

The Russian Empire Factors to Consider

Student Name _____ Date _____

- 1) Russian leader Ivan IV expanded Russia's territory and declared himself the first tsar (from Latin, *Caesar*=emperor) in 1547.
- 2) Until the early 1700s, Russian trade was limited by Sweden's control of the Baltic Sea, the Ottoman Empire's control of the Black Sea and the Safavid Empire's control of overland trade routes.
- 3) Admission of foreigners could be permitted only by the tsar and travel by Russians was forbidden outside the borders of the empire. Russia's exposure to the West before Peter the Great came from European merchants who were part of the Hanseatic League.
- 4) Because Russian northern waters froze in the winter, Russian tsars from Ivan IV through Peter the Great (ruled 1689–1725) sought a warm water port for trade.
- 5) Cossacks, nomads on the Russian steppe, served as a strong military force for the Russian Empire, defending against Swedish and Ottoman attacks and helping to expand Russia's eastern frontier.
- 6) Russian Tsar Peter the Great, an absolute monarch, saw himself as the divinely appointed protector of Orthodox Christians living in the Ottoman Empire. The Orthodox Church in Russia was very powerful, controlling as much as one-third of all arable land.
- 7) In the early 1700s, Russia, under Peter the Great, seized control of the Baltic Sea from Sweden, increasing contact with Europe.
- 8) Peter the Great admired European technology and culture and sought to westernize Russia. He built a new capital in St. Petersburg on land seized from Sweden and modeled it after European cities. He also ordered nobles (known as boyars) to dress in western styles and shave their beards to look more European. Many boyars resisted and instead paid a tax to keep their beards.
- 9) Russian tsars were autocratic and had complete control over the state.
- 10) Because there were no large empires or states to compete with, Russia quickly expanded eastward and controlled all of Siberia by the early 1600s. This gave Russia control over Siberia's lucrative fur and timber. Siberia was required to pay tribute in furs.
- 11) As Russia expanded east, the Russian Empire and Qing China competed for influence in Mongolia and for control over the Amur River.