

GIII: Absolutism in Russia

Peter the Great

- Absolute ruler that westernized & reformed Russia
- Created a “Window on the West” to be admired by all other nations
- Made nobles dress like the West and shave their beards
- Expanded serfdom in Russia

Catherine the Great

- Enlightened despot
- Ruled with absolute power but reformed Russia using some enlightenment ideas
- Responsible for many reforms during her reign

Sample Questions

“ . . . Here a new city shall be wrought [built]. . . . Shall break a window to the West. . . Here flags of foreign nations all By waters new to them will call. . . .” — Alexander Pushkin, *The Bronze Horseman*

1. Which Russian ruler’s goals are described in the poem?

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| (1) Ivan the Terrible | (3) Catherine the Great |
| (2) Peter the Great | (4) Nicholas II |

2. Which policy was developed to implement the plans described in the poem?

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| (1) westernization | (3) appeasement |
| (2) isolationism | (4) balance of power politics |

3. One similarity between the rule of Peter the Great of Russia and that of Akbar the Great of India was that both leaders

- (1) implemented strict religious codes of conduct within their nations
- (2) modernized and expanded their empires using ideas from other cultures
- (3) relied on peaceful resolutions of conflicts with neighboring peoples
- (4) introduced democratic ideas into their political systems

- Charles I stormed the English Parliament.
- Suleiman held complete religious and political power.
- Peter the Great expanded serfdom in Russia.

4. The actions of these leaders reflect the concept of

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| (1) scientific theory | (3) mercantilism |
| (2) natural rights | (4) absolutism |

5. One way in which Alexander II, Catherine the Great, and Boris Yeltsin played similar roles in Russian history was that they

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| (1) led communist revolutions | (2) encouraged reforms |
| (3) were subjects of Stalinist purges | (4) supported territorial expansion |

6. King Louis XIV of France, Peter the Great of Russia, and Suleiman the Magnificent of the Ottoman Empire were all considered absolute rulers because they

- (1) broke from the Roman Catholic Church
- (2) helped feudal lords build secure castles
- (3) instituted programs that provided more power to their parliaments
- (4) determined government policies without the consent of their people