GLOSSARY

Barshchina: Compulsory labour performed by the serf for his master. Legally limited to three days per week, 1797, but often exceeded. Corvee
Bolsheviks: Those of the majority-engineered by Lenin at the 1903 congress of the Social Democrats.
Boyar: Great noble.
Cadets: The Constitutional Democratic Party.
Cheka: The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for the Suppression of Counter-revolution, Sabotage and Speculation, Set up as the new secret political police from 1917-1922.
Chinovnik: Bureaucratic official—from chin=rank. The table of rank set up by Peter I for the State officials.
Chinovniki: The bureaucracy
Denezhnik: Young courtier-appointed by Peter I as personal assistant to the tsar.
Duma: Assembly or council Deliberation.
Druzhina: Military followers, or company, of the early Russian princes.
Dvorianin (sing), Dvoriane (plu.): Nobleman, one of the gentry, or landowner.
Dvorianstvo: The nobility. The non-tax-paying gentry in administrative or military service who became hereditary nobility free of all Services in the eighteenth century.
Gosplan: The State Planning Committee set up 1921.
G.P.U.: The secret police set up 1922 to take the place of the Cheka.
O.G.P.U. 1924
Gubernator: Governor of a province.
Guberniya: Province
Iskra: The spark—Lenin's paper founded in 1900.
Kulak: The richer peasant—a term of abuse of any peasant who opposed the party line.
Kolakh: Collective farm.
Komsoomol: The League of Communist Youth, founded 1918.
Mensheviks: Those of the minority.
Mir: The village community.
Muzhik: Common fellow, villein, peasant, yokel.
M.V.D.: Ministry of Internal Affairs.
Narodniki: From narod=people; those students and members of the intelligensia who went among the people preaching socialism in the nineteenth century. Also known as the Populists.
Narodnichestvo: General term for the movement involving the narodniki.
Oblast: Administrative unit; a province subdivided into rayons.
Obrok: The annual payment by serfs in cash or in kind to the landowner.

Odnadvortsy: Freeholders

Okhrana: The special police in 1881 to combat revolutionaries and to protect to tsar.

Oprichnik: A member of the oprichnina.

Oprichnina: An entailed domain—the term given to the personal domain set up by Ivan the Terrible which was quite separate from the rest of the country, the Zemshchina, and not subject to the general administration.

Otdel: Department.

Politburo: The Subcommittee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the true centre of political power in the State—(the Cabinet).

Pomeshchik: The possessor of a pomastie.

Pomestie: An estate held in service tenure only, and only while the military duties were satisfactorily performed. The system extended by Ivan the Great.

Populist: see Narodnik.

Pravda: Truth—The Bolshevik newspaper established in 1921 with Stalin as editor.


Raskolniki: Dissidents—those who broke from the Orthodox Church in the schism of 1667. Old Believers.

Rayon: Administrative unit corresponding to English rural district, subdivided into village soviets.

Raznochintsy: Educated middle class—intelligensia. (lit. people from various ranks, i.e. non-noble.)

Sovkhoz: State farm.

Starosta: Head man of village.

Streltsy: Body of regular infantry equipped with muskets founded by Ivan IV. Lit. archers.

Uyezd: County or district. An administrative subdivision.

Ukaz: Decree.


Veche or Vieche: Popular assembly or common council in medieval Russia.

Voevoda: an appointed governor in medieval Russia.

Volost: Township—The basic unit of peasant self-government set up after 1861.

Votchina: Hereditary estate, the owner of which was not obliged to render service to the ruler.

Zemshchina: The part of the realm outside the oprichnina.

Zemsky: Sober: The Assembly of the Land, the representative assembly of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Zemstvo: Bodies for local self-government. Their organization and powers varied from time to time.

Some Measurements
One Dessiatine—2.7 acres
One pood=361 b
One verst=0.66 mile, 1,166 yards.