

## Russia before 1917: Empire Building

### History 328

Professor Michael Khodarkovsky

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office hours T TH 10-11:30 and by  
appointment

#### Available at the Bookstore

1. Nicolas Riasanovsky, A History of Russia (Oxford, 2011)—recommended, not required.
2. Serge Zenkovsky, Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales, N.Y. 1974.
3. Michael Khodarkovsky, Russia's Steppe Frontier, 1500-1800 (Indiana, 2002).
4. Alexander Pushkin, The Captain's Daughter (Vintage, 2012)
5. Khodarkovsky, Bitter Choices: Loyalty and Betrayal in the Russian Conquest of the North Caucasus (Cornell, 2011)
6. Ivan Turgenev, Fathers and Sons (2008).

#### Course Requirements

One-hour mid-term examination--25%

Two-hour final examination--30%

Participation in the discussion-15%

A ten to twelve-page paper submitted by the end of the 15th week--30%

#### **Examination requirements**

The exams are intended to ascertain the student's ability to think, to reason, to discuss the issues, and to express her/himself in good English. Thus a cumulative grade is based on the student's knowledge of the material, analytical abilities, and the clarity of expression.

**Papers:** Students are encouraged to discuss paper topics with the instructor. Emphasis in grading will be placed on clarity of thought, clarity of expression, and effective support of your argument with available evidence. Papers must be handed in punctually. Taking extra time is unfair to others who make the effort to complete the assignment on time. Plagiarism is an unacceptable violation of the academic trust and will lead to an immediate failure in the class.

**Discussions:** Attending discussions is mandatory. Those who miss discussions will have to submit written summaries of the reading assignments.

Week 1 **Geography of Russia; Origins of the Kievan Rus'**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 3-47, Zenkovsky, 47-71.

Topics: Geography of the USSR; Origins of the Kievan Rus'; Conversion of the Kievan Rus' to Christianity

Week 2 **Kievan Society and Institutions; Rus' under the Mongols**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 48-87; Zenkovsky, 92-105, 167-190, 193-207, 224-235.

Topics: Kievan Institutions, Law, Society and Culture; The Mongols and Rus'; The Mongol Impact

Week 3 **The Rise of Moscow**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 88-130; Zenkovsky, 323-353; Steppe Frontier, intro and ch. 1.

Topics: Political and Cultural Origins of Moscow; Social Groups and Economy; The Reign of Ivan III

Week 4 **Muscovy and its Institutions under Ivan IV**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 131-143; Zenkovsky, 366-76; Steppe Frontier, ch. 2.

Topics: "The Third Rome"-- A Political Ideology of Expansionism; Muscovy and its Institutions in the 16th c.; The Phenomenon of Ivan the Terrible

Week 5 **The Time of Troubles**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 144-168; Zenkovsky, 379-386; Steppe Frontier, ch. 5 and conclusions.

Topics: Moscow at the Crossroads; The Time of Troubles; The Rise of the Romanov Dynasty

Week 6 **Pre-Petrine Muscovy**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 169-195. Zenkovsky, 399-412.

Topics: Social Groups in the 17th c. Muscovy; Enserfment and Military Change

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Week 7 **Church Schism and Reforms of Peter the Great**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 197-222.

Topics: Old Believers and Anti-Christ; From Frontier to Empire

**Week 8 Spring Break**

Week 9 **Impact of the Petrine Reforms**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 223-34; Pushkin, 1-70

Topics: Did the Reforms Survive? Imperial Policy toward the Non-Russians; Social Upheavals and the Notion of the "Peasant Wars."

Week 10 **Russian Society in the Age of Enlightenment**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 235-278; Pushkin, 71-145.

Topics: Catherine the Great and Her Reforms; Education and Western Ideas; Thought, Art, and Music in the 18th c. Russia

Week 11 **Russia as a "Policeman" of Europe**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 279-300; Bitter Choices, 1-90.

Topics: The Decembrist Movement; The Crimean War; Forces of the Reform

Week 12 **Age of Reaction and Reform**

Reading: Riasanovsky, 301-340; Bitter Choices, 91-171.

Topics: Slavophiles and Westernizers; Emancipation and its Consequences; The Birth of the Russian Intelligentsia

Week 13 **Constitutional Period**

Reading: Turgenev, pp. 1-99.

Topics: Industrialization; New Radicalism; Socialism in Russia

Week 14 **The Imminent Crisis**

Reading: Turgenev, pp. 99-200.

Topics: The Revolution of 1905; Stolypin's Reforms;

Week 15 **The Rupture. The Revolutions of 1917**

**Paper Presentations**

**Papers due**