Tsar Ivan IV Vasil’evich

Грозный ‘The Awesome’ or ‘The Terrible’:
(born 1530, reigned 1533-1584)

1. Muscovy: legacies of Ivan III Vasil’evich (co-Grand Prince velikii kniaz великий князь 1448-62; Grand Prince gosudar’ государь, 1462-1505), and Vasilii III Ivanovich (Grand Prince, 1505-33).

2. Tensions in the Polity:
   a. between allodial (votchinniki вотчинники) and conditional landholders (pomeshchiki помешчики)
   b. with udel удел princes - cousins and brothers of the Grand Prince
   c. over marriages and the balancing of boiar бояр clans.

3. Crises during the Regency for Ivan IV, 1533-47.

4. Ivan IV’s ‘chosen’ Council (Izbrannaia Rada Избранная Рада), 1547-60: Duma, central bureaucracy, church, local government, army.

5. Eastward Expansion of Muscovy: Kazan, Astrakhan and Siberia

6. Livonian Wars of Ivan IV, 1558-83

7. Running away (1): The Tsar’s Personal Wars, 1553?-84:
   a. 1553: his first illness and his disquiet over the succession
   b. his oprichnina опричина, or ‘widow’s portion’, 1564-72 historians’ interpretations
   c. his marriages: ‘good’ and ‘bad’ patches
   d. his greatest crime
   e. his illness

8. Running away (2): The Mystery of the Oprichnina Опричнина: Causes and Effects

PEOPLE
(supposed) Muscovite ‘Holy Counsellors’ of 1550s: Aleksei Adashev Sil’vestr
‘Tsar’ Semën Bekbulatovich (1575)
Prince Andrei Mikhailovich Kurbskii (1528-83, from Iaroslavl’ boyar family, Muscovite commander at Kazan and in Livonian war 1550 & 1560s before his defection to Poland-Lithuania in 1564, Volhynian member of the Polish Diet of 1573)
Fëdor Kolychév, executed boyar brother of metropolitan Filipp (reigning as Metropolitan after Makarii and Afanasii, ca 1563-68, died in exile, 1569)

Grand Princesses:
   Zoë (Sofiia) Paleologa (wife of Ivan III, from 1472)
   Elena Glinskaia (second wife of Vasilii III, 1526; died 1538)
   Anastasiia Romanovna-Zakharina (first wife of Ivan IV, 1547-1560)

Udel удел Princes (brothers and nephews of Vasilii III):
   Ivan IV’s uncle, Andrei Ivanovich (of Volotsk-Staritskii), and his son Vladimir Andrevich, and uncle Iurii Ivanovich (of Dmitrov).
Prominent Muscovite Churchmen: Filofei of Pskov, the monk, Silvestr Maksim Grek. Pimen, rival of metropolitan Makarii

Orthodox church metropolitans of Muscovy in the era of Ivan IV
Makarii (born ca 1482, reigning 1542-63 -- firm supporter of Ivan IV
Andrei Afanasii - deposed by Ivan IV
Filipp Kolychév (born ca 1502, reigning 1564?-69) – dares to rebuke Ivan IV: exile – made a saint from 1646, and his relics are brought back to the Kremlin in 1652

MUSCOVITE BOYAR CLANS
some Muscovite Boyar clans: Kurbskii Bel’skii Glinskii Godunov Trubetskoii
Sheremet’ev Romanov-Zakharin

leading Oprichniki орпичники: Maliuta Skuratov Aleksei Basmanov
Radziwills, leading boiar бояр clan of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

Wives of Ivan IV Vasil’evich, the duration of the marriage and their respective offspring (* denotes died in infancy):
1. Anastasiia Romanyvna-Zakharina, 1547-60
   Anna Ivanovna*
   Mariia Ivanovna
   Dmitri Ivanovich, died from falling in icy water, 1553
   Ivan Ivanovich, born 1554, killed by a blow received from his father in 1581
   Fëdor I Ivanovich, mentally retarded, born 1557; tsar, 1584-98
   Evdokiia Ivanovna*

2. Mariia Temriukovskaia, 1561-69 (Tatar background?)
   Vasilii Ivanovich*

3. Marfa Sobakina, 1571-72
4. Mariia Kolovskaia, 1572-73
5. Anna Vasil’chikova, 1574-75
6. Valisa Melent’eva, ?
7. Mariia Nagaia, 1581-? (Tatar background?)
   Dmitri Ivanovich, died in 1591 while playing with knives in Uglichen

Historians:
V.O. Kliuchevskii S.F. Platonov A.A. Zimin R.G. Skrynnikov S.B. Veselovskii S.A.
Sadikov A.I. Filiushkin

Foreign Envoys to Muscovy:
Habsburg: Sigismund von Herberstein (1517, 1526);
English: Richard Chancellor (1533), Giles Fletcher (1591);
Papal: Antonio Possevino SJ (1582)

PLACES
Tatar Khanates: Kazan’ (mid-Volga) Sibir’ (Siberia) Crimea Astrakhan’ (lower Volga)
Livonian (east Baltic) Narva Fellin Derpt (Tartu, Iur’ev) Courland
Belarus / Belorussian Polotsk Pskov [Treaty of] Yam Zapolskii (1582)
Polish (Union of) Lublin (1569)
Muscovite Staritsa Aleksandrovsk Sloboda Beloozero Vologda Arkhangel’sk
Novgorod Torzhok Klin Kholmogory Mozhaisk Viazma Kazan’ Tver’ Riazan’
Perm Pskov Dmitrov Staritskii
HISTORY OF NEIGHBOURING BALTIC PLACES: LIVONIA and LITHUANIA

Between the thirteenth- and sixteenth centuries, the Baltic lands which today comprise Latvia, Estonia and coastal Lithuania were known as Livonia. Its native Finno-Ugric Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian (called Chud’ in Russian) peoples were ruled (since the C13th) by Holy Catholic Orders of German Teutonic and Livonian Knights, who had once fought in the Crusades. After the Fall of Crusader Jerusalem in 1187 to the great Kurdish hero of Islam, Salal Al Din, the Teutonic Order seized the east Baltic at the behest of the Pope, with a mission to convert (through conquest) local animist and Orthodox-Christian peoples to Catholic Christianity. Orthodox Rus’ians of the Grand Principality of Lithuania contested the invasion of the German Knights. The Knights were also opposed by the Kingdom of Sweden (then including Finland), and Orthodox Rus’ian states of Novgorod and Pskov, both republican city states, and the Grand Principalities of Lithuania (Litva) and Muscovy, both autocracies. Lithuania was ruled by Varangian-Kievan Gedyminovichi Rus’ Гедиминовичи princes). While the Tatar Khans were strong and while they dominated Muscovy, Lithuania was relatively unaffected and soon entered the Polish and Catholic sphere of influence. In 1385 (under Jagiello) and again from 1447 (under Casimir IV), two key Lithuanian Grand Dukes accepted election to the throne of Poland, embracing Catholicism and abandoning their Orthodoxy. A full Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Rzeczpospolita under Sigismund Augustus), with dual capitals in (Polish) Cracow and (Lithuanian) Vilnius (Vil’no) was eventually formed in the Union of Lublin of 1569. Meanwhile, Baltic German Livonia lasted till 1561 when the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Sweden divided its territories. Sweden seized Baltic Livonia after 1621, and Russia, from 1721 to 1917, from 1918 to 1941, and from 1944-1990. Soviet troops left the region in 1994. Since 1995, the states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania have been members of the European Union, and since 2004 of NATO.

VASA KINGS OF SWEDEN
Gustav I (born, 1496, reigned 1523-60: first of a new dynasty escaing Danish domination) and turns Sweden firmly toward Protestantism.
Erik IV (1533-77, reigned 1560-68: a paranoid schizophrenic, he was deposed in 1568, and he was poisoned in prison; conquers Estonia 1561 in Livonian war, but fails in wars against Denmark)
John III (1568-92): half-brother of Erik IV, Grand Duke of Finland, as King of Sweden as well he consolidates swedish control of the eastern Baltic in the Treaty of Pless, 1583 and even succeeds in having his son Sigismund III Vasa elected as King of Poland in 1587. John III’s Catholic preferences, in honour of his Polish queen, helped him secure his son’s election to the throne of Poland, but make him less popular with the Protestant magnates in Sweden.
Sigismund I of Sweden (born,1566, reigning 1592-99) but more often is Sigismund III of Poland (reigning 1587-1632). He was deposed as King of Sweden by his Protestant half-uncle, Charles IX (born 1550, reigning as duke since 1599 and as king 1604-11).

KINGS of the POLISH-LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH (Rzeczpospolita).
Stepan Batory (born 1533), Prince of Transylvania (reigning 1571-76) and King of Poland (reigning 1575-86)
Sigismund III (see above)
Wladyslaw IV (born 1595, reigning 1632-48; briefly elected to Russian throne in 1610)

HABSBURG [HOLY ROMAN] EMPERORS
Ferdinand I (born 1503, reigning in Vienna 1531-64)
Maximiliam II (born 1527, reigning in Vienna 1562-76)
Rudolf II (born 1552, reignning 1575-1612)
CONCEPTS/FOREIGN TERMS

A d'iaik дяк was a clerk working in a Muscovite chancellery (izba изба or prikaz приказ). The unusual fact of their literacy gave them considerable 'behind-the-scenes' power in Muscovy. Very few d'iaiki дяки were from noble families before the end of the C17th century. Sons of clergy sometimes took up clerkships, or they were passed down a family.

A strelets стрелец (sing) or the strel'tsy стрельцы (plural) were non-noble Muscovite mercenary riflemen. The infantry corps was formed in the first half of the sixteenth century. Traditional Muscovite fighters were a heavy cavalry of nobles and their retainers.

A boiar бояр or boyar (depending on the transliteration) was the head of a powerful clan (rod род), who served, at the discretion of the Grand Prince, in his Council or Duma Боярская Дума. Boiars' lands were held in votchina волчина. Their clans were ranked in a system of records of past preferment and precedence known as mestnichestvo местничество.

A governor of a Muscovite province was known as a namestnik наместник. Nominated by the Boiar Duma, governorships conferred a right of 'feeding (kormlenie кормление)'. Lands regarded as in the allodial, unconditional tenure of a particular clan were votchina волчина (plural: votchiny волчжины); holders were votchinniki волччинники. Lands whose tenure was conditional on satisfactory service to the Grand Prince were pomest'e поместье (plural: pomest'ia поместия); holders were pomeshchiki помещики.

An udel удел was a large area of votchina волчина allocated to a Grand Prince’s immediate male kinsmen. Udel princes were usually brothers, uncles or cousins of the Grand Prince. They could have their own lesser ‘Courts’, and their own lesser boiars боярины.

Some Rus’ian states - notably, the Hansa trading towns of Novgorod and Pskov - had republican-style institutions. These north Slav cities were once governed by an urban assembly (вече вече), which tended to be dominated, like Venice and Florence, by an élite group of merchants from patrician families. The town веche вече generally ‘elected’ its Magistrates from among their number. The towns’ prince - of whom the most famous was Alexander Nevskii - was generally seen as a contractual agent of the веche вече, a noble warrior hired to command the town militia and to defend its commercial interests.

In the shadowy world of Orthodox Church politics, Muscovite clergymen seem to have been divided into two camps in sixteenth-century Muscovy. The ‘Josephans Иосифляне’, named after Abbott Joseph of the monastery of Volokolamsk, upheld autocratic (samoderzhavnyi самодержавный) power of the Grand Prince, but also insisted that the church, as against the Grand Prince, should retain full control over its manifold lands and property. The ‘Non-Possessors (nestiazhatel’nye нестяжательные)’, on the other hand, seemed to have had a more ascetic bent, arguing that the Church should not have too many lands and properties. Against the Josephans’ defense of the usual Muscovite practice of an oral, rather than written, profession to Christ’s example, the Non-Possessors - like Nil of Sorsk or Maksim Grek (a Greek clergyman who had heard Savaranora preache in Florence) - urged that more attention should be paid to bible study and to the study of the written works of the Fathers of the Greek Church. Some scholars see the Non-Possessors as a dim echo of the Renaissance and Reformation in Muscovy. Apart from the early years of Ivan IV, in his so-called ‘Select Council Избранная Рада Izbrannaia Rada) the Josephans were generally dominant. Josephans accused the Non-Possessors, like Maksim Grek, of harbouring what they
called an alien ‘Judaising’ heresy. Shades of 1937 and 1952?

Between 1564 and 1572/75, Ivan IV divided his realm in two: his oprichnina опричнина and a zemshchina земщина comprising the rest of the realm administered by the boiar duma Боярская Дума.

A zemskii sobor’ Земский Соборь was an ad hoc assembly of prominent people drawn from all major social estates - clergy, boiars боярины, merchants (kuptsy купцы), lesser traders of the towns and suburbs (posadskie liudy посадские люди) and clan gentry (deti boiarskie дети боярские or dvoriane дворяне). Such assemblies were infrequent, and never truly representative. They were intended as pep-rallies to ratify whatever policy the Tsar was proposing.