

Reforms of Peter the Great

Military

- the army was enlarged and was made professional
- the Streltsy was abolished
- both nobles and serfs could be conscripted for life
- the navy was hugely expanded
- the naval crews were Russian but many of the naval officers were foreign
- taxes were increased to pay for the military expenditures
- taxes included the soul tax, taxes on beards, horse collars and bee hives

Domestic

- the Church became completely subordinate to the state under the control of the Holy Synod
- the property of the Church was confiscated by the state
- education was made a top priority
- School of Navigation and Maths was created along with a School of Medicine, a School of Engineering and a School of Science
- foreign teachers were employed in Russian schools
- a state-run newspaper was created
- young Russians were encouraged to visit Western Europe
- beards were ordered to be shaved off
- western clothing was encouraged
- western-style tea parties were encouraged
- the economy was pushed toward mercantilism
- the state directed the construction of factories
- prices were fixed by the state

Government

- the government became, practically speaking, federal (local, provincial and central)
- towns were allowed to elect their officials
- provinces were divided and ruled by Gubnators, or governors
- Peter used a council to advise him and orders were executed by 40 departments
- an Oberfiscal was secretly created to check the honesty and integrity of government officials
- civil service became a meritocracy