Ode to Freedom

“I will sing the freedom of the world,
And strike down the [evil] sitting on
the throne.
Tyrants of the world tremble!
And you, fallen slaves, take heart
and hear.
Arise!”

Alexander Pushkin
Serfdom in Russia
- according to a noble:
  - serfs live a cruel life
  - traded/sold like slaves
  - taken from families
- owners take serfs' $$ when they're sent to work in factories

Alexander I (1801)
- not a supporter of French Rev
  - supports ideas of legitimacy
  - French Rev. led to many other revs & he is not OK with this.
  - France tried to invade & conquer, he's not an enlightened Despot
Nicholas I
- Czar after Alexander I
- Mark Twain wrote that anyone smart was slipped out & sent to Siberia
  - Prevent Revolutionary Ideas
- Banned books, only use govt. approved textbooks

Alexander II
- Brings some enlightened ideas to Russia after Nicholas
- Free Serfs
  - But keep them under demands they can’t meet
- Stayed Peasants
- Instituted reforms
  - Zemstvos
  - Road repair, schools, agriculture
- Justice by jury & rights of women
- Inspired by French Rev.
- Killed by angry mob b/c he didn’t give ppl what they wanted