




Era of Peter the first

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- ▶ In the 17th century, it became obvious that Russia lagged behind the advanced Western countries. The lack of access to ice-free seas hindered trade and cultural ties with Europe. The need for a regular army was dictated by the complexity of Russia's foreign policy position. The rifle army and the noble militia could no longer fully ensure its defenses. There was no large manufacturing industry, the order-based management system was outdated. Russia needed reforms.

- ▶ In 1676, the royal throne passed to the weak and sickly Fedor Alekseevich, from whom one could not expect the radical transformations so necessary for the country. And yet, in 1682 he managed to abolish parochialism - a system of distribution of ranks and positions according to nobility and nobility that had existed since the XIV century. In the field of foreign policy, Russia managed to win the war with Turkey, which was forced to recognize the reunification of the Left-Bank Ukraine with Russia.
- ▶ In 1682, Fyodor Alekseevich died suddenly, and, since he was childless, a dynastic crisis erupted in Russia again, since the throne could be claimed by two sons of Aleksey Mikhailovich - sixteen-year-old sickly and weak Ivan and ten-year-old Peter. Princess Sophia did not renounce her claims to the throne either. As a result of the Strelets uprising of 1682, both heirs were declared tsars, and Sophia was their regent.
- ▶ During her reign, small concessions were made to the townspeople and the search for fugitive peasants was weakened. In 1689, there was a break between Sophia and the boyar-noble group that supported Peter I. After being defeated in this struggle, Sophia was imprisoned in the Novodevichy Convent.

Peter I. His domestic and foreign policy

- ▶ In the first period of the reign of Peter I, three events took place that decisively influenced the formation of the tsar-reformer. The first of them was the trip of the young tsar to Arkhangelsk in 1693-1694, where the sea and ships conquered him forever. The second - the Azov campaigns against the Turks in order to find an outlet to the Black Sea. The capture of the Turkish fortress of Azov was the first victory of the Russian troops and the fleet created in Russia, the beginning of the country's transformation into a naval power. On the other hand, these campaigns showed the need for changes in the Russian army. The third event was the trip of the Russian diplomatic mission to Europe, in which the tsar himself took part. The embassy did not achieve its direct goal (Russia had to abandon the fight with Turkey), but it studied the international situation, paved the way for the struggle for the Baltic states and for access to the Baltic sea

- ▶ In 1700, a difficult Northern War with the Swedes began, which lasted for 21 years. This war largely determined the pace and nature of the reforms being carried out in Russia. The Northern War was fought for the return of the lands seized by the Swedes and for the exit of Russia to the Baltic Sea. In the first period of the war (1700-1706) after the defeat of the Russian troops near Narva, Peter I was able not only to assemble a new army, but also to rebuild the country's industry in a warlike manner. Having seized key points in the Baltic States and founded the city of Petersburg in 1703, Russian troops established themselves on the coast of the Gulf of Finland.
- ▶ In the second period of the war (1707-1709), the Swedes invaded Russia through the Ukraine, but, having suffered defeat near the village of Lesnoy, were finally defeated in the Battle of Poltava in 1709. The third period of the war falls on 1710-1718, when the Russians the troops captured many Baltic cities, drove the Swedes out of Finland, together with the Poles drove the enemy back to Pomerania. The Russian fleet won a brilliant victory at Gangut in 1714.

- ▶ During the fourth period of the Great Northern War, despite the intrigues of England, who made peace with Sweden, Russia established itself on the shores of the Baltic Sea. The Great Northern War ended in 1721 with the signing of the Nystadt Peace Treaty. Sweden recognized the annexation of Livonia, Estland, Izhora land, part of Karelia and a number of islands in the Baltic Sea to Russia. Russia pledged to pay Sweden monetary compensation for the territories receding to it and return Finland. The Russian state, having regained the lands previously seized by Sweden, secured an exit to the Baltic Sea.
- ▶ Against the background of the turbulent events of the first quarter of the 18th century, there was a restructuring of all sectors of the country's life, as well as reforms of the public administration and political system - the tsar's power acquired an unlimited, absolute character. In 1721 the tsar accepted the title of the All-Russian Emperor. Thus, Russia became an empire, and its ruler became the emperor of a huge and powerful state, which became on a par with the great world powers of that time.

- ▶ The creation of new power structures began with a change in the image of the monarch himself and the foundations of his power and authority. In 1702, the Boyar Duma was replaced by the "Consilia of Ministers", and in 1711 the Senate became the supreme institution in the country. The creation of this authority also gave rise to a complex bureaucratic structure with offices, departments and numerous staffs. It was from the time of Peter I that a kind of cult of bureaucratic institutions and administrative instances was formed in Russia.
- ▶ In 1717-1718. instead of the primitive and long-obsolete system of orders, colleges were created - the prototype of future ministries, and in 1721 the establishment of the Synod, headed by a secular official, completely made the church dependent and at the service of the state. Thus, from now on, the institution of the patriarchate in Russia was abolished.

- ▶ The crown of the design of the bureaucratic structure of the absolutist state was the "Table of Ranks", adopted in 1722. According to it, military, civil and court ranks were divided into fourteen ranks - steps. Society was not only ordered, but also under the control of the emperor and the highest aristocracy. The functioning of state institutions has improved, each of which has received a certain direction of activity.
- ▶ Experiencing an acute need for money, the government of Peter I introduced the poll tax, which replaced household taxation. In this regard, in order to register the male population in the country, which has become a new object of taxation, its census was carried out - the so-called. revision. In 1723, a decree on succession to the throne was published, according to which the monarch himself received the right to appoint his successors, regardless of family ties and birthright.
- ▶ During the reign of Peter I, a large number of manufactories and mining enterprises arose, and the development of new iron ore deposits began. Promoting the development of industry, Peter I established central bodies in charge of trade and industry, and transferred state-owned enterprises into private hands.
- ▶ The patronizing tariff of 1724 protected new industries from foreign competition and encouraged the import of raw materials and products into the country, the production of which did not meet the needs of the domestic market, which manifested the policy of mercantilism.

The results of the activities of Peter I

- ▶ Thanks to the energetic activity of Peter I in the economy, in the level and forms of development of the productive forces, in the political system of Russia, in the structure and functions of government bodies, in the organization of the army, in the class and estate structure of the population, in the way of life and culture of peoples, enormous changes took place. Medieval Moscow Rus turned into the Russian Empire. The place of Russia and its role in international affairs have radically changed.
- ▶ The complexity and inconsistency of the development of Russia during this period also determined the inconsistency of the activities of Peter I in the implementation of reforms. On the one hand, these reforms had tremendous historical significance, since they went towards the national interests and needs of the country, contributed to its progressive development, being aimed at eliminating its backwardness. On the other hand, the reforms were carried out by the same serf methods and thereby contributed to the strengthening of the rule of the serf owners.
- ▶ From the very beginning, the progressive transformations of Peter the Great's time carried conservative features, which in the course of the country's development acted more and more strongly and could not ensure the elimination of its backwardness in full. Objectively, these reforms were of a bourgeois character, subjectively, their implementation led to an increase in serfdom and the strengthening of feudalism. They could not be otherwise - the capitalist structure in Russia at that time was still very weak.
- ▶ It should be noted that the cultural changes in Russian society that took place in the times of Peter the Great: the emergence of schools of the first stage, vocational schools, the Russian Academy of Sciences. A network of printing houses for printing domestic and translated publications has emerged in the country. The first newspaper in the country began to appear, and the first museum appeared. Significant changes have taken place in everyday life.