A BRIEF HISTORY of RUSSIA
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2 - The RURIKID Dynasty and the RISE of MUSCOVY

The RURIKIDS

RURIK (died c. 879 AD)
- semi-legendary founder of the RURIK dynasty of the KIEVAN RUS
- a Viking or Varangian prince
- NOVGOROD (Viking rule begins c. 862)

Oleg (Helgi / + 912)
- conquered Kiev (c. 882)
- proclaims himself GRAND PRINCE of KIEV = the Grand Principality of Kiev

VLADIMIR I (St. Vladimir / Valdamarr / r. 980 – 1015)
- kills his brothers to seize control over Kiev
- introduced Christianity into the country
- organized the Kievan Rus lands into a confederation

The city of VLADIMIR (Volodymyr / also VLADIMIR-SUZDAL)
- becomes the new seat of the Russian Grand Prince (c. 1170) eclipsing Kiev

The beginnings of MUSCOVY
- MOSCOW founded c. 1150
- the KREMLIN (a citadel)

The MONGOL invasions (1230s onwards)
- Batu, grandson of Genghis Khan
- the GOLDEN HORDE
- capital at Sarai

- the burning of Moscow (c. 1240)

ALEXANDER NEVSKY (1221 – 1263)
- Prince of Novgorod (1236 - 1252)
- Battle of the Ice (April 1242)
- he drives off attacks by Swedes and Teutonic Knights

- Grand Prince of Kiev (1236 - 1252)
- Grand Prince of Vladimir (1252 - 1263)

Yaroslav, younger brother of Alexander Nevsky, becomes Grand Prince of Vladimir (1264 – 1271)
- founded the house of TVER
The House of Muscovy

The renewed Rurikid dynasty > “the gathering the Russian lands”

Daniel / Daniil Aleksandrovich (1261 / r. 1283 — 1303)
- youngest son of Alexander Nevsky,
- becomes Prince of Moscow, forefather of the Grand Dukes of Moscow

Yuri, Prince of Moscow (1281 / r. 1303 - 1325)
- son of Daniil

Ivan I Daniilovich, Grand Prince of Moscow (1288 / r. 1325 — c. 1340)
- son of Daniil
- the Metropolitan of the Russian Orthodox Church moves to Moscow from Vladimir (1326)

Ivan II Ivanovich the Fair, Grand Prince of Moscow (1326 / r. 1353 — 1359)

Dmitry Ivanovich Donskoy (1350 / r. 1359 — 1389)
- extensive building of the Moscow Kremlin
- Battle of Kulikovo (1380) — the first major defeat of the Mongol-Tatar hegemony

Vasily I Dmitriyevich (1371 / r. 1389 — 1425)

Vasily II Vasilyevich, “the Blind” (1415 / r. 1425 — 1462)

- Constantinople falls to the Ottoman Turks (1453)

IVAN III Vasilyevich, Grand Prince of Moscow (1440 / r. 1462 — 1505)
- marriage to Maria of Tver
- marriage to Sophia (Zoe) Paleologue
  - niece of the last Byzantine Emperor Constantine XI
  - uses the title “Tsar and Autocrat”
  - Moscow as “the Third Rome” (the monk Philotheos)
  - extensive building in Moscow with Italian craftsman

Vasili III Ivanovich (1479 / r. 1505 - 1533)

IVAN IV Vasilyevich, “Ivan the Terrible” or “Ivan the Fearsome” (b. 1530)
- Grand Prince of Moscow (r. 1533 - 1547)
- Tsar of All the Russian (r. 1547 - 1584)
  - first to be proclaimed TSAR (“Caesar” / tzar / czar / 1547)
  - his first wife: Tsarina Anastasiya Romanovna Zakharina-Yureva
    - her father: Roman Yurev (+ 1543)
    - her brother: Nikita Romanov
  - the oprichinina
  - the burning of Moscow (1571)
FEODOR / FYODOR (Theodore) I Ivanovich, Tsar of All Russia (1557 / r. 1584 - 1598) and brother DMITRI

-BORIS GODUNOV (c. 1551 – 1605), Regent of All Russia (1585 — 1598)

-elevation of the Metropolitan to Patriarch (1589)
-made peace with Sweden and Poland
-colonization of the southern steppes and Siberia (regions east of Ural Mtns)
-strengthening of government officials & townspeople at the expense of the boyars

-with death of Fyodor I, Boris crowned tsar (1598)
-his coronation brings an end to the RURIKID Dynasty

BORIS GODUNOV, Tsar of All Russia (c. 1551 / r. 1598 – 1605)

-“the Time of Troubles” (1598 – 1613)

-ended by a zemsky sobor (assembly of the land)

-election of Nikita Romanov’s grandson, Mikhail Fyodorovich Romanov

* Ivan the Terrible, by Robert Payne (2002)
* Fearful Majesty: The Life and Reign of Ivan the Terrible, by Benson Bobrick (2014)
* Boris Godunov, by Alexander Pushkin

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me at nhohmann@sfcm.edu