*AP World History Classroom Set*

**Russia Primary Sources: Early Modern Era+**

***Task: Analyze the following primary sources for clues on how and to what extent Russia transformed itself during the early modern era.***

**Excerpt #1: Moskovskie vedomosti, *Newspaper Advertisements Listing Serfs for Sale* (1797)**

For sale: a waiter, 25 year old, with his wife and a minor son. A very good weaver; can also shave and draw blood. The wife can look after the mistress and is capable of any work. Also for sale in the same place: a… carriage, not much used, of the best workmanship….

At house no. 352, 4th block, 6th ward, there are for sale: a good hairdresser for men and women; height above average, of fairly good figure, also useful as a valet for the bedroom, waiter, or footman, 27 years old; his wife, 24 years old, a laundress and needlewoman, with a daughter over 2 years old; both of good conduct. Lowest price for the lot, 1,000 rubles.

**Excerpt #2: Education Decree (1714)**

The Great Sovereign has decreed: in all regions children between the ages of ten and fifteen of the nobility…must be taught mathematics and some geometry. Toward that end, students should be sent from mathematical schools [as teachers]…to establish schools. During their instruction these teachers should be given food and financial remuneration…set aside for that purpose by personal orders of His Imperial Majesty. No fees should be collected from students. When they have mastered the material, they should then be given certificates…Without these certificates, they should not be allowed to marry nor receive marriage certificates.

**Excerpt #3: An Instruction to Russian Students Abroad Studying Navigation (1714)**

1. Learn how to use the compass and other naval indicators, as well as how to use all appropriate tools and instruments; namely sails, ropes, oars, and the like.
2. Discover how to put ships to sea during a naval battle. Obtain from [foreign] naval officers written statements, bearing their signatures and seals, of how adequately you are prepared for naval duties.
3. If, upon his return, anyone wishes to receive [from the Tsar] greater favors for himself, he should learn, in addition to the above enumerated instructions, how to construct those vessels abroad which he would like to demonstrate his skills.

**Excerpt #4: Right of Factories to Buy Villages (1721)**

Thanks to Our decrees, many merchants have succeeded in establishing new enterprises for the benefit of the state; namely, silver, copper, iron, coal and the like, many of which have begun operations. As a result, We permit the nobility as well as merchants to freely purchase villages for these factories, under one condition: that these villages be always integral parts of these factories. Whoever violates this procedure will have his possessions confiscated. And should someone try to establish a small factory for the sake of appearance in order to purchase a village, those responsible should be deprived of all their movable and immovable property.

**Excerpt #5: *A Report from the Ministry of Internal Affairs on Serf Disorders* (1847)**

In 1845 insubordination occurred on twenty-six estates, in 1846, on twenty-five, and in 1847, on twenty-three estates in sixteen guberniias[[1]](#endnote-1). The causes of these disorders were: oppression of the peasants and overburdening them with work on the part of the owners… but the main reason for the insubordination was the desire for freedom… The aspiration to acquire freedom, aroused by various absurd rumors, resulted in persistent insubordination and violence among the peasants of the landlords on fifteen estates and prompted more than 11,000 peasants to flee.

*Also analyze sourcing for the document above: purpose, audience, potential point of view?*

1. **Gubernia** (*huberniia*). An administrative territorial unit in the Russian Empire.

   ii. Primary Source Readings can be found in: “Reinterpreting Russian History” by Kaiser, Daniel H. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)