

# DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRIVATE LIFE OF CATHERINE THE GREAT OF RUSSIA

## Chapter 1 : Formats and Editions of The private life of Catherine the Great of Russia, [calendrierdelascience.com]

*The Private Life Of Catherine The Great Of Russia [Princess Lucien Murat, Garnett Saffery] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. This scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original.*

Catherine the Great on her wedding day. Catherine came to power in a bloodless coup that later turned deadly. A program of liberal domestic reforms aimed at improving the lives of the poor also alienated members of the lower nobility. As tensions mounted, a plan to overthrow Peter took root. On July 9, just six months after becoming czar, Peter abdicated, and Catherine was proclaimed sole ruler. However, what had begun as a bloodless coup soon turned deadly. Though there is no proof that Catherine knew of the murder before it happened, it cast a pall over her reign from the start. Catherine faced down more than a dozen uprisings during her reign. Pugachev, a former army officer, claimed that he was actually the deposed and believed dead Peter III, and therefore the rightful heir to the Russian throne. Within a year, Pugachev had drawn thousands of supporters and captured a large amount of territory, including the city of Kazan. Initially unconcerned about the rebellion, Catherine soon responded with massive force. Catherine was famously loyal to her lovers, both during their relationship and after it ended. Always parting on good terms, she bestowed upon them titles, land, palaces and even people—gifting one former paramour with more than 1, serfs, or indentured servants. But perhaps nobody reaped the bounties of her favor more than Stanislaw Poniatowski, one of her earliest lovers and the father of one of her children. A member of the Polish nobility, Poniatowski first became involved with Catherine who was not yet on the throne when he served in the British embassy to St. Even after a scandal partly caused by their relationship forced him from the Russian court, they remained close. In , long after their relationship had ended and a year after she had come to power, Catherine successfully threw her support both military and financial behind Poniatowski in his effort to become king of Poland. What was once a strong bond between the two former lovers soon soured, with Catherine forcing Poniatowski to abdicate and Russia leading the effort to break up and dissolve the newly formed Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Catherine the Great in a Russian army uniform. Catherine saw herself as an enlightened ruler. Contrary to popular myth, Catherine died a fairly mundane, uneventful death. Some claimed that the all-powerful ruler had died while on the toilet. Others took their lurid storytelling even further, perpetuating a myth that has endured for centuries: Of course, there is no truth to this rumor. Though her enemies would have hoped for a scandalous end, the simple truth is that Catherine suffered a stroke and died quietly in her bed the following day. Catherine had a famously stormy relationship with her eldest son, Paul. Relations between the two grew so bad that Paul was at times convinced his mother was actively plotting his death. While Catherine had no such plans, she did fear that Paul would be an incompetent ruler and looked for alternate options for the succession. In fact, it is believed that Catherine intended to make this official in late but died before she was able to do so. Paul became czar but soon proved to be just as erratic and unpopular as Catherine had feared. Five years into his reign, he was assassinated, and his year-old son assumed power as Alexander I.

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## Chapter 2 : HISTORY OF RUSSIA

*Catherine the Great was empress of Russia from No Russian woman had ever reigned as long. Catherine's notorious love affairs and ravenous relationships are at the root of all the scandals, legends, and rumors that still abound about her, even though it is unlikely they are true.*

Known for her intelligence and ambitions to rule the Russian Empire, Catherine not only challenged the social norms of the time but also set the precedent for women in powerful positions. She consolidated power from the serfs and feudal lords by continuing the political reforms started by Peter the Great. In addition to this, Catherine imported many great works in literature, art, and print from the Western European nations. Petersburg blossomed sculptures, palaces, and educational systems. Education and law codes further developed under her reign. At the end of her thirty-four year reign from to , Catherine had catapulted Russia into the world scene as a major world empire. Immediately following her birth Sophie faced many challenges in a society which legally subjugating its woman population. Although she had society stacked against her, she was recognized by her father for her great ability to learn and remember concepts and ideas. Only after she had proven her abilities did she receive formal education. Although Sophie was a German, she like her mother strove to be as Russian as her mother in-law Elizabeth the I. In addition to this Catherine converted the Russian Orthodox Church in order to be married into the imperial line. Using her sexuality to obtain legitimacy for her position, Catherine was encouraged to produce an heir to the line. In , during an affair with Sergey Saltykov, Catherine bore a child named Paul. It is not altogether clear whether Paul is the legitimate son of her husband Peter, or the son of Saltykov. The marriage to Peter was further put into jeopardy because Peter was ill equipped to handle ruling Russia Empire. Lacking common sense and alienating the Russian Court , Peter further compounded his mistakes by withdrawing from war with Prussia in Peter III was sent to prison where he died at the hands of his captures. In its own right the reign of Catherine the Great was impressive, but it was made all the more important because she was a women. Her goal was to rationalize and reform the administration of the Russian Empire. One of the most prosperous periods for Russia , Catherine undertook a wide range of internal political reforms, and waged two successful wars against the Ottoman Empire and extend the borders of Russia. Her achievements played a key role in the development of Russia as a modern state not only in a political sense but also in a cultural sense. Under her rule many she directed the building of the Hermitage. Upon her death in she was succeeded by her son Paul I. Her achievements would live on a help propel Russia to become a major world power after her death. Annotated Bibliography Alexander, John T. Oxford University Press, Alexander examines the life of Catherine the Great in general, but pays particular attention to issues which other books on Catherine usually omit. Catherine had many lovers throughout her life and Alexander includes the love notes written to Peter Zavadovski from the years to He assures readers that Catherine did not die while attempting to have sexual intercourse with a horse, but rather after suffered from an attack of apoplexy while sitting on her commode. Ashby, Ruth and Ohrn, Deborah Gore, ed. Herstory, Women Who Change the World. This is a great resource for understanding the basic information on Catherine the Great. This short, but to the point summary of her life is very good at providing a starting point for research on this person. Only basic information is given, but it does do a good job of providing information to anyone on any reading level. No prior knowledge or advanced education in necessary to understand this work. This is a good resource to start off with to guide a person on for a more in-depth research. Harper and Row, This book concentrates on the lives of those related to the Romanov dynasty. She goes as far as to call Catherine a nymphomaniac. He was referred to as the "cyclops of the court. Potemkin apparently was involved in a fight with the Orlov brothers. Through her love of writing, Catherine poured her heart out in letters and memoirs. Despite her hatred of France, Catherine embraced the French language and culture. French was the language of her court. Catherine thought of herself as a liberal. The book features many color photographs that were specially commissioned by Russian born photographer, Victor Kennet. This

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web site by Dixon, a historian, discusses Catherine the Great and provides personal opinions of her. It contains an analysis of her ruling style, along with information about her marriage, the birth of her son, the reign of Peter III, and her reign as Empress. It includes pictures of her and those who were closely related to her and provides a bibliography. Dixon believes that Russia owes her much for her reign and that she truly earned the title "the Great. She believes that in order to judge her greatness and see her achievements, one must distinguish between Catherine the woman and Catherine the Empress. Catherine The Great and Other Studies. He further examines the poor relationship between Catherine and her son. She is quoted as admiring her. The book begins to lose its focus on Catherine after discussing her relationship with Voltaire. The book goes on to discuss French salons and Otto von Bismark of Germany. There is a substantial section dedicated to Voltaire and his work as a historian. There is an index to further help the reader but there is no bibliography nor are there any footnotes. The author of this work provides a very good detailed analysis of the life of Catherine the Great Great emphasis is placed on her thirty-four year reign. This in-depth analysis of one of the greatest rulers of the Russian Empire attempts to understand the character of Catherine the Great. Much of the resources in this book came from the Polish historian Monsieur Walezewski, who wrote a biography about her. The information in the work is good but a bit dated. In addition to this, this work requires an advanced knowledge about Catherine and the political and economic climate of the time period. In all this is a well written piece of work. The Portrait of an Empress. The Viking Press, Her relationship with her siblings and the poor relationship she had with her father discussed in detail. Catherine hungered for love, something she would struggle with for her whole life. She desired a husband who would provide her with a crown more dazzling than that of Zerbst, in her native land of Germany. Her extramarital affairs are discussed. After the conspiracy against her husband was successfully carried out, the Imperial Guards proclaimed her the sole ruler of Russia. There was an intense hatred between Catherine and her son Paul, and because of this, Catherine planned to make her grandson, Alexander, the successor to the throne of Russia. A number of illustrations are included as well as an index. This work is an historical analysis of the progression from the medieval Russian Empire to the fall of the Empire to the communists. This work although very good, it does require advanced knowledge of Russian history and the political climate of the time. It credits Catherine for forging a strong national state, extending the borders, the start of capitalism, and land reforms. This article celebrates the bicentenary year of her death. There is suddenly a new wave of scholarly interest after an international conference in St. The article focuses on her accomplishments during her reign. She provided Russia with three and a half decades of political stability. She dedicated herself to the Enlightenment and putting those ideas into practice through legislation. She believed passionately in the power of the printed word. She encouraged book production and the translation of foreign works into Russian. It also refers to some of the newest sources available on Catherine The Great and Lentin includes them in his citations. Yale University Press, This work not only identifies her achievement but it also describes in detail her she came to power in Russia. A great emphasis is places on two areas in the work, first her achievements as a ruler and second her achievements as a women ruler. In addition to this, the author details how important she was because she was a women. This greatly enhances the work of Madariaga and further makes this a good resource. Secret Memoirs of the Court of Petersburg. There are also documents, which question whether Russia would suffer the same fate as France and succumb to revolution. Chapter six examines the conditions in Russia that might have led up to a revolution. Masson comments on the debauchery occurring in Russia that went seemingly unpunished. Masson discusses female run governments in general and especially the female leaders of Russia before Catherine II. Catherine The Great tried to better the lives of Russian women. Their education was based on the great thinkers such as Locke, and Rousseau. Catherine imported many French scholars to educate the Russians, and he contributes this as a factor to why so many Russians, including Catherine, were taken by French culture. Her attitude toward superstition and her attitude towards Moscow are major themes of the play. Moscow signified everything that needed change in her Enlightened Russia.

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## Chapter 3 : 8 Things You Didn't Know About Catherine the Great - HISTORY

*The Private Life of Catherine the Great of Russia has 1 rating and 1 review. Kate said: I hesitate to call it nonfiction. I've read enough of Catherine t.*

By the first of these passions, she was never so far governed as to become a Messalina , but she often disgraced both her rank and sex: A common story claims that she died as a result of her voracious sexual appetite while attempting sexual intercourse with a stallion – the story holds that the harness holding the horse above her broke, and she was crushed. But it most likely began due to unfounded bawdy tales. The fact that this particular vulgar tale did not even emerge until several decades after her death, and that the legend has no clear source, should make it clear that this is no more than an urban legend that inexplicably gained popularity. Another story claiming that she died on the toilet when her seat broke under her [ citation needed ] is true only in small part: This tale was widely circulated and even jokingly referred to by Aleksandr Pushkin in one of his untitled poems. According to said urban legend; the furniture was highly eccentric with tables that had large penises for legs. Penises and vulvas were carved out on the furniture, the walls were covered in erotic art, statues of a naked man and woman inside, and some versions of the legend state that some erotic artifacts from Pompeii were even brought into Russia to augment this collection. There are unconfirmed reports of photographs of this cabinet. The rooms and the furniture were allegedly seen in by two Wehrmacht officers during the Nazi Invasion of The Soviet Union , but even if that were true, the rooms and furniture seem to have vanished since then. This account is "dodgy" , "sketchy" , and "dubious" at the very best. The account says the Wehrmacht officers filed a report, and no report has ever been found, nor are any other records from anyone from before, during, or after the Second World War; other than the aforementioned legend. Also, the account says the rooms and furniture were seen in , during the Nazi Invasion of The Soviet Union, but the invasion of The Soviet Union by Nazi Germany did not start in , but on June 22nd, So this little anecdote has a few holes in it. However, investigators are looking into the possibility of locating these lost rooms with black lights. Other narratives [ edit ] A long-surviving story about the Potemkin villages was false, even though it became eponymous. It states that Potemkin built fake settlements with hollow facades to fool Empress Catherine II during her visit to Crimea and New Russia , the territories Russia conquered under her reign. The letter Ñ was not widely accepted until the s. They sent a petition to Catherine asking her to prohibit the construction of high minarets. As the legend goes, Catherine replied that she was the tsarina of the Russian land and that the sky was beyond her jurisdiction. , in Russian, M. Catherine I, Anne and Elizabeth of Russia. Oxford University Press, The Art of the Seductress.

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## Chapter 4 : Catherine the Great - Wikipedia

*Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.*

March 31 On their tomb at the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul in St Petersburg, their dates of birth and the date of burial are recorded - but not the dates of their death, thus making it appear that they ruled together. Catherine was also a model of the ruler as symbol. Naturally authoritative, schooled by her stern Lutheran father and self-taught in discipline and public restraint, she dominated Russian life for three decades. She brought great territorial gains, victory against the encroachments of the Turkish and Swedish empires, a much wider view of the world and of intellectual achievement, especially that of France. And all the while she steadily thwarted the growing, if still sporadic, pressures from the few radicals for the liberty of the wretched serfs and some representation for the small but growing middle class. Indeed, she hardly goes into any detail, so that the vast changes and conflicts within and outside Russia are all off stage. People and Empire, Her biography was in part inspired by indignation, Rounding writes. She had heard, while a student, the apparently widely believed story that Catherine died when a contraption constructed to allow her to have intercourse with a stallion collapsed. I had heard that story, too, from a Russian friend. Rounding says the origin of this salacious rubbish Catherine died of a stroke lay in the inability of the male ruling classes to cope with a successful woman empress - as well as the ribaldry that surrounded the tales of her, certainly active, sex life. When she had one - such as Potemkin, for much of her adult life - she wanted and took others from her court. Potemkin came to accept and even help her choose them and these menages a trois lasted until her sixties, although Rounding doubts if sex played much of a part in latter years. Everything belonged to the empress, including the lands of aristocrats; on death, the estates often were given to a new favourite. The court was thus a seething den of intrigue, courtiers jostling for preferment and indulging in stultifying ceremony. Catherine did not like the latter, but saw in it a necessary stage for the display of herself to her subjects, aristocratic and peasant alike - a utilitarian spirit that she also applied to religious observance. By this, she meant the Russians were so brutish that only vivid ceremonials and strict hierarchy could impress them into devotion. She helped make them - at least the aristocrats and scholars among them - much less so. It is hugely well informed on the intimacies of the grand, freezing and sometimes vermin-infested palaces of St Petersburg, still under construction during her reign. It is replete with insights into the cruelties and calculations brought to bear on life and power in an age where life, even for the aristocracy, could be short and dangerous, and thus where the active felt impelled to pursue their plans and desires with the greater force. Rounding has great sympathy with her subject. Here he observed from a distance the Empress Catherine, who, as he approvingly recorded, was "taller than the middle sized, gracefully formed, but inclined to corpulence". Something about her was teasingly unclassifiable: The quintessential enlightened despot, Catherine had a capacity for flamboyant theatricality, which also extended to strategic demonstrations of simplicity. As Virginia Rounding notes, "she was deliberately creating symbols on this day, conscious of every nuance of appearance", and she was equally self-conscious at every other moment of her life. They were of course supposed to note exactly this; Catherine was enacting what Ronald Hingley, writing of Pasternak, once termed a "choreography of self-effacement", a show of modesty to political and diplomatic ends. Certainly, Catherine wrote to Potemkin in her "Sincere Confession of 21 February ", "My heart is loath to remain even one hour without love", but "love" - particularly in her last years - involved a strong impulse to manage those selected as recipients of emotion by her, whether this meant nudging her lover Alexander Lansky into cultivated pursuits, or minutely regulating the upbringing of another Alexander, her grandson and second in line to the throne. An uninitiated reader would never guess that the country witnessed a huge upsurge of activity in arts, sciences, industry and technology, not to speak of a major push forward in terms of territorial expansion. In factual terms it is

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sometimes a little wobbly: The empress herself, who had a schoolmistressy regard for accuracy and a strong sense of personal dignity, might, one suspects, have met this latest version of her life with beady eyes, and perhaps also the expression traditionally used in her home country to snub know-all gossips: One can learn exactly what the voluminous silk domino donned by Catherine for a particular court occasion looked like, and what colour it was. While I am not sure that the book adds significantly to knowledge of 18th-century Russia, it does tell part of the story of perhaps the most important Enlightenment ruler with some verve and a degree of conviction.

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## Chapter 5 : Princess Lucien Murat (Author of The Private Life of Catherine the Great of Russia)

*Catherine II, called Catherine the Great, reigned over Russia for 34 years—longer than any other female in Russian history. As empress, Catherine westernized Russia. She led her country into full participation in the political and cultural life of Europe.*

Catherine began her reign as an enlightened despot. She corresponded with Voltaire and Denis Diderot and sponsored the arts. Although her native language was German, she has to her credit a number of plays in Russian as well as a statement— First, a terrible plague broke out in Moscow ; along with the hardships imposed by the war, it created a climate of disaffection and popular agitation. In Yemelyan Pugachov , a former officer of the Don Cossacks, pretending to be the dead emperor Peter III, incited the greatest uprising of Russian history prior to the revolution of At this point, the war with Turkey ended in a Russian victory, and Catherine sent her crack troops to crush the rebellion. Defeated and captured, Pugachov was beheaded in , but the terror and chaos he inspired were not soon forgotten. Catherine now realized that for her the people were more to be feared than pitied, and that, rather than freeing them, she must tighten their bonds. Before her accession to power, Catherine had planned to emancipate the serfs , on whom the economy of Russia, which was 95 percent agricultural, was based. When confronted with the realities of power, however, Catherine saw very quickly that emancipation of the serfs would never be tolerated by the owners, whom she depended upon for support, and who would throw the country into disorder once they lost their own means of support. Reconciling herself to an unavoidable evil without much difficulty, Catherine turned her attention to organizing and strengthening a system that she herself had condemned as inhuman. She imposed serfdom on the Ukrainians who had until then been free. By distributing the so-called crown lands to her favourites and ministers, she worsened the lot of the peasants, who had enjoyed a certain autonomy. Rather, their forced labour financed the immense expenditures required for her ever-growing economic, military, and cultural projects. In these undertakings, at least, she proved herself to be a good administrator and could claim that the blood and sweat of the people had not been wasted. Ordinarily, the empress did not mix business and pleasure; her ministers were almost always selected for their abilities. In Potemkin she found an extraordinary man whom she could love and respect and with whom she could share her power. As minister he had unlimited powers, even after the end of their liaison , which lasted only two years. He had a conception of grandeur that escaped the rather pedestrian German princess, and he understood the effect it produced on the people. A great dreamer, he was avid for territories to conquer and provinces to populate; an experienced diplomat with a knowledge of Russia that Catherine had not yet acquired and as audacious as Catherine was methodical, Potemkin was treated as an equal by the empress up to the time of his death in They complemented and understood each other, and the ambitious minister expressed his respect for his sovereign through complete devotion to her interests. Through that annexation and the acquisition of the territories of the Crimean khanate, which extended from the Caucasus Mountains to the Bug River in southwestern Russia, Russia held the north shore of the Black Sea and was in a position to threaten the existence of the Ottoman Empire and to establish a foothold in the Mediterranean. She dedicated new towns bearing her name and announced that she ultimately intended to proceed to Constantinople. Effects of the French Revolution Catherine, like all the crowned heads of Europe, felt seriously threatened by the French Revolution. Radishchev , who attempted to publish a work openly critical of the abuses of serfdom, was tried, condemned to death, then pardoned and exiled. Next, Poland , encouraged by the example of France, began agitating for a liberal constitution. In , under the pretext of forestalling the threat of revolution, Catherine sent in troops and the next year annexed most of the western Ukraine , while Prussia helped itself to large territories of western Poland. The empress realized, moreover, that she had no suitable successor. She considered her son Paul an incompetent and unbalanced man; her grandson Alexander was too young yet to rule. Legacy Russians, even Soviet Russians, continue to admire Catherine, the German, the usurper and profligate , and regard her as a source of national pride. Non-Russian

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opinion of Catherine is less favourable. Because Russia under her rule grew strong enough to threaten the other great powers, and because she was in fact a harsh and unscrupulous ruler, she figured in the Western imagination as the incarnation of the immense, backward, yet forbidding country she ruled. At the end of her reign Catherine claimed that she had reorganized 29 provinces under her administrative reform plan. An uninhibited spender, she invested funds in many projects. More than a hundred new towns were built; old ones were expanded and renovated. As commodities were plentiful, trade expanded and communications developed. These achievements, together with the glory of military victories and the fame of a brilliant court, to which the greatest minds of Europe were drawn, have won her a distinguished place in history. And when they judge Catherine the woman, they treat her severely. Her private life was admittedly not exemplary. She had young lovers up to the time of her unexpected death from a stroke at the age of 69. She did not love her son Paul, the legitimate heir, whose throne she occupied. On the other hand, she adored her grandsons, particularly the eldest, Alexander, whom she wished to succeed her. In her friendships she was loyal and generous and usually showed mercy toward her enemies. Yet it cannot be denied that she was also egotistical, pretentious, and extremely domineering, above all a woman of action, capable of being ruthless when her own interest or that of the state was at stake. As she grew older she also became extremely vain: A friend of Voltaire and Denis Diderot, she carried on an extensive correspondence with most of the important personages of her time. She was a patron of literature and a promoter of Russian culture; she herself wrote, established literary reviews, encouraged the sciences, and founded schools. Her interests and enthusiasms ranged from construction projects to lawmaking and the collection of art objects; she touched on everything, not always happily but always passionately. She was a woman of elemental energy and intellectual curiosity, desiring to create as well as to control.

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## Chapter 6 : 10 Interesting Facts About Catherine the Great of Russia | Learnodo Newtonic

*The period of Catherine the Great's rule, the Catherinian Era, is often considered the Golden Age of the Russian Empire and the Russian nobility. The Manifesto on Freedom of the Nobility, issued during the short reign of Peter III and confirmed by Catherine, freed Russian nobles from compulsory military or state service.*

Her father, Christian August, Prince of Anhalt-Zerbst, belonged to the ruling German family of Anhalt, [4] but held the rank of a Prussian general in his capacity as governor of the city of Stettin. Two of her first cousins became Kings of Sweden: She once wrote to her correspondent Baron Grimm: Catherine first met Peter III at the age of Based on her writings, she found Peter detestable upon meeting him. She disliked his pale complexion and his fondness for alcohol at such a young age. Peter also still played with toy soldiers. Catherine later wrote that she stayed at one end of the castle, and Peter at the other. Historical accounts portray Johanna as a cold, abusive woman who loved gossip and court intrigues. The Empress Elizabeth knew the family well: She applied herself to learning the Russian language with zeal, rising at night and walking about her bedroom barefoot, repeating her lessons even though she mastered the language, she retained an accent. This practice led to a severe attack of pneumonia in March When she wrote her memoirs, she said she made up her mind when she came to Russia to do whatever was necessary, and to profess to believe whatever was required of her, to become qualified to wear the crown. Portrait of the Grand Duchess Ekaterina Alekseyevna around the time of her wedding, by George Christoph Grooth, Catherine recalled in her memoirs that as soon as she arrived in Russia, she fell ill with a pleuritis that almost killed her. She credited her survival to frequent bloodletting; in a single day, she had four phlebotomies. When her situation looked desperate, her mother wanted her confessed by a Lutheran priest. Awaking from her delirium, however, Catherine said: Despite his objection, on 28 June the Russian Orthodox Church received Princess Sophie as a member with the new name Catherine Yekaterina or Ekaterina and the artificial patronymic Alekseyevna, daughter of Aleksey. On the following day, the formal betrothal took place. The long-planned dynastic marriage finally occurred on 21 August in Saint Petersburg. Sophia had turned 16; her father did not travel to Russia for the wedding. The bridegroom, known then as Peter von Holstein-Gottorp, had become Duke of Holstein-Gottorp located in the north-west of present-day [update] Germany near the border with Denmark in The newlyweds settled in the palace of Oranienbaum, which remained the residence of the "young court" for many years to come. He would announce trying drills in the morning to male servants, who later joined Catherine in her room to sing and dance until late hours. If you feel unhappy, raise your self above unhappiness, and so act that your happiness may be independent of all eventualities. The imperial couple moved into the new Winter Palace in Saint Petersburg. Peter supported Frederick II, however, eroding much of his support among the nobility. Peter ceased Russian operations against Prussia, and Frederick suggested the partition of Polish territories with Russia. Equestrian portrait of the Grand Duchess Yekaterina Alexeyevna In July, barely six months after becoming emperor, Peter took a holiday with his Holstein-born courtiers and relatives to Oranienbaum, leaving his wife in Saint Petersburg. On the night of 8 July OS: The next day, she left the palace and departed for the Ismailovsky regiment, where she delivered a speech asking the soldiers to protect her from her husband. Catherine then left with the regiment to go to the Semenovskiy Barracks, where the clergy were waiting to ordain her as the sole occupant of the Russian throne. She had her husband arrested, and forced him to sign a document of abdication, leaving no one to dispute her accession to the throne. Ivan VI was assassinated during an attempt to free him as part of a failed coup against Catherine: Catherine, like Empress Elizabeth before her, had given strict instructions that he was to be killed in the event of any such attempt. Ivan was thought to be insane because of his years of solitary confinement, so might have made a poor emperor, even as a figurehead. Although Catherine did not descend from the Romanov dynasty, she had descended from the Rurik dynasty, which preceded the Romanovs. She succeeded her husband as empress regnant, following the precedent established when Catherine I succeeded her husband Peter the Great in In

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the s, a group of nobles connected with Paul Nikita Panin and others considered a new coup to depose Catherine and transfer the crown to Paul, whose power they envisaged restricting in a kind of constitutional monarchy. This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Inspired by the Byzantine Empire design, the crown was constructed of two gold and silver half spheres, representing the eastern and western Roman empires, divided by a foliate garland and fastened with a low hoop. The crown contains 75 pearls and 4, Indian diamonds forming laurel and oak leaves, the symbols of power and strength, and is surmounted by a The crown was produced in a record two months and weighed only 2. It is one of the main treasures of the Romanov dynasty, and is now on display in the Moscow Kremlin Armoury Museum. A shrewd statesman, Panin dedicated much effort and millions of rubles to setting up a "Northern Accord" between Russia, Prussia, Poland, and Sweden, to counter the power of the Bourbon "Habsburg League". When it became apparent that his plan could not succeed, Panin fell out of favour and Catherine had him replaced with Ivan Osterman in office " Catherine agreed to a commercial treaty with Great Britain in , but stopped short of a full military alliance. Catherine completed the conquest of the south, making Russia the dominant power in south-eastern Europe after the Russo-Turkish War of " Russia inflicted some of the heaviest defeats ever suffered by the Ottoman Empire, including the Battle of Chesma "7 July and the Battle of Kagul 21 July The treaty also removed restrictions on Russian naval or commercial traffic in the Azov Sea, granted to Russia the position of protector of Orthodox Christians in the Ottoman Empire, and made the Crimea a protectorate of Russia. Catherine annexed the Crimea in , nine years after the Crimean Khanate had gained nominal independence"which had been guaranteed by Russia"from the Ottoman Empire as a result of her first war against the Turks. The palace of the Crimean khans passed into the hands of the Russians. In , Catherine conducted a triumphal procession in the Crimea, which helped provoke the next Russo"Turkish War. The Ottomans restarted hostilities in the Russo-Turkish War of " This war was another catastrophe for the Ottomans, ending with the Treaty of Jassy, which legitimised the Russian claim to the Crimea and granted the Yedisian region to Russia. Russo-Persian War[ edit ] Russian empress travelling, Burney In the Treaty of Georgievsk Russia agreed to protect Georgia against any new invasion and further political aspirations of their Persian suzerains. Catherine waged a new war against Persia in after they, under the new king Agha Mohammad Khan, had again invaded Georgia and established rule in and had expelled the newly established Russian garrisons in the Caucasus. The ultimate goal for the Russian government, however, was to topple the anti-Russian shah king, and to replace him with a half-brother, Morteza Qoli Khan, who had defected to Russia and was therefore pro-Russian. The Russian troops set out from Kizlyar in April and stormed the key fortress of Derbent on 10 May. By November, they were stationed at the confluence of the Araks and Kura Rivers, poised to attack mainland Iran. In that month, the Empress of Russia died and her successor Paul, who detested that the Zubovs had other plans for the army, ordered the troops to retreat to Russia. This reversal aroused the frustration and enmity of the powerful Zubovs and other officers who took part in the campaign: Relations with Western Europe[ edit ] See also: She pioneered for Russia the role that Britain later played through most of the 19th and early 20th centuries as an international mediator in disputes that could, or did, lead to war. In , she established a League of Armed Neutrality, designed to defend neutral shipping from the British Royal Navy during the American Revolution. Denmark declared war on Sweden in the Theatre War. Peace ensued for 20 years, aided by the assassination of Gustav III in Partitions of Poland[ edit ] Main article: Although the idea of partitioning Poland came from the King Frederick II of Prussia, Catherine took a leading role in carrying it out in the s. In , she formally became protector of the Polish"Lithuanian Commonwealth, which provoked an anti-Russian uprising in Poland, the Confederation of Bar " After the uprising broke down due to internal politics in the Polish"Lithuanian Commonwealth, she established in the Rzeczpospolita, a system of government fully controlled by the Russian Empire through a Permanent Council, under the supervision of her ambassadors and envoys. After the French Revolution of , Catherine rejected many principles of the Enlightenment she had once viewed favourably. Afraid the May

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Constitution of Poland might lead to a resurgence in the power of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the growing democratic movements inside the Commonwealth might become a threat to the European monarchies, Catherine decided to intervene in Poland. She provided support to a Polish antireform group known as the Targowica Confederation. This spurred Russian interest in opening trade with Japan to the south for supplies and food. Russian local authorities helped his party, and the Russian government decided to use him as a trade envoy. Subsequently, in 1792, the Russian government dispatched a trade mission to Japan, led by Adam Laxman. The Tokugawa shogunate received the mission, but negotiations failed.

**Economics and finance** [ edit ] Catherine the Great Russian economic development was well below the standards in western Europe. Historian Francois Cruzet writes that Russia under Catherine: Still, there was a start of industry, mainly textiles around Moscow and ironworks in the Ural Mountains, with a labor force mainly of serfs, bound to the works. They indeed helped modernise the sector that totally dominated the Russian economy. They introduced numerous innovations regarding wheat production and flour milling, tobacco culture, sheep raising, and small-scale manufacturing. It opened in St. Petersburg and Moscow in 1797. Several bank branches were afterwards established in other towns, called government towns. Paper notes were issued upon payment of similar sums in copper money, which were also refunded upon the presentation of those notes. The emergence of these Assignation rubles was necessary due to large government spending on military needs, which led to a shortage of silver in the treasury transactions, especially in foreign trade, were conducted almost exclusively in silver and gold coins. Assignation rubles circulated on equal footing with the silver ruble; a market exchange rate for these two currencies was ongoing. The use of these notes continued until 1801.

**Russian Enlightenment** Marble statue of Catherine II in the guise of Minerva , by Fedot Shubin Catherine had a reputation as a patron of the arts, literature, and education. At the instigation of her factotum, Ivan Betskoy , she wrote a manual for the education of young children, drawing from the ideas of John Locke , and founded the famous Smolny Institute in 1764, which admitted young girls of the nobility. The leading economists of her day, such as Arthur Young and Jacques Necker , became foreign members of the Free Economic Society , established on her suggestion in Saint Petersburg in 1765. Catherine enlisted Voltaire to her cause, and corresponded with him for 15 years, from her accession to his death in 1778. He lauded her accomplishments, calling her "The Star of the North" and the " Semiramis of Russia" in reference to the legendary Queen of Babylon , a subject on which he published a tragedy in 1771. Though she never met him face to face, she mourned him bitterly when he died. She acquired his collection of books from his heirs, and placed them in the National Library of Russia.

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## Chapter 7 : Paul I of Russia Biography - Facts, Childhood, Life History, Rule, Achievements of Russian Em

*Renowned as Catherine the Great, Empress of all the Russias, this remarkable woman was neither Russian nor originally named Catherine. Born Sophie Friederike Auguste from Anhalt-Zerbst, she was indeed a princess, but one that came from an obscure and impoverished German duchy.*

All that is fascinating and unusual in history. She was born in Poland and in was taken to Russia to marry the young Grand Duke Peter, heir to the throne and not of a sane mind. For seven years during their marriage Peter spent his time playing with toy soldiers and dogs and showed no interest in sex. In fact he had a physical disability, a very tight foreskin, which may have played an important part in that matter. Finally the empress Elizabeth gave Catherine the permission to take a lover, which she did and was soon pregnant. She convinced Peter it was his own child, as was the plan anyway. In the meantime he had been circumcised so that he could perform the sexual act. Catherine developed a taste for young soldiers. She had a special area built in her bedroom, which was curtained off and where she received her lovers. Gregory Orlov was her on and off lover for around thirteen years. When Peter and Catherine ascended to the throne after the empress Elizabeth died, in , Catherine became even more confident. In June he was murdered by the Orlov brothers and Catherine was sole ruler. Now, she was free to enjoy herself to the full. She had several lovers at the same time and they were expected to perform as and when needed. If they did not satisfy they were kicked out of the palace, but given a handsome sum of money first. Her young men were carefully vetted for fear of diseases. The court physician would first examine them thoroughly; then they would be passed on to the Countess Bruce, who would interview them, inform them of what the empress liked and did not like in bed. Then she would proceed to try them out, to ensure they were all they were all they promised to be. When Gregory Orlov had the audacity to seduce his own thirteen-year old cousin, Catherine gave him a smart pension and promptly sent him packing. He was soon replaced by Gregory Potemkin. He had one eye, was over-sexed. They were extremely close and rumour had it that they had married. Posted by Anna at.

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## Chapter 8 : Catherine The Great Biography - Childhood, Life Achievements & Timeline

*Movie: Young Catherine (Julia Ormond) and Historical Documentary Catherine the Great (Emily Bruni) The Life of Catherine the Great who made Russia to be the greatest empire.*

Tsar Elizabeth of Russia b. She has been celebrated as a court favorite, renowned for having an "ethereal spirit," establishing herself as the center of attention at balls, and loving to dance. In recent years, however, the positive effects of her control over the throne have been published and the stigma of being the "transitional" leader during the middle years of the s has diminished. Elizabeth Petrovna led a charmed existence. Born on 18 December , to Peter the Great and Martha Skaronska, or Catherine I, a peasant, she was technically illegitimate, her father had not found the time to marry her mother until after Elizabeth was born ; nevertheless, she grew up in a supportive and loving environment. She lived an enchanted lifestyle in which she learned to appreciate the customs and etiquette of both Western culture and Russian tradition; Elizabeth was a passionate church attendee, Russian patriot, fluent speaker of the French language, and a competent dancer of the minuet. For years, she trounced around Russia, courting numerous lovers and spending exorbitant amounts of money. As Empress Anne lay on her deathbed, the people hoped that Elizabeth would take the throne. Secret agents acting on the orders of the Regent Anna watched Elizabeth day and night. Anna was worried that Elizabeth would incite a revolt against her, because Anna recognized that as a foreigner, the Russian populace distrusted her, while Elizabeth was a favorite of the guards and loved by the people. On November 25, , Elizabeth was ready to take her place among the annals of Russian political leaders. She made humanitarian gains by outlawing the death penalty. In , she attained a historic victory for diplomacy by negotiating an end to the long-standing land dispute between Russia and Sweden. On January 25, , she set forth a decree to establish the founding of the University of Moscow. She proved to be a blessing to the Russian Orthodox Church; she donated large sums of money to the church and set the price of bibles at five rubles. Elizabeth established a solid foundation for the arts; she created a state theater, brought in Italian instrumentalists, singers, and set designers to complement the court choir. In addition, she changed Petersburg architecture to reflect the styles that were dominant in Western Europe at that time. On December 25, , Elizabeth died leaving no children as heirs; she had never married due to disputes within her family and her love of sexual freedom. Instead, she left the throne to her nephew, Peter II who died shortly thereafter. For years, Elizabeth had been portrayed as a minimal player in Russian tsarist history. Recently, however, her own accomplishments have been highlighted. She is no longer the transitional monarch, solely responsible for preparing Catherine for the throne. Instead, she is considered a powerful, free-spirited, and strong willed woman who coalesced Russia militarily, politically, and culturally. Annotated Bibliography Almedingen, E. Catherine, Empress of Russia. Dodd, Mead and Company. Elizabeth is depicted as moody and vindictive, displayed by the fact that she would make decisions, and then quickly change her mind. Garden City Publishing Company. The author provides interesting details about Tsar Elizabeth and her life before she came to power: On a basic human level, Anthony argues Elizabeth was a contradiction in terms as she was in some ways immoral, yet also very religious. This site is published by Bucknell University as part of resources for their Russian Studies and History departments. The name of each ruler is linked to a page that provides a short biography. In addition, each ruler has a timeline of events under their name that includes all of the major events that occurred during their lifespan. Under Elizabeth, some notable events listed include: However, the Russian wars are not listed. This site provides a useful starting point for research in denoting key events and people in the history of the Russian empire. Empresses of all the Russias. The author uses the story of Empress Elizabeth I as the backdrop for the life and reign of Catherine the Great. According to Coughlan, Catherine, who was neither named Catherine nor of Russian blood, would not have become the ruler she was without the influence and tutelage of Elizabeth I. The accomplishments and influence of Tsar Elizabeth have often been overshadowed by other Russian Tsars or overlooked by historians. This author takes a

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chronological approach to the study of the life and influence of Elizabeth I on the reign of Catherine the Great. The Horizon History of Russia. American Heritage Publishing Co. Ian Grey is a Russian Tsarist historian who has researched numerous political leaders and historical events. She was a forceful and decisive woman who refused to lose the latter mentioned military engagement. The Romanovs; the Rise and Fall of a Dynasty. Doubleday and Company, Inc. Elizabeth was seventeen when Peter ruled as tsar and therefore, the perfect age for marriage. The author then goes into detail on such issues during her reign as her approach to dealing with the church, the military and outside countries. The Emperors and Empresses of Russia: Review of Evgeny V. Anismov, " Empress Elizabeth: Her Reign and Her Russia, Rather he believes that she was an accomplished singer who helped developed the Russian theater. Published by the Moscow State University at Lomonosov, the article details the history of the university. It was named after Mikhail Lomonosov - , an outstanding Russian academician and scientist of the day who greatly contributed to the building of the university. Tsar Elizabeth I commissioned the building of the university on January 25, St. The opening ceremony took place on April 26, While the website provides valuable and vast information on Moscow State University and touts Elizabeth I as the reason for its inception and a copy of the charter document , it does little to provide information about her life and reign. Therefore, it is not a helpful source in the study of the life of Empress Elizabeth I and only beneficial to those looking at the influence of Elizabeth I on the founding of the university. Catherine I, Anne, and Elizabeth of Russia. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. The author is an accomplished Russian historian who was taught the language while serving in the British army. In the section on Tsar Elizabeth, the author takes a chronological approach to the life of Elizabeth I. He does a nice job of breaking down the stereotypes about her carefree, and sometimes negligent behavior as displayed through her possession of 15, ball gowns at the time of her death. He goes on to develop a complete character sketch that details her weaknesses her tendency to flounder and love of carousing with men as well as strengths her devotion to the Russian state and her vehement opposition of the death penalty. This is a useful source for finding a relatively concise and complete background on the life of Elizabeth I of Russia. Metropolitan Museum of Art. European Sculpture and Decorative Arts. It displays a photograph from one of the museums permanent collections. The image is of a plate, made between and , that was manufactured by the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory which had been established in St. Petersburg, by Empress Elizabeth I in This particular plate is made of hard-paste porcelain, intricately designed, and, on the bottom, displays a two-headed eagle in black, which was a mark of the Imperial Porcelain Factory under Empress Elizabeth I. While the website does not provide biographical information, it does presents historians with inside information into the artistic taste of Elizabeth through a tangible object that was owned by her. While this article does not directly speak to the quality or character of Empress Elizabeth I, it does provide an insight into the economic conditions of Russia in the s. The article supplies details regarding the Price Revolution. This upheaval first swept through Western Europe in the s and s and came to Russia in the s. The article demonstrates how the Russian economy and serfdom expanded as a result of the growth of agriculture, while industrial centers lagged behind. It touts itself as being the largest and most comprehensive online art gallery. While it does little to provide biographical information or research material regarding Elizabeth I of Russia, it does present a handful of portraits composed by Russia artists of the late ruler. It was the only source found that had actual images of Elizabeth I and therefore useful in placing a name with a face. This article was published in the magazine of Russian Life, a publication with a forty-nine year old history. The magazine contains lively feature articles, an independent quality, and remarkable profundity and span of coverage. The author provides his audience with an interpretive look at the public and private life of Empress Elizabeth, including her love of horseback riding, carousing, and building palaces. While much of the information can be found in other sources, the article provides a concise picture of Elizabeth I, including interesting anecdotal facts regarding her personal life. While it provides a brief historiography of the country from the beginning of the Russian empire through the presidency of Vladimir Putin, the article makes no mention of Elizabeth I. In addition, it has a disclaimer that states that a professional historian did not write the information. Therefore, one must be wary of the accuracy. However, as a source of

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travel information it is quite useful in providing vacationers with a concise guide to the country. The site has links to destinations, transportation, visa, practicalities, apartment rent, accommodations, airline tickets, train tickets, tours and taxi service. Therefore, while it is a useless source for finding information regarding the life of Tsar Elizabeth I, it is a beneficial link to travelers wishing to visit the Russian state. Elizabeth, Empress of Russia. While numerous books cover Elizabeth I as a secondary or tertiary character, this book focuses solely on her life and reign as the primary source of interest. Details and conditions about her life are broken down by chapter.

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## Chapter 9 : Biography of Catherine the Great of Russia

*1. Catherine the Great's name wasn't Catherine, and she wasn't even Russian. The woman whom history would remember as Catherine the Great, Russia's longest-ruling female leader, was.*

Bios Catherine The Great Intelligent, ruthless, sexually insatiable: Born Sophie Friederike Auguste von Anhalt-Zerbst, the daughter of a German prince, she was related through her mother to the dukes of Holstein. The marriage was an unhappy one and on her arrival in Russia, Catherine suffered from a form of pleurisy, which causes sharp pains in the chest. She had to have her blood let by a doctor four times in one day, which she claimed saved her life. Catherine was intelligent and ambitious. Her husband had a mistress called Elizabeth Vorontsova. When Catherine fell pregnant with her second child, a girl called Anna who died aged four months, Peter did not believe it was his baby, causing an argument which led Catherine to spend a lot of time in her private boudoir. Foolishly betraying his actions, Peter prepared to be rid of his wife. Catherine, however, had the support of the public and the army, and was proclaimed empress on 9 July Peter III abdicated and was assassinated eight days later. She was soon crowned in Moscow, beginning a year reign. Unfortunately, it was considered too liberal and came to nothing. In , she went to war with Turkey, so as to concentrate on the importance of national grandeur. The movement spread rapidly and, in June , Cossack troops prepared to march on Moscow. At this point, Russia won the war with Turkey and Catherine crushed the rebellion. Catherine now realised that she needed to exercise more control over the people and that serf liberation would be intolerable to the owners, on whom she depended, and who would throw the country into chaos once they lost their income. Catherine thus focused on strengthening a system that she had labelled as inhuman. She also enjoyed a reputation for being a patron of the arts, education and culture, writing a guide for the education of young noble women in , as well as establishing the Smolny Institute the same year. She became the most-renowned and longest-serving female monarchs of Russia, with her reign seen by many as the Golden Age of Russia. Catherine died in from a stroke which caused her to fall into a coma, from which she never recovered. She was succeeded by her eldest son Paul, who was thought to be the son of Peter as he resembled the late emperor. Catherine had three other children with different lovers.