

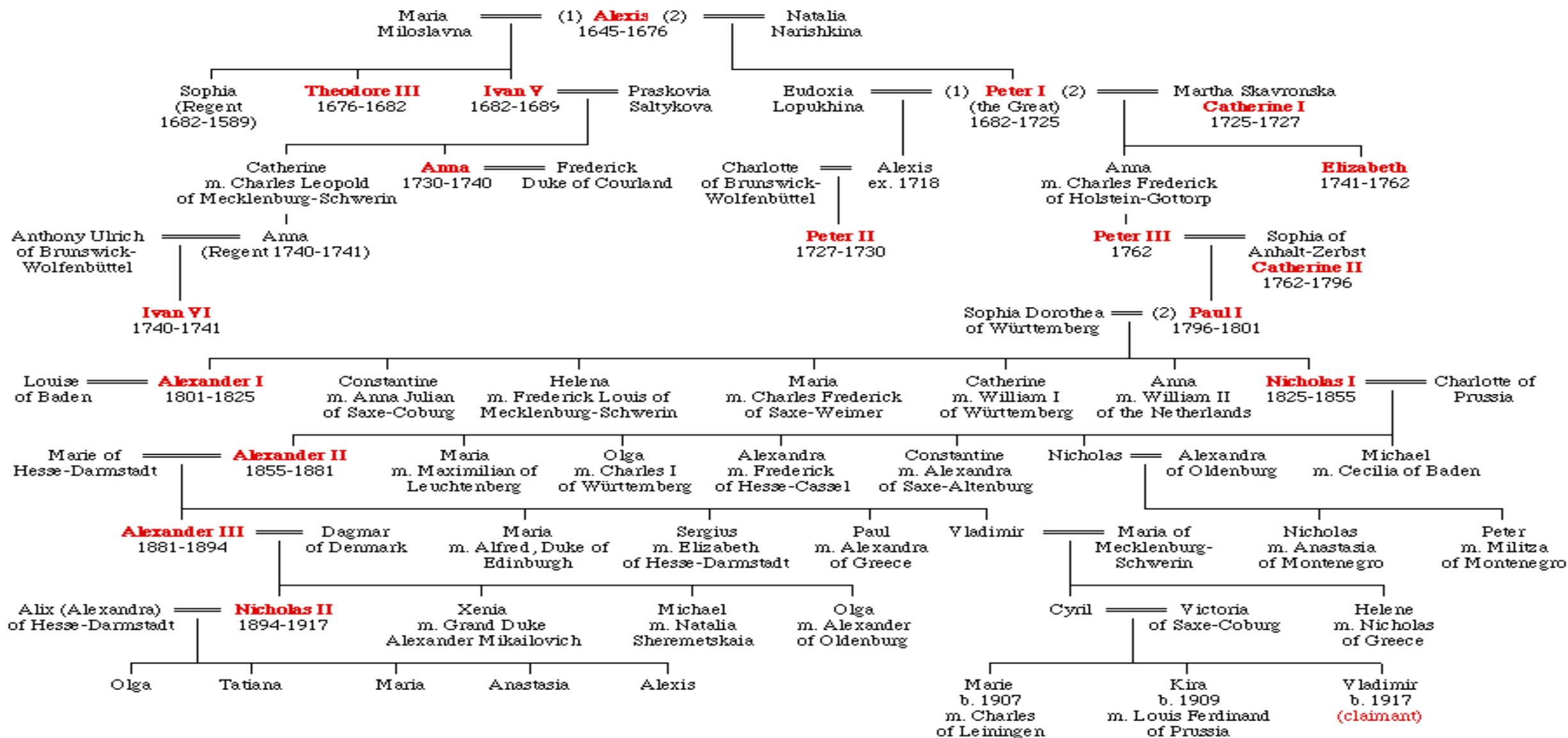


Peter the Great: the all-powerful reformer?

The birth of imperial Russia

The Romanov Dynasty

by Ed Stephan





1598: the death of Feodor I
The end of the Rurik dynasty

Boris Godunov elected czar by an assembly of *Boyars* (*zemski zabor*)

Boyar: the highest rank among the Russian nobility – Non-hereditary title granted by the sovereign

Boris Godunov's legitimacy as czar contested by a fake czar (Dmitry)



Fake czar Dmitry overthrown and
assassinated in 1606

Boyar Vasili Shuysky czar of Russia

Another fake Dmitry + peasants uprisings +
foreign intervention (Poland & Sweden)

=

Abdication (1610)



The Polish-Muscovite War (1605-1618)





The election of Mikhail Romanov (1613)

The many **challenges** faced by the first two Romanov czars

A country on the verge of bankruptcy

Unrest (rebellions)

Persistent foreign threat (Poland & Sweden)



Peace with Poland and Sweden

Russia vulnerable (cut off from the Baltic Sea)

Smolensk still in Polish hands

Looking South (Black Sea)



A solution to the financial crisis: new taxes

Foreign influence (“investments”) encouraged

Rebuilding the army (foreign mercenaries)

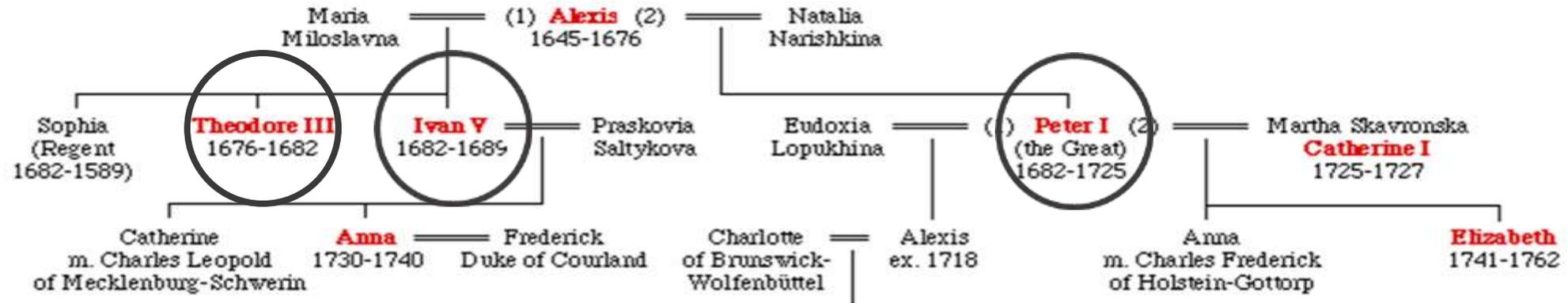
The initial conquest of Siberia

Autocrat added to Mikhail’s titles



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Peter the Great: first & foremost a soldier

His primary ambition: to be remembered as a great conqueror

36 years on the throne: only 1 year of peace

Since childhood, Peter fascinated by the military & the sea

Trip to **Arkhangelsk**: to conquer the sea and gain access to warm waters

Peter's reign began with a war

2 potential adversaries: Sweden & the Ottoman Empire

His choice: the Ottoman Empire



To gain access to
the **Black sea**



The Azov campaigns (1695-1696)

Unsuccessful 3 month siege – The need of a fleet

The Dutch expertise

1696: a naval expedition against Azov – A double assault
(land & sea)

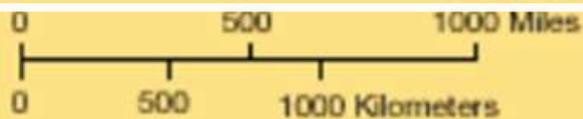
The establishment of 3 000 Russian families in Azov







Peter's "Grand Embassy" (1697-1698): an initiation to Western naval & military techniques

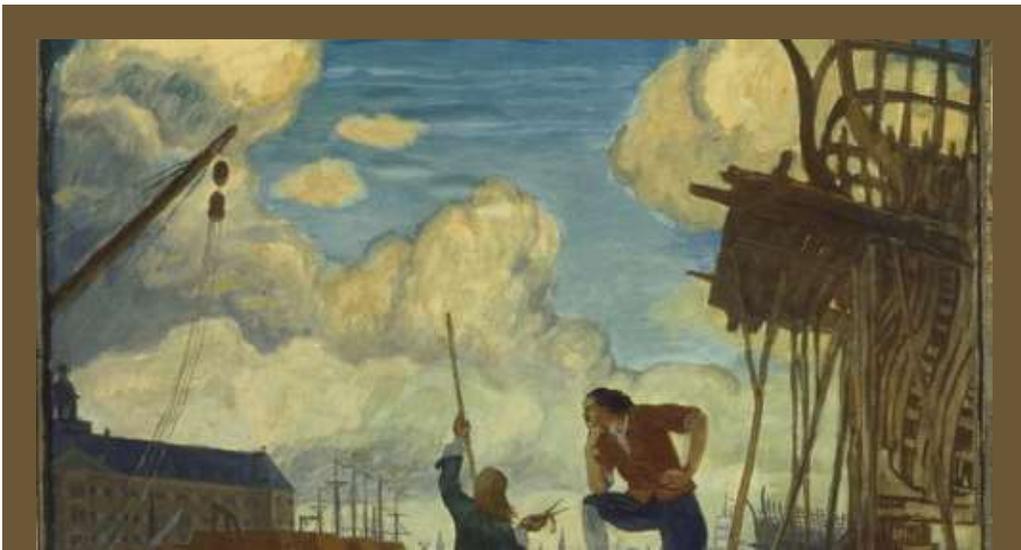




Peter Mikhaïlov (incognito)

Holland (the United Provinces) at the peak of its world power and prestige

Commerce and **shipping** at the source of Holland's wealth





Peter's conclusion upon his return: Russia to be modernized



The Great Northern War against Sweden (1700-1721) – The longest conflict of the 18th century

To access the Baltic Sea

A coalition against Charles XII of Sweden



-  Sweden under Gustav Vasa until 1560
-  Acquisitions under Gustav Vasa's sons until 1611
-  Acquisitions under Gustav II Adolf and Christina until 1654
-  Acquisitions under Karl X until 1660

Numbers describe the year of acquisition, numbers in parentheses describe the year of loss



The Battle of Narva (1700)





Complete reorganization of the army

Decisive Russian victory at Poltava - Ukraine (1709)





Treaty of Nystad (1721): Russia,
a first rate **European power**
Position of strength against Poland
Repeated interventions in German
affairs



Peter the Great: *“Emperor of all of Russia”*



The Expansion of Russia, 1500–1800

1462	Acquisitions to 1682
Acquisitions to 1505	Acquisitions to 1725
Acquisitions to 1584	Acquisitions to 1796





Russia's **patrimonial system**: the czar is the political leader and the owner of Russia

NO distinction State-Czar
1. Notion of private property unknown



2 fundamental aspects of Russian governance

Any subject **MUST** serve the czar – List of lifelong duties
The status of a subject depends on his duties towards the czar

Notion of private property
unknown in Russia

The land (key element of wealth) belonged to the czar
Land **granted** to subjects





Peter the Great's main objective:
to modernize Russia

Patrimonial system maintained
Russia: his property



6 key reforms:

1. The introduction of conscription
2. The establishment of a **Table of Ranks**
3. The development of **factories**
4. The building of a **new capital** (St. Petersburg)
5. A new **law of succession** to the throne
6. A **fiscal reform**



A permanent army: recruitment among peasants (a system of quotas)

210 000 regular soldiers
110 000 in reserve
24 000 sailors

A reform of the nobility (*dvoriane*)

Strict application of the old
Muscovite tradition: landlords to
serve the prince

Service to start at age 10
(military or government)

Mandatory schools for young
nobles



A Table of Ranks

3 categories (14 levels each)

1. Military
2. Civil service
3. Service at Court

Position and seniority no longer applicable

A new system based on merits

Генералъ	Генералъ-лейтенантъ	Адмиралъ-флота	
	Шляхетскія дѣтскія совѣтники		
Генералъ-фельдмаршалъ	Президентъ дворянства	Вице-адмиралъ	Адмиралъ
Генералъ-маіоръ	Оберъ-шенкертъ-брезденци Шляхетскія совѣтники Оберъ-президентъ наместника Губернатора	Шедъ-бискупъ Митрополита	Оберъ-генералъ-фельдмаршалъ
Бригадиръ	Генералъ-лейтенантъ-брезденци Вице-президентъ въ войскахъ Президентъ въ войскахъ Канцлеръ тайнаго совѣтника Иностраннаго Коллежы. Оберъ-Рейс-Мейстеръ.	Канцлеръ Канцлеровъ Мейстеръ	Оберъ-генералъ-фельдмаршалъ Оберъ-генералъ-фельдмаршалъ
Полковникъ	Генералъ-полковникъ-лейтенантъ Генералъ-полковникъ-майоръ Генералъ-полковникъ-Мехстедъ Совѣтникъ-генералъ-полковникъ	Канцлеръ 1 ^{го} ранга Обер-Рейс-Мейстеръ Мейстеръ	Оберъ-генералъ-фельдмаршалъ Оберъ-генералъ-фельдмаршалъ
Подполковникъ	Сенаторъ-камергеръ Канцлеръ	Канцлеръ 2 ^{го} ранга	Оберъ-генералъ-фельдмаршалъ Оберъ-генералъ-фельдмаршалъ
Маіоръ	Вице-президентъ въ войскахъ Экономъ-сенаторъ-камергеръ Унтеръ-сенаторъ-камергеръ-брезденци Оберъ-лейтенантъ-полковникъ-майоръ	Канцлеръ 3 ^{го} ранга	



The development of factories (to help Russia's military become self-sufficient)

The number of factories quadrupled
NO private ownership

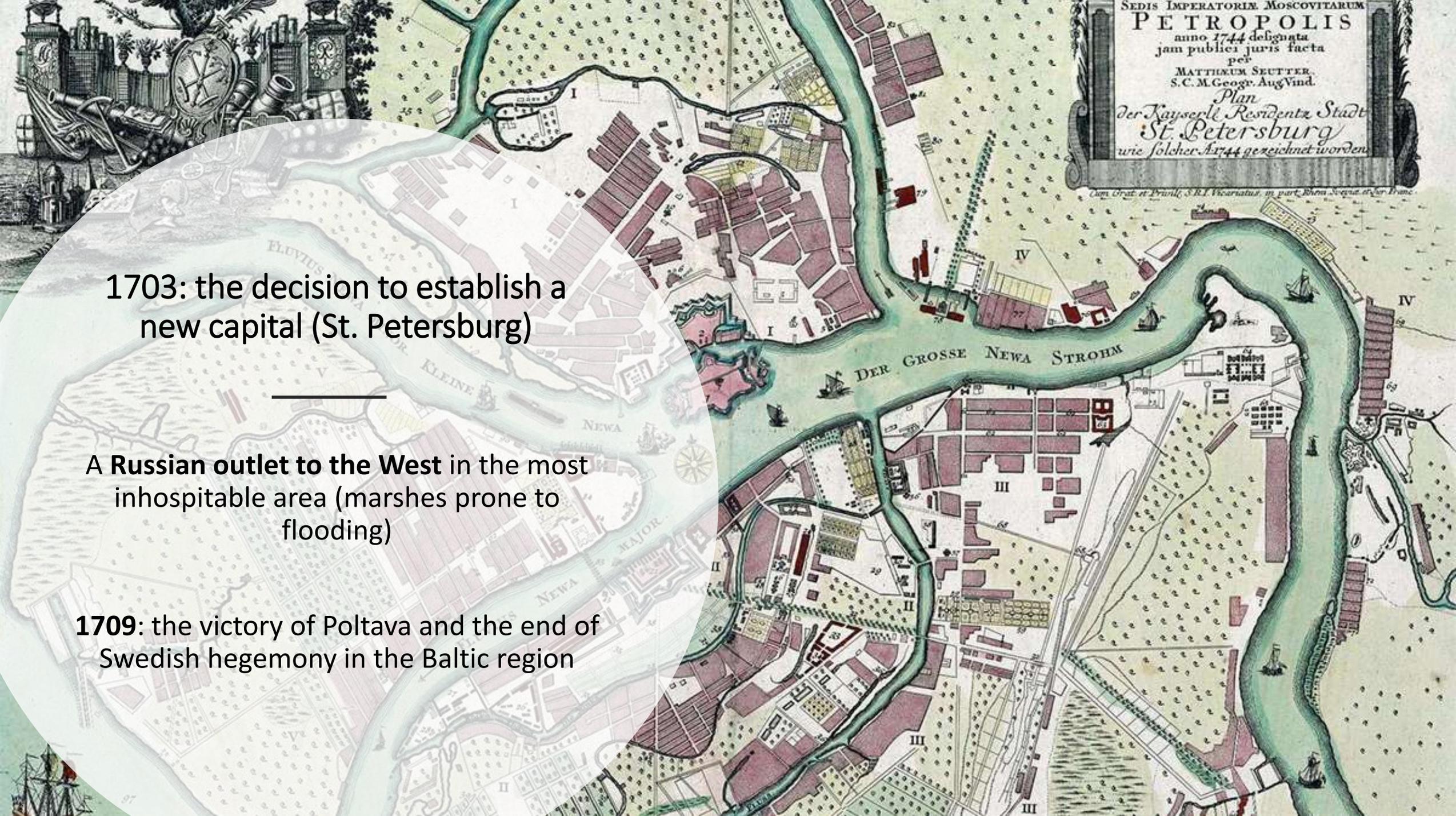


Requisitioning a workforce for
factories and mines

1721: Merchants allowed to buy villages (to acquire serfs)
Perpetual “ownership” of serfs and their families
The embryo of a Russian working class







SEDIS IMPERATORII MOSCOVITARUM
PETROPOLIS
anno 1744 designata
jam publicè juris facta
per
MATTHIUM SEUTTER,
S. C. M. Geogr. Aug. Vind.
Plan
der Kayserl. Residentz Stadt
St. Petersburg
wie solcher Art 1744 gezeichnet worden
Com. Grav. et Prænt. S. R. I. Vicarsatus. in part. Rhœn. Neogr. et per Franc.

1703: the decision to establish a new capital (St. Petersburg)

A Russian outlet to the West in the most inhospitable area (marshes prone to flooding)

1709: the victory of Poltava and the end of Swedish hegemony in the Baltic region



The Peter and Paul fortress: the new city's first building

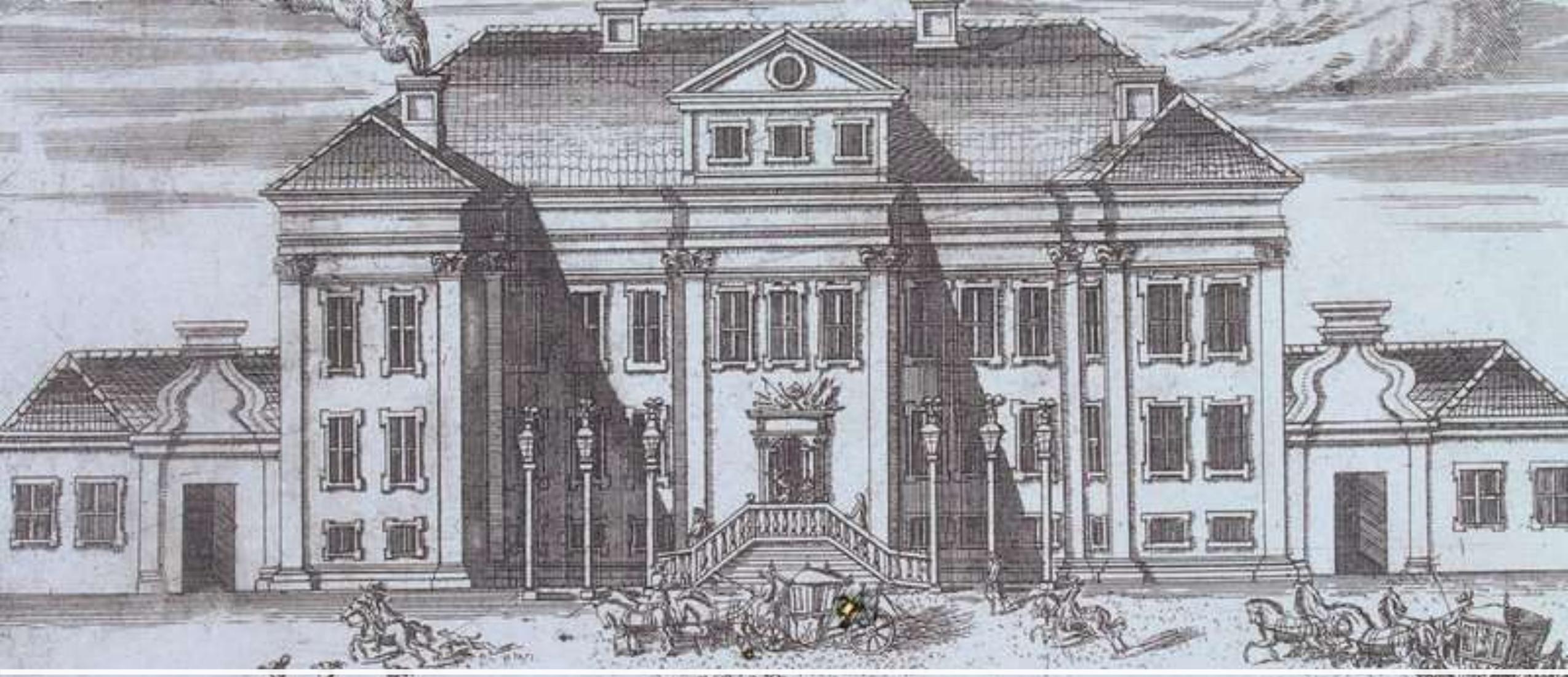
St. Petersburg built by **forced labor**
Thousands of peasants **conscripted (40 000 per year)**

Nobles, merchants and craftsmen
ordered to move to the new city
(1721)

Strict model of architecture

Foreign architects imported to design the
new “Amsterdam of the North”





The first Winter Palace

The Nevsky Prospekt
(French architect Jean-Baptiste
Alexandre Leblond)



Reform of the law of succession

The law of primogeniture abandoned

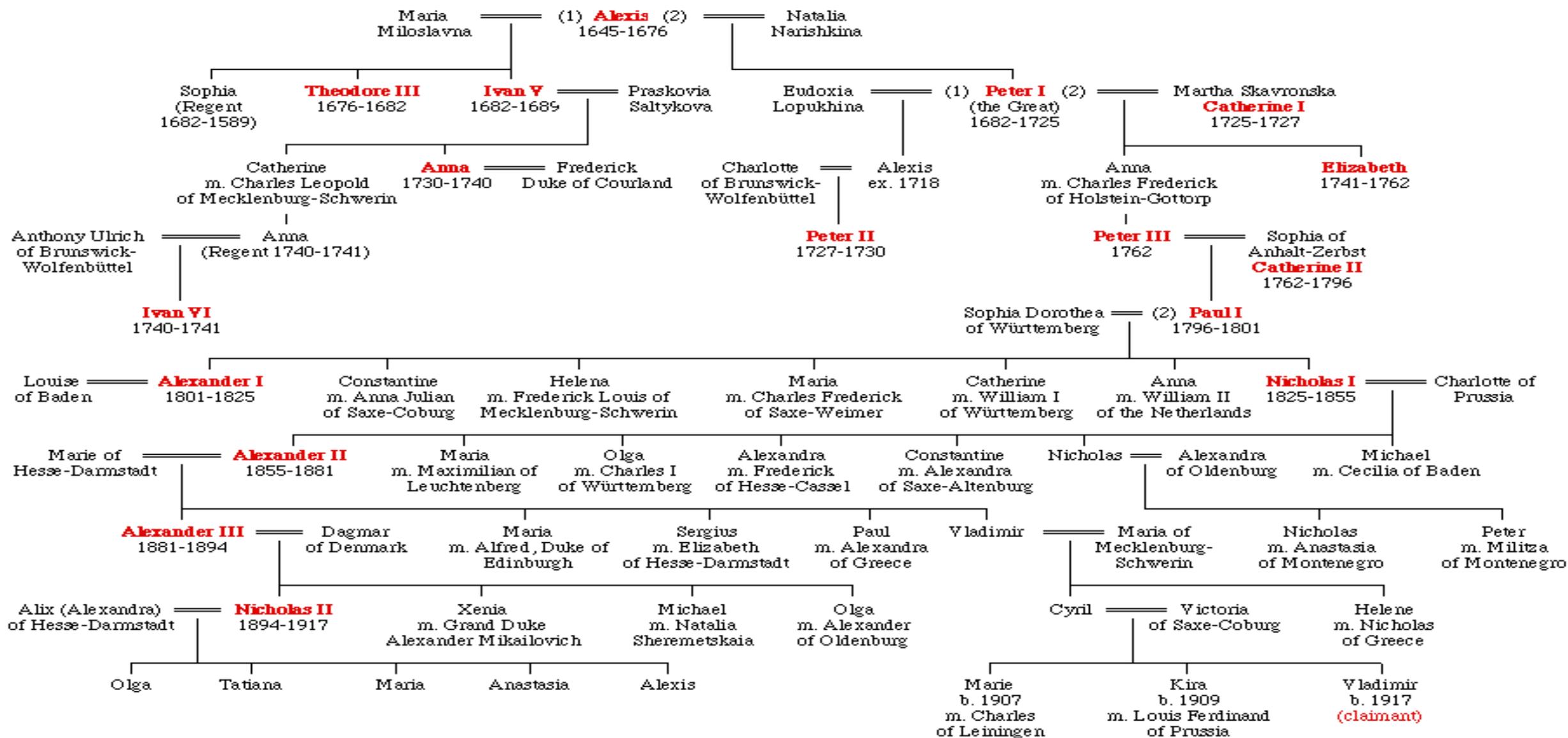
The death of heir to the throne Alexei (1718)

The czar able to choose his successor (the throne of Russia open to women)



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Catherine I (a former peasant from Livonia)