



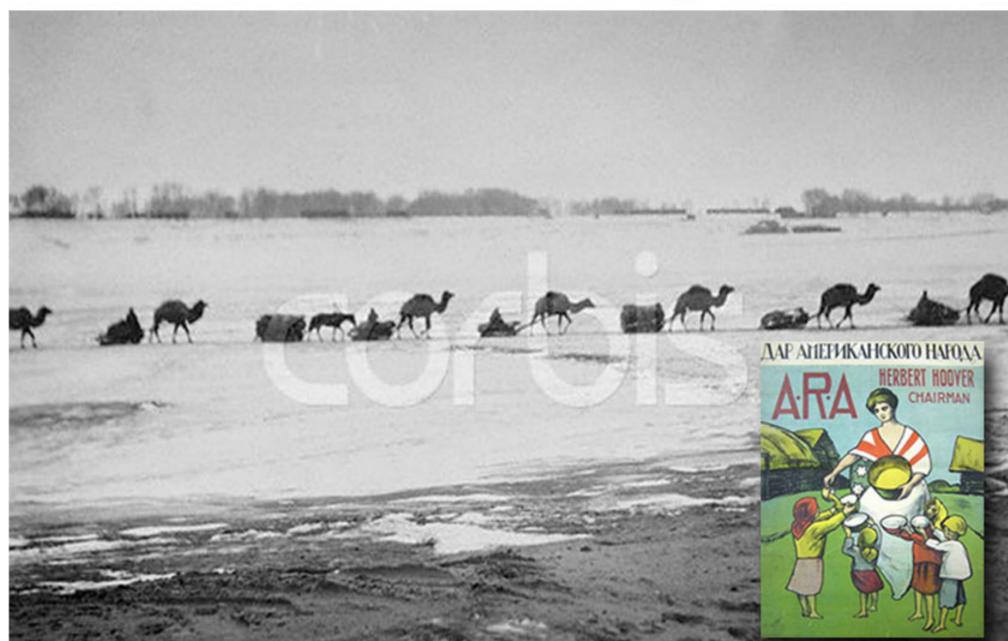
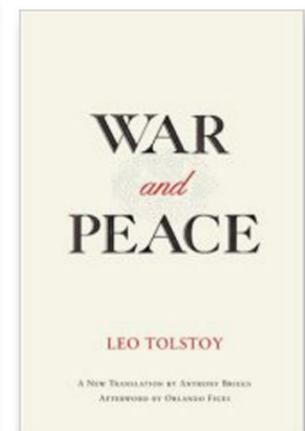
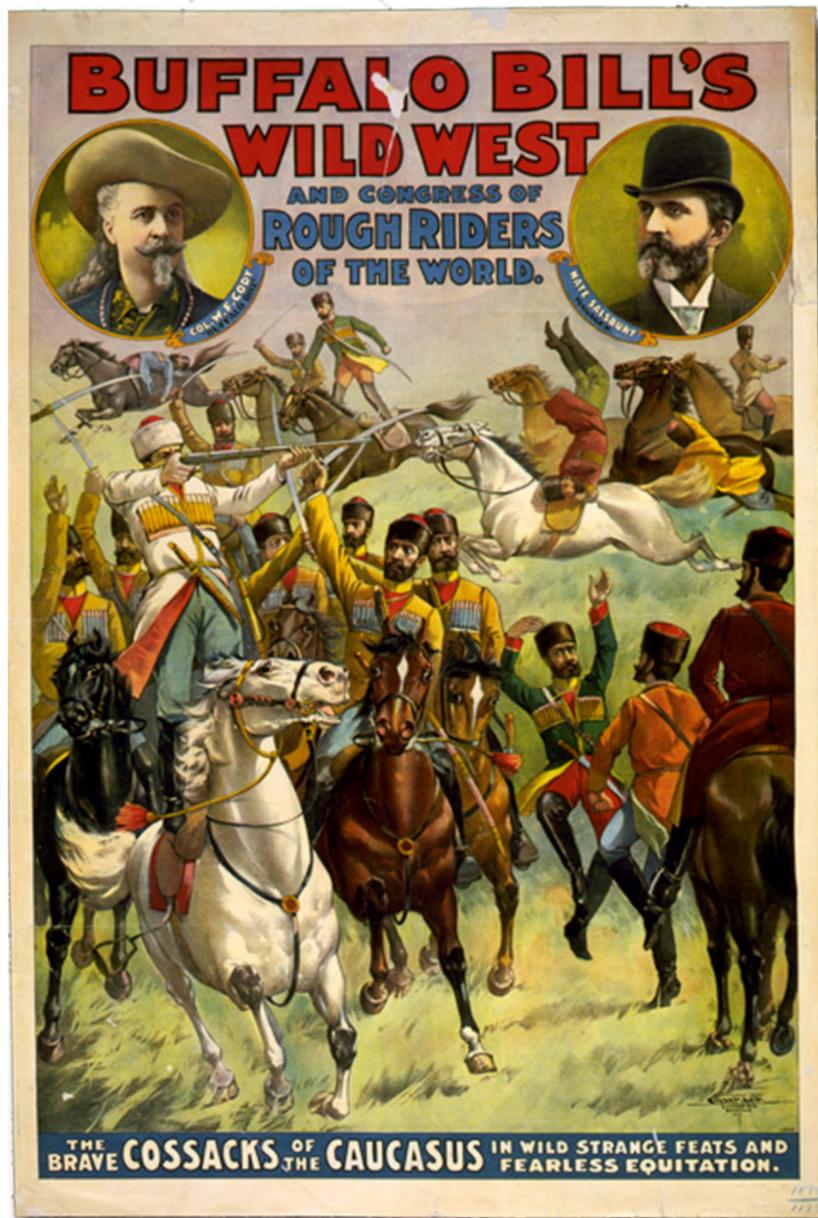
# PARALLELS

## COMMON CULTURE AND HISTORY

The uniqueness of America and Russia as vast, diverse, western nations with close ties to Europe – but not directly of it – is, perhaps, an explanation of how closely and unexpectedly they connect.

Parallel events and attitudes are easily found in both nations' history. Each, for example, rebelled against a monarch, underwent a wrenching civil war, suffered invasion by an enemy in 1812, and saw its capital city burnt.

The romantic similarities between American cowboys and Russian Cossacks – as fearless, loyal, independent frontiersmen, as well as excellent equestrians – were captured in Buffalo Bill's famous "Rough Riders of the World" exhibition. Recognizing the injustice of slavery and its impediment to national progress, Tsar Alexander II freed the serfs in 1861 and President Abraham Lincoln emancipated the African-American slaves in 1863. Leo Tolstoy and Mark Twain, the quintessential Russian and American authors, storytellers, and social commentators, hold special esteem in both nations.



Top left: Advertising poster for Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, featuring "The Brave Cossacks of the Caucasus," c1899. Top middle: Russian translation of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain, 1999. Top right: English translation of War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy, 2006. Middle right above: Abraham Lincoln presents the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet, 1863. Tsar Alexander II's proclamation of freedom for serfs is announced, 1861. Bottom left: Supplies from the American Relief Administration (ARA) are delivered by camel to remote Saratov, Russia, 1922. Bottom middle: ARA poster, c1922. Bottom right: Delivery of relief supplies donated by Russia to victims of Hurricane Katrina, 2005.