

# Russian Tsars

Monday, April 10, 2006

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- Peter the Great
  - o Westernization
  - o St. Petersburg
  - o Absolutist
  
- Catherine the Great
  - o Nobles loved her
    - Repealed state serfs
  - o Repressed serfs
  - o Fought Turks
  
- Alexander I
  - o Napoleon's Defeat
  - o Breaking continental system
  - o Congress of Vienna
  
- Nicholas I
  - o Crimean War
  - o Repression
  
- Alexander II
  - o Freed the serfs
  - o Modernized courts
  - o Set up zemstvos
  
- Alexander III
  - o Undid reforms
  - o Russification
  
- Nicholas II
  - o Russo-Japanese War
  - o Russian Revolution

# Revolution of 1905

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- Severe famine
  - o 1891-1892
  - o Led to peasant uprising and workers strikes
  
- Russo-Japanese War
  - o 1904-1905
  - o Reveled weakness
  - o Poorly organized
  
- Events
  - o Father Gapon organized workers in St. Petersburg
    - Demonstrated in front of the Winter Palace
    - Prepared petition for "Little Father"
      - 8 hour day
      - Minimum wage - 1 ruble
      - Duma (national legislature)
  - o Bloody Sunday
    - Soldiers react to demonstrations
    - Panic
    - 300 killed, 1000s hurt
  - o Sergei Witte appointed chief advisor
    - Made reforms to industrialize Russia
    - Rescinded redemption payments
    - Eased Russification and pogroms
    - Gave regular courts control of political trials
    - Encouraged Nicholas to issue October Manifesto
  
- October Manifesto
  - o Constitution
  - o Civil liberties
  - o Duma (UMS)
  
- Duma
  - o Had no power
  - o No control over budget, foreign affairs, government personnel
  
- Results
  - o Moderates dropped out
  - o Demands for reform increase
  - o Tsar forced to take counter-revolutionary measures
    - Repression

- Peter Stolypin
  - New advisor
  - Wanted to create a class of prosperous peasants
    - Allowed peasants to leave mir
    - Allowed peasants to set up independent farms
  - Assassinated 1911

# Revolution of 1917

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- Reasons
  - Russo-Japanese War / Revolution of 1905
  - WWI
  - Famine, high taxes, land hunger
  - Absence of reform
  - Formation of political parties
  - Social class differences
    - Upper class westernized
    - Peasants backward
  - Incompetent leadership
    - Nicholas I and Alexandra
    - Rasputin
  - Frequent dismissal of the Duma
  
- Constitutional Democratic Parties
  - 1905
  - Kadets, KD's
  - Businessmen, professionals, some landlords
  - Liberal, progressive, constitutional
  - Wanted political reform
    - Extend power of zemstvos
  - More concerned with forming a Duma than with problems of the poor
  - MODERATE
  
- Social Revolutionary Party
  - 1901
  - Populists
  - Revolutionary intelligentsia
  - Autocracy incapable of reforming itself
    - Revolution necessary
    - Respected Marx but capitalism not a prerequisite for socialism
  - Favored peasants
    - Admired mir (commune)
    - Peasantry will seize power
    - Workers not true revolutionary class
  - Revolution expected soon
  
- Russian Social Democratic (Labor) Party
  - Marxists
  - Faith in workers
  - Founded by Plekhanov and Axelrod

- 1883
  - European exiles
- World Revolution
- Capitalism = prerequisite
- Expected revolution in W. Europe 1st
- Working class = true rev. class
- Party split in 2
  
- Mensheviks
  - Minority = name
  - Softs
  - Large open party
  - Against centralization (wanted everyone to get a say)
  - Cooperation w/ others
  - Cover up disagreements
  - Revisionist
  - Had to industrialize 1st
  
- Bolsheviks
  - Majority = name
  - Hards
  - Elite revolutionary class
  - Centralization (strong party)
  - Authority at the top
  - Purges
  - Orthodox
  - Possible to skip industrialization
  
- 5 Phases
  1. February Revolution
  2. Provisional Gov.
  3. October Revolution
  4. Civil War
  5. Rule by Communists
  
- February / March Revolution
  - General strike
  - Army on front: WWI
  - Police hesitated to use force v. strikers
  - Nicolas disbanded Duma, but it refused to be disbanded
    - Duma Central Committee formed
  
- Petrograd Soviet of Workers and Soldiers Deputies (Paris Commune)
  - 1917
  - Socialist

- Nicolas abdicated Mar. 2, 1917
- Little bloodshed
  - Only 1000 killed
- Struggle for power
  - Petrograd Soviet
    - Radical
    - Bolsheviks
  - Provisional Government
    - Went out
    - Mensheviks
    - Moderate, liberal, constitutional
  
- Rule by the Provisional Government
  - Moderate, Menshevik
  - Alexander Kerensky = leader
  - Granted civil rights
  - Wanted UMS
  
- Problems of PG
  1. Order #1 issued by Petrograd Soviet...
    - Soldiers should vote on the battlefield
    - Soldiers have power to refuse to obey officers
  2. Ethnic groups demand autonomy
  3. Formation of soviets (bolshevik councils) spread
  4. April Crisis
  5. April Theses
    - Speech by Lenin
    - Advocated break with PG
      - Time to move to radical phase
    - Renounced war as imperialism
    - Republic of different Soviets
    - Abolish the police, army and bureaucracy
    - Wanted to reorganize agriculture
    - Proposed merge of all banks into National Bank controlled by Soviet of Workers
    - Socialize the economy
    - Change name of party from Social Democrats to Communists
  6. Socialist, eco, mil, conditions worsen
  7. July Days
    - Attempt of Bolsheviks to take over
    - Lenin fled
  8. Kornilov Affair
    - Conservative counter-rev
    - Military commander
    - Failed
  9. Many enemies

- October / November Revolution
  - Background
    - Lenin and Bolsheviks
      - Peace, land, and bread
      - Did not support the PG
      - Called for rev. in other countries
  - Easily
  - Lenin's views
    - Changed Marx
      - Industry not necessary
      - Elite professional rev.
      - Developed concept of party
      - More activist
  - Workers
    - Put faith in Soviets
    - Believed PG incapable of solving problems
  - Lenin returned in disguise
    - Time ripe for revolution
    - Red Guards rose up v. PG
    - Bolsheviks took over utilities and institution
    - PG collapsed
      - Lasted 8 months
      - Army refused to support PG
    - Fewer people killed than in Feb

# Bolshevik Program

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- Actions
  - Purged soviets of non-Bolsheviks
  - Secret police
    - Cheka
  - Forced assembly to rejoin
  - Signed treaty of Brest-Litovsk
  
- **Russian Civil War**
  - 1917-1920
  - Real fighting
  - Reds vs. Whites
    - **Reds** = Bolsheviks (communists)
    - **Whites** = non communists
      - Mensheviks
      - Tsarists
      - Bourgeoisie
      - Nobles
      - Ethnic groups
      - Interventionist armies (Brit, US, Canada)
      - Kulaks
      - Church
  - At first Whites successful
  - Reds trained by Trotsky
    - Good army
  - Whites could not get themselves organized
  
- "War Communism"
  - Trying to win Civil War
  - To increase production and save revolution
  - Allowed requisition of food and supplies (like Subsistence Commission)
  - Nationalized industry
  - Nicholas executed 7/17/18
  
- Red Terror
  - Cheka had unlimited authority
  - Set up labor camps
  - Helped Reds win Civil War

# Rule by Communists

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- USSR
  - Created 1922
  - State did not wither away
    - Dictator of proletariat = dictatorship of Bolsheviks
    - Worker control = state control
  - Democratic centralism
    - Everybody can discuss in the process
    - Once something established, everyone follows
  - Weakened soviets and nationalities
  
- Economy
  - Weak from war
  - Necessary to sacrifice communist ideology
  
- **New Economic Policy**
  - Private plots allowed
  - Small business ownership (shops)
  - Encouraged foreign investment
    - Hated to do it
  - Successful
  
- **Struggle for Power**
  - Trotsky
    - Hardliner Marxist
    - Follow Marxism by the book
  - Stalin
    - Revisionist
    - Socialism in one country
  
- **5 Year Plan**
  - Stalin's economic plan
  - Good
    - Extreme economic growth