

IVAN THE GREAT-Hero Who Freed and Tried to Civilize Russia

NORSE viking, Rurik by name, came to the Novgorod district of Russin in 860. The Slavs begged him to put down the civil wars that were ruining their savage country and to rule over them. He did so. Then ame a long line of his descend nts, some of them good kings, some had, all half barbaric; most of them leading violent lives and dying violent deaths. They and all Russians were heathens up to the time of Vladimir the Great, who, in 298, was baptied and made his subjects a Christian nation, with Klef as their capital city. Long periods of anarchy, misrule and official incompetence darkened the next two centuries. At last, in 1237, came a blow from which Russia has not yet recovered.

The Mongols, a warlike people of Central Asia, had some time before begun a caveer of conquest under Genghis Khan, a military genius who carved out for himself an empire stretching from the China sea to the Dnieper. A later leader, Fatu Khan, in 1237, led his marauding tribesmen, known as "the Golden Horde," into Russia, and in a very few years had conquered the whole land. National progress was checked, the people enslaved, the land's slowly growing civilization lapsed into hopeless confusion. Groaning under the cruel yoke of the Golden Horde, Russia lay still while the rest of the world moved on. The country's slowness to embrace higher civilization today and to adapt itself to modern conditions may be traced indirectly back to this long era of slavery and arrested developments. The Mongols and their descendants, the Tartars, left a smear on the Russian national character

that all the succeeding centuries have been unable to efface. The Mongols let Russia's rulers go through the form of governing the luckless conquered race; but each sovereign was forced to do humiliating homage to the Great Khan (or emperor of the Horde). And so matters went on until by the beginning of the fourteenth century the chief city and state of the enslaved country was Moscow. Thanks to a line of less barbaric princes than most local provinces possessed, Moscow was by this time the strongest as well as the most nearly progressive state in Russia. In 1380 Simeon the Proud, foremost of the Muscovite princes, aroused his subjects to rebel against their Mongol masters. The Horde crushed the revolt, burned the city of Moscow to the ground and put thousands of its clitzens to death by torture. This put an end to the hopes of national independence until, in 1462, Simeon's grandson, Ivan III ("The Great") came to the throne.

Ivan was a man of strange character. If he had lived 400 years later he would have been an ideal political boss. He realized the desperate condition of his country, the strength of the Mongols, the division of Russia, into many petty and weak states. Where others had been content to accept affairs as they found them or to stir up ill-timed insurrections, this fifteenth century politician went to work along a different line.

By wheedling, intrigue and clever diplomatic tricks, he annexed to Moscow the stronger Russian states and by force of arms subdued the weaker, until he had gathered about him a powerful confederacy, all subject to Moscow and to himself. In other words, he had consolidated Russia into an autocracy. And Ivan was its autocrat. He strengthened his position by marrying a niece of the last of the Byzantine emperors and took for Russia's royal emblem the Byzantine standard of the Double Eagle. He was firmly intrenched in what was virtually an absolute despotism when, in 1478, the Great Khan of the Mongol Horde sent for his formal allegiance.

A band of Mongolian ambassadors arrived at Moscow, bearing with them the Great Khan's portrait. To this picture Ivan was expected to prostrate himself publicly in abject homage. But he had long been planning for this very occasion. In the presence of his court he hurled the Khan's portrait to the ground, spat on it and ground it to atoms under his heel. Then he had all but one of the scandalized envoys put to death in an extremely painful fashion, and sent the sole survivor of the murdered embassy back to Asia to tell the Khan what had occurred.

This roused the whole Horde to a fury of retallation. Ahmed, the Khan, raised a great army and marched on Russia to repeat his tribe's earlier triumphs. But it was a different Russia he attacked from the disorganized, cowed country of a few years before. Also, owing to internal dissensions in the Horde, it was a less powerful, less united force of Mongols who made this new invasion. Ivan's army met Ahmed's troops on the banks of the River Oka. The Mongols retreated in panic and Russia was free.

Having rid his land of its tyrants, Ivan tried his best to free it also from the heavier yoke of ignorance and barbarism. But here he was less successful. The blight had struck too deep for any one man or one century to eradicate it. Ivan succeeded better as politician and soldier than as reformer. Nevertheless he did his best. He brought to Moscow architects, artists and scholars from more enlightened countries and strove to interest his subjects in learning and progress. He also made Russia to some extent a haven of refuge for victims of religious persecution. In view of Russia's present attitude on such topics this toleration seems scarcely credible. Ivan would not take the title of emperor, calling himself instead the "grand autocrat." It remained for his grandson, Ivan IV (nicknamed "the Terrible"), to orginate the title of "czar," which is the Russian form of "Caesar."

In 1505, after a reign of 43 years, Ivan the Great died. He had found Russia an enslaved, helpless collection of rude principalities. He left it free and united. He had, further, increased the boundaries of its territory almost fourfold and had done all that man could do to bring the light of education and culture into a land blinded by centuries of darkness.



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FOREIGN ELEMENT IN OUR POPULATION

As the result of a census office in verticistion, to which reference was made last week, it appears that more than half the white population of the country is composed either of foreign born persons or the native-born children of foreign parents. This class of citizens is found almost entirely in the New England states and the middle west, while the south has retained its individuality of race. In 1960 the foreign population formed more than half of the white inhabitants of the middle and New England states, or, to be pre-cise, 518 in every thousand. In the cise, als in every thousand. In the southern states, on the other hand, foreign citizens or children born of foreign parents numbered only 79 in every thousand. As regards the rela-tive numbers of the sexes there seems to have been a slight difference between the two years for which comparisons the two years for which comparisons are made in the report, the difference being in favor of the females. In 1780

per cent of the total, while the females were 49.1 per cent of the whole. In 1900 the male population amounted to 50.2 per cent of the total, while the female sex were credited with 49.8 percent. There was, as will be seen, a gain in the relative number of women in the course of 110 years covered, though an absolute equilibrium has not yet been reached .-- Bradstreet's.

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