

Ladies and gentlemen!

We are very glad to see you at the presentation of our project "The Historical Association".

The aim of our project is to study and compare the ways of development of Great Britain and Russia from the 16th till the 20th century. The project consists of several dialogues between ones of the most important rulers of both countries. Some of the rulers, for example Peter I and William III really met in London in 1698 during Peter's travelling around Europe with the Great embassy. The dialogue between Alexander II and Queen Victoria is made up on the basis of personal recollections about their meeting in the past. The logical final of the project is the meeting of president Eltsin and Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Russia in 1994. The rest of the dialogues aren't based on the historical reality. They are only a hypothetical form of communication of the rulers of both countries.

Let's begin with Ivan the Terrible and Henry VIII. They ruled nearly in the same period of time in the middle of the 16th century. In spite of their big difference of age both of them were cruel in ruling and had a lot of wives. So if they had met, what could they have spoken about?

HENRY THE EIGHTH – IVAN IV



H:- As soon as I became king I married the widow of my elder brother Arthur. At first everything was all right, but all the children were born dead.

The only child who was born alive was Mary, but I need heirs. So I decided to divorce my wife. But the Roman Catholic Church did not approve of divorces. That is why I had to break up with the Pope. I made Thomas Cranter the new Archbishop of Canterbury He set me free from useless marriage.

I: I was going to reform church too, but it happened much later. My accession to the throne was marked by a number of great fires in Moscow in 1547. During one of the most terrible fires the main territory of Moscow was reduced to ashes: 25000 houses burnt and about 3000 people perished

At the age of 17 I married Anastasya Zahariyna - Romanova, and lived happily for 13 years . She gave birth to my three sons. The eldest son Dmitriy was born at once after the capture of Kazan in 1552. In honour of this event I took him on a pilgrimage to Kirrilov monastery, where he sank by an accident.

H: - *I had not divorced my first wife yet when I married Ann Boleyn. In May in 1533 Thomas Cranter announced my first marriage illegal. In 1534 Parliament passed the Supremacy Act, according to which, I was made the head of Church of England. Because of this fact Climent VII separated me from church on the 23 of March 1534. People who disliked the reformations of the church were executed. Thomas More was one of them. As you know he was a famous writer and also the Lord Chancellor of England.*

I: During my life I have carried on a lot of reforms

1) The Electoral Rada

2) The reforms in economic and military spheres.

3) The first "Code of Laws" appeared in 1550

4) I annexed a lot of lands of Astrahan's and Kazan's Khanate to Moscow Principality

H: - *I have also wanted to influence the European politics. I was at war with France and Scotland. Unfortunately it brought no visible victories. However taking of Turine and the great victory over the invading Scots at Fladon in 1513 made success. The war gave me my first great minister Cardinal Thomas Wools. He helped me to control power in the state and the church for 12 years. Besides that he presented me his Hampton Court palace, but in spite of it I decided that he had too much power. So I wanted him to be killed but when my people were going to catch him he died from the heart attack.*

All in all Henry's reforms especially church were inconsistent. Nevertheless as a result of his reforms the Church of England became independent of the pope while Ivan IV is known for setting oprichnina in Russia. As for communications of Russia and England they were set already after Henry's death. Besides that the Livonsky War became "life business" for Ivan IV, his purpose was to give way out to the Baltic Sea and to open means of communications with Europe. In 1560 the Livonsky order as the state was crushed.

H: On the 9-th of March Peter I went abroad. He visited London for getting more knowledge about ship building. He stayed there for 3, 5 months, working mainly at Deptford shipyard. Peter 1 admired European cities and wanted to build the same in Russia.

Peter I – William III

1672-1725



1650-1702



P: I'm dreaming to found a new capital of Russia.

W: Why don't you want Moscow to remain the capital of Russia?

P: I hate Moscow because when I lost my father in 1676, my uncle Feodor Alekseevich brought me up till I was ten. When my uncle died, Ivan Alekseevich had to be the Tsar, but Naryshkin's supporters wanted me to

reign. However Miloslavsky family provoked the Streletskoe revolt. As a result many of my close people were killed during it. Ivan and I ascended the throne together and our elder sister became the ruler. Since that time my mother and I lived in Preobrazhenskiy village. We came to Moscow only to take part in official ceremonies.

W: My childhood wasn't happy either. My father died from smallpox 10 days before my birthday. I was born in The Hague. The Dutch didn't like me because my father had tried to become the King of the Netherlands, at the beginning of 1670 the Netherlands fought against England and then France.

P: I have always been interested in ship building since my childhood. In 1695 we tried to conquer Turkish fortress Azov, but we failed. In 1696 we built the fleet and the second campaign was successful. But I think that my knowledge of ship building is not enough.

W: Oh, I'll take to the shipyard and show the main achievements of shipbuilding in England.

P: Oh, it is great!!!

H: During the trip abroad the basis of the Union of Russia, Poland and Denmark against Sweden was established. In 1703 Peter founded St Petersburg.

The next period of time we would like to examine is the 18th century. Russian empress Ekaterina II and King of England George III were not related besides the time of ruling and community of the empire politics. So imagine their possible dialogue.

Georg III – Ekaterina II

1738-1820



1729-1796



G: -I am a grandson of George II. I am unlike my two predecessors is English king rather than a German ruler. English is my native language and I have never been to German.

E: -I am a daughter of Prince Christiaan and Prinsess Iogann-Elizabeth. I am related with royal Sweden, Prussen and English houses. I was taught at home, I studied German, French, dancing, music, history, geography. In my childhood I was interested in active games. In 1744 my mother and I were invited by Russian Empress Elizabeth Petrovna to Russia. She wanted me to get married Peter Fedorovich (a future emperor). He married me in 1745.

G: Oh, you had an opportunity of a brilliant future. Unfortunately the beginning of my ruling was darkened by the fight between the main political

parties the Whig and Tory. The failure in the struggle led to the strengthen of the Royal power. Nevertheless the life of common people became harder. I found the world of politics a hard place which offered little in way of friendship.

E: My accession to the throne was difficult because during six- month Peter's ruling, the relationships with husband became worse. So I organized a plot with Orlovich, Panin, Razunovskii and other people who supported me. On the 28 of June at night, when the Emperor was in Oranienbaum, I arrived in Petersburg and in the barrack of Izmailovski regiment was proclaimed the empress. The news of my accession to the throne was met delightly by the people of St. Petersburg. Peter was made to abdicate.

G: As for my people, they have always supported me: every morning I go for a walk and talk with them. I love farming and craftsmanship, as I am simple in my tastes. But I have always had a lot of problems connected with a foreign policy. The lost of the American colonies, finished by the treaty of the Versailles in 1783, was a sore trial for me. By contrast, when war broke out with revolutionary France in 1793 I became the symbol of national pride.

E: At first I sympathized the French Revolution, but then after the execution of Ludovick XVI, I realized that the Revolution was dangerous for all Europe. After Peter the first, I thought that Russia had to pursue an active policy in the world. In the war of England with her north-american colonies Russia took a neutral position and I refused to help Great Britain with forces. The war with Turkey ended in 1793. In 1792 Yasskiy peace was signed and the Crimea was joined. In 1793 and 1795 Poland was separated again, the Polish state was over.

From middle life onwards, George III suffered from an illness which affected him both mentally and physically. In spite of this fact, this king has been remembered warmly because of his human qualities. During the reigning of Ekaterina II a lot of outstanding writers, poets, artists, musicians appeared. That's she was called Ekaterina the Great and her ruling "The Golden Age of Russia nobility"

Then we will pass to the 20th century to Queen Victoria and Alexander II. Both of them were outstanding rulers. Queen Victoria is one of the most popular rulers of Great Britain because she ruled for the longest period of time for 64 years. During her reign England became a rich industrial country with a developed trade and a lot of colonies. Alexander II is famous for the emancipation of the serfdom and many other reforms. So imagine their meeting.

Alexander II – Queen Victoria

King Alexander II
1818-1881



Queen Victoria
1819-1901



Alexander: Victoria, you look wonderful, as if there hadn't been those 40 years, when we met first. Then we were only 20, you had been the Queen only for a year, and I hadn't been crowned yet. We spent some fantastic days in London together. Do you remember our talking, dancing and suddenly I realized that I had fallen in love with you.

Victoria: But our marriage was absolutely impossible because of political reasons. Nevertheless I remember you promised not to forget me for ever. What happened then? Why has your regard for me changed so much?

Alexander: Unfortunately, many disagreements between our countries have taken place since that time. Britain has always wanted to be the

strongest nation in the world. So when Russia and Ottoman Turkey went in the Crimea in 1853 Britain joined Turks against Russia. As a result, we suffered a defeat.

Victoria: You are right; we have always wanted to establish our influence in different parts of the world and to ensure the safety of our trade routes. But as I know, you have taken the part in many wars, as well.

Alexander: Yes, we won in the Caucasian war at the beginning of my reign. On the 3rd of March in 1878 we freed Bulgaria from the five-age Ottoman Yoke; furthermore our advancement into Central Asia was successfully ended. As a result a large part of Turkestan joined Russia.

Victoria: As I see, your international policy is rather successful. And what about your home policy?

Alexander: I'm sure that you know that in 1863 I emancipated the serfdom, then I introduced the compulsory military service, conducted judicial reforms, limited the censorship, granted the autonomy to Caucasian mountaineers to end the Caucasian War. Nevertheless Britain remains a model of industrial success and free, constitutional government.

Victoria: I'm glad to listen to high appreciation of our home policy. Maybe, it's owing to the Great Exhibition of the Industries of all Nations in the Crystal Palace in London in 1851. By 1850 Britain was producing more iron than the rest of the world together. Besides that, our pride is our railway system, connected not only the industrial towns with London, but also economically unimportant towns. But my main attention has been always paid to the human value. I want my people to be self-reliance, honest, helpful and to be proud of this country. I've always tried to bring up my own nine children this way. Especially as I had to bring them up by myself because my loved husband died in 1861.

Alexander: I know that it was a great tragedy for you.

Victoria: I couldn't get over my sorrow at his death and for a long time refused to be seen in public. Then I published my diary of our life with Prince Albert and my family in the castle in the Scotland Highlands. This book touched people's hearts. Owing to this book I managed to win back the respect of my people

Queen Victoria is still popular in Europe. She became known as the Grandmother of Europe after marrying members of her family into many royal houses in Europe. In the end I would like to say that Victoria's granddaughter, Alexandra became the wife of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, a grandson of Alexander II. We can say that love of Victoria and Alexander II embodied in the great love of their children.

At last we have approached to our time. Now we will see Elizabeth II and Boris Yeltsin's meeting. We know that during the visit of the queen in Moscow in 1994 she met with pupils one of Moscow schools.

Elizabeth II – Boris Yeltsin
1926 **1931-2007**



E: I have enjoyed my visiting to one of Moscow schools a lot. But we have a little bit different system of education, as you know.

Y: Without doubts English system of education is well known all over the world. A lot of young people dream to study at Oxford and Cambridge, but our specialists are claimed everywhere as well. But I have always been interested to find out what makes your ruling so successful.

E: I'm very glad to hear it, but as you know the Royal family has no power in Great Britain. We reign, but don't rule. Nevertheless if you want to listen to my opinion... I think first of all you should love your people, take care of them and all the reforms should lead to the improvement of the people's life.

Yeltsin refused to rule the country V.V.Putin took his place, and Queen Elizabeth II is still ruling, respected and loved by the British. Her son is 60 years, he is still a prince to his great regret. This visit was proof of the Queen's interest in the rising young generation of Russia.