

The Russian Revolution



WARM-UP

Recall what was discussed regarding Russia and her involvement in WWI.

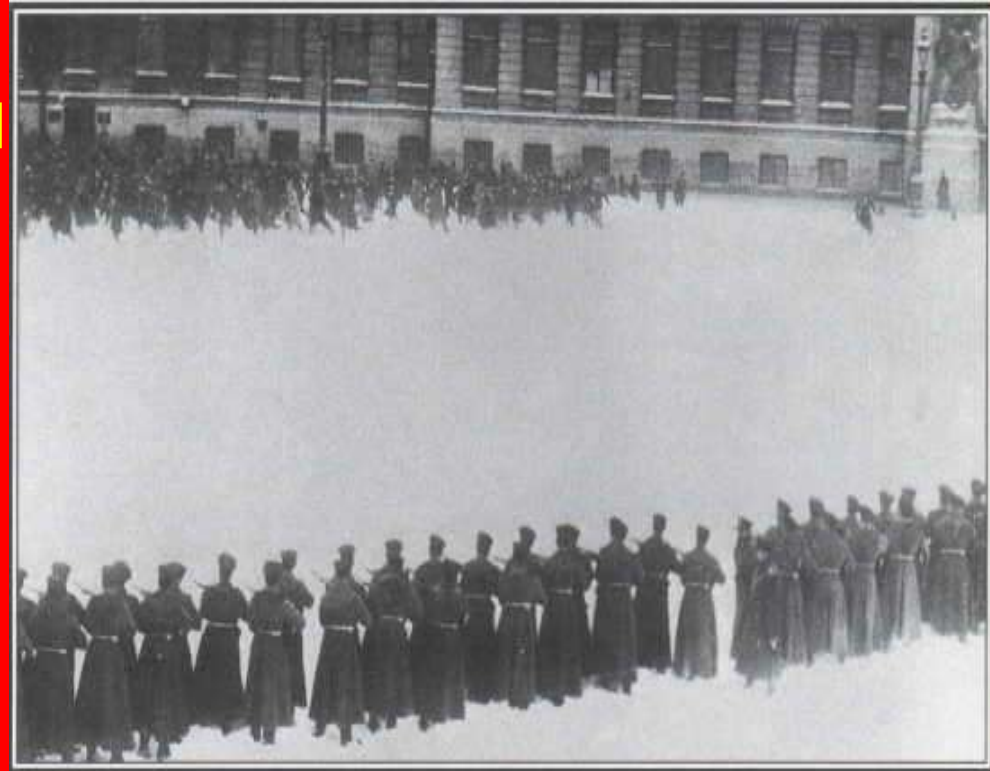
The Reign of Nicholas II



- Conditions
 - Tsar Nicholas II ruled as an absolute monarch
 - naïve to the dissatisfaction in society
- Results
 - Russia politically unstable
 - Liberals wanted a democratic government
 - Repressed minorities wanted independence
 - Peasants wanted land reform; workers wanted better working conditions
 - Military lost Russo-Japanese War

The 1905 Revolution

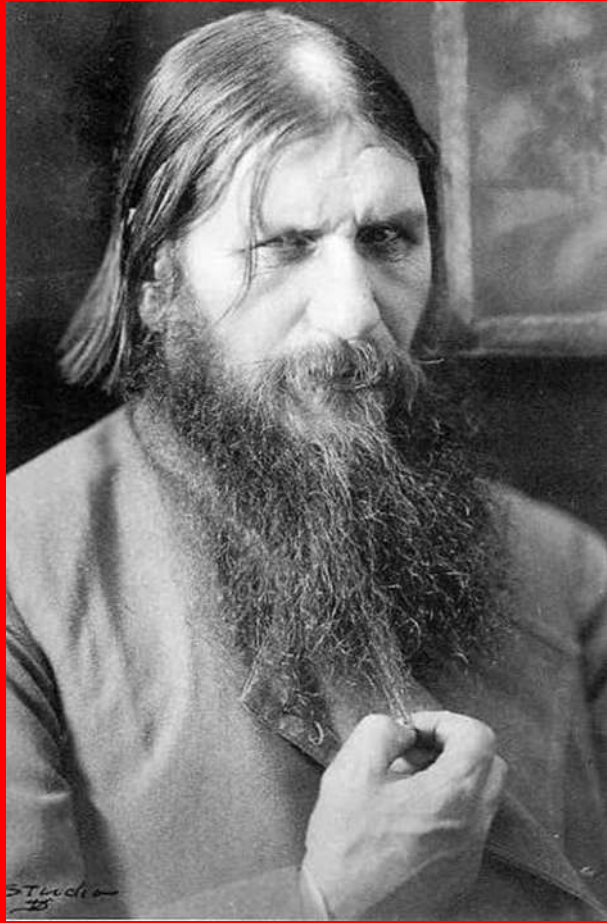
- The Tsar's police killed hundreds of workers marching peacefully in St. Petersburg- Bloody Sunday
- Results
 - Revolts and strikes spread throughout Russia
 - Radicals organized workers' councils (soviets)
 - Tsar concedes democratic powers, in form of legislature called the Duma
 - Tsar's minister attempts land reform and is assassinated



World War I in Russia



- Conditions
 - Russia honors alliances and joins World War I
 - Tsar Nicholas II takes personal command of the army
 - Army suffers many military defeats
- Results
 - Discontent of soldiers, peasants, and workers
 - Russia suffers most devastating losses in World War I



The March Revolution

- March 8, 1917
- Women's march for "bread and peace" turns into widespread revolt in St. Petersburg
 - Joined by striking factory workers and mutinous army troops
- The Tsar dissolved the Duma
- Two rival centers of authority emerge
 - Temporary committee of the Duma, led by Alexander Kerensky, made of members who refuse to dissolve
 - Soviet Workers' and Soldiers Deputies: council representing the army and labor leaders





Provisional Committee of the Duma.



- March 15, 1917: Tsar abdicates the throne due to lack of support
- Provisional Government out of the old Duma
 - Russia now a republic
- Karl Marx-influenced Vladimir Lenin, Josef Stalin, and Leon Trotsky return from exile
 - Begin to steer the new govt. towards socialism
 - Call themselves “Bolsheviks”
- Early attempt to overthrow the govt. promises “Peace, Land, and Bread”
 - Peace for Soldiers, Land for Peasants, Bread for Workers
 - Attempt was unsuccessful

Lenin & the Great October Revolution

- Lenin leader of the Bolshevik party
 - Protests Provisional Government as it continues to fight in WWI
 - Gathers more support as casualties at the front mount
- Bolshevik Revolution begins October 25, 1917
 - Trotsky's Red Guard seizes most of St. Petersburg
 - Lenin proclaims socialist state, nationalizes all land
 - Communists or *Soviets* seize control of the govt., throwing out the Provisional Government
 - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, 1918
 - Ends Russia's involvement in WWI
 - Lost territory, population, & 80% of coal & iron reserves
 - Later nullified by Treaty of Versailles



The Great Civil War

- 1918-1920
- A counter-revolution of Anti-Bolsheviks
 - Monarchists, aristocrats, and aided by Britain, France, U.S. ,and Japan
 - Called the “Whites” or Mensheviks
- “Red” army led by Leon Trotsky
- Bolsheviks initially in trouble with Whites holding 8 million square miles
- Entire royal family killed by Bolsheviks
- Ultimately the Red army won control of country
- 13.6 million Russians killed during the civil war & agricultural and industrial production lowered

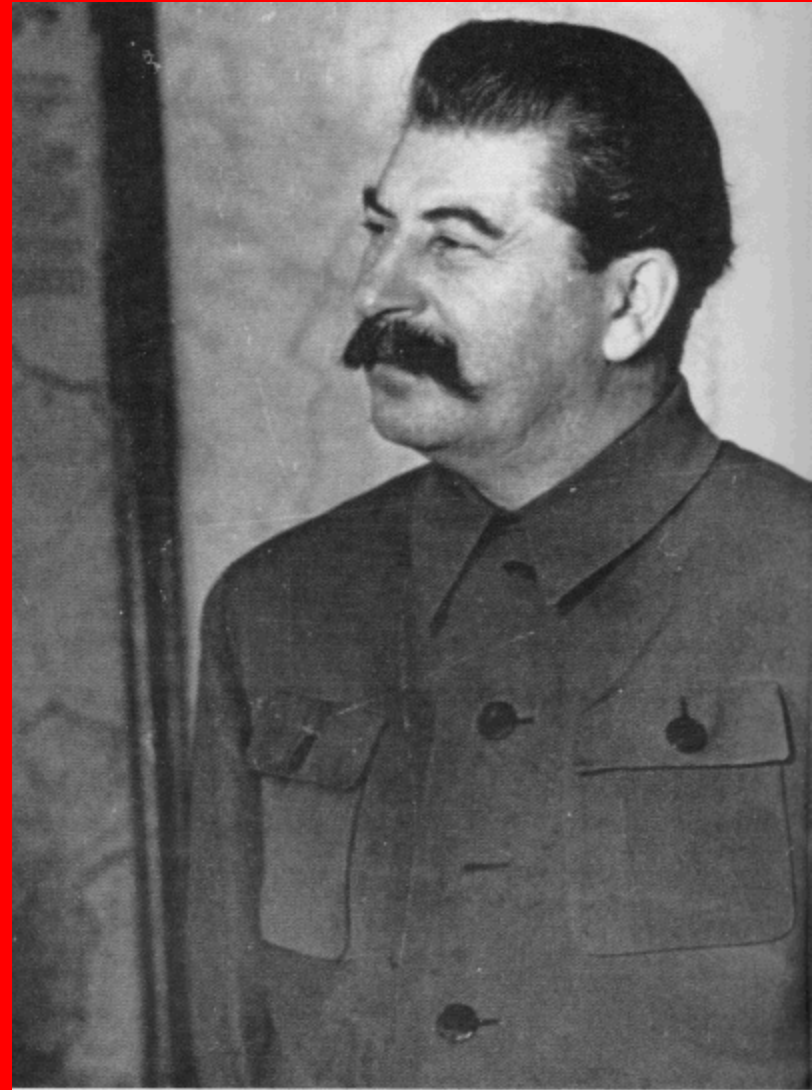
The Soviet Union Under Lenin



- Effects of Communism on Russia
 - WWI and Civil War - 1/2 of its population dead
 - By 1922, wages dropped to 1/10 of prewar levels
 - Western nations blockaded Russia
 - Eastern Orthodox Church Restricted
 - New education programs to promote literacy
 - Country renamed USSR in 1923
- Lenin concerned new socialist experiment would fail
 - Developed New Economic Policy (NEP) “taking one step backward to go two steps forward.”
 - The NEP helped to jump start the economy with small-scale capitalism
 - Lenin’s new goal: to bring about a classless society

The Soviet Union Under Stalin

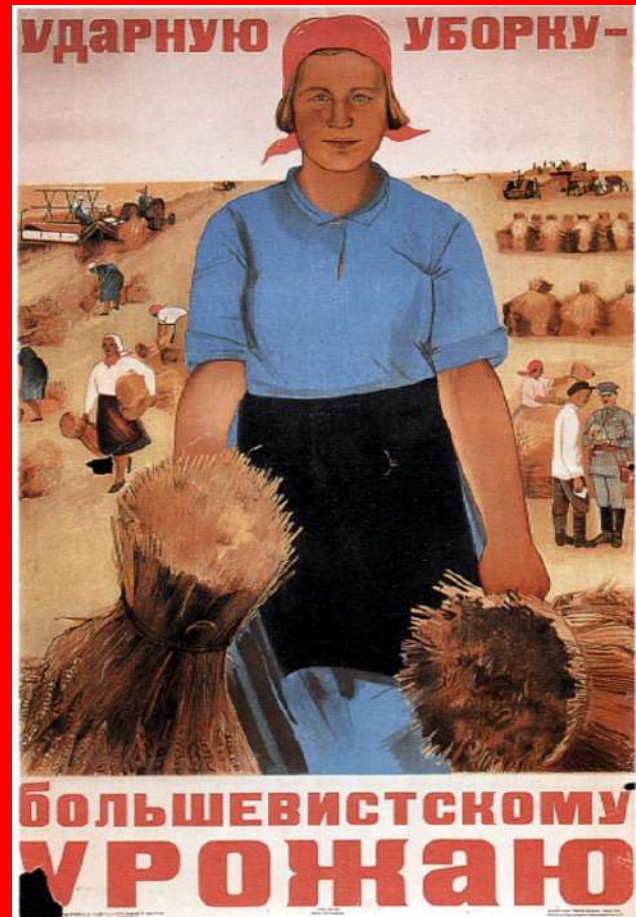
- Lenin's death in 1924 led to a power struggle between Trotsky, a military leader and Stalin, a political leader
- Stalin won and forced Trotsky into exile
- Stalin became a totalitarian dictator



Stalin's Revolution

- **Five-Year Plans:** Stalin's plan to force rapid industrialization starting in 1928. Russia was successful, but at huge social and environmental costs.
- **Collectivization of Agriculture:** All land was taken by the government and peasant farmers were forced to move onto communal farms with modern machinery. Each collective owed a majority of their harvest to the government to feed workers.

- Resistance to the programs and the failure of collectivization led to the deaths of millions through execution and famine.



Stalin's Great Purge

- To prevent resistance and rebellion against his policies, Stalin founded the NKVD, a secret police force.
- Stalin “purged” the government, military, and Communist Party of millions of members through expulsion and execution.
- Millions of regular people were sentenced to death or sent to *gulags*, labor camps in Siberia where a million people died each year from starvation and exposure.
- The death of so many created opportunities for others, and their support cemented Stalin's power.



