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21H.466 Imperial and Revolutionary Russia, 1800-1917
Fall 2002

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History 21H.466
Imperial and Revolutionary Russia, 1700-1917
Fall 2005
MW 1-2:30 p.m.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century Russia began to come into its own as a major European power. Members of the Russian intellectual classes increasingly compared themselves and their autocratic order to states and societies in the West. This comparison generated both a new sense of national consciousness and intense criticism of the existing order in Russia. In this course we will examine different perspectives on Russian history and literature in order to try to understand the Russian Empire as it changed from the medieval period to the modern.

Students are asked to write weekly short papers of approximately 2 pages responding to the readings (7 in all). In addition you will write two 4-5 page papers analyzing documents (due September 26 and October 24). Each student will lead one class with questions prepared in advance for everyone to consider. At the end of the course there will be a final examination.

Participation in the course will be evaluated as follows: 1) class participation and response papers (25%); 2) two 4-5 page papers (25% each); 3) final examination (25%). Reading each week will run in the neighborhood of 100-150 pages. Attendance each class is mandatory.

Books for the Course

James Cracraft, ed., *Major Problems in the History of Imperial Russia* (Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath, 1994) 0-669-214973

Eduard Dune, *Notes of a Red Guard*, ed. Diane Koenker and S. A. Smith (Univ. of Illinois Press, 1993) 0-252-06277-9

George Gibian, ed., *The Portable Nineteenth-Century Russian Reader* (Viking Penguin, 1993) 0-14-015-1036

Martin Gilbert, *The Routledge Atlas of Russian History* (2004)

W. Bruce Lincoln, *The Great Reforms* (Northern Illinois University Press, 1990) 0-87580-549-3

Leo Tolstoy, *Hadji Murad* (Washington: Orchises Press, 1996) 0-914061-54-2

* indicates materials available on e-reserves

Week 1. W 9/7 -- Introduction to the Course

Week 2. M 9/12 -- Introduction to the Russian Empire

Cracraft, ed., pp. 4-31: Pipes, "The Environment and Its Consequences"; Trubetskoy, "The Legacy of Genghis Khan"

*Mark Bassin, "Russia Between Europe and Asia: The Ideological Construction of Geographical Space," *Slavic Review* 50, 1 (1991): 1-17

Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 1, 14-16, 21, 25-26, 28, 33

Visiting Lecture: Professor John LeDonne from Harvard University will join us. We will discuss five topics in class: the role of geography in Russian history; the geopolitical environment in the 18th and 19th centuries; the role of the military in the expansion of Russia; and the question of what kind of empire Russia was (whether colonial or not).
Response paper: From your brief acquaintance with Russia's geography and history so far, what can you tell about the role of geography and ethnicity in Russian history?

W 9/14 -- The Muscovite Heritage

Cracraft, ed., pp. 36-46, 57-67; Kollmann, "Muscovite Patrimonialism"; Hellie, "Enserfment"; "The Ulozhenie of 1649"

*Peter Kolchin, "Introduction," *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom*, pp. 1-10, 22-23, 26-31, 35-46

Gilbert, Atlas, p. 32

For discussion: Be sure to examine closely the Ulozhenie of 1649. What did it mean to be a serf in 18th century Russia? Also think about what Kollmann means by "Muscovite Patrimonialism."

Week 3. M 9/19 - Student holiday; no classes

W 9/21 – Peter the Great and the Petrine Reforms

Cracraft, ed., pp. 81-99, 110-125; Anisimov, "Peter I," *Petrine Reform Legislation*

Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 34-38

Gibian, pp. 8-21; Pushkin, "The Bronze Horseman" (1833)

Response Paper: Analyze one aspect of Anisimov's main argument in "Peter I." What evidence from the Petrine Reform Legislation can you use to support or refute his argument? (Key aspects you might choose to focus on include: the military, bureaucracy & state organization, property relations, social relations, the trial of Tsarevich Alexei, resistance, cultural revolution, church reform.)

Week 4. M 9/26 -- The Age of Elizabeth and Catherine II

Cracraft, ed., pp. 127-46, 150-53, 166-79, 197-212; Anisimov, "Empire of the Nobility";

Peter III's Manifesto (1762); de Madariaga, "Catherine as Woman and Ruler";

Catherine's Instruction (1767); Charter to the Nobility (1785)

Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 41-43

Short (4-5 pp.) Paper: Elizabeth I and Catherine II had quite a number of formative issues to cope with during their tenures as tsarinas. One of the areas changing most dramatically was the relationship of the nobility to the state. Drawing on your readings last week and this, analyze the changing position of the nobility from Muscovite times to the end of Catherine II's reign.

W 9/28 -- Critics and Rebels in the 18th century

Cracraft, ed., pp. 153-65, 179-197; Shcherbatov *Laments Corruption* (1787); Raeff,

"Pugachev Rebellion"; Radishchev, *Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow* (1790)

For discussion: What do these different forms of criticism have in common? How do they differ?

Week 5. M 10/3 — Bureaucratic Monarchy, 1796-1855

Lincoln, Great Reforms, ch. 1, pp. 3-35

Cracraft, ed., pp. 255-82: Raeff on Constitutionalism of AI; Riasanovsky on Nicholas I
Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 49-53

Response paper: What do you think of the concept of “enlightened bureaucracy”? How far do you think constitutionalism could go in this period?

W 10/5 — Bureaucracy in Literature

Gibian, Russian Reader, pp. 199-232: Gogol, "The Overcoat" (1842)

Week 6. M 10/10 — No class; Columbus Day holiday

W 10/12 — The Institution of Serfdom

*Peter Kolchin, Unfree Labor, pp. 49-65 (bottom), 68-78, 92-95, 98-102, 112-14, 117-122, 122-24, 157-63, 165-67, 169-72 (top)

Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 57-58

Week 7. M 10/17 — Serfdom in Literature

Gibian, pp. 241-73, 293-333: Sergei Aksakov, "Kurolesov" (1856); Goncharov, "Obломov's Dream" (1849)

Response paper: Aksakov and Goncharov both show the corrosive effects of serfdom not only on the peasants themselves but also on the nobility. Consider two or three ways in which serfdom corrupted both state and society.

W 10/19 — Alexander II and the Great Reforms

Lincoln, Great Reforms, chs. 3-4, pp. 61-134

Cracraft, pp. 340-44: Manifesto Emancipating the Serfs

Week 8. M 10/24 — Testing the Reforms

Lincoln, Great Reforms, ch. 5, pp. 159-74

Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 54-55

Cracraft, pp. 327-40, 344-58: Herzen on Hidden Russia (1851), MacKenzie-Wallace on mir and zemstvo (1877)

*"The Catechism of a Revolutionary" and "Demands of Narodnaia Volia" in Dmytryshyn, ed. Imperial Russia, pp. 350-59

Short (4-5 p.) paper due.

W 10/26 — Life after the Great Reforms

*Stephen P. Frank, "Popular Justice, Community and Culture Among the Russian Peasantry, 1870-1900" Russian Review (1987), 239-65

Gibian, pp. 608-15: Saltykov-Shchedrin, "The Story of How One Peasant" (1869)

*Esther Kingston-Mann, "Capturing the 'Essence' of Marxism," ch. 6 of In Search of the True West, pp. 132-46

*Correspondence of Karl Marx and Vera Zasulich, in Sakwa, Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union, pp. 2-4

Week 9. M 10/31 -- Reaction and Counter-Revolution

Lincoln, Great Reforms, ch. 5, pp. 174-91

Cracraft, pp. 360-97: Pipes, "Towards the Police State"; Pearson, "The Failure of Reform"; Vera Figner (1881); Manifesto of Alexander III (1881); Pobedonostsev, Reflections (1896)

Response paper: What can you say about the nature of conservative sentiment in late Tsarist Russia? Why do you think it was so pervasive?

W 11/2 – Exploration and Empire-Building

Cracraft, pp. 398-411; 420-37: Kappeler, "Multi-Ethnic Empire"; Thaden, "Russification"; Gorchakov Circular (1864); Urusov on Russian Antisemitism (1907) Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 59-67, 69-70

Week 10. M 11/7 -- War and Peace in the Caucasus

Leo Tolstoy, "Hadji Murad" (1904) (125 pp.)

Response paper: Comment on the portrayal of Chechen and Russian societies, their values, their ways of interacting as portrayed by Tolstoy in this novella.

W 11/9 -- Industrialization and Radicalization

Cracraft, 441-53, 468-89, 528-48: Kahan, "The Government's Role"; Gurko on Witte (1920s); Pavlov on life in a textile mill (1901); Kanatchikov, Peasant-worker-activist (1929-1934)

Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 56, 68, 71-74

Response paper: Comment on either the government's engagement in the industrialization process or the politicization of labor discussed in Kanatchikov. How did the conditions discussed in Pavlov help to facilitate worker radicalization?

Week 11. M 11/14 – The Russo-Japanese War

*Bruce Lincoln, "A Small Victorious War," in In War'd Dark Shadow: The Russians Before the Great War, pp. 227-71

Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 66-67

<http://www.intl.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/~yulia/visual.htm>

W 11/16 -- The Revolution of 1905

*Orlando Figes, A People's Tragedy, ch. 5, pp. 157-92

Cracraft, pp. 550-51, 593-96, 600-11: The October Manifesto (1905); Father Gapon (1905); Lenin (1905); Breshkovskaia (1920)

Gilbert, Atlas, pp. 75-77

Week 12. M 11/21 -- The Constitutional Monarchy

*Mark Steinberg, "Nicholas and Alexandra, an Intellectual Portrait" in Steinberg and Vladimir M. Khrustalev, Fall of the Romanovs, pp. 1-37

Cracraft, pp. 613-19, 633-43: Schapiro on Stolypin; Guchkov (1913)

W 11/23 -- "Vanya on 42nd Street" (film)

Week 13. M 11/28 — World War I

*Dominic Lieven, "Russia, Europe and World War I," in Edward Acton, *Critical Companion to the Russian Revolution*, pp. 37-47

Cracraft, pp. 619-33; Rogger, "Last Act"

*"Durnovo's Memorandum," in Dmytryshyn, ed., *Imperial Russia*, pp. 491-509

Gilbert, *Atlas*, pp. 78-83

W 11/30 — The February Revolution

*Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, "The February Revolution," in Acton, ed., *Critical Companion*, pp. 48-61

*Abdication of Nicholas II and Grand Duke Michael in Dmytryshyn, *Imperial Russia*, pp. 524-25

Eduard Dune, *Notes of a Red Guard*, pp. 3-41

*"Order No. 1," and related documents in Ronald Suny, *Structure of Soviet History*, pp. 32-36

Gilbert, *Atlas*, pp. 84, 86

Week 14. M 12/5 — From February to October

*Allan Wildman, "The Breakdown of the Imperial Army in 1917," and Boris Kolonitskii, "Kerensky," in Acton, ed., *Critical Companion*, pp. 69-79, 138-48

Dune, *Notes of a Red Guard*, pp. 43-73

Gilbert, *Atlas*, pp. 87-89

*Lenin, "April Theses"; Tsereteli and Lenin Exchange Words (June 1917) in Suny, *Structure*, pp. 38-43

W 12/8 – The October Revolution

*Alexander Rabinowitch, "The October Revolution," in Acton, ed., *Critical Companion*, pp. 81-91

*Lenin, Letter to the Central Committee, in Suny, *Structure of Soviet History*, 45-47

Gilbert, *Atlas*, pp. 90-91

Week 15. M 12/12 – The Language of Revolution

*Orlando Figes and Boris Kolonitskii, *Interpreting the Russian Revolution*, chs. 5-6 ("The Language of the Revolution in the Village" and "Images of the Enemy"), pp. 127-190

W 12/14 — Review