

# IMPERIAL BOUNDARIES

*Cossack Communities and Empire-Building  
in the Age of Peter the Great*

BRIAN J. BOECK

*DePaul University*



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

# Contents

<i>List of maps and illustrations</i>	page vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	viii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction	i
1 Beyond borders, between worlds: Russian Empire and the making of the Don steppe frontier	13
2 People and power on the frontier: liberty, diversity, and de-centralization in the Don region to 1700	27
3 A middle ground between autonomy and dependence: the raiding economy of the Don steppe frontier to 1700	40
4 Boundaries of integration or exclusion? Migration, mobility, and state sovereignty on the southern frontier to 1700	54
5 Testing the boundaries of imperial alliance: cooperation, negotiation and resistance in the era of Razin (1667–1681)	68
6 Between Rus' and Rossiia: realigning the boundaries of Cossack communities in a time of migration and transition (1681–1695)	86
7 The era of <i>raskol</i> : religion and rebellion (1681–1695)	103
8 Incorporation without integration: the Azov interlude (1695–1711)	117
9 From frontier to borderland: the demarcation of the steppe and the delegitimization of raiding (1696–1710)	134

10	Boundaries of land, liberty, and identity: making the Don region legible to imperial officials (1696–1706)	159
11	The Bulavin uprising: the last stand of the old steppe (1706–1709)	172
12	Reshaping the Don in the imperial image: power, privilege, and patronage in the post-Bulavin era (1708–1739)	187
13	Closing the Cossack community: recording and policing the boundaries of group identity (1708–1739)	208
14	A borderline state of mind: the closing of the Don steppe frontier (1708–1739)	231
	<i>Afterword</i>	245
	<i>Index</i>	252

## *Maps and illustrations*

### MAPS

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. The Don region                             | <i>page</i> xii |
| 2. The wider world of the Don steppe frontier | xiii            |

### ILLUSTRATIONS

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Seal of the Don Host introduced in 1704. Source: <i>Chteniia imperatorskogo obshchestva istorii i drevnostei</i> (1846), book 4, p. III.                                    | 88 |
| 2. Eighteenth-century representation of a Cossack (after a copper engraving by Caspar Luiken). Source: an eighteenth-century German print in the author's personal collection. | 89 |