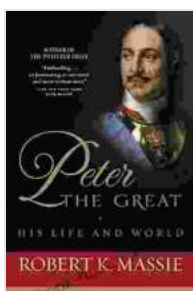


# Peter the Great: His Life and World

Peter the Great was one of the most consequential rulers in Russian history. He was the first Emperor of Russia, and he ruled from 1682 to 1725. During his reign, he expanded the Russian Empire and made it a major European power. He also introduced many reforms, including the of Western-style education and the abolition of the old feudal system.



## Peter the Great: His Life and World by Robert K. Massie

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 23450 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 963 pages



## Early life and accession

Peter was born in Moscow on June 9, 1672. He was the son of Tsar Alexis I and his second wife, Natalya Naryshkina. Peter's childhood was tumultuous. His father died when he was only four years old, and his mother and her relatives were exiled from court. Peter was raised by his maternal grandmother, who instilled in him a love of learning and a strong work ethic.

In 1682, Peter and his half-brother, Ivan V, were crowned co-tsars of Russia. However, Ivan was sickly and mentally disabled, and Peter was the de facto ruler from the beginning. Peter's early reign was marked by a series of revolts, including the Streltsy Uprising of 1689. Peter ruthlessly suppressed these revolts, and he emerged from them as a powerful and autocratic ruler.

## **The Great Northern War**

In 1700, Peter launched the Great Northern War against Sweden. The war lasted for 21 years, and it ended with the Treaty of Nystad in 1721. The Great Northern War was a major turning point in Russian history. It resulted in the expansion of the Russian Empire into the Baltic Sea region, and it made Russia a major European power.

Peter's victory in the Great Northern War was due in part to his military reforms. He introduced Western-style training and tactics into the Russian army, and he also created a powerful navy. Peter's reforms made the Russian army one of the most effective in Europe.

## **Domestic reforms**

In addition to his military reforms, Peter also introduced a number of domestic reforms. He established a new system of government, and he introduced Western-style education and culture into Russia. Peter also abolished the old feudal system, and he replaced it with a new system of land ownership based on merit.

Peter's domestic reforms were not always popular, and they met with resistance from the Russian nobility. However, Peter was a determined and

ruthless ruler, and he ultimately succeeded in transforming Russia into a modern European state.

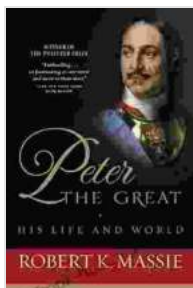
## Legacy

Peter the Great died in 1725, at the age of 52. He was succeeded by his wife, Catherine I. Peter's legacy is complex and controversial. He was a brilliant military commander and a visionary reformer, but he was also a ruthless autocrat. Peter's reforms had a profound impact on Russia, and they helped to make it a major European power. However, Peter's legacy is also tarnished by his brutality and his suppression of dissent.

Peter the Great was one of the most important figures in Russian history. He was a brilliant military commander, a visionary reformer, and a ruthless autocrat. Peter's reforms had a profound impact on Russia, and they helped to make it a major European power. However, Peter's legacy is also tarnished by his brutality and his suppression of dissent.

## Additional resources

- [Peter I the Great on Britannica.com](#)
- [Peter the Great on History.com](#)
- [Peter the Great on NationalGeographic.org](#)



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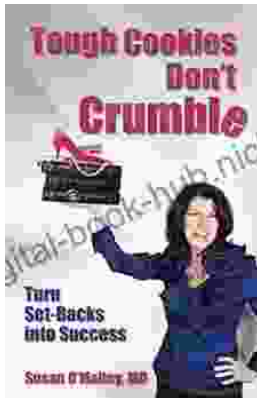
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