

## CHAPTER 17

# Absolutism in Eastern Europe to 1740

### STUDY-REVIEW EXERCISES

Define the following key concepts and terms.

serfdom

absolutism

baroque

Prussian *Junkers*

Hohenzollern

§ *kholops*

Romanov

*boyar*

autocracy

§ Vikings

Habsburgs

Mongols

Pragmatic Sanction

Suleiman the Magnificent

Frederick the Great

§ Charles VI of Austria

§ Prince Francis Rákóczy

Jenghiz Khan

Ivan the Terrible

Frederick William the Great Elector

Frederick William I

§ Great Prince Iaroslav the Wise

Ivan III

Peter the Great

§ Ivan Bolotnikov

§ Bartolomeo Rastrelli

**Explain what the following events were, who participated in them, and why they were important.**

building of the Winter Palace of St. Petersburg

siege of Vienna, 1683

War of the Austrian Succession

Battle of Poltava

## **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

**Check your understanding of this chapter by answering the following questions.**

1. What were the reasons for the re-emergence of serfdom in eastern Europe in the early modern period?
2. In western Europe the conflict between the king and his vassals resulted in gains for the common man. Why did this not happen in eastern Europe?
3. Why would the reign of the Great Elector be regarded as “the most crucial constitutional struggle in Prussian history for hundreds of years”? What did he do to increase royal authority? Who were the losers?
4. Prussia has traditionally been considered one of the most militaristic states in Europe. How do you explain this development? Who or what was responsible?

5. How did the Thirty Years' War and invasion by the Ottoman Turks help the Habsburgs consolidate power?
6. What was the Pragmatic Sanction and why were the Hungarian and Bohemian princes opposed to it?
7. What role, if any, did war play in the evolution of absolutism in Eastern Europe?
8. What was the relationship between baroque architecture and European absolutism? Give examples.
9. It has been said that the common man benefited from the magnificent medieval cathedrals as much as the princes. Can the same be said about the common man and the building projects of the absolute kings and princes? Explain.
10. How did the Vikings influence Russian history?
11. How did the Mongols unify the eastern Slavs?
12. What role did Ivan the Terrible play in the rise of absolutism? Peter the Great?
13. Describe why "baroque" art and architecture came about and give examples of how it was used.

**Test your understanding of the chapter by providing the correct answers.**

1. The founder of the new Russian city on the coast of the Baltic Sea.
2. After 1500, serfdom in eastern Europe *increased/decreased*.
3. The Ottoman Turkish leader who captured Vienna in 1529.
4. In the struggle between the Hungarian aristocrats and the Austrian Habsburgs, the Hungarian aristocrats *maintained/lost* their traditional privileges.
5. This Prussian monarch doubled the size of Prussia in 1740 by taking Silesia from Austria.
6. The monarchs of eastern Europe were generally *stronger/weaker* than the kings of western Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

**Place the following events in correct chronological order.**

- |                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Election of the first Romanov tsar | 1. |
| Establishment of the Kievan state  | 2. |
| Time of Troubles                   | 3. |
| Invasion by the Mongols            | 4. |
| Building of St. Petersburg         | 5. |
| Battle of Poltava                  | 6. |

**Major Political Ideas**

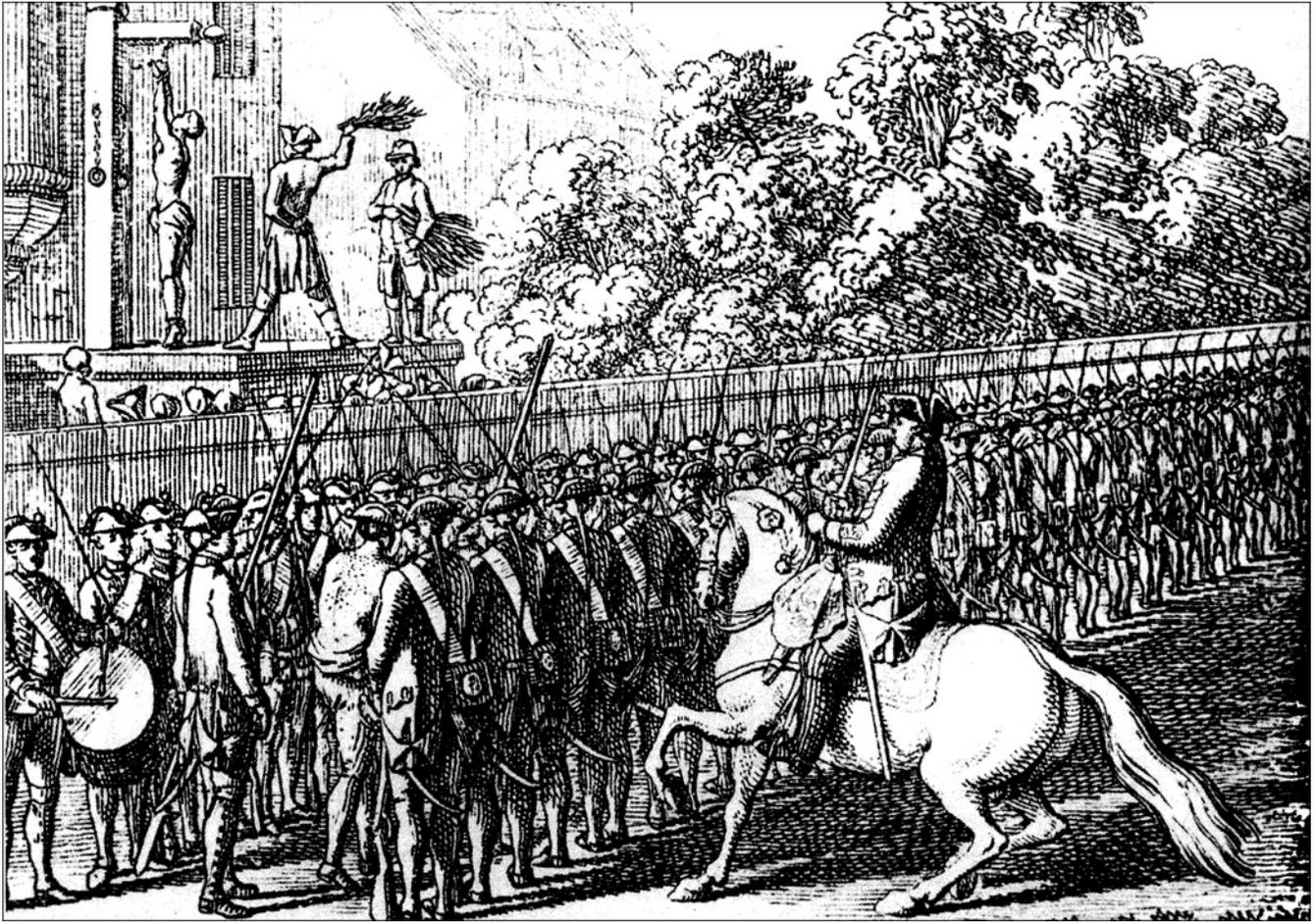
1. What is a “service nobility” in Russia?
2. Compare and contrast the power of the nobility and the middle class in Russia with that of the nobility and the middle class in western Europe.

**Issues for Essays and Discussion**

1. Why did royal absolutism take such strong root in eastern Europe? Why was constitutionalism, such as in England and the Netherlands, not undertaken? Was economics or geography the key difference-or was it something else?
2. Trace the fortunes and political power of the noble classes in Russia, Austria, and Prussia from about 1300 to about the middle of the 1700s. How did the monarchs gain the upper hand?
3. Peter the Great of Russia and Frederick William the Great Elector of Prussia are often viewed as heroes and reformers in the histories of their own countries. How valid is this assessment?

### Interpretation of Visual Sources

Study the print entitled *Molding the Prussian Spirit*. Describe the scene. Why would this print have been included in a book for children? What were the reasons for Prussia's "obsessive bent for military organization and military scales of value"?



## Geography

1. Study Map 17.1, “The Ottoman Empire at Its Height, 1566,” in your textbook. Is this essentially a European or Near Eastern empire? What were the main ethnic groups making up the empire? What held it together? By studying this map can you predict what would eventually tear the empire apart?
2. On Outline Map 17.3 provided, and using Map 17.3 in the textbook for reference, mark the following: the area covered by the principality of Moscow in 1300, the territories acquired by the principality of Moscow from 1300 to 1689, the acquisitions of Peter the Great.
3. Looking at Map 17.2 in the textbook, identify the three territorial parts of the Habsburg (Austrian) state and explain how they came to be united.

**Outline Map 17.3**

