This chapter traces the history of property relations in Russia. It examines how Russian rulers came to respect private property as a bulwark of autocracy and what this respect meant for property in the context of Russian monarchal rule. Topics covered include the reign of Catherine the Great and the invention of absolute private domain; the issue of expropriation; the scope and the legal status of state possessions; and initial attempts to introduce the notion of “public property,” which focused on Russia's natural treasures, such as the forests granted by Catherine the Great into the unlimited ownership of the nobles.