**Materials for the website Chapter 2**

**Practice Questions.**

**Test Your Knowledge of Key Individuals, Dates, Institutions, and Events**

1. When did Russia adopt Christianity, and under whose rule did it occur?

2. Who were the boyars, and what role did they play in Russian society?

3. Who were the Decembrists, and what were the main ideas of their political program?

4. What were the key reforms introduced by Peter the Great?

5. In what specific ways did Peter the Great reform the Russian government?

6. What was serfdom in Russia, and how did it function within the social and economic system?

7. When and why was serfdom abolished in Russia?

8. What were the main functions of the Zemstvos in imperial Russia?

9. What are referred to as Russia’s “three revolutions,” and when did they take place?

10. What do the terms “Reds” and “Whites” refer to in the context of Russian history?

11. When was the Soviet Union officially established?

12. What is meant by the term *democratic centralism* in Soviet political theory?

13. What was collectivization, and how was it implemented in the Soviet Union?

14. What role did the Soviet Union play during World War II?

15. What was the Cold War, and what were its main causes?

16. What was the *Thaw* in Soviet politics, and what characterized this period?

17. Name one official title held by Nikita Khrushchev.

18. Who was Leonid Brezhnev, and how is he associated with the period known as the “Era of Stagnation”?

19. What is the Eurasian model of Russia’s development, and how does it differ from Western models?

20. How would you explain the critical-liberal perspective on Russian history?

**Additional study resources related to Russia’s history:**

Maps of Russia during the reign of Peter the Great:

<http://lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/colbeck/europe_wars_of_charles_xii_peter_great.jpg>

Russian History through the lenses of the Time Magazine covers:

<https://trinixy.ru/18368-istorija_sssr_na_oblozhkakh_zhurnala_time_111_foto.html>

Selected Archival Documents from World War II (in Russian)

<https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/rus/WW2.html?fbclid=IwAR30l17dbRlA3fef0mSUyaekxN7szxOOU2yGalN82OiMTp7Y1e1iKF4q-WY>

**Unique photographs of the old Russia:**

The photographs of Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii (1863-1944) offer a vivid portrait of a lost world--the Russian Empire on the eve of World War I and the coming revolution. His subjects ranged from the medieval churches and monasteries of old Russia, to the railroads and factories of an emerging industrial power, to the daily life and work of Russia's diverse population. In the early 1900s Prokudin-Gorskii formulated an ambitious plan for a photographic survey of the Russian Empire that won the support of Tsar Nicholas II. Between 1909-1912, and again in 1915, he completed surveys of eleven regions, traveling in a specially equipped railroad car provided by the Ministry of Transportation.

[**http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/**](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/)

**A collection of Soviet posters:**

<https://www.sovietposters.com/?srsltid=AfmBOor9NFy-vm-REwWoGtxS1CwYWk-I-GNHVo4BgDKly5ygewr8COrp>

**A collection of songs from the Soviet era:**

<https://folkways.si.edu/musics-of-the-soviet-union/central-asia-islamica-world/music/album/smithsonian>

**A History of Russia - Tsars and Revolutions** – Documentary (2h. 26 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJC7ki1F-_Q>

**From Prince Rurik to the Russian Revolution, this is a compilation of the first 5 episodes of Epic History TV's History of Russia.** (46 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0Wmc8C0Eq0>