

Useful information #5 Serfdom in Russia

Note: David Moon's book contains many reference resources (biographies, chronology, etc.). The information provided here is designed to supplement that and to indicate the people, concepts, events, and entities with which you should have some familiarity for our conference.

Stuff on Which to Have a Handle¹

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| "Emancipation of nobility" (1762) | <i>barshchina</i> (labor dues) | <i>obrok</i> (dues in cash or kind) |
| Secularization of church peasants | "enlightened bureaucrats" | Pavel Kiselev |
| Peasant commune (<i>mir, obshchina</i>) | Pugachev uprising | Catherine II (Great), 1762-1796 |
| Paul, 1796-1801 | Alexander I, 1801-1825 | Nicholas I, 1825-1855 |
| Alexander II, 1855-1881 | Alexander Radishchev | Intelligentsia |
| Crimean War (1853-56) | Yakov Rostovtsev | "free agriculturalists" (1803) |
| "obligated peasants" (1842) | Abolition in Baltic region | Appanage (crown) peasants |
| State peasants | Ministry of State Domains | Military reform |
| Sergei Lanskoï | Dmitrii Miliutin | Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna |
| Grand Duke Constantine Nik-vich | Nazimov Rescript | Alexis Unkovskii |
| Secret Committee on Peasant Ques. | Alexander Herzen (<i>The Bell</i>) | "temporary obligation" |
| Main Committee on Peasant Ques. | Editing Commissions | "redemption operation" |
| Peace mediators | Viklage communities | Townships (<i>volosti</i>) |
| Land allotments | Nicholas Chernyshevskii | Bezdna (Kazan province) |
| Peter Zaichnevskii (Young Russia) | "cut offs" | Noble Land Bank |
| Populists | Peter Stolypin | |

Fun statistics on numbers / percentages of serfs in Russia

| Year | Number of male serfs ² | % of peasantry | % of population |
|------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1719 | 3,528,722 | 53.9 | 48.4 |
| 1744 | 4,348,873 | 55.8 | 50.6 |
| 1762 | 5,611,531 | 56.2 | 53.0 |
| 1782 | 6,714,331 | 53.3 | 49.1 |
| 1795 | 9,787,802 | 60.0 | 53.9 |
| 1811 | 10,455,986 | 57.4 | 51.7 |
| 1815 | 9,987,997 | 56.0 | 47.8 |
| 1833 | 11,447,203 | 53.0 | 44.9 |
| 1851 | 11,384,312 | 48.8 | 40.7 |
| 1858 | 11,338,042 | 47.2 | 39.2 |

¹ Ideally. The point is that you need to be conversant in the main concepts, people & institutions involved with the emancipation. Depending on which group you represent, you should make concrete reference to some of these things in your presentations & papers.

² Only male peasants (or "souls") were counted for census purposes, since they constituted the basis for taxation.