

Fascinating Info #4 Russia as Empire – to the 1860s

An Excellent Chronology

1462-1505	Reign of Ivan III (the Great); tremendous expansion of Muscovy
1552-56	Muscovy under Ivan IV conquers Khanates of Kazan' & Astrakhan'
1579-82	Muscovite campaign against Khanate of Siberia
1654	Muscovite incorporation of left-bank Ukraine + Kiev
1710	Peter the Great conquers Estonia & Livonia from Sweden
1721	Peter the Great declares Russia an "empire," himself "emperor"
1734-40	Final subjugation of Bashkirs
1740-55	Aggressive conversion to Orthodoxy of Volga peoples
1772-95	First partition of Poland ¹
1783	Annexation of Crimea
1801-10	Annexation of Georgian kingdoms
1804-13	Conquest of northern parts of Azerbaijan from Persia
1809	Conquest & annexation of Finland (titled "Grand Duchy")
1812	Annexation of Bessarabia
1815	Congress of Vienna; repartition of Poland ²
1822-48	Annexation of Kazakh hordes
1826-28	Annexation of eastern Armenia from Persia
1829-64	Caucasian war to "pacify" mountain population
1830-31	November insurrection in Poland
1839	"Reunion" of Uniate church with Orthodoxy ³
1853-56	Crimean War; Russia loses southern Bessarabia
1855-66	Mass migrations of Muslims from Russia to Ottoman Empire ⁴
1860s	Conquest of Central Asia
1863	January insurrection in Poland & Lithuania

Population of the Empire by the Census of 1897 (122.6 million people):⁵

"Great Russians"	44.3%	Germans	1.3%
Ukrainians ⁶	17.8%	Caucasus "mountain people"	1.3%
Belorussians	4.7%	Georgians	1.1%
Poles	6.3%	Latvians	1.1%
Turkic peoples	10.8%	Lithuanians	1.0%
Jews	4.1%	Armenians	0.9%
Finnic peoples ⁷	2.4%		

Other Fun Stuff

Congress Poland/western provinces	Shamyl	Crimean War
Jewish Pale of settlement	Exile system (Siberia)	

¹ At this point Poland ceased to exist as an independent political entity.

² Creation of "Kingdom of Poland" within the Russian empire.

³ But only in the Russian empire proper. Uniate church remains in Kingdom of Poland until 1875.

⁴ Estimates suggest between 500,000 and 900,000.

⁵ Listed here are only major ethnic / national groups.

⁶ The Imperial government did not recognize either Ukrainians ("Little Russians") or Belorussians ("White Russians") as separate nationalities, but rather as sub-groups of the Russian nationality.

⁷ Not including 2.5 million Finns in the Grand Duchy of Finland (counted separately).