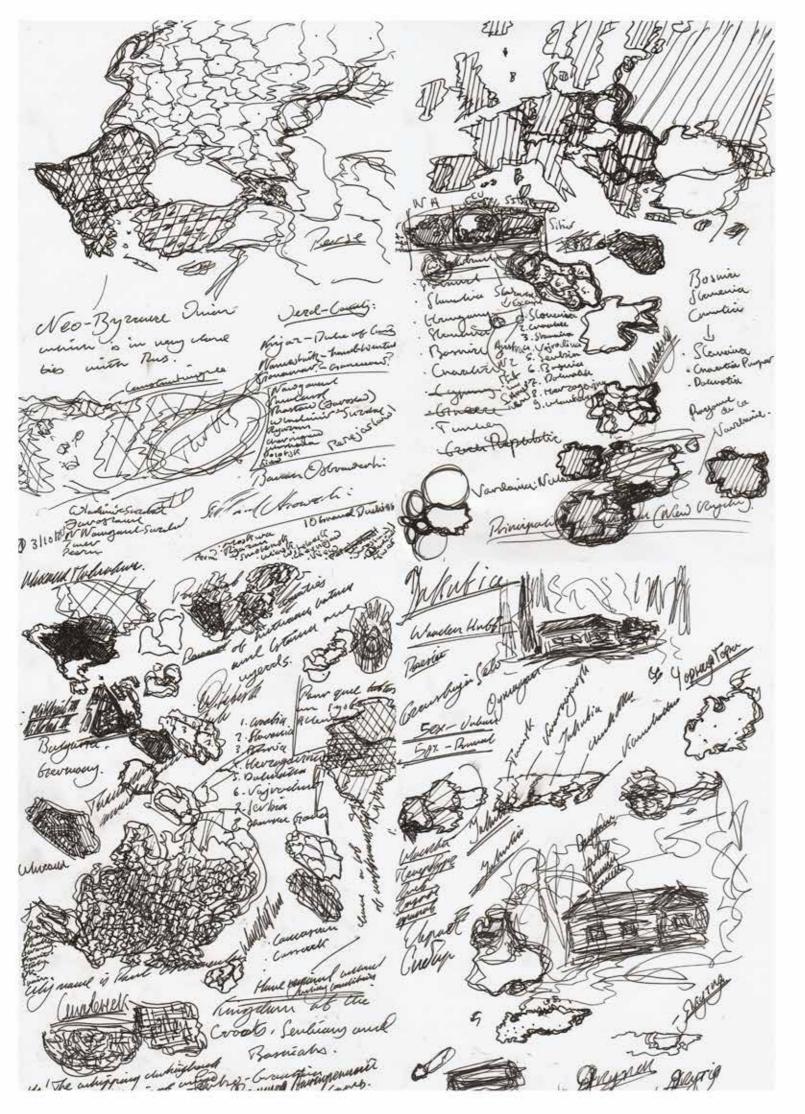




## **The Russian Regions**

I have immersed myself in the history of Russia, in particular the Russian Empire, the state existing prior to the Russian Revolution. I have done extensive research on the Czar's country, including its provincial architecture, administrative subdivisions, politics, nobility, ethnic groups, geography, city population, religion - not to forget the various architectural monuments destroyed by the Communists. One of the key factors in my research was when I discovered the works of Prokudin-Gorsky, a Russian photographer who had decided to take a tour of the Russian Empire barely a few years before the outbreak of World War One, and had taken numerous photos in colour using a special technique, catching the various countrysides, urban views, monasteries, forests, palaces, izbas, wooden villages, various people dressed in their traditional clothing, ranging from Kostroma peasants to Kuban cossacks and Georgians. His works have helped me conceptualise my own vision more clearly and enlightened me in various areas during my research on the Russian Empire.





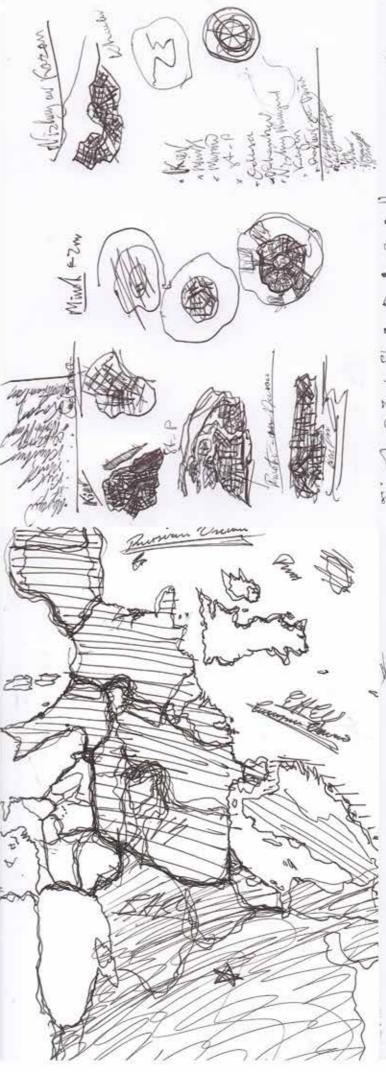


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