

1. THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

1. In December of 1925, Russian Military leaders lead the **Decembrist Revolt** as Nicholas I ascended the throne. The officers demanded a constitution for Russia
2. In the 1840's, Michael Petrashevsky organized an underground circle of socialists and radicals.
 1. Numerous **circles** (*kruzhki*) formed around well known radicals.
3. In the 1860's, the first radical movement emerged: the Populists (*narodniki*).
 1. It included mostly young people from the upper middle class and nobility.
 2. These young radicals went to the countryside to “educate” the peasantry (**the “going-to-the-people” movement**).
4. In 1883, **George Plekhanov** organized the first Russian Marxist group in Geneva.
 1. **Vladimir Ilich Ulianov Lenin (1870-1924)** joined the Marxists after his brother's hanging in 1887.
5. During the 1890's, Russia underwent a state-sponsored **industrialization drive** on a large scale, especially heavy industry.
 1. The drive intensified **migration of peasants into cities**.
 2. After 6 years of military service, most of the soldiers went to cities to pursue a better life.
6. 1901-02, **The Socialist Revolutionary Party** was established.
 1. In 1903, the Russian Social Democratic Worker's Party split at Brussels.
 1. Plekhanov, **Leon Trotsky (1879-1940)**, and others wanted an open party. (**Mensheviks**)
 2. Lenin insisted on a centrally organized, well disciplined, and professional revolutionary group. (**Bolsheviks**)
7. January 1904, the **Russo-Japanese War** erupted (and lasted until August 1905).
 1. Like the Crimean war, it was disastrous. It exposed Russians weakness.
8. Sunday, January 9, 1905, a peaceful demonstration was organized with a written petition for the Tsar.
 1. Officers hastily shot into the crowd.
 2. The day became known as **“Bloody Sunday.”**
 3. It shattered the peasant myths that the Tsar cares for his people.
 4. It is notable that there were many women present.
9. October 17, 1905, Nicholas II issued the **October Manifesto**, which promised a constitution for Russia, a legislative body, and political freedom.
 1. He reneged on the constitution
 2. He allowed the creation of **the Duma** (Legislative Assembly), but with limited powers.
 1. The Duma could not issue laws without Tsar's approval
10. October 1905, the Constitutional Democratic Party (Liberals) was organized.

2. The RUSSIAN REVOLUTION: THE YEAR 1917

1. The Great War was disastrous for Russia.
 1. Soldiers **shot their officers** and walked home.
 2. There was a **fuel crisis** during the war.
 3. Russia lost a total of **14** million men.
2. On the International Day of Women, February 23 (March 8), 1917, women of Petrograd went to the streets demanding **food and fuel**.
 1. Police and soldiers joined the demonstrators.
 2. Nicholas II abdicated March 2 (15)
 3. Revolution was welcomed by Europe and United States.

3. Former members of the Duma met and formed the **Provisional Government**. Pressing issues were:
 1. **Land distribution**: Peasants were already taking land for their own, burning the estates, and even killing land owners.
 2. **Russia's participation in the war**: The Provisional Government was scared to pull out of the war, because they would be precluded from war spoils.
 3. **Elections**: scheduled for November 1917, to elect representatives for Constituent Assembly.
4. During the spring of 1917, **soviets** (Russian for committee or council) of workers and of peasants were being created all over the country.
 1. On March 1, 1917, the **Petrograd Soviet** issued **Order No. 1** demanding
 1. that the Provisional Government recognize it
 2. consult it on all pressing issues:
 1. democratization of the army
 2. limit the disciplinary powers of officers
 2. The Petrograd Soviet seriously undermined the Provisional government
5. During this time, Soviet leaders were still in exile
 1. Stalin was in Siberia
 2. Lenin was in Switzerland
 1. The German government transported Lenin to Russia.
 2. Lenin arrived to Petrograd on April 3.
 3. He issued his **April Theses** demanding an end to the war.
 4. Advocated for the end of the Provisional Government.
 1. **"All power to the Soviets"**
6. During the summer of 1917, the Provisional Government caused more anger among the people.
 1. Ordered the Petrograd garrison to launch an offensive against the Germans.
 2. Soldiers called for an immediate overthrow of the Provisional Government.
 3. Lenin tried to calm everyone down, and prevented a disorderly revolution.
 4. There were epic food and fuel shortages.
 5. On October 17, **"History will not forgive us if we do not take power now" -Lenin**
 6. On October 23, Trotsky masterminded a bloodless coup that ousted the Provisional Government during the night.
 7. The new Government was named **Sovnarkom**.
 8. On March 3, 1918, the Bolsheviks signed the Brest-Litovsk treaty that ended German aggression against Russia.
7. The summer of 1918 brought Civil War.
 1. The **Red Army** was based on the remnants of the Military Revolutionary Guard.
 2. The **White Army** was the conglomeration of all other factions.
 3. The Bolshevik government enacted special legislation called **War Communism**.
 1. Nationalized banks, transportation, industry, so forth.
 2. Moved away from money to bartering for goods.
 3. Implemented coercion when exhortation and persuasion failed
 4. Placed schools, media, and other educational and cultural venues under Party.
8. 1921-1925, the New Economic Policy
 1. Designed to revive a war torn country.
 1. Definite tax
 2. Legalization of internal trade
 3. Allowed former owners of factories to resume the running of industrial enterprises.