Russia and Peter the Great

Chapter 7: Section 3
Ivan IV – Ivan the Terrible

- 16th Century
- First ruler to take the title of czar (caesar)
- Expanded Russia
- Ruthless – killed his own son
- Expanded Russia east & crushed power of Russian nobility
Time of Troubles

- End of Ivan’s rule (1584) followed by period of anarchy (Time of Troubles)
- Ended when national assembly chose Michael Romanov as czar in 1613
- Romanov dynasty lasted until 1917
Russia

- Isolated from the rest of Europe
- Very poor population
- Most people were peasants
- Did not have the Age of Exploration, Scientific Revolution, or the Renaissance
- Looked East to Constantinople and not West to Rome
- No major seaport
Peter the Great

- Became czar in 1689
- Divine right of kings
- Dreamed of “Europeanizing” Russia
- Age 25 – took a trip to Europe to study culture
- Kept his identity secret
Peter the Great

- Wanted technology to create a great army to support Russia as a great power
- Created army by drafting peasants for 25-year stints
- Formed first Russian navy
- Divided Russia into provinces to rule more effectively
- Wanted to create a “police state” = well-ordered community governed by law
Changes Made

- Women – no longer secluded by veils
- Mixed gender dances
- Calendar – Would use January 1 and date years from birth of Jesus
- Agriculture – potatoes brought back
- Mercantilism, started iron mines, created newspapers
- “Barber King” – made nobles shave off their beards
The Expansion of Russia under Peter the Great. Peter added vital territory on the Baltic Sea to the vast Russian empire.
St. Petersburg

- City located on a port with access to Europe through the Baltic Sea
- Named after his patron saint
- Serfs forced to build the city
- 25,000 – 100,000 perish while building it
- 1712 – new capital
- Nobles forced to move from Moscow
Peter Dies

- 1724 – Army ship runs aground
- Peter jumps in to save some soldiers
- Catches a chill/fever and dies in 1725
Written Response Question

Peter the Great was trying to make Russia a world power, modeled after successful European nations. Why would a port with access to Europe (St. Petersburg) be an important step for Russia to become a world power?