

RUSSIA

Tsars

- 1547-84 **Ivan IV “Ivan the Terrible”**

Ivan IV was the first ruler to be crowned Tsar of Russia/Ivan transformed the small medieval **Grand Duchy of Moscow** into the larger more powerful **Tsardom of Rus** (this was the forerunner of what would become the **Empire of Russia** under the Romanovs/Ivan was a competent & effective ruler, but also strict & sometimes cruel

- 1584-98 Fedor I
- 1598-1605 Boris Godunov
- 1605-06 Dmitri I
- 1606-10 Vasili IV

The Romanov Dynasty

- 1610-45 **Mikhail I (Mikhail Romanov)**

The first Tsar of the Romanov dynasty, Mikhail Romanov ended “**The Time of Troubles**”/This “Time of Troubles” was marked by an occupation of Russia by Poland-Lithuania, civil uprisings, attempted coups, and a proliferation of crime/Romanov stabilized the country and began the long process of developing a European power

- 1645-76 Alexis I
- 1676-82 Fedor II
- 1682-96 Ivan V
- 1682-1725 **Peter I “Peter the Great”**

Peter I is best known for his attempts to “**westernize**” Russia/He traveled widely in western Europe and brought back all he learned about western culture, dress, technology, and ship building/Peter had mild success in convincing the Russian people to adopt western customs/He taxed the length of the Russian Noble’s (**Boyars**) beards in an attempt to make them clean shaven like their western counterparts/Peter’s greatest accomplishments were the construction of his new capital **St. Petersburg** on the Baltic sea, and his creation of a Russian navy/The Russians would dominate the Baltic sea after their victory over Sweden in the **Great Northern War**

- 1725-27 Catherine I
- 1727-30 Peter II
- 1730-40 Anna Ivanovna
- 1740-41 Ivan VI
- 1741-62 Elizabeth I
- 1762 Peter III
- 1762-96 **Catherine II “Catherine the Great”**
- 1796-1801 Paul I
- 1801-25 **Alexander I**

Alexander I earned fame throughout Europe as the conqueror of Napoleon/In fact it was more the Russian winter than anything Alexander did, but he didn’t care/After a victorious march into Paris Alexander’s fame was secured/He would go on to be a key participant at the **Congress of Vienna (1815)** and he was exactly what **Prince Metternich** had in mind as he went about trying to restore “**legitimate**” rulers in post-Napoleonic Europe

- 1825-55 Nicholas I
- 1855-81 **Alexander II**

Alexander II is remembered as the “Abe Lincoln” of Russia/He freed the Russian Serfs with the **Edict of Emancipation**/He was later assassinated by those who felt his reforms had not gone far enough

- 1881-94 Alexander III
- 1894-1917 **Nicholas II**

Nicholas II, the last Russian Tsar and last of the Romanov dynasty is usually remembered as a clueless leader who meant well but couldn't lead his way out of a paper bag/Nicholas tried desperately to hold on to an antiquated concept of divine right rule in an age of modern sensibilities/His reign was one disaster after another: **The Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)**, **The Revolution of 1905** leading to Nicholas's issuance of the **October Manifesto** creating a representative assembly (**The Duma**), World War I, the **Rasputin fiasco**, and the **Russian Revolution of 1917** leading to the overthrow of the Romanov Dynasty and the creation of the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Union

- 1917-24 **Vladimir Lenin**

Vladimir Lenin led the first successful communist revolution in history when he and his **Bolshevik** party took over control of Russia from the Provisional government of the Mensheviks in **October Revolution** of 1917/Lenin, **Leon Trotsky**, and Josef Stalin were the leaders of the Bolsheviks who later changed their name to the Communists during the Russian Civil War/Lenin is remembered as the founder of the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.)**

- 1924-53 **Josef Stalin**

When Lenin died in 1924 a power struggle ensued between the heir apparent (Leon Trotsky) and the upstart (Josef Stalin)/Stalin used his party connections, blackmail, murder, and ruthlessness to seize power and exile Trotsky/Stalin would guide the young Soviet Union through the Inter-war years, **WWII**, and the beginning of the **Cold War**/He is remembered as a ruthless dictator who is responsible for the deaths, disappearances, and imprisonments of multiple tens of millions of Russians

- 1953 G.M. Malenkov
- 1953-64 **Nikita Khrushchev**

Khrushchev led the U.S.S.R. during the some of the tensest moments of the Cold War including the **construction of the Berlin Wall (1962)** and the **Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)**/Khrushchev also was responsible for a program of **De-Stalinization** within the Soviet Union whereby cruel excesses of the Stalin era were condemned and central controls were somewhat relaxed/Khrushchev criticized what he called Stalin's "**cult of personality**"/Khrushchev is also remembered for banging his shoe on the table at a UN meeting and screaming "**we will bury you!**"

- 1964-82 **Leonid Brezhnev**

Brezhnev ruled the Soviet Union for almost 20 years/Highlights of his tenure include repeatedly crushing revolts within the Eastern Bloc (most famously the "**Prague Spring**" uprising of 1968), issuance of the **Brezhnev Doctrine (1968)** justifying Soviet interference in other countries where communist regimes were threatened, and the **invasion of Afghanistan (1979)**/He was also partly responsible for the period of **Détente** in the 1970s and was part of the first SALT treaty (**SALT I 1974**)

- 1982-84 I.V. Chernenko
- 1985-91 **Mikhail Gorbachev**

The man most responsible for the end of the Cold War and the last leader of the Soviet Union/Remember **Glasnost** (openness) a loosening of restrictions on speech & press, and **Perestroika** (restructuring) an introduction of some capitalism into the Eastern Bloc/Gorbachev's refusal to enforce the Brezhnev Doctrine led to the Revolutions of 1989

The Russian Federation

- 1991-99 Boris Yeltsin
- 2000- Vladimir Putin