

## 1: Biography of Catherine the Great of Russia

*The Life & Times Of Catherine The Great (Biography from Ancient Civilizations) (Biography from Ancient Civilizations: Legends, Folklore, and Stories of Ancient Worlds) [Karen Bush Gibson] on www.enganchecubano.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.*

May 23, Public domain Catherine II, also known as Catherine the Great, was an empress of Russia who ruled from 1762 to 1796, the longest reign of any female Russian leader. Her accomplishments are often overshadowed by the legends and rumors about her scandalous personal life. Sophie von Anhalt-Zerbst was born in 1744, the daughter of a Prussian prince. She took on the name Catherine, or Ekaterina Alekseyevna. Peter was regarded by some as inept, and after only six months on the throne, Catherine overthrew him with the aid of Grigory Orlov, a military officer with whom she was having an affair. Her husband was later arrested and killed, securing her position on the throne. Some regard Catherine as a socially enlightened ruler; she exchanged correspondence with the French philosopher Voltaire. She was a patron of the arts; the Hermitage Museum opened during her reign, beginning as part of her personal collection. Under her influence, Russians adopted western European philosophies and culture. While it was Peter I reign that brought about reforms that gave women greater freedom to pursue education it was during the mid-18th century, the time that Catherine the Great rose to power, that female artists also rose in Russia. Among the most prolific Russian female artists was Princess Natalia Ivanovna Kurakina lived who wrote at least 45 songs. Power and love Catherine was also a successful military ruler; her troops conquered a great deal of new territory. She also allowed a system of serfdom to continue in Russia, something that would contribute to a full-fledged revolt led by a pretender to the throne. The two of them hated each other, and he ruled ineptly. He embarked on a seemingly pointless military campaign against Denmark, alienated the Orthodox clergy by attempting to take over church lands and even tried to marry his mistress. Catherine got the jump on the others through her romantic relationship with Grigory Orlov, an officer in the Russian Guards. With the support of local military units, Catherine was proclaimed Empress of Russia in July while her husband was away from St. Peter III was then arrested, forced to abdicate the throne and ultimately killed. Orlov would be one of many lovers that Catherine would have in her life. She alluded to her habit of often switching lovers in a letter she wrote to Prince Grigory Potemkin, a military leader with whom she had an affair in 1789. He noted that with the death of the Polish king, Augustus III, in 1795, she was able to put one of her lovers, Stanislaw Poniatowski, on the Polish throne. Poniatowski and Catherine ended up getting more than they bargained for. This issue led to a rebellion, and in the end Russian troops were sent into Poland to support Poniatowski. The presence of these Russian troops raised concerns among neighboring states that Russia had ambitions on their own territories, wrote researcher Robert Massie in his book "Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman" Random House, Massie noted that the sultan of Turkey felt the most threatened, fearing that Russian troops in Poland would be able to pour into the Balkans, threatening Istanbul itself. After discussions with French diplomats, and an incident with Russian troops at the Turkish border in October 1791, Turkey declared war on Russia. Also in 1791, a Russian naval squadron reached the eastern Mediterranean, inflicting a defeat on the Turkish fleet. In 1795, Poland was partitioned between Russia, Austria and Prussia, with subsequent partitions occurring in 1796 and 1801. Additionally, in 1791, after Russian troops were in a position to threaten Istanbul, Turkey sued for peace, with Russia gaining territories on the Black Sea coast and the Sea of Azov area. Serfdom and rebellion While Catherine enjoyed great military success, internally her country had a precarious social structure. Much of the population lived as serfs, in essence a form of slave. Their living conditions were horrible; Massie noted that few of the serfs working in the mines, foundries and factories lived to middle age. Although Catherine is said to have personally opposed the institution, she tolerated it. In 1785, her government even published a decree condemning serfs who protested about their conditions. Death and succession Catherine died quietly in her bed on Nov. 17, 1796. After her death, her enemies spread gossip about her that has endured for centuries: Others claimed that she died on the toilet. Neither rumor was true. In any event, Paul did not last long on the throne; he was assassinated in 1801. While the institution of serfdom would gradually be abolished in Russia during the 19th century, the wide gap in wealth between the nobility and peasantry

would continue on. These social problems came to a boiling point once again after Russia entered World War I in

## 2: Catherine the Great(life to death) timeline | Timetoast timelines

*Catherine II, called Catherine the Great, reigned over Russia for 34 years—longer than any other female in Russian history. As empress, Catherine westernized Russia. She led her country into full participation in the political and cultural life of Europe.*

Stettin, Prussia now Szczecin, Poland Died: She expanded the Russian Empire, improved administration, and energetically pursued the policy of Westernization the process of changing to western ideas and traditions. Under her rule Russia grew strong and rivaled the great powers of Europe and Asia. As a child, Catherine was close to her governess Babette, who Catherine described as, "the kind of governess every child should have. When Catherine was fifteen, she went to Russia at the invitation of Empress Elizabeth to meet the heir to the throne, the Grand Duke Peter — , an immature and disagreeable youth of sixteen. Soon after Catherine converted to the Russian Orthodox faith, she and the young Grand Duke were married in The marriage turned out to be an unhappy one in which there was little evidence of love or even affection. Peter was soon unfaithful to Catherine, and after a time she became unfaithful to him. Whether Peter was the father of Paul and Anna, the two children recorded as their offspring, remains a question. However, her loveless marriage did not overshadow her intellectual and political interests. A sharp-witted and cultured young woman, she read widely, particularly in French. She liked novels, plays, and verse but was particularly interested in the writings of the major figures of the French Enlightenment a period of cultural and idealistic transformation in France , such as Diderot — , Voltaire — , and Montesquieu — Rise to power Catherine was ambitious as well as intelligent and looked forward to the time she would rule Russia. Unlike her husband, the German-born Catherine took care to demonstrate her dedication to Russia and the Russian Orthodox an independent branch of the Christian faith faith. This loyalty, she thought, would earn her a rightful place on the throne and win support of the Russian people. Only a few months after coming to the throne, Peter had created many enemies within the government, the military, and the church. Soon there was a plot to overthrow him, place his seven-year-old son Paul on the throne, and name Catherine as regent temporary ruler until the boy was old enough to rule on his own. They thought that by getting rid of Peter, Catherine would become more of a background figure. She aimed for a more powerful role for herself, however. On June 28, , with the aid of her lover Gregory Orlov, she rallied the troops of St. Petersburg to her support and declared herself Catherine II, the sole ruler of Russia. She had Peter arrested and required him to abdicate, or step down from, power. Shortly after his arrest he was killed in a brawl with his captors. Early reign — Catherine had ambitious plans regarding both domestic and foreign affairs. But during the first years of her reign her attention was directed toward securing her position. They viewed her son, Paul, as the rightful ruler. Her reaction to this situation was to take every opportunity to win favor among the nobility and the military. At the same time she struck sharply at those who sought to replace her with Paul. As for general policy, Catherine understood that Russia needed an extended period of peace in order for her to concentrate on domestic homeland affairs. This peace could only be gained through cautious foreign policy. The able Count Nikita Panin — , whom she placed in charge of foreign affairs, was well chosen to carry out such a policy. Attempts at reform — By Catherine felt secure enough to begin work on reform, or improving social conditions. It proposed a system providing equal protection under law for all persons. It also emphasized prevention of criminal acts rather than harsh punishment for them. In June the Empress created the Legislative Commission to revise the old laws in accordance with the "Instruction. Soon Turkey and Austria joined in by supporting the revolution in Poland. Two years later, after lengthy negotiations, Catherine concluded peace talks with Turkey. From this Russia received its first foothold on the Black Sea coast. Russian merchant ships were allowed the right of sailing on the Black Sea and through the Dardanelles, a key waterway in Europe. Even before the peace talks ended, Catherine had to concern herself with a revolt led by the Cossack Yemelyan Pugachev — Soon tens of thousands were following him, and the uprising was within threatening range of Moscow. A feeling of security returned to the government only after his capture late in Here she directed her time and talent to domestic affairs, particularly those concerned with the way the government functioned. In she adopted a plan

that would create a large-scale educational system. Some of the remaining parts of her plan were carried out after her death. Not only because she believed them to be important in themselves, but also because she saw them as a means by which Russia could earn a reputation as a center of civilization. Under her direction St. Theater, music, and painting flourished with her encouragement. As she grew older, Catherine became greatly troubled because her heir, Paul, was becoming mentally unstable and she doubted his ability to rule. Before she was able to alter her original arrangement, however, she died of a stroke on November 6, 1796. While her legacy is open to debate, there is no doubt that Catherine was a key figure in developing Russia into a modern civilization. Oxford University Press, Erica Nov 8, She introduced the small pox vaccination, promoted the education of women and extended religious tolerance. The article needs more information on negative qualities, Endearing qualities. Katya Nosarev Jan 27, 7: I am doing a research project and this has helped me alot.

## 3: Catherine the Great

*The Life and Times of Catherine the Great (Biography from Ancient Civilizations Series) by Karen Bush Gibson*  
Considered one of the greatest female rulers, Catherine the Great was a German princess who ruled Russia for 34 years.

By the first of these passions, she was never so far governed as to become a Messalina, but she often disgraced both her rank and sex: A common story claims that she died as a result of her voracious sexual appetite while attempting sexual intercourse with a stallion – the story holds that the harness holding the horse above her broke, and she was crushed. But it most likely began due to unfounded bawdy tales. The fact that this particular vulgar tale did not even emerge until several decades after her death, and that the legend has no clear source, should make it clear that this is no more than an urban legend that inexplicably gained popularity. Another story claiming that she died on the toilet when her seat broke under her [ citation needed ] is true only in small part: This tale was widely circulated and even jokingly referred to by Aleksandr Pushkin in one of his untitled poems. According to said urban legend; the furniture was highly eccentric with tables that had large penises for legs. Penises and vulvas were carved out on the furniture, the walls were covered in erotic art, statues of a naked man and woman inside, and some versions of the legend state that some erotic artifacts from Pompeii were even brought into Russia to augment this collection. There are unconfirmed reports of photographs of this cabinet. The rooms and the furniture were allegedly seen in by two Wehrmacht officers during the Nazi Invasion of The Soviet Union, but even if that were true, the rooms and furniture seem to have vanished since then. This account is "dodgy", "sketchy", and "dubious" at the very best. The account says the Wehrmacht officers filed a report, and no report has ever been found, nor are any other records from anyone from before, during, or after the Second World War; other than the aforementioned legend. Also, the account says the rooms and furniture were seen in, during the Nazi Invasion of The Soviet Union, but the invasion of The Soviet Union by Nazi Germany did not start in, but on June 22nd, So this little anecdote has a few holes in it. However, investigators are looking into the possibility of locating these lost rooms with black lights. Other narratives [ edit ] A long-surviving story about the Potemkin villages was false, even though it became eponymous. It states that Potemkin built fake settlements with hollow facades to fool Empress Catherine II during her visit to Crimea and New Russia, the territories Russia conquered under her reign. The letter 'Ñ' was not widely accepted until the s. They sent a petition to Catherine asking her to prohibit the construction of high minarets. As the legend goes, Catherine replied that she was the tsarina of the Russian land and that the sky was beyond her jurisdiction. , in Russian, M. Catherine I, Anne and Elizabeth of Russia. Oxford University Press, The Art of the Seductress.

## 4: Catherine The Great | HistoryNet

*The Life and Times of Catherine the Great* by Karen Bush Gibson, , available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide.

Her father, Christian August, Prince of Anhalt-Zerbst , belonged to the ruling German family of Anhalt , [4] but held the rank of a Prussian general in his capacity as governor of the city of Stettin. Two of her first cousins became Kings of Sweden: She once wrote to her correspondent Baron Grimm: Catherine first met Peter III at the age of Based on her writings, she found Peter detestable upon meeting him. She disliked his pale complexion and his fondness for alcohol at such a young age. Peter also still played with toy soldiers. Catherine later wrote that she stayed at one end of the castle, and Peter at the other. Historical accounts portray Johanna as a cold, abusive woman who loved gossip and court intrigues. The Empress Elizabeth knew the family well: She applied herself to learning the Russian language with zeal, rising at night and walking about her bedroom barefoot, repeating her lessons even though she mastered the language, she retained an accent. This practice led to a severe attack of pneumonia in March When she wrote her memoirs , she said she made up her mind when she came to Russia to do whatever was necessary, and to profess to believe whatever was required of her, to become qualified to wear the crown. Portrait of the Grand Duchess Ekaterina Alekseyevna around the time of her wedding, by George Christoph Grooth, Catherine recalled in her memoirs that as soon as she arrived in Russia, she fell ill with a pleuritis that almost killed her. She credited her survival to frequent bloodletting ; in a single day, she had four phlebotomies. When her situation looked desperate, her mother wanted her confessed by a Lutheran priest. Awaking from her delirium , however, Catherine said: Despite his objection, on 28 June the Russian Orthodox Church received Princess Sophie as a member with the new name Catherine Yekaterina or Ekaterina and the artificial patronymic Alekseyevna, daughter of Aleksey. On the following day, the formal betrothal took place. The long-planned dynastic marriage finally occurred on 21 August in Saint Petersburg. Sophia had turned 16; her father did not travel to Russia for the wedding. The bridegroom, known then as Peter von Holstein-Gottorp, had become Duke of Holstein-Gottorp located in the north-west of present-day [update] Germany near the border with Denmark in The newlyweds settled in the palace of Oranienbaum , which remained the residence of the "young court" for many years to come. He would announce trying drills in the morning to male servants, who later joined Catherine in her room to sing and dance until late hours. If you feel unhappy, raise your self above unhappiness, and so act that your happiness may be independent of all eventualities. The imperial couple moved into the new Winter Palace in Saint Petersburg. Peter supported Frederick II, however, eroding much of his support among the nobility. Peter ceased Russian operations against Prussia, and Frederick suggested the partition of Polish territories with Russia. Equestrian portrait of the Grand Duchess Yekaterina Alexeyevna In July , barely six months after becoming emperor, Peter took a holiday with his Holstein-born courtiers and relatives to Oranienbaum , leaving his wife in Saint Petersburg. On the night of 8 July OS: The next day, she left the palace and departed for the Ismailovsky regiment , where she delivered a speech asking the soldiers to protect her from her husband. Catherine then left with the regiment to go to the Semenovsky Barracks, where the clergy were waiting to ordain her as the sole occupant of the Russian throne. She had her husband arrested, and forced him to sign a document of abdication, leaving no one to dispute her accession to the throne. Ivan VI was assassinated during an attempt to free him as part of a failed coup against Catherine: Catherine, like Empress Elizabeth before her, had given strict instructions that he was to be killed in the event of any such attempt. Ivan was thought to be insane because of his years of solitary confinement, so might have made a poor emperor, even as a figurehead. Although Catherine did not descend from the Romanov dynasty, she had descended from the Rurik dynasty , which preceded the Romanovs. She succeeded her husband as empress regnant , following the precedent established when Catherine I succeeded her husband Peter the Great in In the s, a group of nobles connected with Paul Nikita Panin and others considered a new coup to depose Catherine and transfer the crown to Paul, whose power they envisaged restricting in a kind of constitutional monarchy. This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding

citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Inspired by the Byzantine Empire design, the crown was constructed of two gold and silver half spheres, representing the eastern and western Roman empires, divided by a foliate garland and fastened with a low hoop. The crown contains 75 pearls and 4, Indian diamonds forming laurel and oak leaves, the symbols of power and strength, and is surmounted by a The crown was produced in a record two months and weighed only 2. It is one of the main treasures of the Romanov dynasty, and is now on display in the Moscow Kremlin Armoury Museum. A shrewd statesman, Panin dedicated much effort and millions of rubles to setting up a "Northern Accord" between Russia, Prussia , Poland, and Sweden, to counter the power of the Bourbon " Habsburg League. When it became apparent that his plan could not succeed, Panin fell out of favour and Catherine had him replaced with Ivan Osterman in office " Catherine agreed to a commercial treaty with Great Britain in , but stopped short of a full military alliance. Catherine completed the conquest of the south, making Russia the dominant power in south-eastern Europe after the Russo-Turkish War of " Russia inflicted some of the heaviest defeats ever suffered by the Ottoman Empire, including the Battle of Chesma 5"7 July and the Battle of Kagul 21 July The treaty also removed restrictions on Russian naval or commercial traffic in the Azov Sea , granted to Russia the position of protector of Orthodox Christians in the Ottoman Empire, and made the Crimea a protectorate of Russia. Catherine annexed the Crimea in , nine years after the Crimean Khanate had gained nominal independence"which had been guaranteed by Russia"from the Ottoman Empire as a result of her first war against the Turks. The palace of the Crimean khans passed into the hands of the Russians. In , Catherine conducted a triumphal procession in the Crimea, which helped provoke the next Russo"Turkish War. The Ottomans restarted hostilities in the Russo-Turkish War of " This war was another catastrophe for the Ottomans, ending with the Treaty of Jassy , which legitimised the Russian claim to the Crimea and granted the Yedisian region to Russia. Russo-Persian War[ edit ] Russian empress travelling, Burney In the Treaty of Georgievsk Russia agreed to protect Georgia against any new invasion and further political aspirations of their Persian suzerains. Catherine waged a new war against Persia in after they, under the new king Agha Mohammad Khan , had again invaded Georgia and established rule in and had expelled the newly established Russian garrisons in the Caucasus. The ultimate goal for the Russian government, however, was to topple the anti-Russian shah king , and to replace him with a half-brother, Morteza Qoli Khan , who had defected to Russia and was therefore pro-Russian. The Russian troops set out from Kizlyar in April and stormed the key fortress of Derbent on 10 May. By November, they were stationed at the confluence of the Araks and Kura Rivers , poised to attack mainland Iran. In that month, the Empress of Russia died and her successor Paul , who detested that the Zubovs had other plans for the army, ordered the troops to retreat to Russia. This reversal aroused the frustration and enmity of the powerful Zubovs and other officers who took part in the campaign: Relations with Western Europe[ edit ] See also: She pioneered for Russia the role that Britain later played through most of the 19th and early 20th centuries as an international mediator in disputes that could, or did, lead to war. In , she established a League of Armed Neutrality , designed to defend neutral shipping from the British Royal Navy during the American Revolution. Denmark declared war on Sweden in the Theatre War. Peace ensued for 20 years, aided by the assassination of Gustav III in Partitions of Poland[ edit ] Main article: Although the idea of partitioning Poland came from the King Frederick II of Prussia , Catherine took a leading role in carrying it out in the s. In , she formally became protector of the Polish"Lithuanian Commonwealth , which provoked an anti-Russian uprising in Poland, the Confederation of Bar " After the uprising broke down due to internal politics in the Polish"Lithuanian Commonwealth, she established in the Rzeczpospolita, a system of government fully controlled by the Russian Empire through a Permanent Council , under the supervision of her ambassadors and envoys. After the French Revolution of , Catherine rejected many principles of the Enlightenment she had once viewed favourably. Afraid the May Constitution of Poland might lead to a resurgence in the power of the Polish"Lithuanian Commonwealth and the growing democratic movements inside the Commonwealth might become a threat to the European monarchies, Catherine decided to intervene in Poland. She provided support to a Polish antireform group known as the Targowica Confederation. This spurred Russian interest in opening trade with Japan to the south for supplies and food. Russian local authorities helped his party, and the Russian government decided to use

him as a trade envoy. Subsequently, in 1792, the Russian government dispatched a trade mission to Japan, led by Adam Laxman. The Tokugawa shogunate received the mission, but negotiations failed.

**Economics and finance**[ edit ] Catherine the Great Russian economic development was well below the standards in western Europe. Historian Francois Cruzet writes that Russia under Catherine: Still, there was a start of industry, mainly textiles around Moscow and ironworks in the Ural Mountains, with a labor force mainly of serfs, bound to the works. They indeed helped modernise the sector that totally dominated the Russian economy. They introduced numerous innovations regarding wheat production and flour milling, tobacco culture, sheep raising, and small-scale manufacturing. It opened in St. Petersburg and Moscow in 1763. Several bank branches were afterwards established in other towns, called government towns. Paper notes were issued upon payment of similar sums in copper money, which were also refunded upon the presentation of those notes. The emergence of these Assignation rubles was necessary due to large government spending on military needs, which led to a shortage of silver in the treasury transactions, especially in foreign trade, were conducted almost exclusively in silver and gold coins. Assignation rubles circulated on equal footing with the silver ruble; a market exchange rate for these two currencies was ongoing. The use of these notes continued until 1794.

**Russian Enlightenment** Marble statue of Catherine II in the guise of Minerva "à la française", by Fedot Shubin Catherine had a reputation as a patron of the arts, literature, and education. At the instigation of her factotum, Ivan Betskoy, she wrote a manual for the education of young children, drawing from the ideas of John Locke, and founded the famous Smolny Institute in 1764, which admitted young girls of the nobility. The leading economists of her day, such as Arthur Young and Jacques Necker, became foreign members of the Free Economic Society, established on her suggestion in Saint Petersburg in 1765. Catherine enlisted Voltaire to her cause, and corresponded with him for 15 years, from her accession to his death in 1778. He lauded her accomplishments, calling her "The Star of the North" and the "Semiramis of Russia" in reference to the legendary Queen of Babylon, a subject on which he published a tragedy in 1771. Though she never met him face to face, she mourned him bitterly when he died. She acquired his collection of books from his heirs, and placed them in the National Library of Russia.

### 5: The Life and Times of Catherine the Great : Karen Bush Gibson :

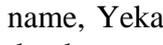
*Get this from a library! The life and times of Catherine the Great. [Karen Bush Gibson] -- Profiles the German princess who became one of the greatest female rulers in Russia.*

Known for her intelligence and ambitions to rule the Russian Empire, Catherine not only challenged the social norms of the time but also set the precedent for women in powerful positions. She consolidated power from the serfs and feudal lords by continuing the political reforms started by Peter the Great. In addition to this, Catherine imported many great works in literature, art, and print from the Western European nations. Petersburg blossomed sculptures, palaces, and educational systems. Education and law codes further developed under her reign. At the end of her thirty-four year reign from 1762 to 1796, Catherine had catapulted Russia into the world scene as a major world empire. Immediately following her birth Sophie faced many challenges in a society which legally subjugating its woman population. Although she had society stacked against her, she was recognized by her father for her great ability to learn and remember concepts and ideas. Only after she had proven her abilities did she receive formal education. Although Sophie was a German, she like her mother strove to be as Russian as her mother-in-law Elizabeth the I. In addition to this Catherine converted the Russian Orthodox Church in order to be married into the imperial line. Using her sexuality to obtain legitimacy for her position, Catherine was encouraged to produce an heir to the line. In 1762, during an affair with Sergey Saltykov, Catherine bore a child named Paul. It is not altogether clear whether Paul is the legitimate son of her husband Peter, or the son of Saltykov. The marriage to Peter was further put into jeopardy because Peter was ill equipped to handle ruling Russia Empire. Lacking common sense and alienating the Russian Court, Peter further compounded his mistakes by withdrawing from war with Prussia in 1763. Peter III was sent to prison where he died at the hands of his captives. In its own right the reign of Catherine the Great was impressive, but it was made all the more important because she was a woman. Her goal was to rationalize and reform the administration of the Russian Empire. One of the most prosperous periods for Russia, Catherine undertook a wide range of internal political reforms, and waged two successful wars against the Ottoman Empire and extend the borders of Russia. Her achievements played a key role in the development of Russia as a modern state not only in a political sense but also in a cultural sense. Under her rule many she directed the building of the Hermitage. Upon her death in 1796 she was succeeded by her son Paul I. Her achievements would live on a help propel Russia to become a major world power after her death. Annotated Bibliography Alexander, John T. Oxford University Press, Alexander examines the life of Catherine the Great in general, but pays particular attention to issues which other books on Catherine usually omit. Catherine had many lovers throughout her life and Alexander includes the love notes written to Peter Zavadovski from the years 1762 to 1763. He assures readers that Catherine did not die while attempting to have sexual intercourse with a horse, but rather after suffered from an attack of apoplexy while sitting on her commode. Ashby, Ruth and Ohrn, Deborah Gore, ed. Herstory, Women Who Change the World. This is a great resource for understanding the basic information on Catherine the Great. This short, but to the point summary of her life is very good at providing a starting point for research on this person. Only basic information is given, but it does do a good job of providing information to anyone on any reading level. No prior knowledge or advanced education is necessary to understand this work. This is a good resource to start off with to guide a person on for a more in-depth research. Harper and Row, This book concentrates on the lives of those related to the Romanov dynasty. She goes as far as to call Catherine a nymphomaniac. He was referred to as the "cyclops of the court. Potemkin apparently was involved in a fight with the Orlov brothers. Through her love of writing, Catherine poured her heart out in letters and memoirs. Despite her hatred of France, Catherine embraced the French language and culture. French was the language of her court. Catherine thought of herself as a liberal. The book features many color photographs that were specially commissioned by Russian born photographer, Victor Kennet. This web site by Dixon, a historian, discusses Catherine the Great and provides personal opinions of her. It contains an analysis of her ruling style, along with information about her marriage, the birth of her son, the reign of Peter III, and her reign as Empress. It includes pictures of her and those who were closely related to her and

provides a bibliography. Dixon believes that Russia owes her much for her reign and that she truly earned the title "the Great. She believes that in order to judge her greatness and see her achievements, one must distinguish between Catherine the woman and Catherine the Empress. *Catherine The Great and Other Studies*. He further examines the poor relationship between Catherine and her son. She is quoted as admiring her. The book begins to lose its focus on Catherine after discussing her relationship with Voltaire. The book goes on to discuss French salons and Otto von Bismark of Germany. There is a substantial section dedicated to Voltaire and his work as a historian. There is an index to further help the reader but there is no bibliography nor are there any footnotes. The author of this work provides a very good detailed analysis of the life of Catherine the Great Great emphasis is placed on her thirty-four year reign. This in-depth analysis of one of the greatest rulers of the Russian Empire attempts to understand the character of Catherine the Great. Much of the resources in this book came from the Polish historian Monsieur Walezewski, who wrote a biography about her. The information in the work is good but a bit dated. In addition to this, this work requires an advanced knowledge about Catherine and the political and economic climate of the time period. In all this is a well written piece of work. *The Portrait of an Empress*. The Viking Press, Her relationship with her siblings and the poor relationship she had with her father discussed in detail. Catherine hungered for love, something she would struggle with for her whole life. She desired a husband who would provide her with a crown more dazzling than that of Zerbst, in her native land of Germany. Her extramarital affairs are discussed. After the conspiracy against her husband was successfully carried out, the Imperial Guards proclaimed her the sole ruler of Russia. There was an intense hatred between Catherine and her son Paul, and because of this, Catherine planned to make her grandson, Alexander, the successor to the throne of Russia. A number of illustrations are included as well as an index. This work is an historical analysis of the progression from the medieval Russian Empire to the fall of the Empire to the communists. This work although very good, it does require advanced knowledge of Russian history and the political climate of the time. It credits Catherine for forging a strong national state, extending the borders, the start of capitalism, and land reforms. This article celebrates the bicentenary year of her death. There is suddenly a new wave of scholarly interest after an international conference in St. The article focuses on her accomplishments during her reign. She provided Russia with three and a half decades of political stability. She dedicated herself to the Enlightenment and putting those ideas into practice through legislation. She believed passionately in the power of the printed word. She encouraged book production and the translation of foreign works into Russian. It also refers to some of the newest sources available on Catherine The Great and Lentin includes them in his citations. Yale University Press, This work not only identifies her achievement but it also describes in detail her she came to power in Russia. A great emphasis is places on two areas in the work, first her achievements as a ruler and second her achievements as a women ruler. In addition to this, the author details how important she was because she was a women. This greatly enhances the work of Madariaga and further makes this a good resource. *Secret Memoirs of the Court of Petersburg*. There are also documents, which question whether Russia would suffer the same fate as France and succumb to revolution. Chapter six examines the conditions in Russia that might have led up to a revolution. Masson comments on the debauchery occurring in Russia that went seemingly unpunished. Masson discusses female run governments in general and especially the female leaders of Russia before Catherine II. Catherine The Great tried to better the lives of Russian women. Their education was based on the great thinkers such as Locke, and Rousseau. Catherine imported many French scholars to educate the Russians, and he contributes this as a factor to why so many Russians, including Catherine, were taken by French culture. Her attitude toward superstition and her attitude towards Moscow are major themes of the play. Moscow signified everything that needed change in her Enlightened Russia.

### 6: Ekaterina (TV Series " ") - IMDb

*Early life. Catherine was born in Stettin, Pomerania, Kingdom of Prussia (now Szczecin, Poland) as Princess Sophie Friederike Auguste von [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) father, Christian August, Prince of Anhalt-Zerbst, belonged to the ruling German family of Anhalt, but held the rank of a Prussian general in his capacity as governor of the city of Stettin.*

She then orchestrated a coup to overthrow her husband and became the Empress of the Russian Empire in July . Catherine was Czarina for a period of 34 years till her death in November , making her the longest-ruling female leader in the history of Russia. Catherine is also known for her numerous love affairs. She kept lovers till her death at the age of 67 and certain sources cite their number as high as . Catherine had at least four children, of which only her eldest son Paul is considered legitimate. Know about the family, life, rise to power, reign, revolts, affairs and death of Catherine the Great through these 10 interesting facts. Sophie was the first of five children of Christian and Johanna. In accordance to the customs prevailing in German aristocratic families, she was educated primarily by a French governess, named Babette. Apart from studying religion and history, she learned three languages: German, French and Russian. However, after the death of her brother Wilhelm Christian, her mother started to see Sophie as a mean to improve her own situation. Unmarried and childless, Elizabeth had chosen her nephew Peter, Duke of Holstein-Gottorp, as her heir. Even though Elizabeth disliked Johanna and eventually banned her from the country, she took a strong liking to Sophie, who did all she could to please Elizabeth. Despite the objection of her father due to his being a devout German Lutheran, Princess Sophie converted to the Russian Orthodox faith on 28th June and was given a new name, Yekaterina, or Catherine.  3 There is speculation that her son Paul was not fathered by her husband Peter Catherine married her second cousin Peter, heir to the Russian throne, on 21st August in Saint Petersburg. She was 16 years old while Peter was . Their marriage proved to be unsuccessful and they both soon began extramarital affairs. Peter took a mistress named Elizabeth Vorontsova while Catherine had an affair with Sergei Saltykov, a Russian military officer. On October 1, , a son was born to Catherine who was named Paul. This belief was further enhanced by Catherine, who later wrote in her memoirs that Paul was not fathered by Peter and that, in fact, they had never consummated the marriage. Throughout the s, Catherine had cultivated relations with powerful political groups opposed to her husband. Catherine collaborated with these factions and began plotting an overthrow of her husband. On the night of 8th July , Catherine was informed that one of her co-conspirators had been arrested. She acted swiftly; had her husband arrested; and forced him to sign a document of abdication. There is no evidence to prove that Catherine ordered the assassination of her husband or knew about it beforehand.  5 The Russian Empire became stronger and larger than ever before during her reign A day after the coup, on 9th July , Catherine declared herself Catherine II, the sovereign ruler of the Russian Empire. Her official coronation took place in Moscow on 22nd September . During her reign, Catherine II successfully led Russia against the Ottoman Empire making her nation one of the dominant countries in Europe. Apart from victories against the Ottoman Empire, Russia under her leadership defeated the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth leading to the partitioning of Poland and division of its territory between Russia, Prussia and Austria with Russia gaining the largest share. By the end of the reign of Catherine the Great, the Russian Empire had grown larger and stronger than ever before. It had expanded rapidly by conquest and diplomacy with around , square miles , square kilometers being added to its territory.  6 Her reign worsened the conditions of the serfs in Russia When Catherine II came to the throne in , Russian population of around 20 million consisted to up to 10 million serfs. Serfs were peasants in permanent bondage to land owned by the other classes. They had initially held some rights but as the power of the landowners increased, their rights diminished and by mid 18th century, they had practically become slaves. Catherine II was well versed with the ideas of the Age of Enlightenment in Europe like the Rights of Man and was intellectually opposed to serfdom. However, she soon realized that emancipation of the serfs would not be tolerated by the nobility and the other classes on whose support she depended. Catherine implemented several policies which worsened the conditions of the

serfs and they were discontented by her rule. Thus despite her many achievements, the condition of around half of the population deteriorated during her reign. The Cossacks are self-governing and semi-military communities who reside primarily in Russia and Ukraine. They were behind a number of revolutions in Russia to abolish slavery and maintain independence. It was led by Yemelyan Pugachev, an ex-lieutenant of the Russian Imperial army. After initial success, he formed an alternative government and proclaimed an end to serfdom. Catherine II ultimately sent a massive force under General Michelsohn which crushed the revolt. Yemelyan Pugachev was captured and publicly executed in January. She had numerous relationships throughout her life up till the time she died at the age of. According to some sources she had around 12 male lovers in her life while others say that the number was as high as. It is said during her later years, Potemkin selected lovers for her, who were usually much younger to her. She was always generous to them, even after the affair had ended. One of them, Pyotr Zavadovsky, received 50,000 rubles, a pension of 5,000 rubles and 4,000 peasants after she dismissed him in 1797. Grigory Potemkin – Perhaps the most prominent lover of Catherine the Great. She considered her grandson as a more suitable heir than her eldest son. On 16th November, Catherine II collapsed from a stroke while in the toilet. Worried due to her absence, her servants finally broke in and brought her to the bedroom. The royal physician declared that she had suffered a stroke. Despite all attempts to revive her, she entered into a coma. She was 67 years old. Catherine had a stormy relationship with her eldest son Paul. He was taken away from her when he was a child and raised by Empress Elizabeth. Even when Catherine became empress, she kept him away from state matters further alienating him. However, she died before she could make this public. Paul I succeeded Catherine as Czar of Russia. His policies proved to be unpopular and after 5 years of reign he was assassinated by conspirators. Alexander I succeeded his father as Emperor in 1801 and ruled till his death in 1825. This makes her the longest-ruling female leader in the history of Russia. Apart from expanding and strengthening the Russian Empire, Catherine II implemented numerous important reforms in education and administration; and encouraged the development of economy, trade and the arts. Among other things, the Smolny Institute in St Petersburg, the first educational establishment for women in Russia, was founded by her in 1764; and the Hermitage Museum, one of the largest and oldest museums in the world, began as her personal collection. Catherine II presided over the period known as the Russian Enlightenment, which saw the flowering of the arts and sciences; and had a significant and profound impact on Russian culture. Such was the impact of Catherine that period of her rule is referred to as the Catherinian Era and is often called the Golden Age of the Russian Empire. Detractors of Catherine the Great blame her for the poor conditions of the serfs and imply that, as around half of the Russian population was dissatisfied during her reign, her other achievements come to nothing. However, it should be kept in mind what was the attitude of other nations at the time. George III, who ruled the United Kingdom around the same time as Catherine was Czarina of Russia, looked the other way while the English participated in the African slave trade, which was much worse than serfdom in Russia. Thus, despite the Age of Enlightenment, the elite of Europe fared no better in their attitudes and actions. Twelve American presidents owned slaves, eight of them while in office.

### 7: The Life And Times Of Catherine The Great | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

*Catherine The Great summary: Born on May 2, in Prussia, Yekaterina Alexeevna, later known as Catherine II and Catherine the Great, became Empress of Russia in and was instrumental in revitalizing Russia and establishing it as a great European power. Catherine began her reign after the.*

Catherine the Great on her wedding day. Catherine came to power in a bloodless coup that later turned deadly. A program of liberal domestic reforms aimed at improving the lives of the poor also alienated members of the lower nobility. As tensions mounted, a plan to overthrow Peter took root. On July 9, just six months after becoming czar, Peter abdicated, and Catherine was proclaimed sole ruler. However, what had begun as a bloodless coup soon turned deadly. Though there is no proof that Catherine knew of the murder before it happened, it cast a pall over her reign from the start. Catherine faced down more than a dozen uprisings during her reign. Pugachev, a former army officer, claimed that he was actually the deposed and believed dead Peter III, and therefore the rightful heir to the Russian throne. Within a year, Pugachev had drawn thousands of supporters and captured a large amount of territory, including the city of Kazan. Initially unconcerned about the rebellion, Catherine soon responded with massive force. Catherine was famously loyal to her lovers, both during their relationship and after it ended. Always parting on good terms, she bestowed upon them titles, land, palaces and even people—gifting one former paramour with more than 1, serfs, or indentured servants. But perhaps nobody reaped the bounties of her favor more than Stanislaw Poniatowski, one of her earliest lovers and the father of one of her children. A member of the Polish nobility, Poniatowski first became involved with Catherine who was not yet on the throne when he served in the British embassy to St. Even after a scandal partly caused by their relationship forced him from the Russian court, they remained close. In , long after their relationship had ended and a year after she had come to power, Catherine successfully threw her support both military and financial behind Poniatowski in his effort to become king of Poland. What was once a strong bond between the two former lovers soon soured, with Catherine forcing Poniatowski to abdicate and Russia leading the effort to break up and dissolve the newly formed Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Catherine the Great in a Russian army uniform. Catherine saw herself as an enlightened ruler. Contrary to popular myth, Catherine died a fairly mundane, uneventful death. Some claimed that the all-powerful ruler had died while on the toilet. Others took their lurid storytelling even further, perpetuating a myth that has endured for centuries: Of course, there is no truth to this rumor. Though her enemies would have hoped for a scandalous end, the simple truth is that Catherine suffered a stroke and died quietly in her bed the following day. Catherine had a famously stormy relationship with her eldest son, Paul. Relations between the two grew so bad that Paul was at times convinced his mother was actively plotting his death. While Catherine had no such plans, she did fear that Paul would be an incompetent ruler and looked for alternate options for the succession. In fact, it is believed that Catherine intended to make this official in late but died before she was able to do so. Paul became czar but soon proved to be just as erratic and unpopular as Catherine had feared. Five years into his reign, he was assassinated, and his year-old son assumed power as Alexander I.

## 8: Catherine the Great: Biography, Accomplishments & Death

*Catherine II was empress of Russia, and led her country into the political and cultural life of Europe, carrying on the work begun by Peter the Great. People Nostalgia.*

The ironic fact about her birth was that her parents had longed for a son and were very much disappointed in the birth of their daughter. Apr 21, My Source Catherine was born during the enlightenment. The enlightenment was a period of time where society began to look through the lens of reason rather than commonly believed facts based upon superstition and cultural beliefs. Mar 20, Early Childhood my source Princess Sophia August Frederika spent most of her childhood with her governess Babette, who acted as a mother and instructor for her. She was by far a very intelligent girl who seemed to be able to pick up on things much past her age. She spent a great deal of time reading enlightenment philosophies and novels that helped shape the ruler she would eventually become. Aug 21, Marriage to the Grand Duke source Catherine spent a great deal of her childhood seizing the educational opportunity given to those born in royalty. She spent countless hours trying to learn religion, history, music, and different languages. She traveled at the age of 15 and married the Duke. The marriage was unhappy on her account; filled with cheating, fighting, and overall discontent by both parties. Catherine spent most of her time on her intellectual interests. Dec 25, Death of Empress Elizabeth my source After the death of the empress, Peter took the role of emperor while Catherine became the new empress. Catherine rode the waves of animosity that Peter had created in the government. Many wanted to overthrow him and take control. However, they underestimated Catherine and the role she intended to play. Through the rallying of troops at St. Petersburg, Catherine was able to take control of Russia and declare herself the sole ruler. Peter was arrested and eventually killed. Sep 22, Catherine crowned my source Catherine went immediately to work on restructuring her country. She took the lessons from enlightenment philosophers and stepped away from traditional absolutism beliefs by using reason and science. The term enlightened absolutism describes her style of rule. Aside from changing laws, she also worked on developing arts, music and education. Oct 20, The Deficit and Economic solutions my source During her first meeting with the Senate she became aware that her country had a deficit of 17million rubies and was projected to continue to grow. She immediately took to work in turning that around. She set off by first modernizing existing infrastructure such as agricultural machines. Next, she worked hard in bringing in workers through extensive marketing campaign. She doubled the number of civil servants, tripled the number of factories, and turned the budget into a surplus by Her most memorable contribution was this museum. She began it in through the purchasing of a painting collection from Berlin. Even today this museum is booming with over 2. Mar 20, Expansion of Borders my source Catherine made it her initiative to expand the borders of Russia. Her most memorable events were the successful wars against the Ottoman Empire that spanned from and to She took Crimea from the Turks in Her purpose was to take control of the black sea. Aside from temporary control, she used the strategy of overpopulating the place in favour of supporters for the Russian cause. Nov 6, Death of Catherine the Great my source Catherine spent her rule by modernizing Russia in to a viable westernized society. She developed all levels of life for her citizens. Although she made many accomplishments during her rule, she still regrets not being able to abolish serfdom. She is known for giving more rights to serfs. Catherine eventually died of a heart attack and was succeeded by her son Paul III.

## 9: 8 Things You Didn't Know About Catherine the Great - HISTORY

*Catherine II, also known as Catherine the Great, was an empress of Russia who ruled from 1762 to 1796, the longest reign of any female Russian leader.*

A prolific writer herself, Catherine corresponded regularly with the foremost men of her age. First, a terrible plague broke out in Moscow; along with the hardships imposed by the war, it created a climate of disaffection and popular agitation. In 1773, Yemelyan Pugachov, a former officer of the Don Cossacks, pretending to be the dead emperor Peter III, incited the greatest uprising of Russian history prior to the revolution of 1917. At this point, the war with Turkey ended in a Russian victory, and Catherine sent her crack troops to crush the rebellion. Defeated and captured, Pugachov was beheaded in 1775, but the terror and chaos he inspired were not soon forgotten. Catherine now realized that for her the people were more to be feared than pitied, and that, rather than freeing them, she must tighten their bonds. Before her accession to power, Catherine had planned to emancipate the serfs, on whom the economy of Russia, which was 95 percent agricultural, was based. When confronted with the realities of power, however, Catherine saw very quickly that emancipation of the serfs would never be tolerated by the owners, whom she depended upon for support, and who would throw the country into disorder once they lost their own means of support. Reconciling herself to an unavoidable evil without much difficulty, Catherine turned her attention to organizing and strengthening a system that she herself had condemned as inhuman. She imposed serfdom on the Ukrainians who had until then been free. By distributing the so-called crown lands to her favourites and ministers, she worsened the lot of the peasants, who had enjoyed a certain autonomy. Rather, their forced labour financed the immense expenditures required for her ever-growing economic, military, and cultural projects. In these undertakings, at least, she proved herself to be a good administrator and could claim that the blood and sweat of the people had not been wasted. Ordinarily, the empress did not mix business and pleasure; her ministers were almost always selected for their abilities. In Potemkin she found an extraordinary man whom she could love and respect and with whom she could share her power. As minister he had unlimited powers, even after the end of their liaison, which lasted only two years. He had a conception of grandeur that escaped the rather pedestrian German princess, and he understood the effect it produced on the people. A great dreamer, he was avid for territories to conquer and provinces to populate; an experienced diplomat with a knowledge of Russia that Catherine had not yet acquired and as audacious as Catherine was methodical, Potemkin was treated as an equal by the empress up to the time of his death in 1791. They complemented and understood each other, and the ambitious minister expressed his respect for his sovereign through complete devotion to her interests. Through that annexation and the acquisition of the territories of the Crimean khanate, which extended from the Caucasus Mountains to the Bug River in southwestern Russia, Russia held the north shore of the Black Sea and was in a position to threaten the existence of the Ottoman Empire and to establish a foothold in the Mediterranean. She dedicated new towns bearing her name and announced that she ultimately intended to proceed to Constantinople. Effects of the French Revolution Catherine, like all the crowned heads of Europe, felt seriously threatened by the French Revolution. Radishchev, who attempted to publish a work openly critical of the abuses of serfdom, was tried, condemned to death, then pardoned and exiled. Next, Poland, encouraged by the example of France, began agitating for a liberal constitution. In 1793, under the pretext of forestalling the threat of revolution, Catherine sent in troops and the next year annexed most of the western Ukraine, while Prussia helped itself to large territories of western Poland. The empress realized, moreover, that she had no suitable successor. She considered her son Paul an incompetent and unbalanced man; her grandson Alexander was too young yet to rule. Legacy Russians, even Soviet Russians, continue to admire Catherine, the German, the usurper and profligate, and regard her as a source of national pride. Non-Russian opinion of Catherine is less favourable. Because Russia under her rule grew strong enough to threaten the other great powers, and because she was in fact a harsh and unscrupulous ruler, she figured in the Western imagination as the incarnation of the immense, backward, yet forbidding country she ruled. At the end of her reign Catherine claimed that she had reorganized 29 provinces under her administrative reform plan. An uninhibited spender, she invested funds in many

projects. More than a hundred new towns were built; old ones were expanded and renovated. As commodities were plentiful, trade expanded and communications developed. These achievements, together with the glory of military victories and the fame of a brilliant court, to which the greatest minds of Europe were drawn, have won her a distinguished place in history. And when they judge Catherine the woman, they treat her severely. Her private life was admittedly not exemplary. She had young lovers up to the time of her unexpected death from a stroke at the age of 69. She did not love her son Paul, the legitimate heir, whose throne she occupied. On the other hand, she adored her grandsons, particularly the eldest, Alexander, whom she wished to succeed her. In her friendships she was loyal and generous and usually showed mercy toward her enemies. Yet it cannot be denied that she was also egotistical, pretentious, and extremely domineering, above all a woman of action, capable of being ruthless when her own interest or that of the state was at stake. As she grew older she also became extremely vain: A friend of Voltaire and Denis Diderot, she carried on an extensive correspondence with most of the important personages of her time. She was a patron of literature and a promoter of Russian culture; she herself wrote, established literary reviews, encouraged the sciences, and founded schools. Her interests and enthusiasms ranged from construction projects to lawmaking and the collection of art objects; she touched on everything, not always happily but always passionately. She was a woman of elemental energy and intellectual curiosity, desiring to create as well as to control.

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