

Rise of Russia: 1450-1800



Prelude: Westernization

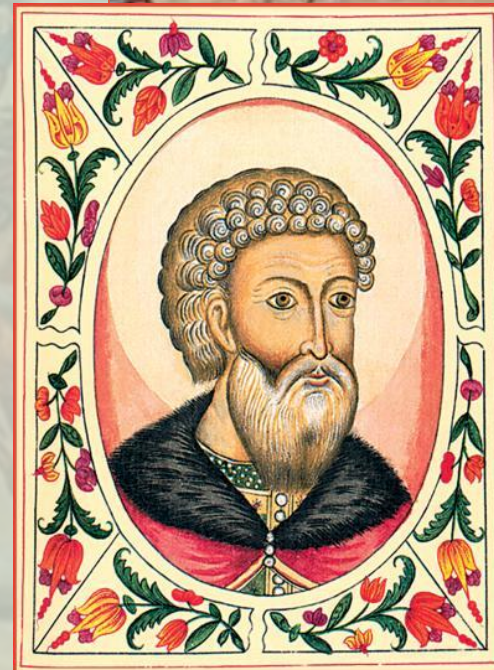


A. What is “westernization”?

- Becoming like the West: historically, Western Europe
- Becoming modern, cosmopolitan
- Can also mean loss of traditional culture, beliefs, practices

I. Liberation

- A. Beginning in 14th century, Russian elite wants independence from Mongols
- B. Ivan the Great (Ivan III)
 - frees large section of Russia
 - established new government, strong emphasis on military power
 - 1480 – Moscow freed from Mongols, independent Russia expands



I. Liberation

C. Marries niece of last Byzantine emperor

- Considers Russia to be third Rome
- Named himself tsar/czar
- Modeled many religious, political, and social institutions off of the Byzantine Empire



Early Russian Expansion



II. Ivan the Terrible (Ivan IV)



- 1533 - becomes Russia's ruler
- A. Placed great emphasis on controlling boyars (landowning aristocrats)
 - Earned his nickname by having many boyars killed attempting to solidify his power

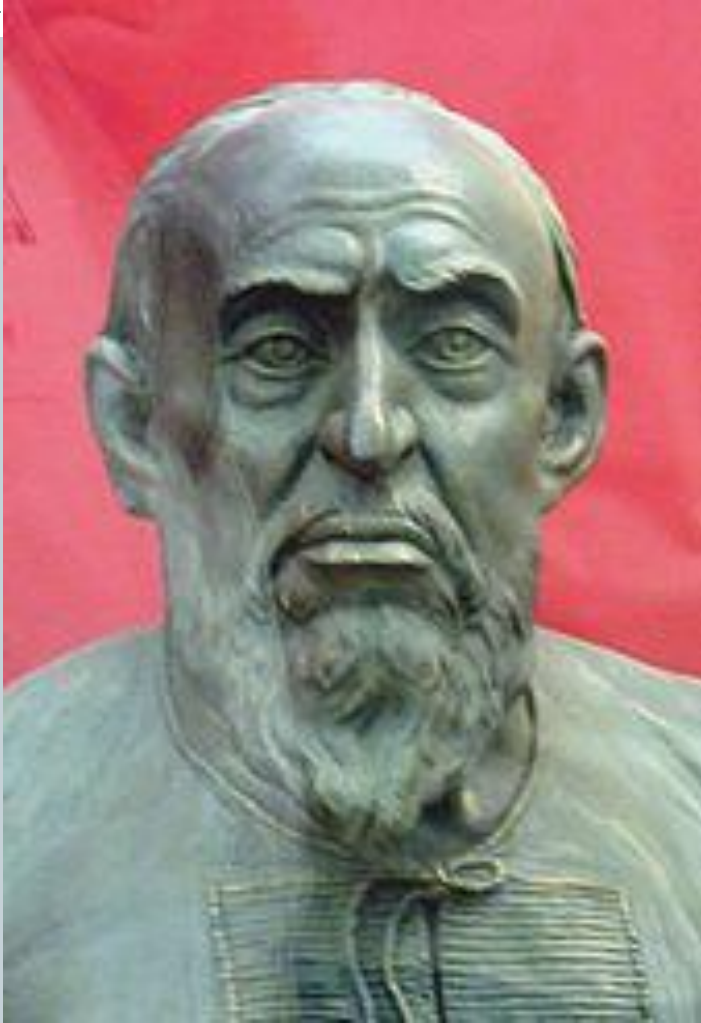
II. Ivan the Terrible (Ivan IV)

B. Continued Russian expansion efforts

- Recruited cossacks, or peasant-adventures, to migrate to newly seized lands to the east – Caspian Sea, western Siberia

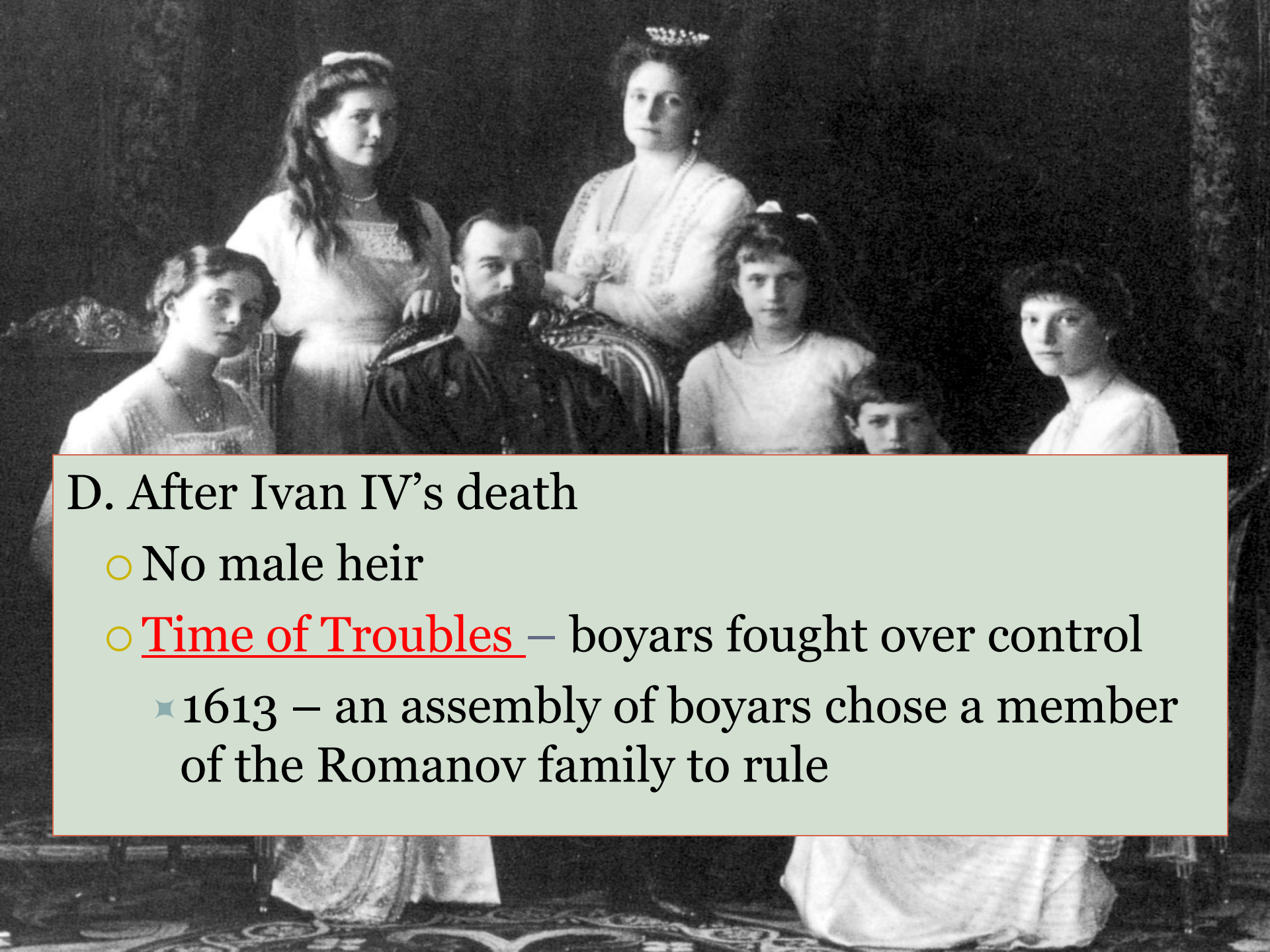


II. Ivan the Terrible (Ivan IV)



C. Contact with the West

- Ivan invited Western European artists to design/create buildings/art
- Trade increased between Russia and Western Europe



D. After Ivan IV's death

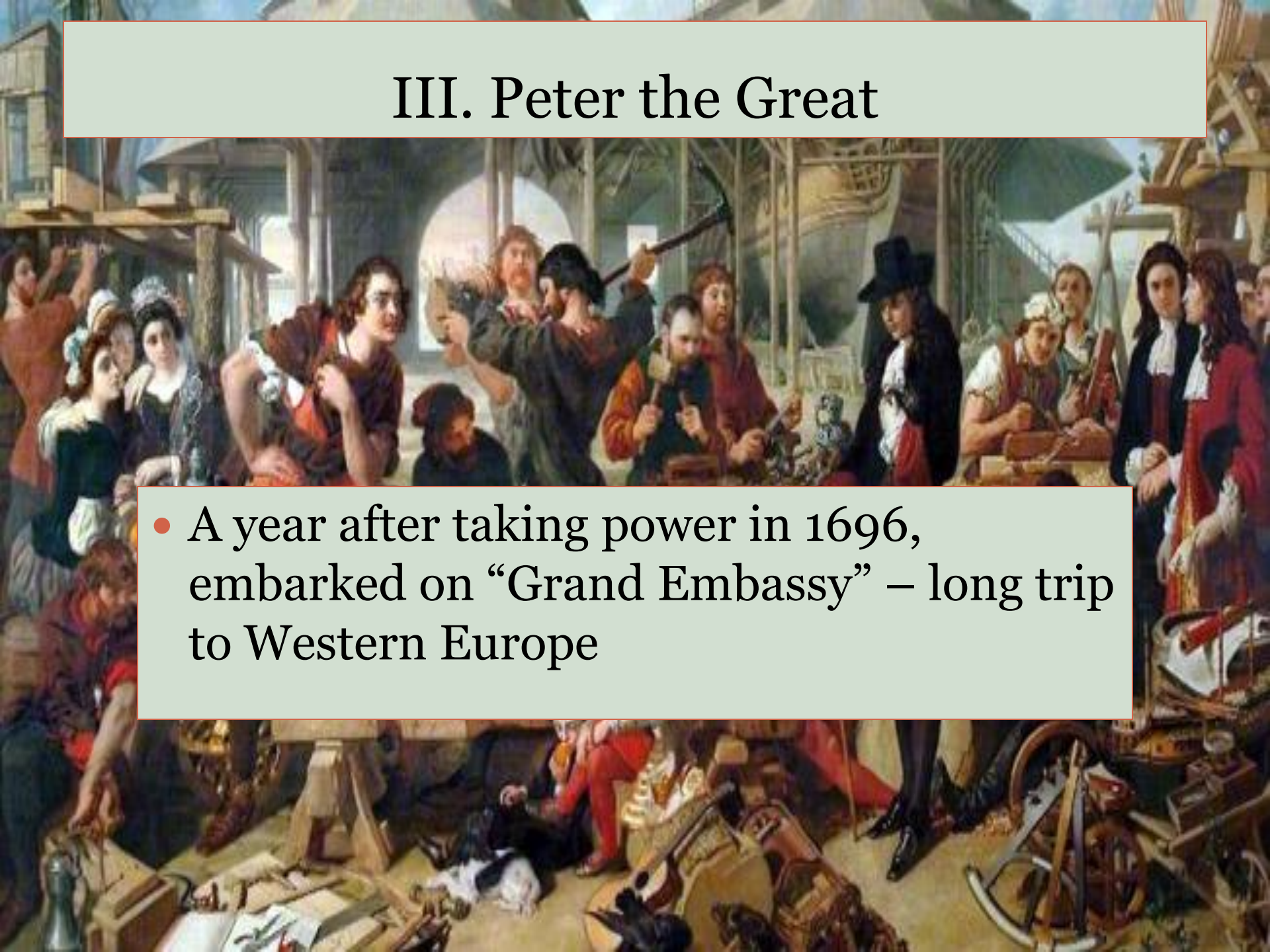
- No male heir
- Time of Troubles – boyars fought over control
 - ✦ 1613 – an assembly of boyars chose a member of the Romanov family to rule

Romanov dynasty strengthened power of tsars and increased contact with West

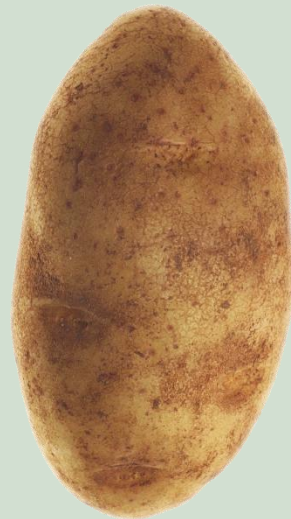
- Early leaders abolished boyar assemblies, gained power over church
 - Dissident religious conservatives, or Old Believers, were exiled to Siberia
- Believed the key to westernization was in removing power from powerful nobility

III. Peter the Great

- A year after taking power in 1696, embarked on “Grand Embassy” – long trip to Western Europe



- Sought to westernize Russia politically, commercially, and militarily by:
 - Tightening control of Orthodox Church
 - Limiting power of nobles
 - Moving capital to St. Petersburg
 - Hiring Western European officers to train armies
 - Introducing the potato



- Starting Russia's first newspaper
- Raising status of women by having them attend social gatherings and ending some older marriage traditions (the whip!)
- Ordering boyars to wear Western fashions, cut beards
- Advancing education by requiring sons of nobles be educated



IV. Catherine the Great

- A. Prussian princess, converted to Orthodox Christianity in order to marry into Russia's ruling family
- B. Furthered Westernization of Russia, considered an enlightened monarch
- Invited French philosophers and European artists to Russia
 - However, was not open to ideas of revolution that would eventually take hold throughout much of Western Europe
 - Put down Pugachev rebellion, extended powers of central government





C. Further expansion

- Partition of Poland – divided among Russia, Austria, and Prussia, between years of 1772 – 1795
- Expanded Siberian colonies
- Claimed territory in what is today Alaska

Expansion Under Catherine the Great



V. Peasant Life



- A. After Mongol control was ended, peasant farmers had to continue to accept servile status to landowning nobles
 - Serfdom was way to satisfy nobles' demands and control peasant population

- B. Throughout from 15th to 18th centuries, peasant rights declined steadily
 - Could not legally escape serfdom (status was hereditary)
 - Serfs were often sold along with land

V. Peasant Life



C. Popular unrest

- Increase in commercial activities and wealth led to unrest, as many lacked access to new found resources (Pugachev Rebellion)
- 17th century onwards – Russia experienced increased resistance from peasant population, culminating in removal of Romanov dynasty in early 20th century

LAST NIGHT ON DANCING WITH THE TSARS



**PETER AND CATHERINE WERE
GREAT, BUT IVAN WAS TERRIBLE**