

Exile to Siberia, 1590–1822

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# Exile to Siberia, 1590–1822

Andrew A. Gentes

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*To my parents*

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# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Glossary and Abbreviations</i>	xi
<i>Map of Siberia</i>	xiii
<b>Introduction: The Universal Experience of Exile</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 'To where the Sovereign Chooses ...'</b>	<b>17</b>
Political exiles	38
Religious exiles	42
Criminal exiles	47
<b>2 'Exile to the Service in which he will be Useful'</b>	<b>56</b>
'Exile to the land'	58
'Exile to service'	64
'Exile to a suburb'	70
<b>3 'Punishment for Insignificant Crimes'</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>4 'Whoever's not with us is Against us'</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>5 'Only Ermak can Compete with Me'</b>	<b>165</b>
The 'Regulation on Exiles'	174
The Tobol'sk Exile Office	179
Six categories of exile	180
<i>Katorga</i>	189
The 'Regulation on Exile Transfer within Siberian <i>Gubernii</i> '	190
<b>Conclusion: 'Siberian Exile and Biopolitics'</b>	<b>202</b>
<i>Notes</i>	205
<i>Selected Bibliography</i>	241
<i>Name Index</i>	253
<i>Subject Index</i>	261

# Preface

This is the first book-length, contemporary history of tsarist Siberian exile. All dates are according to the Julian, or Old Style, calendar, which prevailed in Russia until the 1917 Revolution and was ten days behind the Gregorian calendar as of the mid-seventeenth century, eleven days as of the mid-eighteenth century and twelve days as of 1822.

This book uses a number of Russian-language terms and acronyms with which readers may not be familiar, and so they are encouraged to consult the Glossary.

Finally, transliteration is according to the Library of Congress system, except that in the body of the text I have omitted any diacritical mark that comes at the end of a word so as to facilitate use of the possessive case. Transliteration in the notes and bibliography fully accords with the system.

# Acknowledgements

This book is the product of many years' research during which I was assisted by dozens of people and institutions, and so my apologies from the outset if I have overlooked anyone.

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Irkutsk; the Library of Congress; and Harvard's Widener and Law School libraries.

Lastly, I wish to thank my colleagues, students, friends and family who, in their many, often unintended, ways helped bring this book about, and to acknowledge the spirit which embraces us all.

*Brisbane, 2008*

# Glossary and Abbreviations

- Arshin* (*arshiny*, pl.) – unit of measure equal to 71 cm. or 28 in.  
*Barshchina* – ‘labor dues’  
*Brodiaga* (*brodiagi*, pl.) – ‘vagabond’  
*Chetvert* (*chetverti*, pl.) – ‘quarter’, unit of measurement roughly equal to 1 liter or 1¾ pints  
*D’iak* – ‘chancellor’, top *prikaz* official  
*Desiatina* (*desiatiny*, pl.) – unit of measure equal to 1.09 hectares or 2.7 acres  
*Gorod* (*goroda*, pl.) – population point administratively designated as a ‘city’  
*Guberniia* (*gubernii*, pl.) – ‘province’  
*Guliashchie liudi* – ‘wandering people’, i.e. early free settlers of Siberia  
GUVS (*Glavnoe upravlenie Vostochnoi Sibiri*) – Main Administration of Eastern Siberia  
GUZS (*Glavnoe upravlenie Zapadnoi Sibiri*) – Main Administration of Western Siberia  
*Iasak* – ‘fur tribute’  
IGP (*Irkutskoe gubernskoe pravlenie*) – Irkutsk Provincial Administration  
*Katorga* – ‘penal labor’  
*Kormlenie* – ‘feeding’, i.e. officially condoned graft  
*Kormovye den’gi* – ‘foraging money’, i.e. funds distributed to deportees to buy food  
*Litva* – catch-all Muscovite term for prisoners-of-war  
*Masterovye* – category of servitor-craftsmen  
*Meshchane* – collective noun for ‘urban residents’  
*Meshchanstvo* (*meshchanstva*, pl.) – ‘urban communal association’  
MVD (*Ministerstvo vnutrennykh del*) – Ministry of Internal Affairs  
*Oblast* (*oblasti*, pl.) – ‘(secondary-level) province’  
*Obrok* – ‘(peasant) dues (in kind or in money)’  
*Obshchestvo* (*obshchestva*, pl.) – ‘peasant communal association’  
*Okrug* (*okruga*, pl.) – ‘district’ in post-1822 Siberia  
OPT (*Obshchestvo popechitel’nago o tiur’makh*) – Prison Aid Society  
*Ostrog* (*ostroga*, pl.) – ‘(Siberian) fort’  
*Perevedentsy* – ‘those transferred between jurisdictions’  
*Plet* – ‘three-tailed whip’

Pood – anglicization of *pud*, unit of measure equal to 16.38 kg. or 36 lb.

*Posad* (*posady*, pl.) – ‘town’ or ‘(city-administered) village’

*Posadskie liudi* – ‘townspeople’

*Posel’shchik* (*posel’shchiki*, pl.) – peasant turned over to the state for administrative exile

*Poselenie* (*poseleniia*, pl.) – ‘state-run exile settlement’

*Prikaz* (*prikazy*, pl.) – ‘(Muscovite government) department’

*Prikazchik* (*prikazchiki*, pl.) – ‘*prikaz* official’

*Promyshlennik* (*promyshlenniki*, pl.) – ‘private fur trader’

*Propitannye* – category of exiles assigned to be maintained on charity

*Sazhen’* (*sazheni*, pl.) – unit of measure equal to 2.13 m. or 6.99 ft.

*Sluzhilye liudi* – ‘service people’

*Soslovie* (*sosloviia*, pl.) – roughly, ‘class’ or ‘estate’

*Ssyl’nye* – ‘judicial exiles’

*Ssylka* – ‘exile,’ esp. ‘judicial exile’

*Starozhil* (*starozhily*, pl.) – ‘long-term resident (of Siberia)’

*Strel’tsy* – ‘(professional) arquebusiers (later, musketeers)’

*Sud’ia* – ‘judge’, a top *prikaz* official

*TobPS* (*Tobol’skii Prikaz o ssyl’nykh*) – Tobol’sk Exile Office

*Uezd* (*uezdy*, pl.) – ‘district’ in pre-1822 Siberia

*Ulozhenie* – ‘(1649) Law Code’

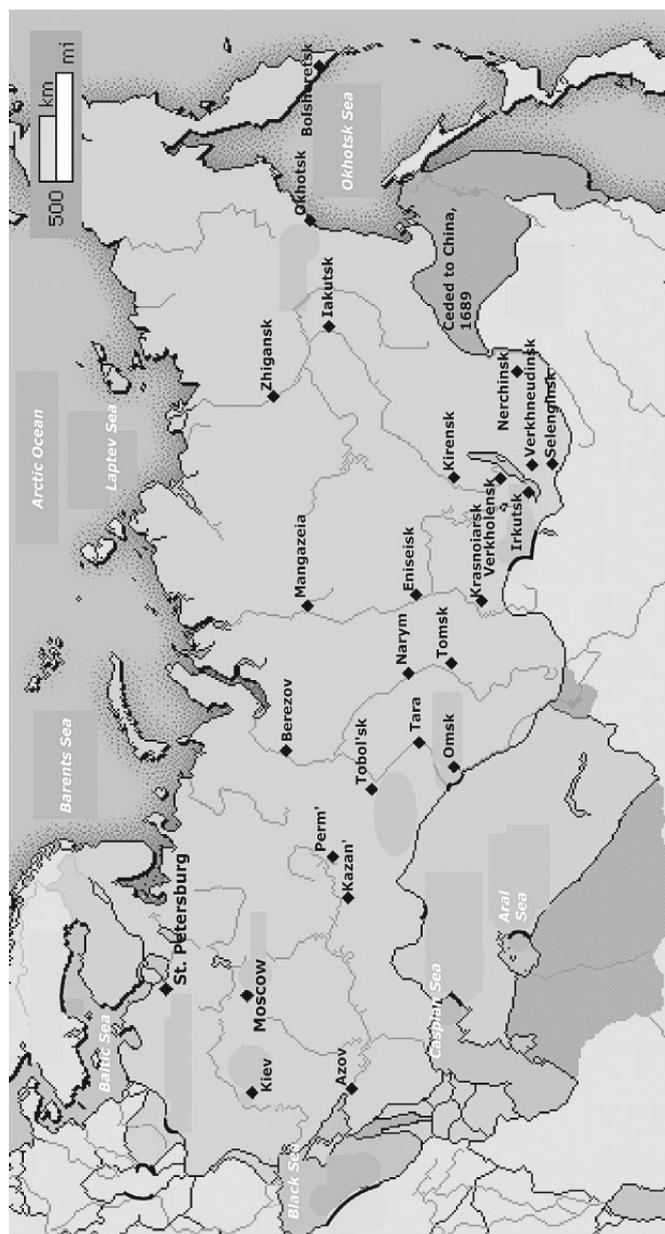
*Verst* – anglicization of *versta*, a unit of measure equal to 1.06 km. or 0.66 mile.

*Voevoda* (*voevody*, pl.) – ‘(Muscovite Siberian) military governor’

*Voevodstvo* (*voevodstva*, pl.) – Muscovite territorial and administrative designator

*Volost’* (*volosti*, pl.) – roughly, ‘canton’

*Zavod* (*zavody*, pl.) – ‘fortified industrial township’



Russia and Siberia, c. 1590-1822