

## PETER THE GREAT

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# PETER THE GREAT

and the

# Emergence of Russia

by -

B. H. SUMNER, F.B.A.

WARDEN OF ALL SOULS COLLEGE OXFORD

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# A General Introduction to the Series

THIS series has been undertaken in the conviction that there can be no subject of study more important than history. Great as have been the conquests of natural science in our time—such that many think of ours as a scientific age par excellence—it is even more urgent and necessary that advances should be made in the social sciences, if we are to gain control of the forces of nature loosed upon us. The bed out of which all the social sciences spring is history; there they find, in greater or lesser degree, subjectmatter and material, verification or contradiction.

There is no end to what we can learn from history, if only we would, for it is coterminous with life. Its special field is the life of man in society, and at every point we can learn vicariously from the experience of others before us in history.

To take one point only—the understanding of politics: how can we hope to understand the world of affairs around us if we do not know how it came to be what it is? How to understand Germany, or Soviet Russia, or the United States—or ourselves, without knowing something of their history?

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#### GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This series has been planned to meet the needs and demands of a very wide public and of education—they are indeed the same. I am convinced that the most congenial, as well as the most concrete and practical, approach to history is the biographical, through the lives of the great men whose actions have been so much part of history, and whose careers in turn have been so moulded and formed by events.

The key idea of this series, and what distinguishes it from any other that has appeared, is the intention by way of a biography of a great man to open up a significant historical theme; for example, Cromwell and the Puritan Revolution, or Lenin and the Russian Revolution.

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I need hardly say that I am a strong believer in people with good academic standards writing once more for the general reading public, and of the public being given the best that the universities can provide. From this point of view this series is intended to bring the university into the homes of the people.

A. L. Rowse.

ALL SOULS COLLEGE, OXFORD.

### Contents

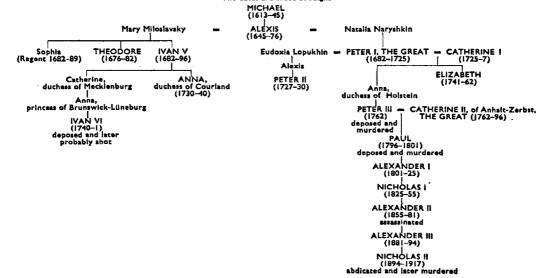
HAPTER			PAGE
	GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES		V
	TABLE OF THE ROMANOV DYNASTY		viii
ı.	PETER I, TSAR OF MUSCOVY .		1
n.	AZOV AND EUROPE		32
m.	NARVA AND POLTAVA		51
IV.	THE PRUTH AND THE BALTIC		74
v.	ALEXIS AND THE PROBLEM OF TH	E	
	SUCCESSION		99
VI.	THE END OF THE GREAT NORTHERN WAR		111
vII.	REFORM IN CIVIL GOVERNMENT .		122
viii.	RELIGION AND REFORM		138
IX.	SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE .		151
x.	PETER THE GREAT, EMPEROR OF RUSSIA		171
	NOTE ON BOOKS		210
	INDEX		212

### NOTE

All dates are given in the New Style, i.e. according to our present Gregorian Calendar, brought into use by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. In Peter's day Russia, like England until 1752, used the Old Style, i.e. the Julian Calendar, brought into use by Julius Cæsar, which was then eleven days behind the New Style. Russia did not adopt the New Style until 1917.

### THE ROMANOV DYNASTY

The dates are those of reigns



### Index

Academy of Sciences, 186. 206, 208 Adrian, patriarch, 143 Agriculture, 161–2 Aland islands conference, 111-15 Alexis, tsar, 4, 6, 15-17, 19, 20, 51, 76, 145, 176 Alexis, tsarevich, 24, 42, 64, 86, 99-108, 145 Anna Ivanovna, duchess of Courland, later empress, 76, 109, 116, 192, 195, 199, 204 Anna Petrovna, duchess of Holstein, 76, 109, 110, 180--81 Anti-Christ, 19, 66, 140 Archangel, 3, 11, 29, 59, 163 Armenians, 175-9 Army, 13-14, 30, 49, 56-60, 69, 129, 131, 152, 154, 159, 160, 164, 198-9 Astrakhan, 3, 66, 177 Augustus II, 41, 52, 61-2, 74, 76, 92-3, 112, 116, 119, 181-2. See also under Poland Austria, relations with, 25, 32, 33, 34-5, 40, 42, 54, 62-3, 78, 88, 102-3, 116, 190, 193-4 Avvakum, 18 Azov, 32-3, 47, 48, 54, 55, 67, 71-2, 80, 82, 83, 194. See also under Navy

Baku, 178, 195 Balkan Christians, 32, 54, 77-9, 81, 194-5. See also under Moldavia, Montenegrins, Serbs, and Wallachia
Baltic Germans, 75, 119, 192
Bashkirs, 66
Beards, 44, 45
Behring, 172
Bokhara, 173-4
Bremen, 51, 74, 92, 112
Bruce, James, 111, 117, 167
Brunswick conference, 88
Bulavin, revolt of, 66-8
Burnet, Bishop, 43

Canals, 36, 90, 170 Catherine I, empress, 68, 79, 80, 84, 109, 110, 177, 179, 180, 183-4, 187, 190, 193, 197 Catherine Ivanovna, duchess of Mecklenburg, 93, 109 Catherine the Great, 129, 189, 192, 195, 200 Charles XII, 50, 55-6, 61-4, 68-73, 76-7, 80, 82-3, 91, 92, 112-4, 118 Charlotte, princess, of Brunswick, 86, 101 China, relations with, 171-2 Church lands, 142-3, 144 Colleges, 122-3, 125-7, 144 Copenhagen, Peter in, 95-6 Cossacks, Don, 4, 9-10, 18, 33, 66-8 Cossacks, Zaporozhian, 4, 32, 54, 67, 71 Courland, 76, 116, 182, 189,

#### INDEX

Crimean Tatars, 4, 25, 32-3, 54-5, 71-2, 80-81, 194, 195. See also under Devlet Girei Cruys, 36

Daghestan, see under Lesghians
Daniel, prince-bishop of Montenegro, 79, 81-2
Demidovs, 59, 165
Denmark, relations with, 52, 55, 74, 75, 76, 86, 92-6, 112, 180
Devlet Girei, 72, 77, 80-81, 83
Dissidents in Poland, 182-3
Dolgoruky, Jacob, 122
Dress, foreign, 44-5

Education, 14-16, 34, 35, 39-40, 142, 149-50, 152-3, 204, 205–8 Elizabeth, later empress, 109, 181, 190, 192, 199 Empire, Holy Roman, and Emperors, under see Austria England, Peter in, 37, 41; relations with, 77, 83, 86, 90, 94, 113, 116-17, 191-2. See also under George Erskine, 113 Estonia, 51, 75, 119 Eudoxia, Lopukhin, 24, 43, 99-100, 104, 107-8 Eugène, Prince, 35, 63, 82 Euphrosinia, 101, 102, 103, 105 Evelyn, John, 37 Expenditure, see under Finance and taxation

Farquharson, 35, 152 Fick, 132 Finance and taxation, 47, 48, 64-5, 142, 158-61. See also under 'Fiscals' Finland, 74, 75, 88-9, 95, 112, 119-20, 189 Fiscals, 65, 124, 128, 179 Fleet, see under Navy Foreign dress, 44-5 Foreign trade, 11-12, 163, 164, 166-7, 170, 191 Foreigners in Russia, 27, 35-6, 49, 57, 58, 67, 90-91, 125, 127, 167-8, 192, 204. See also under 'German suburb' and Western influences France, relations with, 38, 77, 97-8, 117, 180-81. 189-91 Frederick the Great, 109, 193

George I, 74, 92, 94-6, 112, 115-17, 180, 191. See also under England Georgians, 175-9, 195 German suburb, 12, 23, 27, 29 Goertz, 86, 96, 98, 112-15 Golitsyn, Basil, 15, 25-6 Golovin, 63 Gordon, Patrick, 27 Gordon, Thomas, 113 Great embassy, 34-41, 53 Great Northern War, 51-75, 85-98, 111-21, 202 Guards, the, 30, 56, 136-7, 187

Hangö head, battle of, 89 Hanover, see under George I Holland, Peter in, 36-7, 41; relations with, 77, 83, 86

#### INDEX

Holstein, 55, 86, 92, 94, 115, 120, 180, 189
Holstein, Frederick Charles, duke of, 86, 94, 120, 180, 192
Holy places, 54, 195

Industry and mining, 11, 47, 59, 158, 162-70
Ingria, 51, 52, 53, 60, 118
Ivan V, tsar, 2, 19, 20, 21, 22, 31
Ivan the Terrible, 3, 51, 52, 134, 184, 202

Jacobites, 113

Kalmuks, 172, 174, 175 Kamchatka, 172 Karelia, 51, 53, 75, 120 Khiva, 173-4 Kronstadt, 60, 85, 120 Kurbatov, 47

Lefort, 27, 33, 34, 36, 204 Leibniz, 87-8, 126, 132 Lesczyński, 62-3, 71, 83, 112, 190 Lesghians, 175, 178, 179 Lesnaya, battle of, 70 Livonia, 41, 51, 52, 60, 62, 75, 117, 118, 119 Local government, 46, 47, 48, 64-5, 122-3, 124, 126, 128-30, 132-3 Lomonosov, 208 Luberas, 132

Madagascar, 173 Makarov, 64, 131 Manufacturers, see under Industry and mining Marlborough, 63
Mazepa, 70-73, 77
Mecklenburg, 93-6, 116, 180
Menshikov, 28, 58, 60, 70, 86, 91, 125, 127, 128, 133, 179, 187
Mining, see under Industry
Moldavia, 77, 79-81, 194
Monasteries, 142-3, 148-9
Mons, Anna, 27
Mons, William, 183-4
Montenegrins, 78-9, 81-2

Narva, battle of, 55; capture of, 60 Natalia Naryshkin, 19, 20, 21, 27, 31 Navy, 23-4; Azov fleet, 33, 34, 35, 47-9, 83, 199; Baltic fleet, 65, 75, 88-91, 115, 116-17, 131, 154, 164, 199 Nesterov, 179 Newton, Isaac, 37 Nikon, patriarch, 16-17, 145, 147 Novgorod, 12, 51, 69 Nystad, treaty of, 117-20

Old Believers, 16-19, 66, 141-2, 147-8 Orlik, 77, 83 Orthodox in Turkey, 32, 54, 77-9, 81, 194-5. See also under Moldavia, Montenegrins, Serbs, and Wallachia
Osterman, 111, 114, 117, 204

Paris, Peter in, 97-8
Patkul, 52-3, 62
Patriarchate, 16-17, 143-7
Perry, John, 35

Persia, relations with and war in, 171, 175-9, 195 Peter Alexeyevich, emperor Peter II, 101, 109-10 Peter III, emperor, 192, 198 Peter Petrovich, 101-2, 109 Poland, relations with, 4, 25, 32, 41, 51, 52, 53, 56, 61-4, 74, 92-3, 112, 116, 181-3, 189 'Police state,' 131-3 Poll-tax, 160-61 Poltava, battle of, 72-3 Pomerania, Swedish, 51, 75, 86, 91–3, 95 Population, 4, 160 Precedence, code of, 7-8, 157 Printing, 206-7 Procurator - general, 122-3, Prokopovich. Theophan, 143-4 Prussia, relations with, 33, 36, 40-41, 52, 53, 74, 91-2, 95, 97, 98, 114, 116, 181-2, 193 Pruth campaign, 76-83 Pskov, 12, 69, 80

Raguzinsky, Savva, 78
Rakoćzy, 63
Razin, Stenka, 9-10, 67
Reval, 89, 112, 120
Revenue, see under Finance
and taxation
Riga, 36, 51, 52, 53, 55, 75,
118, 163, 200
Romadanovsky, 125
Rostock, 94, 95

St. Petersburg, 60, 65, 70, 73, 75, 83, 85, 90, 168, 169, 185-6, 199-201 Schism, see under Old Believers

Senate, 122-3, 124-5, 127, 133, 144 Serbs, 78-9, 81-2 and serf-owners. Serfdom 65, 151-61, 168-70, 197-8 Shafirov, 82, 83, 179 Sheremetyev, 34, 47, 66, 75, 92 Siberia, 3, 174-5 Solovetsky monastery, 18 Sophia, regent, 15, 20-21, 22, 24–6, 42–3, 56, 141 Stettin, 51, 86, 91-2, 112 Stralsund, 51, 86, 91, 92 Streltsy, 13, 18, 21, 25, 26, 30, 37, 41-3 Sweden, relations with, 4, 5, 36, 40–41, 50–52, 180, 189-90. See also under Charles XII and Great Northern War Synod, Holy, 122-3, 138, 144-6

Table of ranks, 155-7 Taganrog, 33, 54, 55, 67, 82 Tatishchev, 203 Taxation, see under Finance Theodore, tsar, 19, 20, 23 Thorn, 'massacre' at, 183 Tobacco, 45-6 Toleration, religious, 15, 140-41 Tolstoi, 77, 82, 103, 127 Transcaucasia, 175-9, 195 Turkey, relations with, 25, 32–6, 40, 54–5, 71–2, 76– 83, 178-9, 193-6

Ukraine, 4, 14-15, 16, 46, 51, 67, 69-71, 143, 196 Urals metallurgical industry, 47, 59, 165, 168, 169, 196

### INDEX

Verden, 51, 74, 92, 112 Viborg, 75, 112, 117, 118, 120 Vinnius, 59 Volynsky, 175-6, 177 Voronezh, 33, 48, 67, 71

Wallachia, 77, 79-81, 194 Western influences and westernization, 14-15, 34, 39-41, 44-6, 65, 125-7, Yaguzhinsky, 128 Yavorsky, Stephen, 143

130, 131-2, 138, 144, 152, 167-8, 188, 197, 201-9. See also under Foreigners in Russia and 'German suburb' 'Will' of Peter, 110, 188 William III, 27, 37 Wismar, 51, 91, 93, 94-5

Yaguzhinsky, 128

