How Europeans Viewed Things

Russia:
- Poor
- Geographically Isolated
- Dominated by nobles
- Medieval / Feudal
  - Many serfs
- Church has great influence

Peter the Great
Tsar of Russia

Peter's reign can be summed up with one letter.
Carl Röchling (d. 1920), Attack of the Prussian Infantry

Peter created a professional military force based on the Prussian model.
**Azov Campaign 1695-1696**

**OBJECTIVE:**
Control of Sea of Azov

Peter the Great vs. the Ottoman Empire

**Peter the Great vs. the Ottoman Empire**

**Map credit:** NormanEinstein

**Peter the Great vs. the Ottoman Empire**

**Map credit:** NormanEinstein

Hey Ottomans, I want access to the ocean. Keep Dreaming! You will never get a warm water port!

Photo by Sonny Abesamis

Peter's first attempt to take Azov with a land army ended in failure.

**Peter's first attempt to take Azov with a land army ended in failure.**

Photo by Sonny Abesamis

**FAIL**

Photo by Sonny Abesamis

**WIN**

Photo by Sonny Abesamis
Peter returned the following spring, supported by a fleet of ships. Eugene Lanceray.

Father of the Russian Navy

A National Flag

Dutch Flag  Russian Flag

Emblem of the Russian Navy

Peter’s European Tour

1697-1698

Amsterdam & England had the best shipyards in Europe.

SHIPBUILDING
It wasn’t all Business

A Gift for the King of England

Cultural Revolution

Young Peter the Great wearing a Traditional Eastern Kaftan

Beard Tax

Those who paid Peter's Beard Tax carried tokens to prove it.
Before 1700, the Russians had observed the New Year in September.

Resistance to Westernization

Entrenched Classes
- Boyars (Nobility)
- Streltsy (Musketeers)
- Russian Orthodox Church

Streltsy Rebellion
"Their leaders, with several of their officers and priests, were condemned to death; some were broken upon the wheel, and two women were buried alive; upwards of two thousand of the Strelzy were executed, part of whom were hanged round about the walls of the city..."

-- Voltaire

The Streltsy rebellion was put down by Gen. Patrick Gordon, a Scottish general who westernized Peter’s army.

The Russian Orthodox Church led a Patriarch, had not supported Peter’s reforms.
The Russian Orthodox Church banned the use of tobacco, a Western import.
1917 Patriarchate Reinstated

SERVICE
Nobility

Table of Ranks
14 RANKS

Everyone starts at the Bottom.

SOME GET HERE
Meritocracy

People (theoretically) progressed through the Table of Ranks by merit rather than because of their family status or connections.

The Great Northern War
Russia vs. Sweden

1700 - 1721

CHARLES XII
King of Sweden

Peter DEFEATED

Battle of Narva 1700

St. Petersburg
Russia's "Window to the West"

Battle of Poltava 1709

Peter WINS!!!
Peter’s “Window On The West”
Saint Petersburg: The Most “European” of all Russian cities

Monument to Peter “the Carpenter”
St. Petersburg

The Bronze Horseman

Peter the Great’s Cabin
A Monument for Posterity

Simplicity

Photo by ninara
Photo by Alexxx
Photo by Godot13
What does it take to get a little respect around here? I've got to get Westernized. Maybe a new capital would help. And a big army! - and navy. Hey you! Shave off that beard!! Better get hold of these rotten nobles. Peter the Great.

The Russian Empire
1721-1917

Art Credit: Katepanomegas