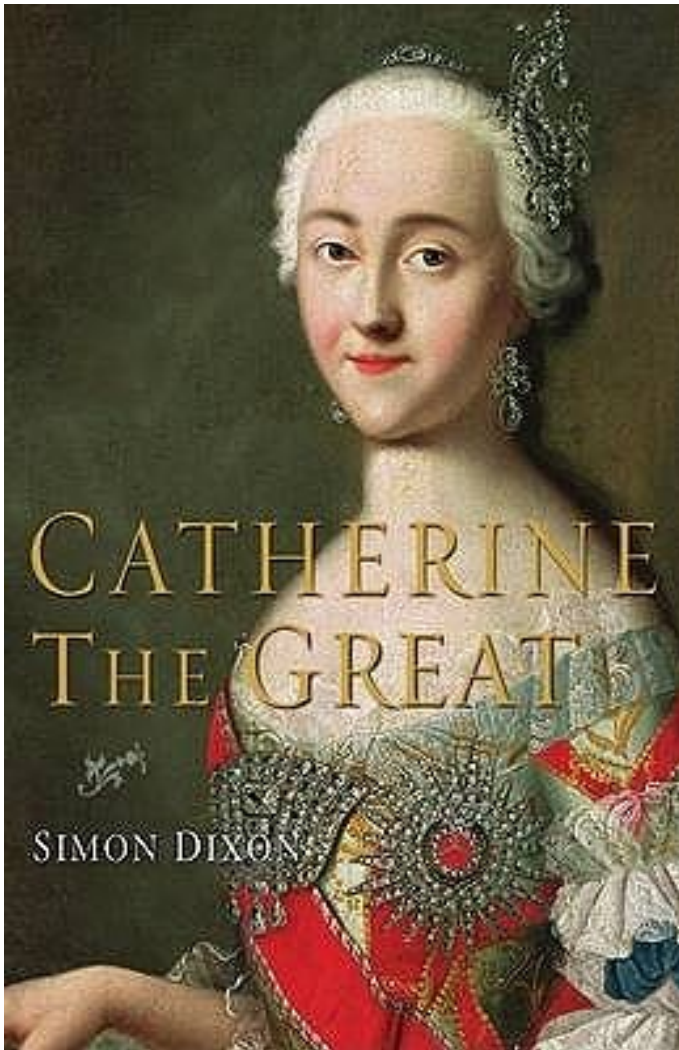


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**Simon Dixon**

**Catherine The Great**



Title: Catherine The Great

Author: Simon Dixon

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## Description

Catherine rose to rule the Russian empire for 30 years. This study explores what she did with her power and how much of it she commanded. It analyses the interaction of the nobility and bureaucracy and the nature of authority in Europe.

## Insightful reviews

Arminius: Catherine the Great was the German born wife of Peter III. Peter was (the Ruler of Russia) The former ruler Empress Elizabeth's handpicked successor. When Russia Nobles found Peter unacceptable they kidnapped and most likely assassinated him. He may have been killed in a struggle but in either event he was killed.

The Nobles afterward quickly put Catherine in power she being the next in line of succession. What they found in Catherine was somewhat of a surprise. She was swept up in the Enlightenment and was very ambitious. She wrote and had a lifelong correspondence with the French Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire.

As Empress, she attempted to systemize and unify Russia's laws which were an inconsistent at the time and had an odd combination of past laws. She also attempted to unify a country that had enormous diversity. She traveled to all parts of Russia to learn about these varying cultures. She also built schools and instructed at what should be taught.

She tried to write a book on Etymology which is the study of the history of words, their origins, and how their form and meaning have changed over time. She even wrote to George Washington for help with English words.

She built and stocked the Hermitage Museum with world class art from artists Raphael, Giorgione, Titian, Veronese, Rembrandt, Rubens, Van Dyck et al. She turned St. Petersburg into one of the most beautiful cities in the world paying for and building magnificent buildings and architecture.

She also expanded the Russia Empire by waging war against the Ottoman Turks. Russia had engulfed the Crimea, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, and Courland. She extended the Russian border to the Black Sea.

She had a son, with Peter III, named Paul of whom she basically ignored. However, when Paul had children she became a doting grandmother. She bragged to everyone how smart her two grandsons were.

Her love life is well documented in this book. She had numerous affairs.

When she was younger someone told her she was cute. She remarked that that was the only time in her life that someone said that to her. I just found that touching.

I am betting there is a better book about her. The author tended to overload the reader with the

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cost of building and the cost of the various Balls which were customary of the times. The battles are not well discussed or her reasons for her disliking of the Turks so much. I think her story could be much more interesting. This book just left me somewhat underwhelmed.

Charles H: Author was making a catalogue of parties and the price of palaces, rather than addressing social political and geopolitical aspects of the ruler's life.

Mandy: I had wanted to know more about her politics and the changes she made, but I learned way too much about how many roubles she spent on what person and what building project. \*sigh\* It was a good start, though.

Brittany: a phenomenal e-book in regards to the existence and reign of Catherine the Great. My purely challenge with it really is that the writer might bypass over a few occasions that appear very important and simply in short point out them whilst i needed to grasp approximately those events.

Christopher Litsinger: This reads like a highschool heritage text. it's a quite dry presentation of facts, with no fairly settling on any of the various angles it may possibly have taken into this striking woman's lifestyles (the author of the "code russe", the feminist angle, the weird rumors and innuendo, etc). probably the dryness used to be the angle. I definitely realized a lot, and sometimes received hugely engaged, yet total this booklet was once now not as attention-grabbing because it can have been, or as I had was hoping it will be.

Kelly: i wished to love this book. i've got studied Catherine's existence & rule in view that excessive school, in spite of the fact that this publication was once no longer all i presumed it will be. i couldn't even end it. The book, what I read, concentrated extra at the renovations of the palaces and their travels to and from. It had a few features that dealt in particular together with her lifestyles and reign, yet on an entire i used to be disappointed. i have not now not entire a book, yet this one i'll endure no longer.

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