

# Paul I



**Paul I (Pavel Petrovich;** September 20 [October 1 ] 1754, Summer Castle of Elisabeth Petrovna, St.-Петербург — 12 [24] March 1801, St.Michael Castle, St.Petersburg<sup>[1]</sup>) — Emperor of Russia from 6 (17) November 1796, belonged to the house of Romanovs, Holstein-Gottorp-Romanov dynasty, Great Master of the Order of Malta, General Admiral of the Fleet, son of Peter III Fedorovich and Catherine II Alexeevna.

## Foreign policy

Foreign policy of Paul was inconsistent. The Privy Councilor and Secretary of State of Emperor Paul I, from 1796, was Fedor Maximovich [Briskorn](#). In 1798 Russia joined [Anti-French Coalition](#) with [The Great Britain](#), [Austria](#), [Turkey](#), [Kingdom of the both Sicilies](#). At insistence of confederates, the Supreme Commander in Chief for the Russian Army was assigned the

experienced [A.V. Suvorov](#) as the best commander in Europe. He was also assigned to captain the Austrian army, too. Led by Suvorov, the army had liberated North Italy from French supremacy. In September 1799 Russian troops accomplished the famous [Suvorov's crossing over the Alps](#). However, it was already in October of the same year that Russia broke the treaty with Austria because Austria failed to carry out its ally obligations in the treaty, and the Russian troops were called out from Europe.

When in September 1800 army of the Great Britain succeed to invade Malta, Paul I started anti-Britain Coalition which had to unite [Denmark](#), [Switzerland](#) and [Prussia](#). Shortly before assassination, he started preparations for anabasis to India together with Napoleon, with the intentions to «trouble» Britain domains. At the same time, he has sent to Central Asia the [Cossacs from Don](#)— 22 500 men, with the task to conquer [Hives](#) and [Bukhara](#). Later this anabasis was referred by mistake as [journey to India](#) (indeed, there was a plan to conquer India with the regular army forces through [Iran](#))<sup>[10]</sup>. The planned anabasis was immediately cancelled after Paul's assassination by the decree of Emperor Alexander I<sup>[11]</sup>.

## [\[edit\]](#) **Order of Malta**

After [Malta](#) in summer of 1798 capitulated, surrendered to French, [Order of Malta](#) was left without the Grand Master, and without the residence. The knight of the order appealed for help to Emperor of Russia and Defender of the Order since 1797 Paul I.

On 16 of December 1798 Paul I was elected as [Grand Master](#) of [Order of Malta](#), and due to the fact his emperor title has added the words «... and Grand Master of [Order of St.John of Jerusalem](#)». In Russia was established [Order of St.John of Jerusalem](#). The Russian Order of St.John of Jerusalem and Order of Malta were partially integrated. Russian [State Emblem](#) added the image of [Malta Cross](#)<sup>[12]</sup>.

On 12 of October 1799 the knights of the Order came to Gatchina, and presented the Grand Master, Emperor of Russia, the three ancient holy antiquities of Knight Hospitallers,— part of the Holy Cross wood, Filerm icon of the Mother of God and the right arm of [St.John the Baptist](#). Later in autumn of the year the sacred objects were brought from Orat Monastery to St.Petersburg, and placed in [chapel royal of the Holy Face](#) in [Winter](#) Castle. In memoration of this event, in 1800 the [Synod](#) decreed to celebrate on 12 [\(25\) October](#) the day in memory of «*placing from Malta to Gatchina the part of Life-giving Holy Cross, Filerm icon of the Mother of God, and the right hand of St. John the Baptist* ». It would not be right to consider the «Malta project» to be solely the caprice of Paul. The idea to establish on Malta a Russian military fleet base was an audacious but high strategy.<sup>[source is not shown 546 days]</sup>

That time Paul I, as could seem, wished to strengthen connections to Louis XVIII; he has sent him a big Malta Cross and instead he asked for the ribbon of the [Order of Saint lazarus of Jerusalem](#). Some time later, the emperor sent to the King Louis XVIII four big crosses for royal princes and elven crosses of honored commanders for eleven noble men on the king's choice. For big crosses for [Count d'Artua](#), the king's brother, duke of Angulem, duke of Bourbon, and duke of Angienne; prince Konde already had a big cross being the Grand Prior of the Great Russian Catholic Priory. The eleven commandor crosses were given to: duke d'Omon, count d'Avari, duke d'Arkur, duke de Cuanyi, duke de Gish, viscount d'Agul, count de Lashatr, viscount de Clermont-Tonner, baron de Lroshfuko, marquis de Jokur and count d'Escar. Louis XVIII in his turn, returning the friendship gesture, has sent to Paul I [orders of St.Lazarus](#) for his both sons, grand dukes [Alexander](#) and [Konstantin](#), and for twenty person His Emperor Majesty would assign. The Emperor compiled a list and sent it to the king; the list included the members of [Holy Council](#), high warriors of the empire and four ministers<sup>[13]</sup>.

There were no serious consequences to emperor's passion to knight romanticism, and right after his death the Order of Malta took only decorative value in Russia.

This is a true and correct translation. N. Gejadze