

# AP Euro Seminar



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**PERIOD 4**

**2/9/12**

# Prompt



- “Every successful revolution puts on in time the robes of the tyrant it has deposed.” Evaluate this statement with regard to the English Revolution (1640-1660), the French Revolution (1789-1815), and the Russian Revolution (1917-1930)

# Background



## I. English Revolution (1640-1660)

### A. Oliver Cromwell (r. 1653-1658)

- 1) After the execution of King Charles I, Cromwell was the undisputed leader of Parliament
- 2) Theoretically, legislative power rested in the surviving members of Parliament, and executive power was lodged in a council of state
- 3) The army that defeated the royal forces now controlled the government, and Cromwell controlled the army

# English Revolution 1640-1660



- I. Cromwell's military dictatorship
  - A. He favored toleration, and the Instrument of Government gave all Christians, **except for Roman Catholics**, the right to practice their faith
    - 1) As for Irish Catholicism, in 1649 he crushed a rebellion at Drogheda in Ireland
      - Cromwell's forces behaved brutally slaughtering civilians and Irish soldiers
  - B. The state rigorously censored the press, forbade sports, and kept the theaters closed in England



# French Revolution 1789-1815



- I. Maximilien Robespierre (r. 1792-1794)
  - A. The Reign of Terror (1793-1794) used revolutionary terror to solidify the home front.
    - 1) Special revolutionary courts, were responsible only to Robespierre's Committee of Public Safety, tried rebels and "enemies of the nation" for political crimes
    - 2) These local courts ignored normal legal procedures and judged severely
    - 3) About 40,000 French men and women were executed or died in prison, and another 300,000 suspects crowded the prisons and often brushed close to death in a revolutionary court



# Russian Revolution 1917-1930



- I. Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924)
  - A. He developed a tough, disciplined, and revolutionary party called **Bolsheviks**
    - 1) Spring of 1920, the Bolshevik red army had defeated the white army, and had retaken Belorussia and Ukraine
    - 2) The following year the Communist also re-conquered the independent nationalist governments of the Caucasus
  - B. Lenin and the Bolsheviks won for several reasons
    - 1) The poorly defined political program of the Whites was vaguely conservative, and it did not unite all the foes of the Bolsheviks under a progressive, democratic banner



# Russian Revolution 1917-1930 Cont.



- 2) The Communist quickly developed a better and strictly discipline army, Trotsky's leadership was decisive
  - The Bolsheviks had preached democracy in the army and elected officers in 1917
  - Red Army Soldiers deserting or disobeying an order were summarily shot
- C. The Bolsheviks also mobilized the home front
  - 3) They seized grains from the peasants, and introduced rationing
  - 4) Nationalized banks and industry, and required everyone to work
  - 5) They also maintained labor discipline and to keep the Red Army supplied

# Russian Revolution 1917-1930 Cont.



- D. “Revolutionary terror” also contributed the Communist victory
- 1) The old tsarist secret police was re-established as the **Cheka**, which hunted down and executed thousands of real or supposed foe
  - 2) After the government moved from Petrograd to Moscow in March 1918, a circus clown in Moscow was making fun of the Bolsheviks to an audience
    - The Chekist in the crowd quickly pulled out their guns and shot several laughing people from the audience
    - People were shot or threatened with being shot for minor nonpolitical failures
  - 3) The terror caused by the secret police became a tool of the government
    - The Cheka sowed fear, and fear silence opposition



The end

