

principality, but a small kingdom, it threw off the Mongol yoke. By this time the enemies had become split up among themselves and were unable to bring Russia to her knees. Thanks to the isolation of the Mongols from the people, and the undestroyed internal order of life, Russia emerged as a free State not much defiled by the foreign yoke.

3. During the next period the Tsars of Moscow are the central figures. It is a well observed fact that harsh treatment makes people cruel to others. Accordingly, the tyranny of the Mongol Khans was now adopted by the Tsars.

In 1597 Boris Godunov, the temporary ruler, deprived the peasants of the freedom to offer their services to any landlord they pleased; they were, so to say, bound to the soil. This was the beginning of a serfdom which continued for nearly three centuries, and, for the mental and spiritual development of the people, was even more disastrous than the Mongol domination.

It was in 1613 that the present dynasty began to reign in the person of Michael Feodorowitch Romanov, the grandfather of Peter the Great.

4. Peter the Great (1689-1725), the founder of Petrograd, was the hero who awakened Russia from the lethargy caused by the Mongol domination. He made Russia a world-power and connected her with the