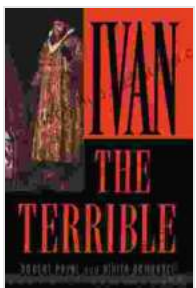


Ivan the Terrible: A Cruel and Ruthless Ruler, or a Complex and Misunderstood Man?



Ivan IV Vasilyevich, better known as Ivan the Terrible, was the first Tsar of Russia. He ruled from 1547 to 1584, and his reign was marked by both great achievements and unspeakable atrocities. He is often portrayed as a

cruel and ruthless tyrant, but there is also evidence to suggest that he was a complex and misunderstood man.



Ivan the Terrible by Robert Payne

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 8557 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 520 pages



Early Life and Accession to the Throne

Ivan was born in Moscow on August 25, 1530. His father, Vasily III, died when Ivan was only three years old, and his mother, Elena Glinskaya, ruled as regent until her death in 1538. Ivan's childhood was marked by instability and violence. He was often bullied by the boyars, or noblemen, and he witnessed the murder of his uncle, Prince Andrei of Staritsa.

In 1547, at the age of 17, Ivan was crowned Tsar of Russia. He began his reign with a series of reforms, including the of a new legal code and the establishment of a standing army. He also expanded the Russian empire by conquering the Kazan and Astrakhan khanates.

The Oprichnina

In 1565, Ivan established the oprichnina, a special force of bodyguards and secret police. The oprichniki were given free rein to terrorize the population, and they committed numerous atrocities, including mass executions,

torture, and rape. The oprichnina lasted for seven years, and it left a lasting legacy of fear and resentment.

Personal Life

Ivan was married six times, and he had several children. His first wife, Anastasia Romanovna, died in 1560, and Ivan was devastated by her death. He married five more times, but he never found another wife who could replace Anastasia.

Ivan was a complex and contradictory figure. He was a brilliant strategist and a ruthless tyrant. He was also a devout Orthodox Christian, and he spent much of his time in religious meditation.

The Later Years

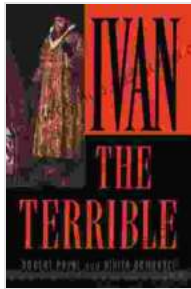
In the later years of his reign, Ivan became increasingly paranoid and suspicious. He ordered the execution of many of his closest advisors, and he even had his own son, Ivan Ivanovich, killed. Ivan's mental health deteriorated, and he died in 1584 at the age of 53.

Legacy

Ivan the Terrible is one of the most controversial figures in Russian history. He is often portrayed as a cruel and ruthless tyrant, but there is also evidence to suggest that he was a complex and misunderstood man. He was a brilliant strategist and a devout Christian, but he was also capable of great cruelty. Ivan's legacy is 複雜 and contradictory, and he remains a fascinating figure to this day.

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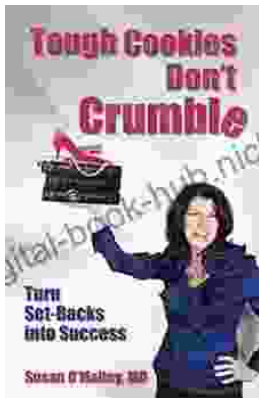
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