

consolidation of the Moscow State resulted from the attacks upon its frontier by the Tartars and by the tribesmen of the Volga and the Urals. The absorption of the free cities into the Moscow State, with the momentous consequences of that absorption, arose from the reluctance of the free cities to bear their share of the burden of defence. The period of anarchy of the beginning of the seventeenth century led to the foundation of the House of Romanov and to the establishment of the Russian Empire. A century later the struggle with Charles XII of Sweden led to the organization of a regular army, to the industrial revolution in Russia, and to the complete recasting of the national life under Peter the Great. Another century later, the struggle with Napoleon I, among other consequences, led to the withdrawal of Russia from her semi-Asiatic seclusion and to her entrance into the political controversies of Western Europe. The Crimean War led to the emancipation of the serfs and to the reorganization of the system of transport, as of the military system. The effects of these changes appeared twenty years later, when Russia was brought definitely into the field of Balkan politics, and when she showed in the Russo-Turkish War that her army under able leadership had become a formidable force. At that time Russia was only prevented by the combination of European powers, aided by Great Britain under Disraeli, from expelling the Turks from Europe. The Russo-Japanese war led, on the one hand, to the interior revolution, which at least modified the autocracy and brought into existence a quasi-constitutional form of government, and, on the other hand, led to the reorganization of the army and to the provision of equipment in order that she might be better prepared for defence than she was when she was called upon to meet Japan. The war in the Far East also led to the arrestment of Russian expansion in that direction, and therefore in a certain sense threw her back upon Europe. The fall of Port Arthur thus meant at no distant period the fall of Constantinople. The new Russia grew out of the old, not only in respect to the antecedence of historical events, but even chiefly in respect to the growth of