



Russian Revolution



Russian Government Before Revolution

- Monarchy: The Czar (Tsar)
 - Until 1905 the Tsar's powers were unlimited.
 - Russia had no constitution, no political parties or voting
 - A strong secret police terrorized the people and ensured loyalty to the tsar
-

Tsar Nicholas II (1894)

Last Tsar of Russia

- Nicholas II was a harsh and weak ruler
- The Russian economy was bankrupt because of the Russo-Japanese War (1904-5)
- Then because of WWI (1914)





Tsar Nicholas II and Family

Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)

- Dispute over Manchuria with Japan
(Japan won it... and then wanted more in the 1930s)
 - Shook national confidence in their progress and rule of Tsar; revolutionary feelings started boiling
-

周知。以上各款，均經本年合江縣議會通過，並經呈請省長核准在案。茲將此項章程，分送各縣，以便遵照辦理。此令。



Bloody Sunday (1905)



Russia and World War I

- Russia was Germany's Eastern front and suffered early losses at Tannenburg
 - The war was wildly unpopular
 - Rationing of food led to starvation
 - Nicholas II left St. Petersburg to lead the war effort
 - This left his wife Alexandra at home under the influence of a strange man named Rasputin
-





Rasputin

Rasputin with Admirers





Rasputin at the Doctor's

February Revolution (1917)

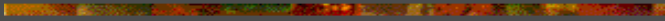
- 1917- protests spread through St. Petersburg and the Royal palace was taken over
 - Tsar Nicholas abdicated
 - Provisional government (Duma) takes control led by Alexander Kerensky
 - Provisional government was unpopular after decision to stay in WWI
-

October (Bolshevik) Revolution-1917

- **Led by Vladimir Lenin:**
 - **“Peace, Bread, and Land”**
 - **Popular with peasants**
 - **Began a Civil War in Russia from 1917-1923—ultimately overturned the Provisional Government and created the Soviet Union in 1922**
 - **Civil War between Bolsheviks (red) and Mensheviks (white)**
-

1918



- 1918 March The Bolsheviks accept the peace of Brest-Litovsk, ending WWI with Germany
- 

1919-1920

- 1919 White Armies (Royal and Menshevik troops) attack the Reds (Bolsheviks) from all directions
- The far eastern front in Siberia was particularly nasty
 - Wiki: Russian Civil War
- Grain was “requisitioned” (read: taken) from farmers as needed
- 1920- Bolsheviks win

Casualty Numbers in the Civil War

- 300,000 military deaths (red & white)
- 450,000 disease deaths in the military
- 250,000 executions of “enemies of the people”
- 3-500,000 Cossacks
- 100,000 Ukrainian Jews
- 3,000,000 died of typhus in 1920 alone
- 6,000,000 died of starvation 1920-1921

More Casualty Stats

- Population in northern towns declined 24%
 - Agriculture happened more in the south, and railway lines were sparse or destroyed heading north
-

Rule of Lenin 1920-1924

- **Economic Reforms included the New Economic Policy (NEP) 1921**
 - moderate mix of capitalism and socialism
 - **Individuals could own small properties, the government would run banks, trade, large industries**
 - **Instead of “requisitioning” grain from farmers, a set “tax” amount was required**
-

Lenin's Politics

- **Political Reforms**

- Bolshevik party became the Communist Party

- Russia becomes the United Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

- **Moved away from full nationalization of the state**

- **Said it was “state capitalism” the final step before full socialism**

Communism

- A Form of Socialism
 - Central Planning of the Economy by the State
 - Gov't (Communist Party) makes decisions on individual jobs and pay
-

1924

- Lenin Dies, leaving a power vacuum
 - Leon Trotsky vs. Joseph Stalin
 - Stalin takes control
 - Now must decide how he will maintain power
 - Decides to create a totalitarian state
-

Characteristics of a Totalitarian State

- **Dictatorship- Absolute Authority**
 - **Dynamic Leader- Vision for the nation**
 - **State Control Over All Sectors of Society**
 - Business, Family Life, Labor, youth groups, housing, religion, education, the arts
 - **State Control Over the Individual**
 - Obedience
 - Denies basic liberties
 - **Organized Violence**
 - Uses force to crush opposition
-

Stalin's Totalitarian State

- **State Control of the Economy**
 - 5 year plan, collective farms
- **Police Terror**
 - Great Purge, crush opposition
- **Religious Persecution**
 - Control of the individual
- **Propaganda (socialist realism)**
 - Molding peoples minds
- **Education**
 - Controlled by the government



[http://www.marxists.org
/reference/archive/stalin/
works/1937/12/11.htm](http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1937/12/11.htm)



