Russia - The Romanov Dynasty

- Starting with a seventeen year-old boy Michael and his two successors, Aleksei and Theodore II, brought stability and modest bureaucratic centralization to Russia.
- Russia needed this after the reign of Ivan the Terrible.

Peter the Great - Early Years

- Came to power at age of ten and believed that the power of the tsar must be secure from the jealousy and greed of the boyars, the old nobility, and the streltsy, the guards of the Moscow garrison.
  - Publicly executed rebellious streltsy and repressed and humiliated the boyars.
- Wanted to increase Russian military power, so he drafted an army of 300000 soldiers.
- Built a navy on the Baltic Sea and went to war with the Ottomans.
- The Great Northern War - Peter defeats the Swedes and takes control of Estonia, Livonia, and parts of Finland.
- St. Petersburg - Built a capital in honor of himself with places forcibly built by the boyars that resemble small versions of Versailles.
- Peter’s son Aleksei, with Charles VI of Hapsburg, attempts a conspiracy against Peter and is sentenced to death, dies in prison under mysterious circumstances.

Peter the Great - Later Years

- Peter realized he was faced with a lot of opposition, so he brings the nobility and the Russian Orthodox Church closer to the tsar.
- **Table of Ranks** - Made a person’s social position and privileges more important than lineage.

- Abolishes the patriarch and puts in its place the **Holy Synod**, which consisted of several bishops headed by a layman called the procurator general.

- 1725 - Peter dies and leaves no successor as Russia becomes unstable.

October 29, 2015

**Peasants and Serfs**

- Lives of economic and social dependency, exploitation, vulnerability

- Power of European landlords increased from west to east

- French peasants: *banalities* (feudal dues); *corvee* (annual forced labor)

- Hapsburg serfs: near slavery: *robot* (compulsory service to lord)

- Russian serfs: worst off; noble wealth measured by number of serfs, not acres

- Ottoman Empire (SE Europe): peasants nominally free; marginally empowered by scarcity of labor

**Family Structure**

- **Family Economy**: family was basic unit of production and consumption in preindustrial Europe.

- Northwestern European households:
  
  ○ Nuclear family - married couple, children through early teens, servants; approx. 5-6 members average.
  
  ○ Married late - average age 26 (men), 23 (women).
Servants - young people working in exchange for room, board, wages; not necessarily socially inferior to employers; normally ate with family.

Family Structure (cont.)

- Eastern European households
  - Marriage usually before 20, often arranged
  - Extended family- 3-4 generations, 9-20 members or more in rural Russia
  - Aided by landlord’s need for labor

Family Economy

- Living alone almost impossible and viewed with suspicion
- All household members worked; work products went to family, not the individual
- Farming major occupation, but rarely adequate - one or more family members might work elsewhere and send wages home
- Skilled artisans - father chief artisan, wife often sold the wares, children learned the trade
- Western Europe: death of the father often meant disaster; high mortality rate meant high personal and economic vulnerability.

Women and the Family Economy

- Women’s lives largely determined by their ability to establish and maintain a household.
- Marriage an economic necessity.
- Dominant concern was adequate food supply; necessity of limiting number of children - birth control.

Industrialism in Great Britain

- GB: Industrial