

RUSSIA IN 1825

Muscovy.

I. CONTRAST WITH RUSSIA IN 1533 (accession of Ivan IV)

Far cry from the tiny principality of 300 years before.

Then was

- Small in ~~the~~ territory, population.
- Part of former territory occupied by enemies -- Tatars, Poles, Lithuanians.
- Not even all of the Russian people included in it, *much less all Ukrainians + Belorussians.*
- Economy -- backward. Little contact with the outside world.
- Military Power -- not one of the great powers. Backward in military technology.
- Culture -- low level. Little contact with such developments as the Renaissance, Reformation, etc. Isolated, by 240 years of *the* Mongol yoke.
- Government -- Unstable. Struggle for power between Tsar & nobles. About to break apart in Civil War.

By 1825 almost all of this had changed:

In 1825

II. TERRITORY NOW VAST.

- Stretched from the Baltic to the Pacific, from Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea.
- Largest country in ~~the~~ *world.*
- Largest population in Europe.
- Included most of Poland, all of Finland, *eastern* Baltic coast, From Turkey -- Black Sea coast, Caucasus.
- In 1533 Russia *had been* ~~was~~ threatened *with* the possibility of being swallowed up by Poland. Now the picture reversed. Poland, Lithuania had ~~disappeared from maps~~ *been gobbled up by Russia.*

III. MILITARY POWER. — *Largest army in existence.*

- Considered the No. 1 ^{land} power in the world,
- The conquerer of Napoleon. Huge armed might, which threatened to dominate all of Europe.
- Feared by the rest of Europe. *the powers.*
- ~~Trying to set up puppet states in the Balkans (like after W.W.II)~~

IV. RUSSIA NOW A PART OF EUROPE.

In 1533 was hardly in any sense a part of Europe. But by 1825 --

-Territorially -- far into ^{the heart} ~~western~~ Europe.

-Diplomacy -- Alex I had been ^{one of the} ~~participating~~ dominant figures for ² decades.

-Culture -- Upper classes Europeized.

No longer merely imitating, importing.

Creating original ~~new~~ literature, art, science, etc.

V. ECONOMY. Still backward, but:

-European trade -- wheat, as well as old commodities like furs.

-Industrialization -- beginning slowly.

-Important in European economy.

VI. DYNASTY FIRMLY ESTABLISHED.

No more palace revolutions after attempt of 1825.

VII. NOBILITY. - Under Ivan IV + later had, ^{been} an unruly element.

No longer a challenge to the throne. Subservient.
Servants of the tsar.

Privileges -- *had increased greatly.*

Medieval relationships -- Still had privileges, position which they had lost in France, England, some other countries.

VIII. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IVAN THE TERRIBLE AND ALEXANDER I.

Ivan IV - Little known about him; what Europeans did know horrified them.
Seemed to Europeans a barbaric beast, a madman.

Alexander I - One of the leading figures of the age. A European gentleman
Cultured, civilized. Active in European affairs.

VIII. PEASANTRY. — *less freedom than in 1533.*

Serfdom -- had been abolished in some countries -- England, France.

Would not be abolished in R. until 1861.

The chief problem of 19th c. Russia.

IX. THE GOVERNMENT. — *much larger, more bureaucratic, systematized than in 1533.*

But still: 1. Autocracy

but still: Archaic, inefficient.

No constitution

No elements of ~~any~~ democracy.

Reactionary

Opposition to new ideas.

X. OPPOSITION

Beginnings of revolutionary movement.

Decembrists.

XI. NATIONALITIES.

Since 1533, many

many non-Russian peoples had been conquered.

Russians only a little over 50% of pop.

Nationalism spreading among minorities.

Discontent.

Seething cauldron of racial, religious & national animosities.