

ROMANOV EMPERORS

- ✿ Peter I (r. 1696-1725)
- ✿ Catherine II (r. 1762-1796)
- ✿ Nicholas I (r. 1825-1855)
- ✿ Alexander II (r. 1855-1881)
- ✿ Alexander III (r. 1881-1894)
- ✿ Nicholas II (r. 1894-1917)



PETER I

- ✿ “The Great” – Westernization, Modernization, Power & Progress
- ✿ Meritocracy – Table of Ranks (1722)
- ✿ Foreign Bureaucrats
- ✿ Division of the Empire into 50 provinces
- ✿ Holy Synod – State administer Church
- ✿ St. Petersburg (1703)



PETER I

- Establishment of schools – artillery, engineering, military medicine
- Militarism, Russia’s first Navy
- Great Northern War (1700-21)
- Territorial Expansion “warm water port”
- Reduced the power of the Boyars and Russian Orthodox Church
- St. Petersburg (1703)





ST. PETERSBURG

- ✿ 1703
- ✿ "City built on Bones"
- ✿ "Window to the West"
- ✿ Russian Versailles
- ✿ 1914 – St. Petersburg – Petrograd
- ✿ 1924 – Leningrad
- ✿ 1991 – renamed St. Petersburg



CATHERINE II

- ☛ German Princess
- ☛ Married Peter III (r. 1762-1796)
- ☛ Expanded Russian borders – Black Sea
- ☛ Partitioned Poland (1772, 1793, 1795)
- ☛ Enlightened Despot?



CATHERINE II

- ☛ Philosophes – Voltaire, Diderot
- ☛ Questioned serfdom, torture, capital punishment
- ☛ New Schools – Elementary, Engineering, Teacher training
- ☛ Charter of the Nobility (1785) – increased power of nobles



PUGACHEV'S REBELLION

- ☛ (c. 1742-75)
- ☛ Cossack
- ☛ Claimed to be Peter III
- ☛ 25,000 peasant followers
- ☛ Claimed to end serfdom
- ☛ Uprising brutally crushed
- ☛ Executed in Moscow



ALEXANDER I

- ☛ (1801-1825)
- ☛ Grandson of Catherine II
- ☛ Befriended and fought Napoleon
- ☛ Congress of Vienna (1814-15)
- ☛ Early hopes of liberalism gave way to conservatism during his reign



NICHOLAS I

- ✿ (r. 1825-1855)
- ✿ Decembrists Revolt (1825) – secret society of revolutionaries
- ✿ Motto “autocracy, orthodoxy, nation”
- ✿ Suppressed liberal thought



ALEXANDER II

- ✿ (r. 1855 – 1881)
- ✿ Crimean War (1853-56) – turning pt. – backward industrially
- ✿ Potential rebellion
- ✿ “better from above, than below”
- ✿ REFORMS – educational, judicial, military, local
- ✿ 1861 – Emancipation of the serfs



EMANCIPATION

- ✿ **Mir** – Russian peasant communities – corporate body, reallocated land periodically
- ✿ 16th century – 1917 Bolshevik Revolution
- ✿ Freed all Russian serfs (1/3 of population)
- ✿ Land given to the Mir
- ✿ Insufficient amount of land, archaic agricultural methods

ZEMSTVO

- ✿ Local assembly – provincial self-government
- ✿ 1864-1917
- ✿ Districts elected representatives (only wealthy could vote)
- ✿ Controlled education, public health, roads, agriculture, commerce
- ✿ Replaced by the **soviet** (council)

ALEXANDER III

- ✿ Several attempted assassinations
- ✿ Successful assassination 1881 (People's Will)
- ✿ Western liberal ideas continued to plague Russian autocracy



ALEXANDER III

- ✿ (r. 1881-1894)
- ✿ “Russification”
- ✿ Designed to target reformers
- ✿ Poles, Finns, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, and Armenians
- ✿ Forced to adopt Russian language, culture, and religion
- ✿ Greater good for all of Russia
- ✿ Persecution of Jews – pogroms (to wreak havoc, demolish violently)



NICHOLAS II

- ✿ (r. 1894-1917)
- ✿ Last Russian Emperor, Tsar, Romanov
- ✿ Two War – Russo-Japanese War 1904-05
- ✿ WWI – 1914-18
- ✿ Despite the loss of territory, massive casualties, stubborn supporter of the right of the sovereign



RUSO-JAPANESE WAR

- ✿ Imperialistic ambitions for Russia –
- ✿ “Warm Water Port”
- ✿ Domination over Korea and Manchuria
- ✿ Trans-Siberian Railway (1891-1904)
- ✿ Japanese Victory
- ✿ 400,000 casualties Russia
- ✿ One of the Immediate causes of Revolution of 1905



REVOLUTION OF 1905

- ✿ Military disaster = domestic upheaval
- ✿ Century of autocratic rule
- ✿ Massive demonstration – 200,000 unarmed
- ✿ “God Save the Tsar”
- ✿ Workers – general strike, reduction of work day, increase in wages, end to War
- ✿ Police and Cossacks open fired – 100 killed, 300 wounded = BLOODY SUNDAY
- ✿ Dress rehearsal for the Revolutions of 1917

ATTEMPTED REFORMS

- ✿ October Manifesto - constitution – full civil liberties, religion, speech, assembly, universal male suffrage
- ✿ Duma – consultative body, no law could be made without approval, no real power dismissed by Nicholas II
- ✿ Petrograd Soviet of Workers and Soldiers
- ✿ Peter Stolypin (1862-1911) – Peasants allowed to sell land to the mir and move to cities, property rights advanced, zemstovs strengthened
- ✿ Nicholas thwarted the attempts – Stolypin assassinated



Why was there a Communist revolution in Russia in 1917?



Failure of the Duma

In 1905 Russia lost a war with Japan. This defeat caused strikes in the Russian cities, the Tsar nearly lost control. Nicholas II offered to call a Duma, or parliament, with free elections. This was accepted by the demonstrators.

When the Duma met, it began to criticise the Tsar and demanded changes. Nicholas II did not like this at all. The Duma was dismissed and new elections, controlled by the Tsar, were called.

It became clear that the Duma would be shut down if it criticised the Tsar. As long as the Tsar had control of the army, his power could not be broken.



The discontent of the Workers

Industrialisation began much later in Russia than in Western Europe. Huge iron foundries, textile factories and engineering firms were set up. Most were owned by the government or foreigners, and were located in the big cities such as St Petersburg or Moscow. By 1900 20% of Russians were workers living in cities.

Working conditions in the new industrial towns were hard. Pay was very low. Although strikes and demonstrations were illegal, they often took place. Strikers were frequently shot by the Tsar's soldiers or secret police.



'The whole day we pour out our blood and sweat. Every minute we are exposed to danger.'

Union leaflet 1898

The discontent of the Peasants

Russia was a rural society with over 90% of the people being poor peasants. Until 1861 the peasants had belonged to their masters, who could buy and sell them like animals. When the peasants were freed in 1861 they were given small amounts of land for which they had to pay back the government. As a result most farmers were in absolute poverty. Agriculture was in desperate need of modernisation.

In contrast, a small number of upper-class people held most of the wealth and power. This aristocracy had large town houses and country estates.

Very often the peasants do not have enough allotment land. They cannot feed themselves, clothe themselves, heat their homes, keep their tools and livestock, secure seed for sowing and lastly pay their taxes.

Police report into country conditions 1905



Russian failures in the First World War

In the first few months of the First World War, Russia fought better than had been expected. Russian forces attacked Germany and Austria-Hungary in 1914 and were only pushed back after fierce fighting at the battle of Tannenberg.

In 1915, Tsar Nicholas II assumed personal command of the Russian armed forces. This was a risky policy; any defeats would be blamed on him. As it turned out the Tsar was a poor commander. The Russian army lost confidence in the Tsar after a string of serious defeats. The Russian soldiers, poorly trained and equipped, lacking in basic items such as rifles and ammunition, suffered from lowering morale. Thousands of men deserted.

Without the support of the army, the Tsar's position became increasingly precarious.



The empress alexandra

- The Tsarina Alexandra, the wife of the Tsar, was the granddaughter of Queen Victoria.
- She was seen as a foreigner by the Russians and her influence on the Tsar was well known.
- She leaned heavily on Rasputin to help cure her son of his "bleeding episodes". He had hemophilia, a known royal disease caused by inbreeding.



Tsarevich Alexei

- Desperate to provide an heir to the throne, Alexei was born to the Romanovs after the birth of four daughters.
- Unfortunately, Alexei had hemophilia and was deathly ill.
- The Tsar, eager to save his son and please his wife, allowed Rasputin to heavily influence the care of the Tsarevich. It is unknown how he was able to help stop the child's bleeding episodes.



RASPUTIN

- ✚ Russian mystic, mad monk, psychic, faith healer, prophet, visionary, debauched religious charlatan
- ✚ Fateful friend of the Romanov family
- ✚ Nicholas II decision to move to the front lines WWI Sept. 1915



Rasputin and Scandal

While Tsar Nicholas II was absent commanding Russian forces during the First World War, he left the day to day running of Russia in the control of his wife Tsarina Alexandra.

Alexandra came increasingly under the influence of Gregory Rasputin, a 'holy man' who appeared to be able to heal the haemophilia of Prince Alexis, the heir to the throne.

Rasputin used his power to win effective control of the Russian government. But this aroused envy and he was murdered in 1916. Rasputin's influence undermined the prestige of the royal family, but his murder came too late to save them.



RUSSIA WWI

- ✚ Largest army in the world (6,553,000 – 4,652,000 rifles)
- ✚ Approximately 15 million Russian men served in WWI
- ✚ 9.2 Million killed (military & civilian), 5 million wounded
- ✚ Forced conscription, famine, high casualties caused riots in many cities
- ✚ March 15, 1917 Nicholas II abdicated



FEBRUARY 1917

- February 22, 1917 Nicholas II leaves Petrograd to visit troops
- February 23 International Women's Day demonstration in Petrograd
- February 24 Massive strikes and demonstrations occur throughout the capital
- February 25 Unrest continues; Mensheviks meet and set up a "Workers' Soviet" Nicholas II orders military to stop riots
- February 26 Troops fire on demonstrating crowds Mass mutiny begins in local army regiments Firefights break out between troops and police
- February 27 More than 80,000 troops mutiny and engage in widespread looting
- February 28 Duma and Workers' Soviet gather separately and begin making decisions about restoring order and establishing a new state
- March 2 Nicholas II abdicates the throne; provisional government formed

The March Revolution



- Origins: Food riots/strikes
- Duma declared itself a Provisional Government on March 12
- Tsar ordered soldiers to intervene; instead they joined the rebellion...the Tsar thus abdicated on March 17
- the Menshevik Alexander Kerensky headed the Provisional Government, along w/ Prince Lvov
 - Very Popular Revolution
 - Kerensky favoured gradual socialist reform/ saw the war effort as #1 priority

PROVISIONAL GOVT

- ✿ February Revolution of 1917
- ✿ Headed by Prince George Lvov – unwillingness to withdraw Russia from WWI made him unpopular
- ✿ July 1917 replaced by Alexander Kerensky – Socialist Revolutionary Party – champion of the workers – also refused to withdraw from WWI
- ✿ Petrograd Soviet – (Paris Commune) radical pushed Russia to the Left

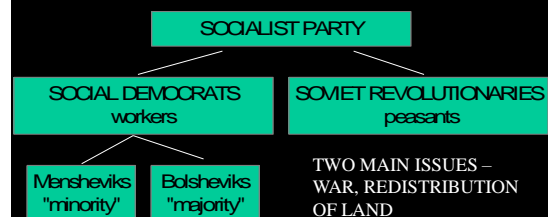
PROVISIONAL GOVT

- ✿ Abdication of Czar Nicholas II
- ✿ March 17, 1917 – Russia Republic
- ✿ Constituent Assembly
- ✿ Universal Male Suffrage
- ✿ Promised a Constitution
- ✿ Promised redistribution of land to the peasants but took no action

ARMY ORDER #1

- ✿ Issued by the Petrograd Soviet (workers council)
- ✿ Democratically elected committees would run the army
- ✿ Disastrous – complete breakdown of all army discipline
- ✿ April 1917 – Germany to undermine the Provisional Government sent Lenin back to Russia sealed inside a train car

POLITICAL PARTIES



Kornilov Affair

- General Kornilov attempted to overthrow Provisional Government with military takeover
- To prevent this takeover, Kerensky freed many Bolshevik leaders from prison and supplied arms to many revolutionaries



BOLSHEVIKS

- ✳ Led by Vladimir Lenin
- ✳ Small party of professional revolutionaries with a large group of supporters
- ✳ Preaching Marxism
- ✳ October Revolution 1917



“LENIN AND THE BOLSHEVIKS DID NOT BRING ABOUT THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION. THEY CAPTURED IT AFTER IT HAD BEGUN.” – RR Palmer

OCTOBER REVOLUTION

- ✳ November 1917 (Gregorian Calendar)
- ✳ Bolsheviks with the support of the army seize key communication, transportation, and utilities
- ✳ Provisional Government fled for lack of support
- ✳ Timed takeover coincide with the election of the Congress of Soviets
- ✳ Lenin = head of the Council of People's Commissars (Executive Committee)
- ✳ Bolsheviks disbanded the Constituent Assembly

RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

- ✳ 1918-1922
- ✳ Bolsheviks formed the Red Army
- ✳ Led by Leon Trotsky (1879-1940)
- ✳ White Army – tsarists, Cadets, Mensheviks, and Social Revolutionaries



LEON TROTSKY

Trotsky initially supported the Menshevik Internationalists faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. He joined the Bolsheviks immediately prior to the 1917 October Revolution, and eventually became a leader within the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (Bolsheviks). During the early days of the RSFSR and the Soviet Union, he served first as People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs and later as the founder and commander of the Red Army with the title of People's Commissar of Military and Naval Affairs. He was a major figure in the Bolshevik victory in the Russian Civil War (1918–1923). He also became one of the first members (1919–1926) of the Politburo.



LENIN

- ✦ Immediate peace with the Central Powers - WWI
- ✦ Redistribution of land to the peasants
- ✦ Transfer of factories, mines, industrial plants from capitalists to committees of workers
- ✦ Recognition of the soviets as supreme power instead of the Provisional Government



The November Revolution



- Nov. 6, 1917...
- this was the ideological aspect of the rev., w/ the coup itself planned by Leon Trotsky, who had gained the confidence of the army (= the "Red Miracle")
- Lenin went on to consolidate his power in Jan. 1918 when he disbanded the Constituent Assembly (had replaced the Duma) – the Bolsheviks had not gained a majority there in late Nov. elections – Russ. dem. thus terminated → a Council of People's Commissars was created
- All private property was abolished and divided among the peasantry
- Largest industrial enterprises nationalized

November Revolution (cont)



- Lenin's 1st task was to get Russia out of the war so he could concentrate on internal reform...
- The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk negotiated with the Germans, giving them much Russian territory, population, and resources
- Civil War followed, 1917–1920
- "Reds" versus "Whites"
- Complete breakdown of Russian economy and society

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk 1918

To successfully impose Communist control in Russia, Lenin realised that he would have to bring Russia out of the First World War. He feared that the war might bring about an end to Communist rule.

By this time the Russian army was weakened by poor morale, desertions and a break down in discipline. It was incapable of resisting the Germans.

In March 1918 Russia signed a humiliating peace treaty with Germany. Russia lost a huge amount of land in the West. This included about one-sixth of the population (60 million people), three-quarters of its iron and coal and over a quarter of the best farmland in Russia.

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk came at a high price for Russia, but Lenin knew he could not defeat Germany and his opponents in Russia at the same time.

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk 1918



Russian territory ceded to Germany

The Cheka (or secret police)

In December 1917 Lenin set up a secret police force known as the Cheka. Cheka agents spied on the Russian people in factories and villages.

Anyone suspected of being anti-Communist could be arrested, tortured and executed without a trial.

When opponents tried to assassinate Lenin in 1918, he launched the **Red Terror** campaign against his enemies. It is said that 50,000 people were arrested and executed in this period.

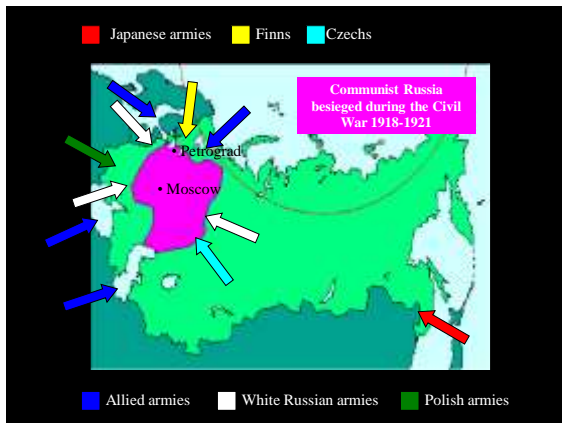


The Civil War 1918-1921

The opponents of the 'Reds', Lenin and the Communists, were known as the 'Whites'. The Whites were a mixture of aristocrats, royalists, churchmen, army officers and many others. The Whites were led by Admiral Kolchak and Generals Deniken and Wrangel.

The Whites were supported by Britain, France, Japan and the USA, countries that were alarmed at the possible spread of communism. At the same time, Lenin fought a war against Poland, a new country formed by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

Although in a very dangerous position, the Communists were able to win the Civil War. This was because the Whites were divided, while the Reds controlled the key cities, industrial centres and communication links. Trotsky's tough leadership of the new Red Army proved decisive in the victory over the Whites.



RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

- ⚡ Bolshevik policies – “War Communism”
- ⚡ Nationalized key industries, allowed workers to run key industries
- ⚡ Ended Russia's involvement in WWI – March 1918 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- ⚡ Bolsheviks united, supported by Red Army, ruthless
- ⚡ Foreign powers supported the White Army
- ⚡ White Army divided



The execution of Tsar Nicholas II July 1918

After his abdication in March 1917, Tsar Nicholas II and his family were arrested and sent to Siberia.

In July 1918, the Romanovs were in Ekaterinburg, with a White army closing in on the town. Local communists were worried that the Tsar might be a rallying point for the Whites. As a result, Tsar Nicholas, his wife, their five children and four attendants were shot and bayoneted.





ROMANOV, WORLD WAR I



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ROMANOVs?



JULY 16, 1918 THE ROMANOVs ARE SHOT TO DEATH.





FAMILY TRAGEDY

- ✠ Bones secretly discovered in 1976
- ✠ Formally dug up in 1991 – DNA test results provide proof
- ✠ 9 of the 11 bodies
- ✠ 2007 – last of the remains discovered
- ✠ Alexei and Maria?



The Kronstadt Revolt 1921

War Communism made Lenin's government very unpopular. Discontent amongst the peasants led to violence in the cities. Workers went on strike, in spite of the death penalty for striking.

The most serious opposition to Lenin's government came in March 1921. Sailors at the Kronstadt naval base near Petrograd revolted. They accused Lenin of breaking his promise to help the workers.

Lenin ordered the Red Army to put down the revolt. This caused 20,000 casualties and the leaders of the revolt were executed. However, the mutiny was a warning to Lenin that he might have to relax War Communism.



USSR

- ✚ 1922 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- ✚ Unique Party-State Dualism
- ✚ Party – representation of the proletariat (CPSU) Communist Party of the Soviet Union
- ✚ State – worked to carry out policies
- ✚ Central Committee – several hundred top CPSU officials
- ✚ Politburo – policy bureau – dozen men – decision making

The theory of
Communism may be
summed up in one
sentence: Abolish all
private property.



Karl Marx
Prussian-German philosopher
(1818-1883)
QuoteHD.com

MARXISM-LENINISM

- ✚ Capitalism destroyed by a violent revolution
- ✚ Socialist revolution possible in a backward country like Russia
- ✚ Revolution determined by human leadership not historical laws
- ✚ Highly disciplined workers' party led by a dedicated elite of intellectuals

MARXISM-LENINISM

- ✚ “Stop the War Now”, “All Power to the Soviets”, “Peace, Land, Bread”
- ✚ NEP – New Economic Policy – capitalistic compromise
- ✚ Peasants could sell extra grain for goods or profit
- ✚ Kulaks – new class of wealthy peasants
- ✚ Cheka – Secret Police
- ✚ Single Party Dictatorship

Success of the New Economic Policy 1921

To regain popular support, Lenin relaxed War Communism with the New Economic Policy (NEP). Smaller industries were returned to private ownership and peasants could sell their surplus on the open market. This was a return to capitalism and competition.

Lenin hoped that NEP would give Russia 'a breathing space' to get back on its feet. Most of the Communist Party saw the need for NEP, but some were against it.

On the whole NEP was a success. But it did create some problems. Some peasants, the Kulaks, became rich, while 'Nepmen' or businessmen made a profit in the towns. Some saw NEP as a betrayal of communism and return to the old system.



SOCIAL CHANGES

- ✚ Women – equality, divorce, birth control, abortion
- ✚ Alexandra Kollontai (1872-1952) – Soviet Feminist sought to educate women
- ✚ Komsomol – Communist Youth League – promote socialist values
- ✚ Sergei Eisenstein – films Russia History



When Lenin died in 1924, he had been very successful in imposing a communist dictatorship in Russia.

He had defeated all of his opponents and established a strong communist government. As each of the areas formerly belonging to the Tsar came under communist control, they were turned into socialist republics. In 1923 these became the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).



LENIN'S DEATH



LEON TROTSKY

❖ TROTSKY vs. STALIN

❖ 1879-1940

❖ Leader of the Red Army

❖ "Permanent Revolution" - international



JOSEPH STALIN

❖ 1878 - 1953

❖ "Man of Steel"

❖ "Socialism in One Country"

❖ General Secretary of the Communist Party

❖ Preserved some revolutionary goals

❖ No hereditary Czar, no privileged class, improved standard of living

❖ New upper class - professionals, factory managers



JOSEPH STALIN

❖ Departed from Communist ideology

❖ Secret Police, Purge Trials (1936-1939), suppressed opposition, revived the military, territorial expansion, Russian Nationalism

❖ 600,000 Old Bolsheviks



JOSEPH STALIN

❖ 5 YEAR PLANS (1928)

❖ Economic Growth - Heavy Industry

❖ Propaganda - better life, pay differentials, incentives, cruel punishments

❖ 2nd only to the U.S

❖ Bureaucratic waste, errors, high production cost, poor quality, housing shortage, low standard of living, little investment capital

JOSEPH STALIN

- ⌘ “WORKER STATE” – right to employment, leisure time, annual paid vacations, social security, old-age, accident, sickness insurance, medical and hospital care
- ⌘ Labor Conditions? – lateness, absence, fined sent to Labor Camps
- ⌘ GULAG



JOSEPH STALIN

- ⌘ Collective Farms (1929)
- ⌘ Agricultural output
- ⌘ 25 Million Farmers
- ⌘ Forced farmers to pool their land, livestock, equipment
- ⌘ Kulaks refused – 1932 entire class eliminated – forced labor camps, or killed
- ⌘ Several Million Kulaks
- ⌘ Stalin’s policies – 18 Million



20 Million Deaths = Starvation, Forced Labor Camps, Purges