

The Russian Revolution

Russia under Nicholas II

An autocratic government

The Czar rules over the greatest amount of contiguous land area in the world.

Peasants with few rights

Attempts to Modernize

Russia had severe economic problems. France won Russia's friendship by helping Russia in an economic crisis.

Signs of Unrest

Socialists and Marxists

Mensheviks - dedicated to non violent, gradual, political approach a Marxist state.

Bolsheviks - dedicated to a violent overthrow of the state to create a Marxist state

Russo-Japanese War

Revolution of 1905

In the Revolution of 1905 Marxists split over the use of violence to accomplish political aims.

Bloody Sunday

Peaceful protest that was put down violently by the Czar's troops.

St. Petersburg Soviet

October Manifesto

The Czar, grieved by "Bloody Sunday" relents for a Duma

Duma

Russia's first parliament, It could petition the Czar for changes in public policy.

Liberal and moderate dissatisfaction

World War I

Battle of Tannenberg

Czar commands his Troops while his wife heads the State

Tsarina Alexandra, who has no experience, serves as absolute monarch

The Czarina does not listen to Czar's top advisors but trusts instead in the advice of Rasputin, a self described "holy man."

Their son Alexei, heir to the throne, had hemophilia. Alexandra credited Rasputin for keeping his condition under control.

Russian Soldiers Morale is against the war

By 1915 Russian soldiers were sent to the front without rifles and told to pick up the weapons of the dead.

After 2 1/2 years of battle losses soldiers had little respect for officers and the Czar.

The March Revolution (Begins in Petrograd)

The Czar returns from leading the troops to witness chaos in Petrograd. He attempts to dissolve the Duma. He learns that he no longer has control of his own troops. Nicholas is forced to abdicate.

Reasons

Defeated and demoralized army

Public discontent of the government

Inability of the government to handle civil unrest

Perceived weakness of the Czar's Regime

The Provisional Government

Alexander Kerensky adopted liberal democratic ideas of the West

The decision to continue the war weakens support for the new government.

The Petrograd Soviet

A representative council of workers and soldiers who saw themselves as the legitimate government

Bolshevik Revolution

Lenin, leader of the Bolsheviks (Reds), uses the civil liberties championed by the Provisional government to overthrow it. Bolsheviks overthrew the Provisional government.

,A deal with Germany

Lenin, who was in exile in Switzerland, was brought to Russia by Germany with a promise, that once in power, he would end the war and spare the Czar and his family.

March 1918 Treaty of Brest Litovsk

Lenin signs a treaty with Germany to end Russian involvement in the war and give up territory to Germany.

Civil War

The Bolshevik Revolution led to civil war against the supporters of the Provisional government, known as the "Whites."

Communist Dictatorship

November 1919 - by Lenin's decree, the Communist government is established.

Terror Tactics

The Cheka, the Red Secret Police, began the "Red Terror," to destroy all those who opposed the new regime.

Economic Policies

"War Communism" put banks and industry under the control of the government. The government also seized grain to control food supply.

Centralized Government

Soviet Political System

In the Soviet political system, the Communist Party had very close ties to the government.

The Soviet Union

Religious Persecution

Propaganda and Government Ideology

A Call for World Revolution / Commitment

Lenin hosts the Third Communist International. There is a call for world revolution and the creation of a fifth column to spread Communist ideas.

Stalin and Trotsky

Trotsky is the expected successor of Lenin.

Stalin, the leader of the Communist Party, becomes Trotsky's chief rival.

Stalin 5 Year Plans

5 Year Plans

Quotas

Collectivization

Stalin ordered the seizure of grain that led to the deaths of millions.

Political Terror