

Andrej Kurbskij and Ivan Groznyj

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Outline

- Historical writing in Muscovy
- Ivan as Grand Prince and Tsar
- Kurbskij as general and traitor
- The correspondence
 - Overview
 - Authenticity debate
- Lixačev: Ivan as writer
- Fennell: Language and style
- Lixačev: Research methodology

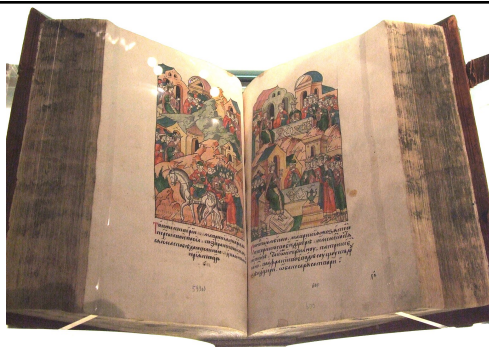
Sources

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Historical writing: chronicle and Xronograf

- From *factography* to thematic organization
- Chronicle: annalistic organization
 - Nikonian (c. 1540) and extensions; Ivan IV, conquest of Kazan' (1552)
 - Features of chancery style (lists and reports), rhetorical flourishes (speeches of Ivan and Makarij), military tales
 - Licevoj letopisnyj svod (10 v., through 1567)
- Kazan' Chronicle (historical narrative; respectful of "heathen" Tatars)
- Xronograf: synthetic historical narrative
 - Incorporate Byzantine, Serbian, biographies
 - 1512: Popular revision, ends with fall of Constantinople (1453)
 - 1617: Romanov dynasty

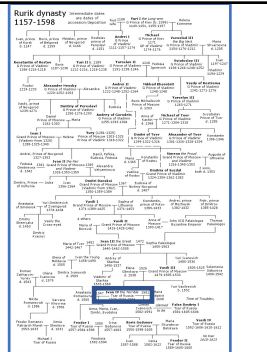
Licevoj
letopisnyj
svod



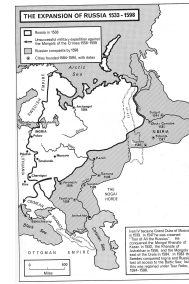
The historical Ivan IV Groznyj

- 1530–84
- Grand Prince since 1533 (regency and "boyar rule" until 1547)
- Consolidation of power through vertical succession
 - Fedor Ivanovič dies without surviving male issue, 1598
- Divinely chosen defender of the faith (supported by Makarij, r. 1542, d. 1563)
- Conquest of Kazan' (1552), Astraxan (1556)
- "Abdication" 1564 and establishment of the oprichnina (1565–72)
- Ottoman and Crimean incursions (1569–72)
- Livonian War (1558–83; Poland-Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark, Crimean Tatars) ends in truce with Russian concessions
- Economic crisis (war loss or ruin of estates, taxation)

Ivan IV Groznyj



Kazan' and Livonia



The historical Andrej Kurbskij

- c. 1528–83, Prince (князь), childhood friend of Ivan
- 1552: Military commander during Russian conquest of Kazan'
- 1556: Boyar
- 1564: Russian military commander in Livonia, escape to Lithuania and Polish-Lithuanian military service
 - Participated in Batory campaign against Pskov
- Receives estate in Volhynia from Sigismund, retires to literary career
 - *History of the Great Prince of Moscow* (1573)
 - Translations from Latin, *Novyj margarit* (Chrysostom), polemical letters against Catholicism and Protestantism

The correspondence

- 1564: Kurbskij's first letter to Ivan, Ivan's (lengthy) response
- Total of 5 letters by Kurbskij and 2 by Ivan, ending in 1579
- No autograph manuscripts; earliest is datable to late xvi, multiple redactions
- Open letters as convention
- Keenan (1971) attributes the texts to Simeon Šaxavskoj, first quarter of xvii; the debate continues ...

Lixačev on Ivan as writer

- "Сочинения Царя Ивана Васильевича Грозного" (*Великое наследие*)
- Individuality is common in rulers, but weakly developed in writers until Ivan
- Erudite, well educated, violates and reforms literary etiquette
- Oral influence on written language (writes as he speaks): loquacity, repetition, digression, rhetorical questions and exclamations, apostrophe, feigned modesty
- Assumes various narrative roles, and therefore writes in mixed vernacular/Slavonic style
 - Biblical citations
 - Low-style abuse, apostrophe, interruptions
- *Skomoršij ton*
 - Abuse, mockery
 - Stoglav (1551, later adopted by Old Believers) had repudiated diversion and frivolity
 - No *svetskije povesti* under Ivan
 - Avvakum as literary successor (influence? coincidence?)

Fennell on language and style

- "Prince A. M. Kurbskij and Tsar Ivan IV" (*Early Russian literature*)
- Correspondence was a convention
 - Intended for public consumption (Lur'e 1958)
- Kurbskij
 - Polonisms, Latinisms, some Russianisms, but orientation on Slavonic
 - Criticizes Ivan's bombast and attention to *bytovye* topics
- Ivan
 - Applies rhetorical eloquence to vernacular language
 - Rhetoric used for abuse, irony, ribaldry, humor
 - Vernacular as literary language (Čiževskij)

Lixačev on Keenan's methodology

- “Существовали ли произведения Курбского и Грозного?” (*Великое наследие*)
- Critical vs compilatory (*svodnyj*) textual scholarship
- Dates of manuscripts and dates of texts?
- Direction of influence (Isaiah, Xvorostinin [Zenkovsky 511], Kurbskij)
- Religious vs secular education
- Language ~ style; mixture of Slavonic and *prikaz* language
- “Working hypothesis”: is the object of study Kurbskij and Ivan, or Keenan?