



St. Petersburg

A new capital for the
Romanovs

Why did Peter the Great
chose the site of St.
Petersburg for Russia's new
capital?





The Expansion of Russia, 1500–1800

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





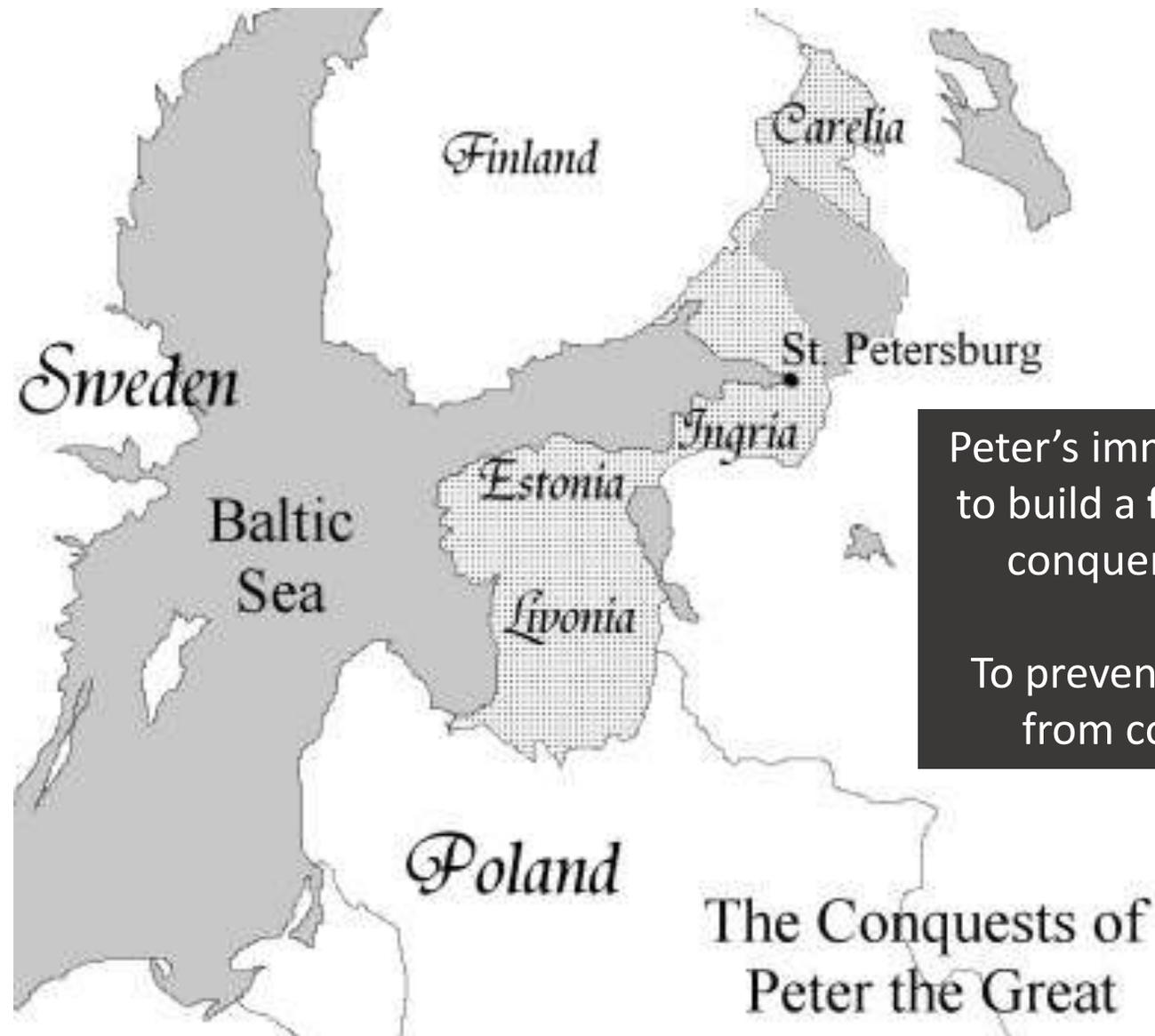
- Sweden under Gustav Vasa until 1560
 - Acquisitions under Gustav Vasa's sons until 1611
 - Acquisitions under Gustav II Adolf and Christina until 1654
 - Acquisitions under Karl X until 1660
- Numbers describe the year of acquisition, numbers in parentheses describe the year of loss*

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

To access the Baltic Sea – A “window to the West”

A coalition against Charles XII of Sweden (the dominant power in Northern Europe)





Peter's immediate goal (1703):
to build a **fortress** on territory
conquered from Sweden

To prevent the Swedish fleet
from counter-attacking





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Why a new capital in a most **inhospitable** region
(swamps) prone to flooding?
Off-centre position in an already gigantic empire



Peter's decision to build a brand new capital as early as 1704

Letter to Prince Menchikov (Peter's favorite): St. Petersburg as « capital »

The need to modernize Russia

A new capital: same logic as rejecting ancient Russian traditions (clothes & the beard for men)





Domenico Trezzini: the initial plan

The founder of the architectural style that came to be known as **Petrine Baroque**

Early urban planning

The initial structures of St. Peter and St. Paul Fortress

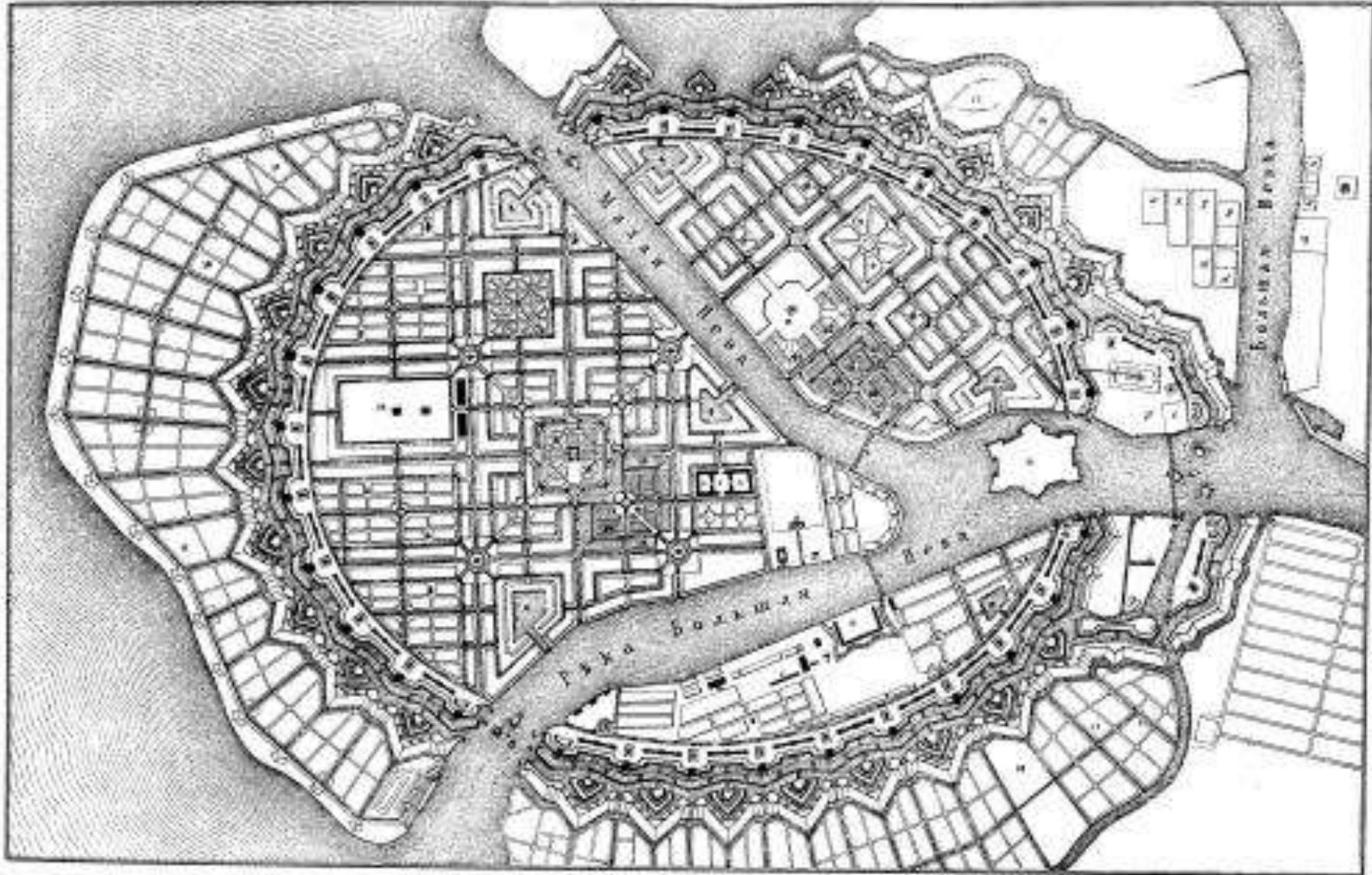








1717: a new architect (Jean-Baptiste Leblond)/a new design



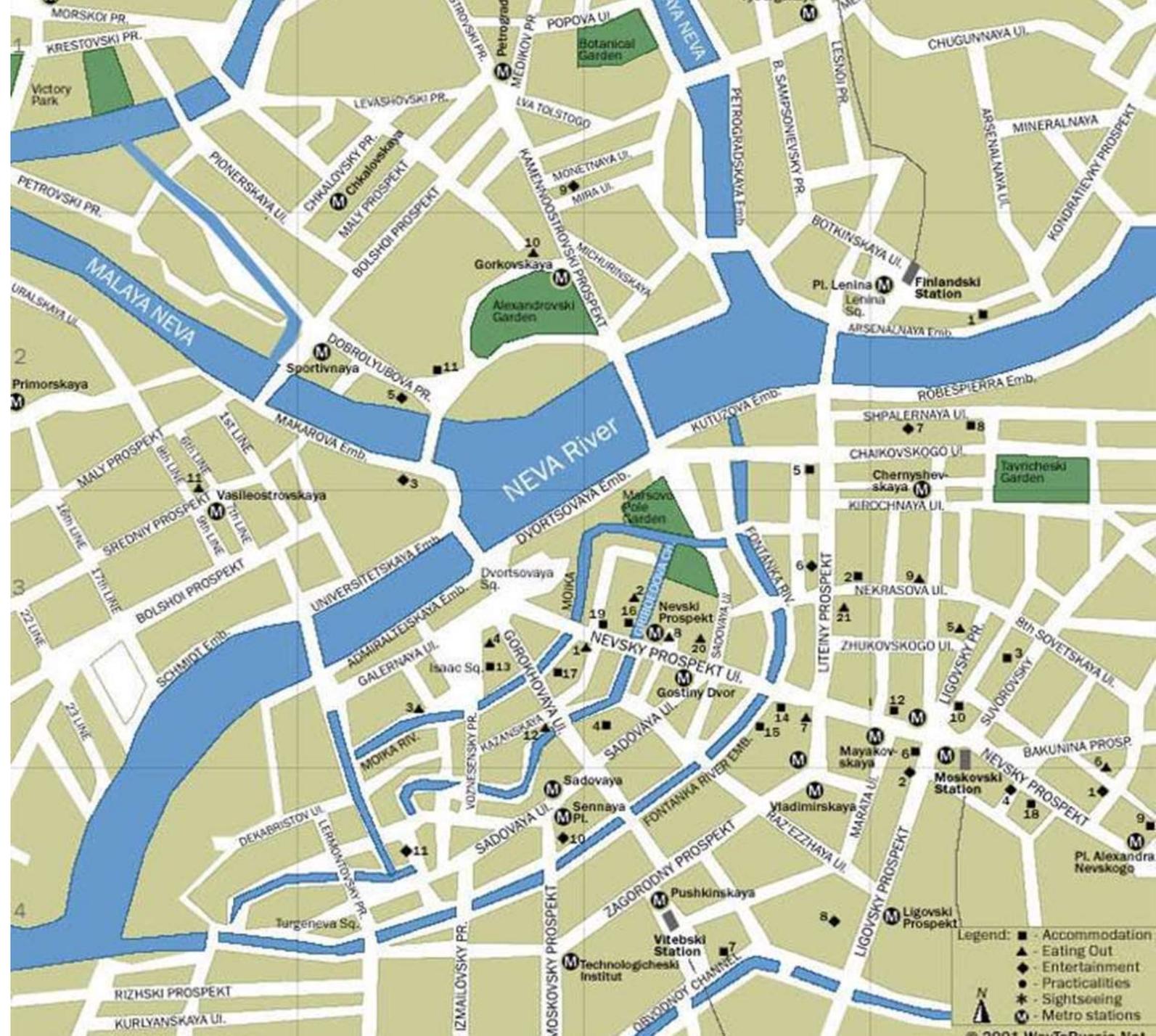
A perfect
ellipse
surrounded by
fortifications

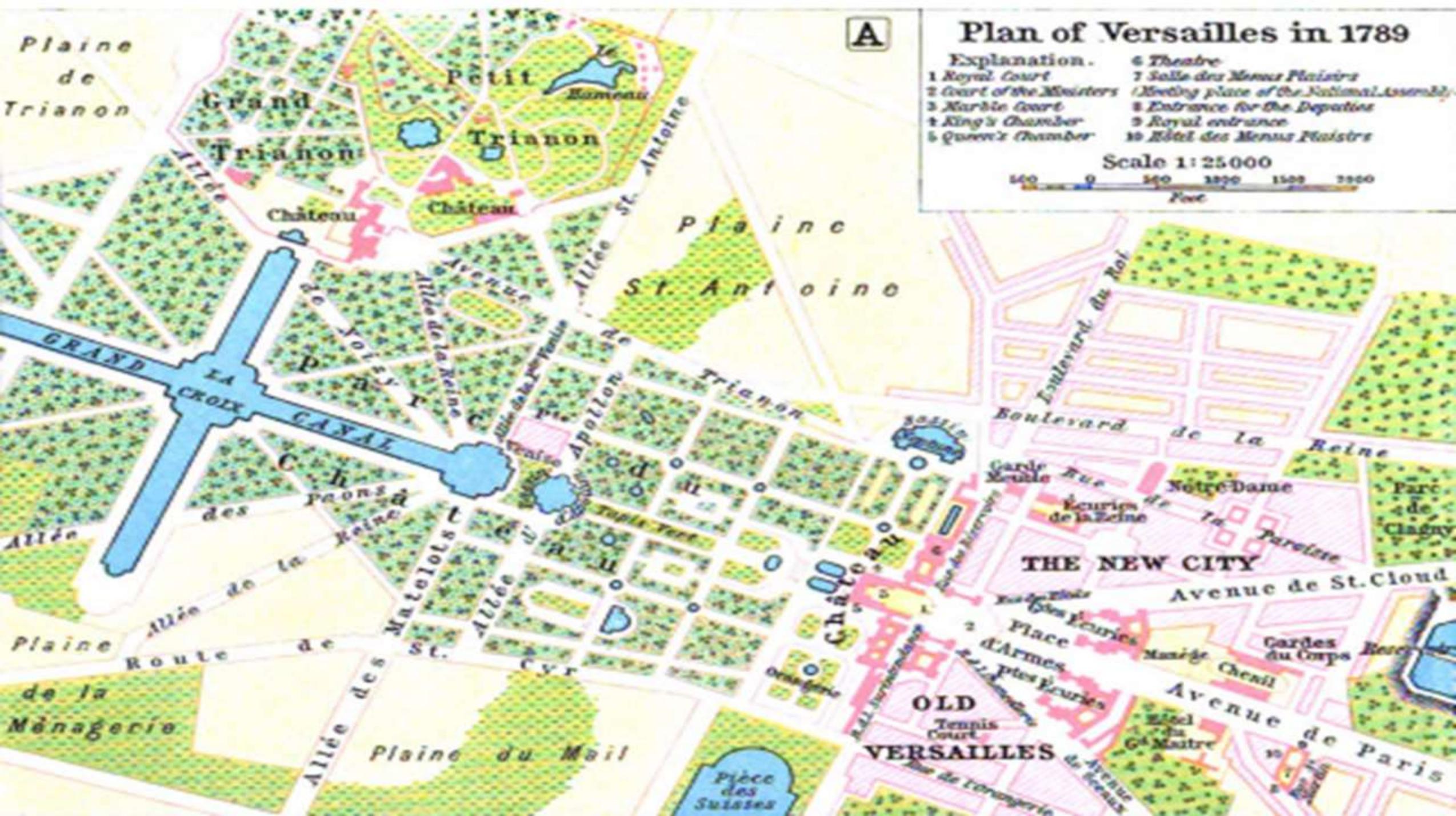
Plan discarded

Progression south of the
Neva River

The “Nevsky Prospekt”: the main
axis

A network of canals (“the Venice
of the North”)





A

Plan of Versailles in 1789

- Explanation.
- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 Royal Court | 6 Theatre |
| 2 Court of the Ministers | 7 Salle des Menus Plaisirs |
| 3 Marble Court | 8 Meeting place of the National Assembly |
| 4 King's Chamber | 9 Entrance for the Deputies |
| 5 Queen's Chamber | 10 Royal entrance |
| | 11 Hôtel des Menus Plaisirs |

Scale 1:25000



Plaine de Trianon

Grand Trianon

Petit Trianon

Plaine St. Antoine

Plaine St. Antoine

GRAND LA CROIX CANAL

Champs des peons

Plaine de la Ménagerie

Plaine du Mail

Pièce des Suisses

Boulevard de la Reine

Notre Dame

THE NEW CITY

Avenue de St. Cloud

Place d'Armes

Avenue de Paris

OLD VERSAILLES

VERSAILLES

Peterhof Palace









The imperial Court transferred to St.
Petersburg in 1712

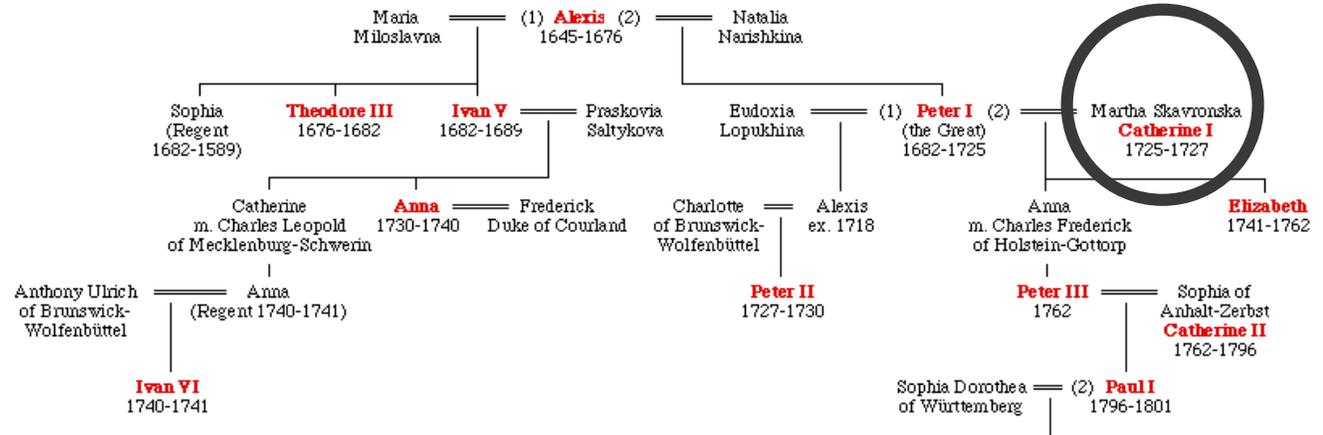
A reluctant nobility (attached to Moscow)

High cost of living



The Romanov Dynasty

by Ed Stephan



1725: the death of Peter the Great

Catherine: St. Petersburg to remain the capital

Peter the Great buried in St. Petersburg



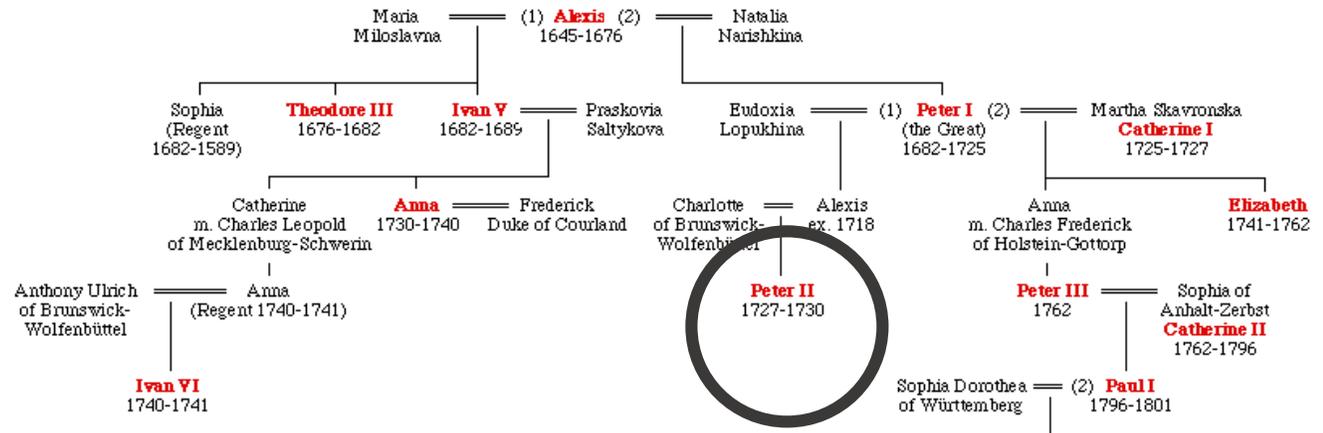
**Moscow (religious capital) vs. St. Petersburg
(military & administration)**





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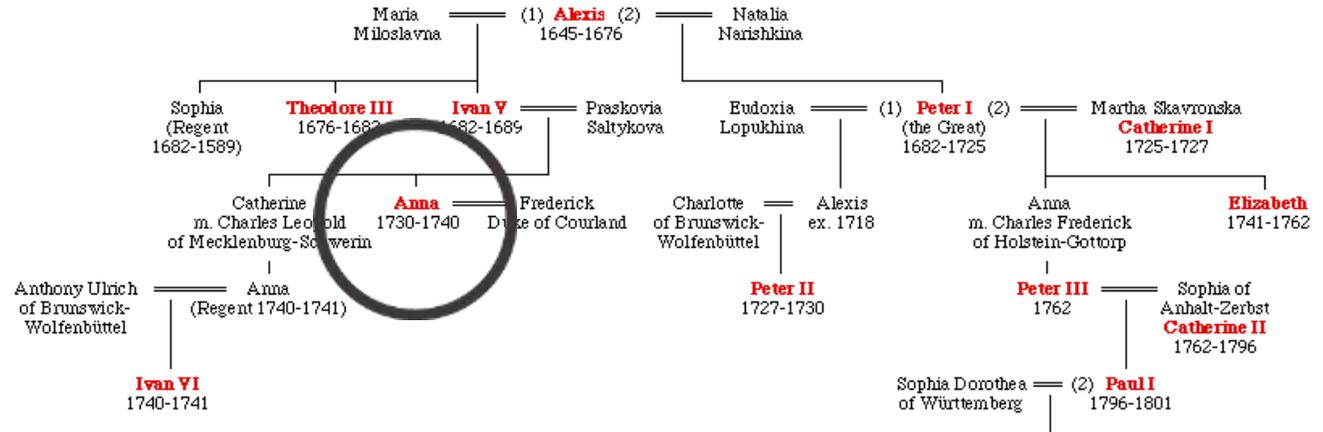
Peter II (1727-1730)

Court moved back to Moscow – Foreign affairs/diplomacy in St. Petersburg



The Romanov Dynasty

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Anna: St. Petersburg as capital once again

Competition between Moscow & St. Petersburg until 1917

The St. Petersburg elites
turned to the West

French & German: the languages
of the aristocracy

Children of the nobility sent to
Western Europe for education

St. Petersburg: a **cosmopolitan
society**

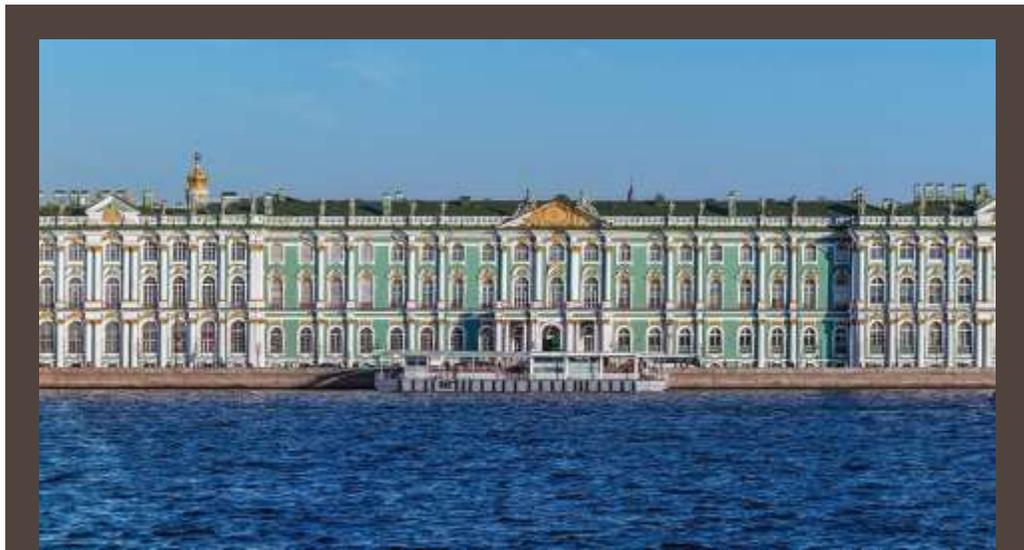




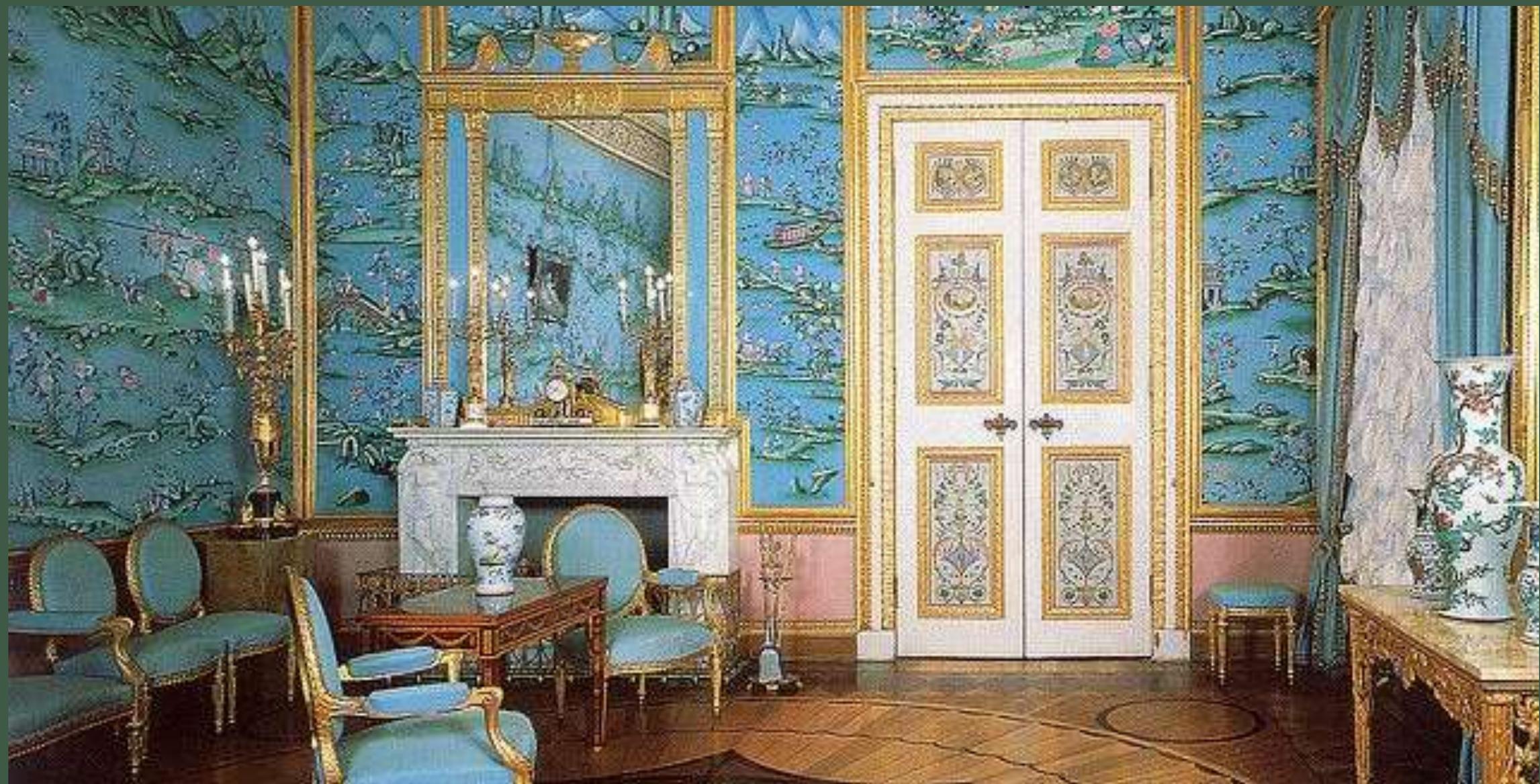


Francesco Rastrelli: the Winter Palace & Tsarskoye Selo (« *Czar's village* »)

Late Baroque style (luxury & opulence)









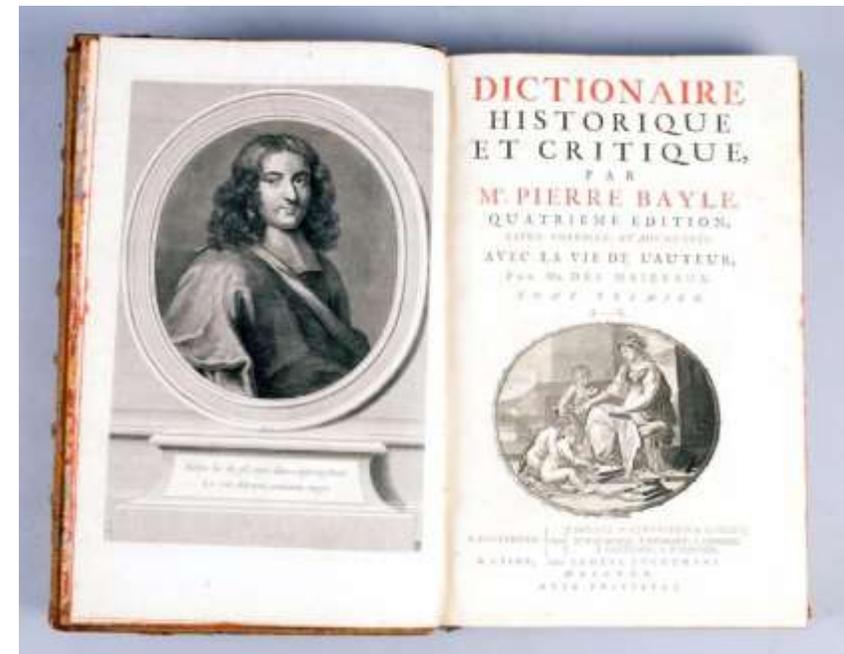
Catherine II: an enlightened empress



Voltaire, Diderot and the Encyclopedia

Urban planning: Moscow deemed too religious

St. Petersburg: the “Italian style” preferred
Palladianism (neoclassical): a style derived from designs of Venetian architect Andrea Palladio (16th century)





The Tauride Palace: the seat of the first imperial state *Duma*





Late 18th century: St.
Petersburg as largest port in
Russia

1777: 52% of Russian imports &
54% of exports

No industrial growth until the
19th century

Spectacular growth after 1840
(railroads)



The Putilov factories: the largest in Russia



The birth of an **intellectual elite** (nobility) in St. Petersburg
1820s-1840s





Napoleon's invasion of Russia & the siege of Moscow: Russian Empire at the peak of its power



Alexander: Napoleon's
responsibility vs. innocence
of French people

Clemency

Russian troops ordered to
behave

France to remain an important
power in Europe (balance of
power)

A Francophile Russia



The Franco-Russian alliance (1893-1917): growing diplomatic, economic & military exchanges



An alliance against nature?

The rise of Germany: a constant threat to both France & Russia



Russia and Austria-Hungary in the Balkans: collision course

The Bosnian crisis of 1908



A popular alliance

1893: the visit of the Russian fleet to the port of Toulon (to reinforce the alliance)

1896: the official visit of Nicolas II and Alexandra to Paris – A triumph





The Alexander III bridge (Paris)







St. Petersburg under Nicolas II: a fashionable capital and a centre of political dissent
(growing resistance to autocracy)



Spectacular economic/industrial growth: a sizeable working class and a rising middle-class





Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna

A popular member of the imperial family

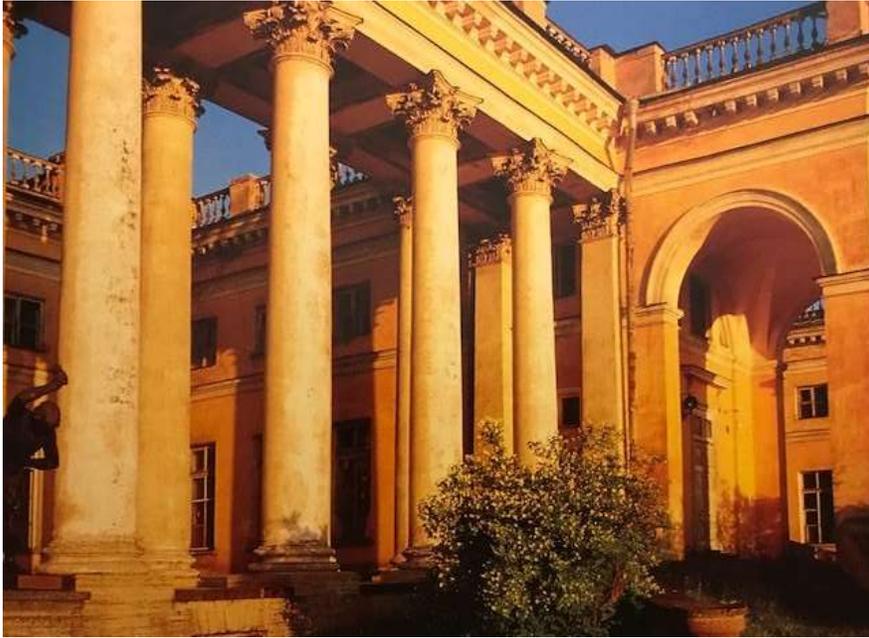
The head of a glittering court life

Markedly disliked her daughter-in-law



Nicolas II and his family: a **secluded** life (rarely seen in St. Petersburg)





Nicolas and Alexandra: family life first
An imperial family increasingly out of touch and isolated

Bloody Sunday
(St-Petersburg, 1905)

Peaceful demonstration (150 000
workers and peasants)

Nicolas II not in residence

