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Francis Henry Skrine  
Frontmatter  
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**Cambridge Historical Series.**

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EXPANSION OF RUSSIA

BY

FRANCIS HENRY SKRINE, F.R.Hist.S.

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William Wilson Hunter";  
"Fontenoy, and Great Britain"; "Share in the War of  
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"Baháism, the Religion of Brotherhood," etc.

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## GENERAL PREFACE.

*The aim of this series is to sketch the history of Modern Europe, with that of its chief colonies and conquests, from about the end of the fifteenth century down to the present time. In one or two cases the story commences at an earlier date: in the case of the colonies it generally begins later. The histories of the different countries are described, as a rule, separately; for it is believed that, except in epochs like that of the French Revolution and Napoleon I, the connection of events will thus be better understood and the continuity of historical development more clearly displayed.*

*The series is intended for the use of all persons anxious to understand the nature of existing political conditions. "The roots of the present lie deep in the past"; and the real significance of contemporary events cannot be grasped unless the historical causes which have led to them are known. The plan adopted makes it possible to treat the history of the last four centuries in considerable detail, and to embody the most important results of modern research. It is hoped therefore that the series will be useful not only to beginners but to students who have already acquired some general knowledge of European History. For those who wish to carry their studies further, the bibliography appended to each volume will act as a guide to original sources of information and works more detailed and authoritative.*

*Considerable attention is paid to political geography, and each volume is furnished with such maps and plans as may be requisite for the illustration of the text.*

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## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

“**W**HAT point of view,” asked Lamartine, “will you take in writing your People’s History? If you consider an action under the aspect of the glory attaching to it, you will delight a warlike nation which has been dazzled before it has been instructed, and is rendered blind by the pinchbeck glitter to the true value of the men and events that have risen above its horizon. If you appeal to patriotism, you will excite the enthusiasm of a nation which excuses its lofty egoism by pleas of self-preservation and greatness, and sometimes forgets that it does not stand alone in Europe. But neither of these standpoints will give you the real truth. What, then, remains? The morality of the actions which you have to describe. If you desire to form the judgment of the masses, to rescue them from the immoral doctrine of success, do what has never been done before—*give a conscience to History*. By treating your theme in this spirit you will win less immediate popularity; you will not fire the passions or the imagination of the people, but you will render a thousand times better service to their cause, their interests, and their reason.

“Teach them by facts, by events, by the hidden meaning of those great historic dramas of which we perceive only the scenery and the actors while their plot is contrived by an invisible Hand—to know, to judge, and to moderate themselves. Make them capable of distinguishing those who serve from those who mislead them, those who dazzle from those who enlighten them. Point to every great man and great event,

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and say, 'Weigh them for yourselves, not with the false weights of your transient passions, your prejudices, your anger, your national vanity, your narrow patriotism, but by the universal conscience of the human race, and by the utility of each act to the cause of civilisation.' Convince them that every nation has its post assigned to it; every class of society its relative importance in the sight of God. Teach the people, therefore, to respect themselves; to participate, with the full consciousness of what they are doing, in the progressive accomplishment of His designs. Teach them to form a moral sense, and to exercise it upon the actors and events in their annals. To do this is to give the people much more than power, than dominion, or empire. It is to give them a conscience, the judgment and sovereignty of themselves. It is to place them above all government. For, in sooth, on the very day which finds them fit to reign they will reign—it signifies little under what form or what name. It is the people who must change; governments will change after their image. For, rest assured, as is the people so is their government; and if a people complain of their own, it is because they are unworthy of a better<sup>1</sup>."

In tracing the expansion of Russia during the nineteenth century I have not been unmindful of the noble words uttered nearly sixty years ago by the historian of the French Restoration.

Considerations of space have compelled me to deal in a summary fashion with several interesting branches of my enquiry. Literature has been touched upon only in so far as it reflected the broad features of national life. Education, too, has received scanty attention in this work. The Russian Government is still in advance of its subjects' intellectual

<sup>1</sup> *Essay on the Manner of Writing History for the People*, by Alphonse de Lamartine.

*Preface*

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development; but a day must come when the gulf will disappear. The Tsar and his advisers do not stand alone in believing that political danger lurks in the premature creation of a half-instructed proletariat. Vast changes have swept over Europe during the decade which has elapsed since the publication of the first edition. Bismarck's Empire of Blood and Iron is indeed "a greater menace to the world's tranquillity" than that of Austria which bit the dust in 1866 (p. 40). Pan-Germanism is attempting to fulfil the designs foreshadowed at p. 336. The Hague Conference of 1899 did not usher in "an age when nations shall concentrate their energy on the arts of peace" (p. 348). On the other hand Russia has advanced on the lines of expansion which I endeavoured to sketch; and the ordeal through which she is passing will serve but to accelerate her progress.

To depict the progress of an Empire during a hundred years is no easy task, and I am conscious of many deficiencies. Dr G. W. Prothero, Editor of this Series, has given me much help in regard to the international politics of the period; and in this branch of my work he may be regarded as my collaborator. I am under deep obligations to Professor Robert Hermanson, of Helsingfors, Madame Olga de Novikoff, and his Excellency Count Witte. My treatment of the reigns of Nicholas I and of Alexander II and III is based on the brilliant studies of M. Serge de Tatistcheff, late Commercial Attaché of the Russian Embassy. I am also especially indebted to the works on Russia of M.M. G. Créhange, Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu, F. de Martens, N. Schilder, and A. Rambaud; of Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Wallace, K.C.I.E., and Sir Henry Norman, M.P.

FRANCIS HENRY SKRINE.

*December, 1914.*

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The Russian Empire 1900

The Balkan Peninsula and Crimea

The Russian Advance in Central Asia and the  
 Caucasus