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**Discipline through Dress: Paul I's Sartorial Policies, 1796-1801**

The reign of Paul I is often associated with the 'eccentricities' of his character and the manner in which they manifested during his short reign. Recent scholarship has provided a more nuanced interpretation which suggests that his policies represent a wide-ranging attempt to renovate Russia. The flurry of legislative activity in the years following his accession to the throne in late 1796 was driven by a desire to introduce (or restore) order, which often took a distinctly military character. Clothing was no exception and was the subject of a considerable number of laws, including the major 1798 clothing regulations, which recalled in spirit the similar Petrine legislation at the start of the century. Clothing also loomed large in the ceremonial aspects of his reign, such as his coronation, at which he became the first Russian ruler to wear a military uniform. The Imperial Court and the Russian army have often been commented upon as two high-profile examples of Paul's sartorial impact, in both cases at great expense, but the intended scope of his clothing regulations was much broader. This paper will examine the importance of clothing and display as a means to understand Paul's commitment to his ideals, whether or not they clashed with the prevailing fashions or customs of the period.