Population growth in central Japan put a strain on the agricultural economy, but in the outer provinces, economic growth outstripped population growth. Jesuit descriptions of China also led Europeans such as Voltaire to see the Qing emperors as benevolent despot or philosopherkings from whom the Europeans could learn. The Russian Empire A. The Drive Across Northern Asia 1. Following the dissolution of Mongol power in Russia, the city of Moscow became the foundation for a new state, Muscovy, which absorbed the territory of the former Kievan state and Novgorod in the west and conquered the khanates of Kazan and Astrakhan. See more ideas about central asia, asia, ancient history. Want to know more about Central Asia? Here is an excellent list of books about Central Asia, Silk Road, ancient history of the region and contemporary development of independent Five Stans. Learn about Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan. Central Asia. Sufi. Ancient History. My Books. Learning. In the vastness of Asia is the region of Central Asia, a land determined primarily by the area's climate and geography. The aridity of the region makes agriculture difficult and distance from the sea cut it off from much trade. Thus, few major cities developed in the region. Nomadic horse peoples of the steppe dominated the area for millennia.