

# Tsar Peter the Great



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# Prompt



- Analyze the major ways through which Tsar Peter the Great (1689-1725) sought to reform his society and its institutions in order to strengthen Russia and its position in Europe.



# A. What is a tsar?



- Princes in Russia who have complete authority
- Absolute rulers
- Replaced Khans as supreme rulers
- Only the tsars were rightful holy rulers
- Orthodox Christianity – rejected authority of pope and separated Russia from the rest of Europe



## B. Who was Tsar Peter the Great?



- Born June 9 1672 to Tsar Alexie
- became tsar after the death of Tsar Alexei Mihailovich Romanov, Peter ruled along side his mentally handicapped brother Ivan and sister Sophia as regent.
- Known for accepting all social classes
- Interested in travelling and learning new skills such as carpentry, horse shoeing and pulling teeth
- 6'7- “giant of his time”
- Didn't become true ruler until he was 22

# Reforms of Peter



- **Reason-** wanted to reform the outdated army and make a come back after losing many wars against the Ottoman Empire with Poland, and wanted to establish Russia as an internationally recognized state.
- **Response-** Maintained his alliance with Austria and Poland against the Ottoman empire, and made secret deals with Denmark and the Duke of Saxony to wage war against Sweden.

# D. Military Reforms



- After losing badly to Sweden, Peter worked enthusiastically to strengthen state power, strengthen his armies, and achieve more victories
- Declared that every nobleman had to serve in the army or administration for life
- Established many schools and universities to educate men in more modern skills for warfare.
- Required each and every young nobleman to be educated for 5 years outside of Russia
- He recruited soldiers from other countries to broaden Russias reputation and strengthen his army
- Ranking system- Still being used today, 14 ranks, each person must start at the bottom and work his way up.
- He also established a standing army made up of peasants for further protection

# Great Northern War



- Russia's war against Charles XII of Sweden
- Russia victory
- One of the most important war in Russian history- demonstrated how effective Peters new army was. Sweden never gained control, and so Russia was able to expand to Estonia, Latvia, and gained control of the Baltic Sea.
- Established Russia as a great European Power

# Negative Results



- Peters military reforms also had a few negative impacts- the taxes on peasants tripled during his reign due to the increase in factories and mines, so in turn Russian serfdom became more oppressive and broadened the gap between nobles and peasants, which would cause a lot of issues in later Russian history.



# Positive Results



- Established Russia as a significant power in Europe
- Developed a ranking system in the military that is still in use to this day

# Russia & Peter the Great



The Expansion of Russia under Peter the Great. Peter added vital territory on the Baltic Sea to the vast Russian empire.