

A Helpful Study Guide for History 422 (#1) The Russian Empire in ca. 1800

Politically:	Autocracy	= self-derived & absolute power; uncontrolled authority Tsar (Czar) or Emperor (Tsarina / Empress) Bureaucracy consists of Ministries (from 1802) ¹
Socially:	Nobility:	Many are landowners / landlords, who own estates Some are also bureaucrats, serve in government Some are military figures – officers in Imperial army Essentially autocrats on their own estates
	Peasants:	Serfs – tied to land, subject to authority of landlord. State Peasants – belong to the state, but have greater freedom. Court (appanage) peasants – serfs of the imperial family All peasants obligated to pay taxes, serve in military
	Clergy:	Under Holy Synod (essentially a Ministry of Orthodox Christianity) Clergy for other Christian groups are fairly well defined Clergy for non-Christian groups are less well defined
		Merchant class , organized into guilds
	Raznochintsy:	"people of various ranks," a hodge-podge of social groups
	Various other:	Cossacks, along south/east borderlands non-Russian "aliens," mostly Siberia/east and many, many others

Major religions in Russia*

Orthodoxy	Most Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, and Georgians
Roman Catholicism	Poles, Lithuanians, some Belarusians
Uniate Church	Some Ukrainians and Belarusians ("Ruthenians")
Protestantism	Germans, Latvians, Estonians, Finns
Armenian Church	Armenians
"sectarianism"	Mostly Russians (Old Believers, Self-castrators, etc.)
Islam	Turkic peoples: Tatars, Azerbaijanis, Bashkirs, Kazakhs,
Judaism	Jews & Karaites
Buddhists	Buryats (near Mongolia) and Kalmyks (near Caspian Sea)
Shamanists	Native non-Russians of Siberia
"pagans"	Some peoples in Siberia and Volga region

* **Note:** All subjects of the Russian Empire were required to belong to one or another officially recognized church / religion. As late as 1917, no one could *officially* be an atheist, even if he or she rejected religion altogether.

¹ Ministries of Finance, Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, etc.

Nineteenth-Century Emperors of Russia (Romanov dynasty)

Paul (son of Catherine II), 1796-1801 [murdered]

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Alexander I (Pavlovich = son of Pavel, or Paul), 1801-1825

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Nicholas I (Pavlovich, son of Paul, brother of Alexander I), 1825-1855

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Alexander II (Nikolaevich, son of Nicholas), 1855-1881 [assassinated]

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Alexander III (Aleksandrovich, son of Alexander II), 1881-1894

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Nicholas II (Aleksandrovich, son of Alexander III), 1894-1917 [executed]

Terms & Concepts from Reading²

Pugachev uprising (1773-75)	Napoleonic Wars (1792-1814)	Alexander I
<i>Soslovie</i> (status group)	Mikhail Speransky	Campaign of 1812
Congress of Vienna	Alexander Pushkin	Decembrists
Polish uprising of 1830		

² These are terms & concepts about which you should have at least a bit of knowledge after doing the reading.