the great Moscow ruin". Almost half of the arable land was abandoned. Having put an end to the intervention, Russia begins to slowly and with enormous difficulties to restore its economy. This became the main content of the reign of the first two tsars from the Romanov dynasty - Mikhail Fedorovich (1613-1645) and Alexei Mikhailovich (1645-1676).

To improve the work of government bodies and create a more equitable system of taxation, by order of Mikhail Romanov, a population census was carried out, land inventories were compiled. In the first years of his reign, the role of the Zemsky Sobor increased, which became a kind of permanent national council under the tsar and gave the Russian state an external resemblance to a parliamentary monarchy.

The Swedes, who ruled in the north, failed at Pskov and in 1617 concluded the Stolbovsky Peace, according to which Novgorod was returned to Russia. At the same time, however, Russia lost the entire coast of the Gulf of Finland and access to the Baltic Sea. The situation changed only after almost a hundred years, at the beginning of the 18th century, already under Peter I.

During the reign of Mikhail Romanov, an intensive construction of "notch lines" against the Crimean Tatars was also carried out, and further colonization of Siberia took place.

After the death of Mikhail Romanov, his son Alexei came to the throne. Since the time of his reign, the establishment of autocratic power actually begins. The activities of the Zemsky Sobors ceased, the role of the Boyar Duma diminished.

In 1654, the Order of Secret Affairs was created, which was directly subordinate to the king and exercised control over state administration.

The reign of Alexei Mikhailovich was marked by a number of popular uprisings - urban uprisings, the so-called. "Copper riot", peasant war led by Stepan Razin. In a number of cities in Russia (Moscow, Voronezh, Kursk, etc.), uprisings broke out in 1648. The uprising in Moscow in June 1648 was called the "salt riot". It was caused by the dissatisfaction of the population with the predatory policy of the government, which, in order to replenish the state treasury, replaced various direct taxes with a single tax - on salt, which caused its price to rise several times. The uprising was attended by townspeople, peasants and archers. The rebels set fire to the White City, Kitay-Gorod, and destroyed the courts of the most hated boyars, clerks and merchants. The king was forced to make temporary concessions to the rebels, and then, having caused a split in the ranks of the rebels, executed many leaders and active participants in the uprising.

In 1650, uprisings took place in Novgorod and Pskov. They were caused by the enslavement of the townspeople by the Cathedral Code of 1649. The uprising in Novgorod was quickly suppressed by the authorities. In Pskov, this did not work, and the government had to negotiate and make some concessions.

On June 25, 1662, Moscow was shaken by a new major uprising - the "copper riot". Its reasons were the disruption of the economic life of the state during the years of the wars of Russia with Poland and Sweden, a sharp increase in taxes and an increase in feudal-serf exploitation. The release of a large amount of copper money, equal in value to silver, led to their depreciation, the mass production of counterfeit copper money. The uprising was attended by up to 10 thousand people, mainly residents of the capital. The rebels went to the village of Kolomenskoye, where the tsar was, and demanded the extradition of the traitorous boyars. The troops brutally suppressed this uprising, but the government, frightened by the uprising, in 1663 canceled the copper money.

The strengthening of serfdom and the general deterioration of the life of the people became the main reasons for the peasant war under the leadership of Stepan Razin (1667-1671). The uprising was attended by the peasants, the urban poor, the poorest Cossacks. The movement began with a robbery campaign of the Cossacks against Persia. On the way back, the differences came to Astrakhan. Local authorities decided to let them pass through the city, for which they received part of the weapons and loot. Then Razin's detachments occupied Tsaritsyn, after which they went to the Don. In the spring of 1670, the second period of the uprising began, the main content of which was an uprising against the boyars, nobles, merchants. The rebels again took possession of Tsaritsyn, and then Astrakhan. Samara and Saratov surrendered without a fight. In early September, Razin's detachments approached Simbirsk. By that time, they were joined by the peoples of the Volga region - the Tatars, the Mordovians. The movement soon swept over Ukraine as well. Razin failed to take Simbirsk. Wounded in battle, Razin retreated to the Don with a small detachment. There he was captured by wealthy Cossacks and sent to Moscow, where he was executed.

The turbulent time of Alexei Mikhailovich's reign was marked by another important event - the split of the Orthodox Church. In 1654, on the initiative of Patriarch Nikon, a church council convened in Moscow, at which it was decided to compare church books with their Greek originals and establish a uniform and binding procedure for all ceremonies. Many priests, led by Archpriest Avvakum, opposed the resolution of the council and announced their departure from the Orthodox Church, headed by Nikon. They began to be called schismatics or Old Believers. The opposition to the reform that arose in church circles became a peculiar form of social protest. In carrying out the reform, Nikon set theocratic goals - to create a strong ecclesiastical authority over the state. However, the intervention of the patriarch in the affairs of state administration caused a break with the tsar, which resulted in the deposition of Nikon and the transformation of the church into part of the state apparatus. This was another step towards the establishment of autocracy.

Reunification of Ukraine with Russia

During the reign of Alexei Mikhailovich in 1654, the reunification of Ukraine and Russia took place. In the 17th century, Ukrainian lands were ruled by Poland. Catholicism was forcibly introduced there, Polish magnates and gentry appeared, who brutally oppressed the Ukrainian people, which caused the rise of the national liberation movement. Its center was the Zaporizhzhya Sich, where the free Cossacks were formed. Bohdan Khmelnytsky became the head of this movement.

In 1648, his troops defeated the Poles near Zheltye Vody, Korsun and Pilyavtsy. After the defeat of the Poles, the uprising spread to all of Ukraine and part of Belarus. At the same time Khmelnytsky turned

to Russia with a request to admit Ukraine to the Russian state. He understood that only in alliance with Russia was it possible to get rid of the danger of the complete enslavement of Ukraine by Poland and Turkey. However, at this time the government of Alexei Mikhailovich could not satisfy his request, since Russia was not ready for war. Nevertheless, despite all the difficulties of its domestic political position, Russia continued to provide Ukraine with diplomatic, economic and military support.

In April 1653 Khmelnytsky again turned to Russia with a request to accept Ukraine into it. On May 10, 1653, the Zemsky Sobor in Moscow decided to grant this request. On January 8, 1654, the Big Rada in the city of Pereyaslavl proclaimed the entry of Ukraine into Russia. In this regard, a war broke out between Poland and Russia, culminating in the signing at the end of 1667 of the Andrusov armistice. Russia received Smolensk, Dorogobuzh, Bila Tserkva, Seversk land with Chernigov and Starodub. Right-bank Ukraine and Belarus remained part of Poland as before. The Zaporizhzhya Sich, according to the agreement, was under the joint control of Russia and Poland. These conditions were finally fixed in 1686 by the "Eternal Peace" of Russia and Poland.