

## Transcript of GEO/ADD/32/2454-7, Drafts of an Essay on the Geography of Russia

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Russia is bounded on ye. N. by ye. Frozen Sea; on ye. E. by Asia; on ye. S. by Asia, ye. Caspian Sea, ye. Palus Meskis, & little Tartary; & on ye. W. by Poland, ye. Baltick & ye. Gulph of Bothnia.

It extends from ye.            Deg. of N. Lat. to ye.            & from ye            to ye.            Deg. of Long.

ye. Winters in Russia last 7. months & in ye. most northerly parts of it 9. months. ye. Snow is no sooner melted than fine herbs & verdure instantly appear, & ye. Seed Sown in April or May, produces fine & ripe Corn in Aug. but this is only in ye. Southern parts; for in ye. North ~~but little if any~~ ^is chiefly barren^ ye. Summers are as disagreeable on account of their immense heat, as ye. Winters are for their intence cold.

ye. Russian Seas are ye. Frozen, ye. White, ye. Gulph of Finland, & yt. of Bothnia ~~yt. [[unclear]]~~ in ye. N. & W; ye. Caspian, Black, & Azof in ye. S.

ye. Most famous Lakes are 1. ye. Ladoga, which communicates with ye. Gulph of Finland by ye. River Nieon, on which Petersburgh ye. Capital of this Emp-e is built. 2. ye. Onega, 3. ye. White Lake; 4. ye. Ilmen; 5. ye. Worsers; 6. & ye. Pepus.

ye. Rivers, ^are^ 1. Orley & 2. Iris divide Europe & Asia; 3. ye. Wolga; 4. ye. Don; 5 ye. Boristhanes or Nieper; 6. ye. Dwina which runs in ye. White Sea, near Archangel; & 7. ye. Dwina yt. falls into ye. Baltick near Riga.

This Emp-e is divide into 9. Governments viz. 1. Livonia, 2. Petersburgh, 3. Great Novogrod, 4. Archangel, 5. Smolensk, 6. Lesser Russia, 7. Woronitz, 8. Little Novogrod, 9. Kazan.

[2] Russia being chiefly a flat, is well water'd, & one of ye. most fruitful Countries in ye. World; ye. late Czar by making new Roads & cutting canals in proper places, has render'd ye. communications between different parts of yt. great Emp-e. very easy; so yt. now ye. Northern parts are well Supply'd with Corn & Fruit from ye. Southern.

As to ye. Laplanders & Samoieds they have no intercourse with ye. rest of Russia, their climates is too Cold to ripen either Corn or fruit, therefore they live on Deers, Bears, & other Wild animals, ^fowls & dry'd fish^ & eat turneps & other Roots instead of Bread, their Deer feed on Moss, which they find on ye. Earth, & on trees.

In ye. Reign of Edward VI. ye. English begun to trade with ye. Russians, ye. Czar then on ye. throne was John Basilowitz; they kept this trade entirely to themselves for near 30. years when ye. Dutch begun to traffick there; but they did not get ye. better of ye. English till Charles I. was murder'd; then ye. Dutch painting them as a Cruel & barbarous People, obtain'd their end, forever Since, they have been oblig'd to pay whatever Customs ye. Russians demand, which are seldom less than 5. pr. Ct.

ye. Russians had but few Ships till ye. time of Peter I. who after having taken Azoph resolv'd to force a trade with Turkey & also in ye. Mediterranean; He therefore made his Nobility, ~~who have~~ ^ whose Estates consist chiefly of a^ great numbers of Slaves, ~~to~~ build him Ships, & made all other Ranks of men & even Monasteries contribute money to ye. building of others; in Short in ye. Space of 3 years he put 40. men of War, 10. Store Ships & Bomb Vessels, 20. whole Gallies & 30. half Gallies, with

other Ships to Sea; & sent to Holland & Italy for Ship builders; whilst this fleet was preparing [3] Peter Set out on his travels, being resolv'd to learn ye. Art of Ship building; He took many of his Young Nobility with him, & sent others into different Kms. either to learn this or other Arts & Sciences. ye. Dutch having persuaded him whilst at Moscow yt. ^in^ their Country ~~[[unclear]]~~ ^He would be best instructed^; He therefore went instantly to Amsterdam, where he remain'd some months, working with his own hand in ye. E. India Ship yard; but seeing some British Ships, he was so delighted with them, yt. he ~~went there~~ ^came over here^; during his Stay in yt. Island He liv'd at Deptford, yt. he might constantly be in ye. K. dock Yard; He repented having remain'd So long in Holland, finding ye. English more expert in this Art; He ^also^ visited all other Mechanics ~~during his residence here which was but 3 months.~~ K. Will. on his departure, gave him ye. Royal transport ye. finest Yatch in England, build in ye manner of a frigate, & carrying 24. Guns.

On his Return to Moscow he gave a draught for a 50. Gun Ship, which he put on ye Stocks at Veranere, & declar'd himself Master-Builder; & also took ye. title of Capt. & gradually became a Vice Adm. by His example made ye. Nobles ~~took~~ ^take^ inferior posts in ye. fleet, & by this ~~means,~~ none ~~got command~~ ^were ignorant of^ their duty when they got command.

But to return to ~~their~~ ^ye. Article of^ Trade, as ye. ~~Empr~~ ^Emperor^ of Russia ~~carry on trade~~ ^trade's as well as his^ Subjects, ye. Ships are sometimes us'd as men of War, & at other times laden with Merchandize; it is but within these few years, yt. ye. Russians have trade in their own bottoms.

As to their advantages in trade, being now master of part of Persia they may be able to furnish Europe with ~~[[unclear]]~~ Silks, & also may trade with India & China, ~~this will be [[unclear]] to them, as they will certainly keep ye.~~ [4] Command of ^as they now are ye. strongest Power, in^ ye. Caspian Sea; ~~& having such a powerful fleet at Sea for ye. united force of Denmark & Sweden~~ nothing can ^now^ prevent their passing ye. Sound, but a British & Dutch fleet as they are too powerful for ye. united force of Denmark & Sweden yet then they can go though ye. White Sea, & if it is not likely yt. A British fleet will be ventur'd within ye. Polar Circle; ~~nothing then but~~ ^therefore it is only^ their great mismanagements ~~yt hinders~~ can ^prevent^ their ~~force engrossing most all ye.~~ ^ye. greatest Space & at all sorts of ^trade^ ~~of ye. World.~~

^From hence^ ye. Britons get ye. greatest quantity of their Pitch, Tar, Hemp, Planks, & for timber for Masts &c. & now yt. ~~there~~ a passage is open'd between ye. Wolga & ye. Baltick, ~~they will be able to~~ ^ye. Russians may^ furnish ye. Dutch & other nations, with Corn,^ cheaper than they can have it from Dantezick; it also affords Pot-ashes, Leather, furr, Linnen, Iron, Copper, Seal Skins, tallow, Isinglass of two Sorts, with ye. one Windows of Ships are made, & with ye. other Glue

their Woollen & Linen Manufactures are as yet but in a poor way; ye former they us'd to get from Britain, but now from Prussia; ye latter will undoubtedly encrease, as they have great quantities of flax. They ^now^ make their own Gun Powder, & ~~may~~ in time ^may^ Supply other Nations with it; & as they are well provided with Iron & Steel, it is not improbable they may furnish foreigners with fire Arms.

As we have nam'd their advantages in Trade, we must also mention their disadvantages; ^viz.^ 1st. ye. government monopolize's all home grown Commodities, buy great quantities of them, & then set a high price on them & forbid ~~their~~ ^ye.^ Subjects to sell it; when foreign merchandizes are brought no Subject dare's buy, till ye. Czarina is first Serv'd; by this merchants are often forc'd to Sell their commodities at ye. price ye. Officers of ye. Crown name.