

#533 The Rise of Michael the Archangel – From Ivan Grozny to Grozny, Chechnya, part 3, The Grozny Time of Troubles after the fall of the Soviet Union

Chechnya. Chechnya is a region in present-day Russia that has constantly fought for its independence against foreign rule, beginning with the Ottoman Turks in the 15th Century. Due to Ottoman rule the Chechens eventually converted to Islam. They would eventually come under the domination of the Russian Empire, followed by the Soviet Empire. Chechen rebellion would flare up whenever the Russian state faced a period of uncertainty and instability, such as the Russian Revolution of 1905, the Russian Revolutions of 1917, and the Russian Civil War.



Under Soviet rule, Chechnya was combined with Ingushetia to form the autonomous republic of Chechen-Ingushetia in the late 1930's. When the Chechens rose up against Soviet rule in the 1940's during World War II and were accused of collaboration with Nazi Germany, Joseph Stalin initiated a massive deportation of the whole population of Chechens and Ingush. All traces of them in the city of Grozny, including books and graveyards, were destroyed. The city became wholly Russian. In 1957, the Chechens were allowed to return in the de-Stalinization that occurred under Nikita Khrushchev. Once again, migration of non-Russians into Grozny continued while the ethnic Russian population moved to other parts of the USSR, notably the Baltic states. With the impending collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990, an independence movement began in Chechnya. The movement was opposed by Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Federation, partly because (i) Russia was not the Soviet Union, and its republics were not looked upon as having a right to secede, partly because (ii) Russia did not desire Chechnya to set an example for other republics within the Russian Federation (which made up Russia), and partly because (iii) a major chokepoint in the oil-infrastructure of Russia was in Chechnya, and hence a secession would hurt Russia's economy and its control of oil resources.



Chechens boarding trains – On Feb. 23, 1944, Stalin ordered the mass deportation/removal of all Chechen and Ingush people to Central Asia and Siberia. Hundreds of thousands died.

The First Chechen War lasted from 1994-1996. Chechnya briefly gained de facto independence following the war. What became known as the Second Chechen War was a Russian military incursion in 1999-2000 that recaptured Chechnya. New Russian president Vladimir Putin established direct rule over Chechnya in May 2000. The major fighting was over, but the struggle has continued for Chechen separatists.

The city of Grozny was the epicenter of fighting in both wars. There was a Battle of Grozny in 1994-1995, a Battle of Grozny in March 1996 and again in August 1996, and a Battle of Grozny in 1999-2000. The city, which had a population of around 400,000 in 1989, was virtually destroyed.



Key Understanding: *The Grozny ‘time of troubles’ in the 1990’s.* The deaths and destruction of the people and the city of Grozny became the symbol of Russia’s *third Time of Troubles* that occurred because of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The reason for the *third Time of Troubles* in Grozny spanning from the 1990’s to the present was/is the fulfillment of Daniel 12:1.

Daniel 12:1 (KJV) And at that time SHALL MICHAEL [the Archangel] STAND UP, the great prince which standeth for THE CHILDREN OF THY PEOPLE: and there shall be A [Grozny] TIME OF TROUBLE, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

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