



Peter the Great

Ian Grey

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"Ian Grey's Peter the Great reads like a novel . . ."

- Louis Fischer

The first modern Russian was Peter the Great. In this enthralling biography of that remarkable ruler, award-winning historian Ian Grey paints an illuminating portrait - clear, objective, and without malice or sentimentality. Here we have, life-size, not only the great czar, but the man who fell in love with a peasant girl and made her his empress; the father who was betrayed by his son; the giant who carried all his life the scars of a childhood terror; the soldier, sailor, laborer, innovator, and architect of a nation.

Peter the Great Details

Date : Published November 17th 2015 by New Word City, Inc. (first published January 1st 1960)

ISBN :

Author : Ian Grey

Format : Kindle Edition 494 pages

Genre : History, Biography, Cultural, Russia, Nonfiction, Historical

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From Reader Review Peter the Great for online ebook

Laura says

The book is advertised as reading like a novel. Surprisingly, it does. The writing is story-like and extremely interesting, as well as professional and very in-depth. The amazing life story of Peter the Great, both his private and political life, is a good read for any biography lover.

Julie Smith says

This book certainly isn't for everyone. It is long and involved. I happen to love history and also had the chance to visit St Petersburg recently, therefore, I found it fascinating. I would not have minded however, if the author had not included every single battle and general. At times I had to skim over some of those. He was an indefatigable individual who was responsible for changing Russia in countless ways during his reign. He brought Russia from the Dark Ages, educated his people, formed a navy, reformed the church, abolished arranged marriages, built the city of St. Petersburg from swamp land and so much more.

Bonnie says

I mainly liked this book because of the subject, who was an incredible ruler, who managed to move Russia from the dark ages. Before him, no Russian ruler had even visited Europe, and the Russians had a very negative attitude about Europeans, largely due to the influence of the Russian Orthodox Church, which held all other Christian churches to be false. The Europeans on the other had viewed Russians as crude and backward - and they were! They drank vodka from morning till night, the women were barricaded and denied much freedom, much of the populace was extremely poor, and the men frequently got in fights and destroyed the buildings they were staying in. This even happened when they visited Europe, so Peter had his work cut out for him. Luckily he was a man of almost superhuman strength and energy, as well as extremely intelligent and curious. He learned every craft and skill he could, especially ship building, which became his passion.

There was a lot in the book describing the many wars and battles Peter engaged in due to his desire, which he fulfilled, of establishing ports so Russia wouldn't be a landlocked country. There is also a lot of brutal punishments given to those who opposed him at different times. It was only because of the superstitious regard the people had for the tsar, and his willingness and ability to wield power that Peter was able to accomplish so much.

I recommend this book to anyone who'd like to understand Russia and Russians more. It's kind of dry at times, but still fascinating.
