This book is a review of The Romanov Dynasty and spans some 300 years. It's a thorough account of how Russia was ruled during that time and must have involved intensive research by the author.

It combines historical facts with personal details of each of the emperors and tsars filling in lots of gaps in our knowledge.

What most of them - especially the early ones - had in common was a love of brutality. Some of the stories are shocking. They also appeared to have interesting love lives! A long read but worthwhile.