

# **Russia and Brasil on the Main Periods of Historical Development: Similarities and Differences.**

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As we know, the history of Brazil starts from the 1500 when Portuguese captain, Pedro Cabral, on his way to India because of a strong wind landed to the shores of west side of the Atlantic ocean and discovered a new land. Since that time this territory was announced as colony of Portugal. This land was called Brasil, because of the same name of a valuable tree which was abundant on this territory and was cut by Portuguese extensively for export in the first half of the 16 century. The main difference of the historical development between the two countries is that Russian never has been a colony, while Brazil experienced quite a long colonial period since 1500 up 1822.

## **Ancient Russia.**

Russian history begins much earlier than Brazilian one. The 9th - 11th centuries were marked in history by the rapid formation of many new states in the East and North of Europe. Among the first was the State of Rus, which emerged in the second half of the 9th century in the lands of East European plains. The East Slavic population became the ethnic basis of the state of Rus. Before the state the Slavs were group of peoples belonging to Indo European family.

Modern Slavs are represented by the three branches:

Western: Poles, Czechs and Slovaks

Southern: Bulgarians, Serbs, Montenegrins, Croats, Slovenes and Macedonians

Eastern: Russians, Ukrainians and Belorussians.

The main occupation of Eastern Slavs was farming. By the middle of the 9th century, the tribal system of the people inhabiting the East European Plain was disintegrating. Property and social stratification appeared. It was the main reason of state formation.

From the 1500 while Portuguese discovered Brazil they met Indian tribal nomad groups Guarani and Tupi who were on lower level of the development than the Slav tribes because they did not know farming.

So, the State of Rus appeared at the European political map during the second half of the 9th-10th century. It was the largest country of Europe at the beginning of the 12th century. The State of Rus since its formation had been multinational: most of population were East Slavic tribes, but also included Baltic, Finns-Ugric and Alanian tribes. The state formation process was started by the varangians, inhabitants of Scandinavia, who discovered river routs connecting Baltic Sea with the Black Sea, known from "the Varangians to Greeks".

This route insured international trade between countries of Europe, as well as State of Rus with Byzantium. Export of goods through the East European Plain contained : honey, wax, furs and slaves to Western markets and Constantinople.

The first rulers of the state of Rus were princes: Oleg, Igor and Sviatoslav. Before 988, polytheism prevailed in Russia. No doubt Christianity with its monotheism, with a hierarchy of Saints, the promise of paradise to the suffers and sanctification of the power of the monarch better corresponded to the level of the development of Rus society in the 10th century than the primitive polytheism. Relations with Byzantium developed when merchants from Rus travelled along the trade route from “the Varangians to Greeks”.

That was a significant factor for Christianisation of all Rus which occurred in 988. However, Christianity from the very beginning was not the main religion of the State of Rus. For many years its inhabitants as tribes in Brasil experienced polytheism together with Christianity.

One of the prominent rulers of the State of Rus was Prince Yaroslav the Wise (1019-1054). During his reign was a period of flowering of ancient Rus. Prince Yaroslav was known for his love for learning and his encouragement of literacy and art in Rus. He also promoted the territorial expansion and settlement of Rus population on Volga River and Baltic shores.

### **Mongol Invasion.**

During the reign of Vladimir Monomach (1113-1125) the central power of the State of Rus was strengthened, but in the 13th century the enormous Mongol Empire, created by the military efforts of mostly nomadic peoples, belonging neither to the Christian civilisation, nor to the Islamic world, nor to the Chinese civilisation tried to unite parts of this world. For Western Europe, Rus and other countries of Eastern and Central Europe, which entered into the opposition to the Mongol invasion, played the role of an against shield mongol expansion.

The Mongol Empire was created by Gengis Khan and later expanded under his sons and his grandsons ended up challenging the entire Eurasian world in the 13th century. The mongol invasion of Rus carried out in two campaigns by Genghis Khan’s grandson Batu Khan in 1237-1238 and 1239-1241 had a huge impact on the Rus lands, most of which became for a long time dependent on the Golden Hord State created by Batu Knan on the Eastern and Southern borders of Rus. During Batu khan reign khans gave labels for reign to Russian princes.

In 14th century, Moscow became consolidation centre of the lands of Rus against Mongol Yoke. As a result of the battle of Kulikovo of 1380 were Mongols were defeated.

### **Russia in the second half of the 15th and 16th centuries.**

The 15th century turned out to be the junction of the two historical periods. It ended the Middle Ages and marked the beginning of modern history. Modern period started at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries and was over at the beginning of the first World War (1914). At the heart of the modern period was the process of modernisation- the transition from traditional society to modern industrial (bourgeois) society. In Western countries modernisation began in late 15th to the 17th centuries. At the same time most of humanity continued to live in a traditional medieval society.

Enormous changes in the life in the life of mankind were associated with the great geographical discoveries. The conquest of Constantinople in 1453 by Ottoman Empire marked the end of Byzantine Empire.

Creation of the Unified Russian State in 1462 (1462-1505) when Ivan III ascended the throne of Moscow. He ruled for almost 48 years. The purpose of his life was the further gathering of the Russian lands around Moscow and overthrow of the Horde dependence. During his reign a powerful independent unified Russian state was created.

Rus around Moscow annexed principalities. In the East different people, mostly Finns-Ugric were under the power of Moscow. In 1480 the Horde Yoke fell. Ivan III ceased to pay tribute to the Horde.

In 1480, the Grand Prince of Moscow was called "samoderzhets" - a sole ruler. Originally the appellation meant an independent monarch.. The tsar of all Russia was on the top of social ladder. After tsar followed boyars who were obliged to serve the sovereign of all Russia. In Rus there were people who were not free. They were called "kholops" (serfs) became dependant by taking a debt they could not pay.

In the South, on the border with the Wild Field, an autonomous community of Cossacks began to form at the end of the 15th century.

The Orthodox clergy was a special group.

Ivan III consulted on important issues with the Boyar Duma. In 1497 The Code of Laws prescribed penalties for theft, robbery, murder and other crimes. For the peasants the Code introduced the period of their transfer to another landowner one week before and one week after the St.George's Day- November,26.

Ivan III put an end to the isolation of Rus. During his reign contacts with the Holy See and the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation were established. Muscovy of the time of Ivan III tried to adopt the innovation useful for both sides from Europe and Asia. Therefore, some historians tend to talk about the formation of a special Eurasian Russian civilisation. There was even a new name of the country in the Greek manner - Russia- but until the 17th century it was rarely used- only on particular grand occasions.

Ivan III began reorganisation of his capital. Under the guidance of Italian architects, a new Kremlin with a complex of cathedrals and palaces within it was erected. The Kremlin had a symbolic meaning: a visual evidence of Moscow transformation into a successor to the lost Byzantine Empire, a new centre of the whole Orthodox world. With his successor, his son Vasily III the development of doctrine of Moscow as the Third Rome was completed.

### **The time of Ivan the Terrible, Russian Tsar**

The reign of Ivan IV (1533-1584) was a major era in Russian history, full of cultural achievements, glorious affairs of state, and the same time troubles and tragedies. Ivan IV inherited the throne at the age of 3, because his father died prematurely. The beginning of the independent reign of Ivan IV was marked by a great fire in summer of 1547.

In 1549 Zemsky Sobor the supreme legal and advisory body composed by representatives of different estates, was convened for the first time in Russia. It discussed a new Code of Laws issued in 1550. This code affirmed the right of free transition from one landowner to another only on St. George's Day.

In the 1550's 20 new governmental bodies were created: ambassadorial, Ministry of Defense, artillery and petitions.

### **Conquest of the middle and lower Volga regions.**

The main event of the late 1540 – early 1550s was the Kazan campaigns. The main goal was to win Kazan. As a result, the Kazan Khanate became part of Russia. To commemorate the capture of Kazan Saint Basil cathedral was built in Moscow. The Kazan Khanate became part of Russia, thousands of Russian slaves captured earlier were released. The inclusion of Kazan in the Russian territory meant the strengthening of the Russian economy through adding an economically developed region to it.

The access to the trade routes of the Volga was expanded in 1554-56 when Astrakhan was annexed to Russia. Thus, the entire Volga region became part of Tzardom of Moscovy in 1552-1556.

### **Livonian War.**

Russia began this war, because 123 specialists invited to the Russian service had been delayed by Livonia in 1558. The great success of Russia in the first stage of the Livonian War was the capture of the main towns of Western Russia.

Ivan IV saw centralization of the country not through the development of extensive state apparatus, but through the growth of the monarch personal power. Thus, Ivan IV divided Russia in two parts in 1565-72. One of them called "oprichnina" was the land of "oprichnicks" who served to Ivan IV practiced terror punishing population through the wipe as the main method of government. Many Russian historians think that the "oprichnina" caused a great damage to the state order, destroy justice, disorganized power bodies and undermined morality. One of the reasons was a mental illness of the tzar.

The Livonian War 1558-1583 undermined Russian international prestige, caused territorial losses and devastated the country together with oprichnina terror. The only major success in the late reign of Ivan the Terrible was the campaign of the Cosack ataman Yermak to Siberian 1581.

Russian expansion to Siberia, to the East of Eurasia might be compared with Brazilian expansion to the West of South America, to Amazon region.

The time frame of this lecture will not allow me to discuss all similarities and differences of Russian and Brazilian history up to modern times. However, such important periods as Imperial one and themes of comparison of system of slavery in Brazil and serfdom in Russia could be special topics for future lecture and discussion.