

Medal for the War of 1853-1856 (Crimean War), dark bronze version.

In copper, measures 28.0 mm wide; weighs 11.5 (without the suspension and connecting link). The obverse shows monograms of the two emperors, Nicholas I and Alexander II.

The medal is outstanding, excellent condition. The obverse shows literally no wear detectable by the naked eye; the details of the monograms and lettering are pristine and exceptionally crisp. The reverse has a few miniscule contact marks and dings and a single very mild, barely noticeable bump to the raised edge at approx. 8 O'clock. The recessed field retains nice mint luster on both sides. There is very attractive even toning the copper ("dark bronze") throughout, no pitting, blemishes or significant oxidation spots. The medal comes on a Soviet era suspension with new St. Andrew ribbon in moiré silk.

Est. 1856, this medal was officially known in Russia as the Medal for the Eastern War. The dark bronze medal was awarded to all military ranks, medical personnel and military chaplains who served during the time of the Crimean War but did not take direct part in combat. In total, approximately 200000 dark bronze medals were awarded compared with the more common light bronze medals (500000 issues).

/See Dimitri Romanov, [The Orders, Medals and History of Imperial Russia](#), pp. 174-175/

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