

0. I'M SORRY - Story Preface

1. BEGGAR IN THE PALACE

2. THE FIRST TSAR

3. THE GOOD REIGN

4. DEATH BY POISON

5. ARCHITECTS BLINDED

6. ART AT THE TIME OF IVAN IV

7. THE BAD REIGN

8. LEGACY and MURDER

9. OLD BEFORE HIS TIME

10. I'M SORRY



In this painting, by Klavdiy Lebedev (1852-1916), an aging Ivan the Terrible is trying to make amends for all the wrongs he has done in his life. He is asking the Father Superior, of Pskovo-Pechorsky Monastery, to permit him to take tonsure (shave the hair from his scalp in monkish fashion) at the monastery. Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art. PD

Near the end of his life, wanting to find forgiveness, Ivan - it is said - dramatically changed his attitude and behavior. He was obsessed with sorrow and guilt for all he had done, including killing his son.

Praying for those he had executed, he forgave them of whatever supposed crime they had committed. He also paid for prayers to be said for the souls of the murdered.

The Tsar was re-christened as a monk, taking the name of "Jonah," perhaps out of respect for the man (St. Jonah) who founded the Pskov-Caves Monastery (Russia's oldest-in-existence) which Ivan had visited.

Death for the fearsome ruler came at age 54. Setting up a chess board on his bed, for a match (it is said) with his friend Boris Godunov, he died quietly and naturally inside the Kremlin's walls. He was interred (reportedly wearing the clothes of a monk instead of an emperor) in the Archangel Cathedral where other Russian royals, who lived before and after him, have also been laid to rest.

The aftermath of his death was catastrophic for the country. Many of his gains were lost during the fourteen-year rule (1584-98) of his son Fyodor I (who was married to Boris Godunov's sister).

Fyodor had neither the skills nor the grooming of his older brother. During his rule (where power was essentially held by Godunov), serfdom was introduced. When Fyodor died, ending the Rurik dynasty, Boris Godunov (the link depicts the church on his estate near Moscow) was elected Tsar.

Four hundred years later, the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin commissioned the Russian film maker Sergei Eisenstein to make a movie about his hero, Ivan Grozny. (Follow the link to view a clip from that famous film.)

After Stalin died, Ivan's remains were exhumed. Forensic studies revealed that arthritis had crippled him, and his bones showed syphilitic signs.

Such studies, of course, can not tell us whether Ivan the Terrible's problems were emotional, physical - or both.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/I-M-SORRY-Ivan-the-Terrible>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

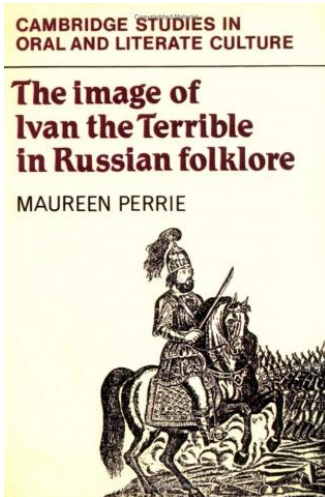
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/I-M-SORRY-Ivan-the-Terrible>



Ivan IV - An Aging Tsar

Image online, Russian State Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ivan-IV-An-Aging-Tsar>



The Image of Ivan the Terrible in Russian Folklore - M. Perrie

Image online, courtesy Google Books.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Image-of-Ivan-the-Terrible-in-Russian-Folklore-M.-Perrie>

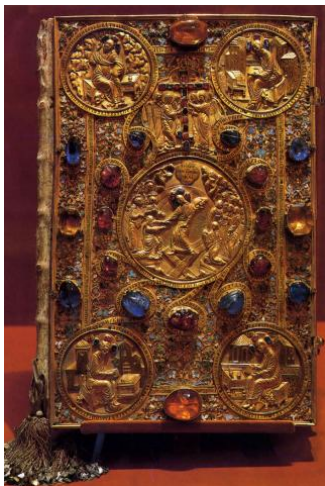


Ivan the Terrible - Seeks Forgiveness for His Crimes

Painting by Klavdiy Vasilievich Lebedev (1852-1916) - image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ivan-the-Terrible-Seeks-Forgiveness-for-His-Crimes>



Ivan the Terrible - Personal Bible

Photo online, courtesy Moscow-Kremlin museums.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ivan-the-Terrible-Personal-Bible>



Ivan the Terrible - Goes to a Monastery

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Pskov-Caves Monastery - Journey of Ivan the Terrible

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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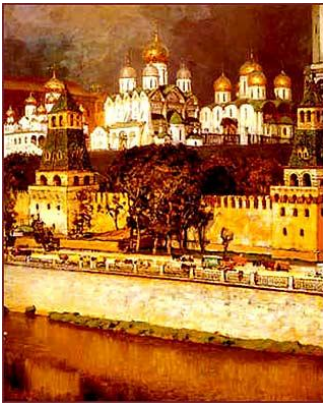
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pskov-Caves-Monastery-Journey-of-Ivan-the-Terrible>



Boris Godunov - Friend of Ivan IV

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boris-Godunov-Friend-of-Ivan-IV>



Kremlin - Sanctuary of Ivan the Terrible

Image of the Kremlin, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kremlin-Sanctuary-of-Ivan-the-Terrible>



Archangel Cathedral - Moscow

Image of Archangel Cathedral, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Archangel-Cathedral-Moscow>



Boris Godunov - Visiting the Study of His Son

Image online, Web Gallery of Art.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boris-Godunov-Visiting-the-Study-of-His-Son>



Interior Plated Door of the Archangel Cathedral

Image online, courtesy Russian-language Wikipedia.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Interior-Plated-Door-of-the-Archangel-Cathedral>



Russian Leaders Laid to Rest at Archangel Cathedral

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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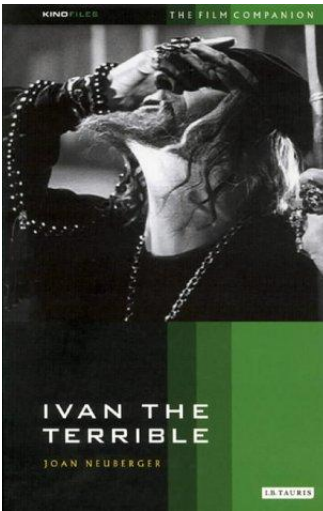
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russian-Leaders-Laid-to-Rest-at-Archangel-Cathedral>



Boris Godunov's Estate Church

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

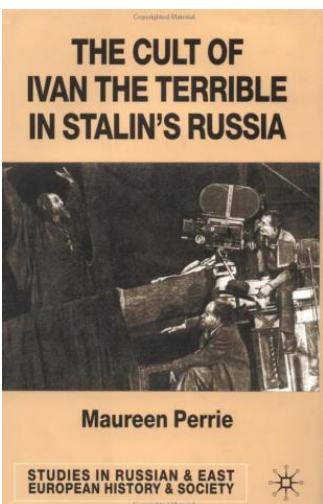
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boris-Godunov-s-Estate-Church>



Ivan the Terrible - Joan Neuberger

Image of book cover, online courtesy Google Books.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ivan-the-Terrible-Joan-Neuberger>



The Cult of Ivan the Terrible in Stalin's Russia - M. Perrie

Book-cover image online, courtesy Google Books.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Cult-of-Ivan-the-Terrible-in-Stalin-s-Russia-M.-Perrie>



Poster - Ivan The Terrible, Part I

Image of poster, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Poster-Ivan-The-Terrible-Part-I->



Ivan the Terrible - Massacres and Intercession

From *Ivan the Terrible* - part of the series *The Most Evil Men in History*. Online, courtesy the [Discovery Channel](#) at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ivan-the-Terrible-Massacres-and-Intercession>



Boris Godunov Coronation - Tsar of All the Russians

Video clip online, courtesy RADAMES1983's Channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boris-Godunov-Coronation-Tsar-of-All-the-Russians>

Ivan the Terrible - Closing Scene, Part 1

Scene from Sergei Eisenstein's film, *Ivan Grozny (Ivan the Terrible)*, Part 1.

Writer, producer, director - Sergei Eisenstein

Starring Nikolai Cherkasov as Ivan IV

Music - Sergei Prokofiev

Release Dates, Part 1:

Soviet Union - December 30, 1944

USA - March 8, 1947

Length - 99 minutes, Part 1

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ivan-the-Terrible-Closing-Scene-Part-1>

