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 the Great
Tsar of Russia

Peter’s reign can be summed up with one letter.

Westernization

ORIENT RUSSIA TOWARD EUROPE
PROBLEM: NO Warm Water Ports

MILITARY REFORMS

Peter created a professional military force based on the Prussian model.

Carl Röchling (d. 1920), Attack of the Prussian Infantry

Azov Campaign 1695-1696

OBJECTIVE: Control of Sea of Azov

Peter the Great vs. the Ottoman Empire

Map credit: NormanEinstein

BRRR!!!!!
Peter’s first attempt to take Azov with a land army ended in failure.

Peter returned the following spring, supported by a fleet of ships.
A National Flag

Dutch Flag

Russian Flag

Peter’s European Tour

1697-1698

Amsterdam

England

SHIPBUILDING

Amsterdam & England had the best shipyards in Europe.

SHIPBUILDING

It’s not what you think.

Photo by Ricardo Liberato

It wasn’t all Business

Photo by Janis Petranis

A Gift for the King of England

Portrait of Peter I by Godfrey Kneller (1698)
Cultural Revolution

Young Peter the Great wearing a Traditional Eastern Kaftan

Those who paid Peter’s Beard Tax carried tokens to prove it.

SUIT UP

Education

Peter paid for the sons of Russian nobles to study abroad in Western Europe.
Before 1700, the Russians had observed the New Year in September.

Resistance to Westernization

Entrenched Classes

Boyars (Nobility)  Streltsy (Musketeers)  Russian Orthodox Church

Streltsy Rebellion

Their leaders, with several of their officers and priests, were condemned to death; some were broken upon the wheel, and two women were buried alive; upwards of two thousand of the Strelzy were executed, part of whom were hanged round about the walls of the city...”

-- Voltaire
Gen. Patrick Gordon

The Streltsy rebellion was put down by Gen. Patrick Gordon, a Scottish general who westernized Peter’s army.

The Russian Orthodox Church

The Russian Orthodox Church, led a Patriarch, had not supported Peter’s reforms.

The Russian Orthodox Church banned the use of tobacco, a Western import.
CHURCH REFORMS

A Council of Bishops

1917 Patriarchate Reinstated

SYNOD

No Figurehead

Christian Tolerance for Foreigners
Everyone starts at the Bottom.

Meritocracy

People (theoretically) progressed through the Table of Ranks by merit rather than because of their family status or connections.

The Great Northern War
Russia vs. Sweden
1700 - 1721
CHARLES XII
King of Sweden

Battle of Narva 1700

Peter DEFEATED

Battle of Poltava 1709

St. Petersburg

Peter WINS!!!

Russia’s “Window to the West”

Peter the Great’s Cabin

A Monument for Posterity
Simplicity

Photo by ninara

Monument to Peter “the Carpenter”
St. Petersburg

Photo by Alexxx Malev

The Bronze Horseman

Photo by Godot11

Population of St. Petersburg
1760-2000

The Russian Empire
1721-1917

Art Credit: Katoynonegas
“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)

• 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)
“City built on Bones”
“Window to the West”
Russian Versailles
1914 – St. Petersburg – Petrograd
1924 – Leningrad
1991 – renamed St. Petersburg

German Princess
Married Peter III (r. 1762-1796)
Expanded Russian borders – Black Sea
Partitioned Poland (1772, 1793, 1795)
Enlightened Despot?
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
(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
(t. 1825-1855)
Decembrists Revolt (1825) – secret society of revolutionaries
Motto “autocracy, orthodoxy, nation”
Suppressed liberal thought
(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

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

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)

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

(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)

- (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
The 1905 Russian Revolution

Nicholas II: The Last Romanov Tsar [r. 1894-1917]

The Tsar & His Family
Hemophilia & the Tsarevich

Causes

1. Early 20th: Russian Social Hierarchy

2. First Stages of Industrialization

3. Weak Economy
4. Extensive Foreign Investments & Influence

5. Russo-Japanese War [1904-1905]

Russo-Japanese War [1904-1905]

Russia Is Humiliated
Treaty of Portsmouth [NH] - 1905

President Theodore Roosevelt Acts as the Peacemaker
[He gets the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.]

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

6. Unrest Among the Peasants & Urban Working Poor

Leader of the People OR Police Informer?

Bloody Sunday January 22, 1905

Russian Cossacks Slaughter The People in Odessa

The Revolution Spreads

Unrest Among the Peasants & Urban Working Poor

Russian Cossacks Slaughter The People in Odessa
7. The Battleship Potemkin Mutiny [June, 1905]

1. The Tsar’s October Manifesto

Results

2. The Opening of the Duma: Possible Reforms?

The Russian Constitution of 1906

- Known as the Fundamental Laws [April 23, 1906].
- The autocracy of the Russian Tsar was declared.
- The Tsar was supreme over the law, the church, and the Duma.
- It confirmed the basic human rights granted by the October Manifesto, BUT made them subordinate to the supremacy of the law.
3. Jewish Refugees Come to America in 1906

4. The Path to October, 1917

REVOLUTION OF 1905 IN RUSSIA

- The Revolution of 1905 in Russia:
  1. Food shortages in the cities
  2. Protest march in Saint Petersburg in Jan. 1905 - troops open fire = "Bloody Sunday"
  3. Strikes, protests, uprisings break out across Russia
  4. A nationwide strike is begun in October - the Tsar gives in
  5. The October Manifesto = Tsar Nicholas II agrees to create a liberal constitutional monarchy
     A. civil liberties
     B. creation of a national parliament - the Duma
     C. elections and voting rights

Outcome of the Revolution of 1905:
1. It looks like Russia is now a liberal constitutional monarchy
2. It only lasts temporarily
3. Within a few years after 1905 the power of the Duma is restricted and the Tsar rules using the army and the bureaucracy

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, zemstvos strengthened
- Nicholas thwarted the attempts – Stolypin assassinated

- 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
Why was there a Communist revolution in Russia in 1917?

Factors that led to the Communist revolution in 1917.

- The weakness of Tsar Nicholas II
- Russian failures in the First World War
- The discontent of the peasants
- The discontent of the workers
- Rasputin and scandal
- The failure of the Duma
- Opposition of the Communists
- The February Revolution 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 1903
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.

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.

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.

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.
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

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 favored gradual socialist reforms - saw the war effort as #1 priority

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

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

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

Political Parties

- Socialist Party
  - Social Democrats
    - workers
  - Soviet Revolutionaries
    - peasants
  - Mensheviks
    - "minority"
  - Bolsheviks
    - "majority"

- Two main issues - War, Redistribution of Land

Bolsheviks

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

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

“Lenin and the Bolsheviks did not bring about the Russian Revolution. They captured it after it had begun.” – RR Palmer
**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** – founder and commander of the Red Army

Every scoundrel who incites anyone to retreat or to desert will be shot!

Every soldier who throws away his rifle will be shot!

**Leon Trotsky**

Trotsky initially supported the Menshevik Internationalist faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. He joined the Bolsheviks immediately prior to the Menshevik International 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 Foreign 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.

**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

**Vladimir Lenin**

- 25 October 1917
- 1 like and I'll overthrow the provisional government
- Like · Comment · Share

**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 Hundred”)
- Lenin went on to consolidate his power in Jan. 1918 when he dissolved the Constituent Assembly (had replaced the Duma) – the Bolsheviks had not gained a majority there in late-Nov. elections. Russia, thus, terminated a council of People's Commissars was created
- All private property was abolished and divided among the peasantry
- Largest industrial enterprises nationalized
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 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.
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 bayonetted.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ROMANOVS?

JULY 16, 1918 THE ROMANOVS ARE SHOT TO DEATH.

- 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.
“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.

**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).

**LEON TROTSKY** vs. **STALIN**
- 1879-1940
- Leader of the Red Army
- “Permanent Revolution” - international
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

Departed from Communist ideology
Secret Police, Purge Trials (1936-1939), suppressed opposition, revived the military, territorial expansion, Russian Nationalism
600,000 Old Bolsheviks

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

“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

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