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The Modernisation of Russia 1676–1825

This important new addition to the *New Approaches to European History* series is the first book to place Russia's 'long' eighteenth century squarely in its European context. The conceptual framework is set out in an opening critique of modernisation theory which, while rejecting its linear implications, maintains its focus on the relationship between government, economy, and society. Following a chronological introduction, a series of thematic chapters emphasise the ways in which Russia's international ambitions as an emerging great power provoked administrative and fiscal reforms with wide-ranging (and often unanticipated) social consequences. Russia's kinship-dominated peasant communities were not the casual detritus of government-inspired reform, but rather its direct consequence: the more the tsars tried to modernise their state, the more backward their empire became. Though social and political history are naturally crucial to such a study, the thematic treatment adopted here also permits an unusually full discussion of the intellectual developments that helped to give educated Russians a sense of cultural autonomy even as their minds were opened to an unprecedented range of Western influences. In order to help the reader further, a chronology and a critical bibliography are also provided to allow students to discover more about this colourful period of Russian history.

SIMON DIXON is Senior Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Glasgow. He has written a number of articles on the Russian Orthodox church and on Russian nationalism, and is editor of *Britain and Russia in the Age of Peter the Great: Historical Documents* (1998).

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Preface

With the exception of peasant revolts and aspects of the reign of Peter the Great, the eighteenth century fared poorly in the hands of Soviet historians, to whom it seemed suspect as a time of foreign influence in Russian affairs. Following the fall of the USSR, the prospects have become more encouraging. Though there remains much about which we know nothing – an ignorance I have made no attempt to conceal – multi-national scholarship over the last generation or so, much of it in Russian archives, has allowed us to answer familiar questions in a fresh or better-documented way. In turn, such work has suggested new questions to ask of well-known evidence. This book attempts to draw the threads together in coherent and accessible form.

Though flashes of originality may be detected in my arguments, a book of this kind naturally draws heavily on the researches of others. I should like to have been able to acknowledge each debt individually. But whilst authors experience a frisson of conceit to see their reading recorded in copious footnotes (where its limits may be exposed), many readers merely shudder at the sight of such a cumbersome apparatus. Following the pattern of the series, I have kept references to a minimum: they identify quotations and mention works that might otherwise have escaped the bibliographical notes. To satisfy the book's anticipated readership, these highly selective reading lists are heavily slanted towards work in English, though it would have been impertinent to omit the most important Russian and continental scholarship. There is also a bias towards publications from the last two decades, not because I have confused novelty with excellence, but because recent works in turn refer to older ones, some of which are conveniently listed by P. Clendenning and R. Bartlett, *Eighteenth-Century Russia: A Select Bibliography of Works Published Since 1955* (Newtonville, MA, 1981). Dates are given in the Old Style – ten days behind the Western calendar in the seventeenth century, eleven in the eighteenth, and twelve in the nineteenth – except in the case of the events of the Napoleonic invasion where both Old and New Style dates appear. For the sake of simplicity, place names, subject

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to frequent change and some controversy, are given in their Russian form: so, for example, Belorussia not Belarus. A few common anglicisations are retained: thus, Archangel not Arkhangel′sk.

The Study Group on Eighteenth-Century Russia has offered a model of scholarly friendship to a relatively recent recruit. This book stands as testimony to the contribution its members have made to the field. I must thank, in particular, Tony Cross, Lindsey Hughes, L. R. Lewitter, and above all Roger Bartlett, whose detailed critique of much of the draft manuscript immeasurably improved it. My interest in the subject was awakened by Mr C. H. Eames at Bolton School, where another remarkable master, Mr Roy Waterhouse, taught me Russian and twice took me to Moscow. At Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, I owe most to Derek Beales, my much-missed neighbour on E Staircase, and to Tim Blanning, an eagle-eyed editor, an inspired teacher, and a generous and patient friend. At the University of Glasgow, which granted me leave in order to complete the book, I am grateful to colleagues for their encouragement and company. If I single out Thomas Munck it is because he has read several chapters with particular care. I am conscious of having stretched the tolerance of Richard Fisher at Cambridge University Press beyond all reasonable bounds. His colleague, Vicky Cuthill, has managed the final stages of production with exemplary courtesy and efficiency. Karen Anderson Howes has been a reassuringly meticulous copy-editor. Students at Cambridge, Glasgow, and Keele have allowed me to experiment in lecture form. I am as grateful to them as I am to all those friends and colleagues who have saved me from error. Remaining mistakes are entirely my responsibility.

I cannot adequately express my debt to my wife, Stephanie, who has lived with this book almost as long as she has lived with me. I dedicate this book to her.

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As in the text, dates are Old Style, according to the Julian calendar, except for the events of the Napoleonic invasion where both Old and New Style (Gregorian) dates are given.

1676–82	**Fedor Alekseevich**
1676 29	January: death of Aleksei Mikhailovich
1678	Household census
1679	February: tax assessment by land replaced by assessment by household
1682	Abolition of *mestnichestvo*
	27 April: death of Tsar Fedor sparks Moscow rebellion
1682–1725	**Peter I (1682–96 joint ruler with half-brother, Ivan V)**
1682–9	**Regency of Sophia Alekseevna (Peter's half-sister)**
1682	26 May: ritual confirmation of tsars' joint rule
1686	'Eternal peace' with Poland
1687	V. V. Golitsyn's first Crimean campaign
1689	Second Crimean campaign
	September: *strel'tsy* revolt removes Sophia leaving Peter effectively in control
1694	25 January: death of Peter's mother
1696	29 January: death of Ivan V
1696–1725	**Sole rule of Peter I**
1697–8	Grand Embassy to the West
1698	July: *strel'tsy* revolt
1700–21	Great Northern War
	1700 November: Russians defeated at Narva
	1705 February: introduction of new recruiting system
	1709 June: Swedes defeated at Poltava
	1714 July: Russian naval victory at Hangö
	1721 September: treaty of Nystad
1700	Patriarchate suspended on death of Patriarch Adrian
1703	Foundation of St Petersburg

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1707–8	Bulavin's revolt in Astrakhan′
1708–10	Reform of local government
1711–13	Russo-Turkish war
	1711 22 February: foundation of Senate
	July: Russians defeated on River Pruth
1714	23 March: law of single inheritance
1716	Military Regulation
1718	First administrative colleges founded
	Second reform of local government
	Poll tax decreed
	Death of Tsarevich Aleksei
1720	Maritime Regulation and General Regulation
1721	Spiritual Regulation
	Abolition of patriarchate and creation of Holy Synod
1722	14 February: Table of Ranks
1722–4	War with Persia
1725	Foundation of Academy of Sciences
1725–7	**Catherine I**
1726	February: creation of Supreme Privy Council
	Austro-Russian alliance
1727	May: death of Catherine I
1727–30	**Peter II**
1727	September: exile of A. D. Menshikov
1729	November: death of Menshikov
1730	January: death of Peter II creates succession crisis
	18–19 January: Supreme Privy Council seizes initiative and offers throne to Anna
1730–40	**Anna**
1730	25 February: Anna rejects D. M. Golitsyn's 'conditions'
1731	Repeal of law of single inheritance
1733–5	War of Polish Succession
1735–9	Russo-Turkish war
1739	September: peace of Belgrade
1740	October: death of Anna creates succession crisis
1740–1	**Ivan VI (Anna Leopoldovna as regent)**
1741	24–5 November: arrest of infant Ivan VI; accession of Peter I's daughter, Elizabeth
1741–61	**Elizabeth**
1741–3	Russo-Swedish war
1754	Noble monopoly on alcohol
1755	Foundation of University of Moscow
1756–62	Seven Years War

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	1757 Prussia defeated at Gross-Jägersdorf
	1759 Prussia defeated at Kunersdorf
1757	Foundation of Imperial Academy of Fine Arts
1761	25 December: death of Elizabeth
1761–2	**Peter III**
1762	18 February: edict freeing nobility from obligatory service
	21 March: confiscation of church peasants
	28 June: Empress Catherine's coup
1762–96	**Catherine II**
1764	February: secularisation of church lands
	April: Russo-Prussian alliance
	October: abolition of Ukrainian hetmanate
1765	Foundation of Free Economic Society
1767	Publication of *Nakaz*
	Legislative Commission convened
1768–74	Russo-Turkish war
	1768 December: foundation of assignat banks
	1770 Russian naval victory at Chesme
	1774 July: treaty of Kutchuk-Kainardzhii
1772	August: first partition of Poland
1773–5	Pugachev revolt
1775	7 November: provincial reform
1779	Russian mediation at peace of Teschen
1781	Secret Austro-Russian alliance
1782	Commission on Public Schools
1783	Legislation to permit private publishing
	Russia annexes the Crimea
1785	21 April: Charters to the Nobility and the Towns
1787	Catherine's journey to the south and the Crimea
1787–91	Russo-Turkish war
	1789 July: Russian victory at Fokshani
	September: Russian victory on River Rymnik
	1790 November: Russian victory at Ismail
	1791 March: crisis over Ochakov (captured in 1788)
	December: treaty of Jassy
1788–90	Russo-Swedish war
1788	July: naval stalemate at Hogland
1790	June: Russian naval defeat at Svenskund
1790	Radishchev's *Journey from St Petersburg to Moscow*
1793	April: second partition of Poland
1795	Third partition of Poland
1796	6 November: death of Catherine II

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1796–1801 Paul I

1797	5 April: law of succession
1798	Paul elected grand master of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem
1801	11–12 March: coup and assassination of Paul I

1801–25 Alexander I

1801	24 June: first meeting of Unofficial Committee
1802	8 September: decree establishing ministries
1803	February: Free Agriculturalists Law
1803–4	Reform of elementary education
1805–7	War of the Third Coalition against France
	1807 2/14 June: Russians defeated at Friedland
	13/25 June: first Tilsit meeting between tsar and Napoleon
	26 June/7 July: Russia allies with France
1807–12	Alliance with Napoleon
	1808 Russia invades Finland, incorporating it into the empire as a grand duchy
	1809 March: Alexander I promises the Finns constitution at the Diet of Porvoo
	1810 December: Russia abandons Napoleon's Continental System
1808–11	Speranskii's domestic reforms
1812	17 March: dismissal of Speranskii
1812	Napoleonic invasion of Russia
	11/23 June: Grande armée enters Russia
	26 August/7 September: battle of Borodino
	2/14 September: French troops enter Moscow
	11/23 October: Russian troops re-enter Moscow
	12/24 October: battle of Maloiaroslavets
1814	March: treaty of Chaumont; Russian troops enter Paris
1814–15	Congress of Vienna
1815	15 November: constitution of Congress Kingdom of Poland
1819–22	Siberian reforms under leadership of Speranskii, partially restored to favour
1825	19 November: death of Alexander I
	14 December: Decembrist revolt

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Abbreviations

AHR	*American Historical Review*
CASS	*Canadian–American Slavic Studies*
CMRS	*Cahiers du Monde Russe et Soviétique*
CSP	*Canadian Slavonic Papers*
CSSH	*Comparative Studies in Society and History*
EHR	*English Historical Review*
FzOG	*Forschungen zur Osteuropäischen Geschichte*
HEI	*History of European Ideas*
HEQ	*History of Education Quarterly*
HJ	*Historical Journal*
HUS	*Harvard Ukrainian Studies*
JEcH	*Journal of Economic History*
JEurEcH	*Journal of European Economic History*
JfGO	*Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas*
JIH	*Journal of Interdisciplinary History*
JMH	*Journal of Modern History*
NS	new series
OSP	*Oxford Slavonic Papers*
P&P	*Past and Present*
RH	*Russian History*
RR	*Russian Review*
SEER	*Slavonic and East European Review*
SGECRN	*Study Group on Eighteenth-Century Russia Newsletter*
SIRIO	*Sbornik imperatorskago russkago istoricheskago obshchestva*, 148 vols. (St Petersburg, 1867–1914)
SR	*Slavic Review*
SVEC	*Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*

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