

# RUSSIA AND KAZAN

*Conquest and Imperial Ideology*

*(1438 - 1560s)*

*by*

JAROSLAW PELENSKI

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*Russia and Kazan, Conquest and Imperial Ideology (1438-1560s)* by Jaroslaw Pelenski is a study of the relations between Muscovy and the Kazan Khanate, Muscovite attitudes toward the Khanate, and the eventual absorption of the Khanate by the former. The book goes into its subject matter subtly, deeply and exhaustively, being based on East Slavic and Turkic published and unpublished material which includes diplomatic correspondence, chronicles, historic-religious treatises, legal documents, literary tales, epistles and hagiographic literature. Its approach is both polycentric and pluralistic, and the work therefore becomes the most objective study of this topic that has ever been made.

Its principal aim, according to the author, has been to obtain a model of an emerging imperial ideology by establishing the relationships between the political conquest and the structure of the ideological claims and justifications formulated by Muscovite Russia in conjunction with its transformation from a predominantly national, centralized state into a multi-national empire, a phenomenon heretofore almost completely neglected in historical scholarship.

The book makes no attempt to treat the political theory that the Muscovite nation was the logical successor of the Golden Horde and that therefore the Kazan Khanate was part of its homeland, nor does it go into the events which politics entails. That, after all, is a different book. What this book does is to emphasize and particularize the propaganda by which Muscovy convinced itself and attempted to convince the world of its claims to the Kazan Khanate. Muscovy used force, but it backed up that force with ideological arguments.

Muscovy's ideology was many faceted, and the author studies all the facets — the notion that the Russian rulers were entitled to the Kazan Khanate because it had been a possession of the Rurikides "from antiquity"; the dynastic claim that Ivan IV had the right to Kazan because centuries before Vladimir had conquered the Bulgar land