Guided Reading on “The Russian Empire” (see Chapter 25 and 27)

1) When did awareness of Western Europe begin among Russia’s elite? How did conservative Europeans view Russia? Why then did they court the influence of Tsar Alexander I? (738)

2) How did Russia resemble the Ottoman Empire more than conservative kingdoms in Europe? (738)

3) When did the effects of the Industrial Revolution begin to be felt in Russia? Under which Tsar was the first railroad built? How was Russia able to slowly industrialize? (738)

4) Why was Nicholas I suspicious of Western ideas? How did he treat his subjects? (738)

5) Who were the “Slavophiles” and what did they value the most? What was “Pan-Slavism” and why did it arise? (739)

6) Examine Map 21.1 on page 614. Which river was a natural boundary between Russian controlled areas of eastern Siberia and China’s region of Manchuria?

7) Which countries did Russia begin to experience political friction with as it expanded? (740)

8) After Russia’s humiliating defeat in the Crimean War, how did Alexander II try to reinvigorate his country? (741)

9) Why did ethnic diversity contribute to instability in Russia? What were “pogroms”? What effect did these have on the Jewish population of Russia? (810)

10) Why did Alexander II’s freeing of the serfs in 1861 fail to greatly improve Russian society? Among which class of people would unrest grow under Alexander III and Nicholas II? (810)