



The Rise of
COMMUNISM

STANDARDS:

SS6H3 Explain conflict and change in Europe.

- a. Describe the aftermath of World War I: **communism, the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of Nazism, and worldwide depression.**

Autocracy

- During the 21st century, Russia was the only true autocracy left in Europe.
- Russia's tsar (king) was the absolute ruler believed to be anointed by God.
- The Romanov family ruled Russia from 1613 until the Russian Revolution in 1917.
- In 1884, Tsar Nicholas II became the last aristocratic ruler of Russia.



Divided Russia

- For many years before WWI, Russia's citizens suffered under the Romanov monarchy.
- Russia was divided into two groups: the ruling class who held the country's wealth, and the serfs (peasants) who barely had enough food to eat.
- Peasants worked for little pay and had few rights.

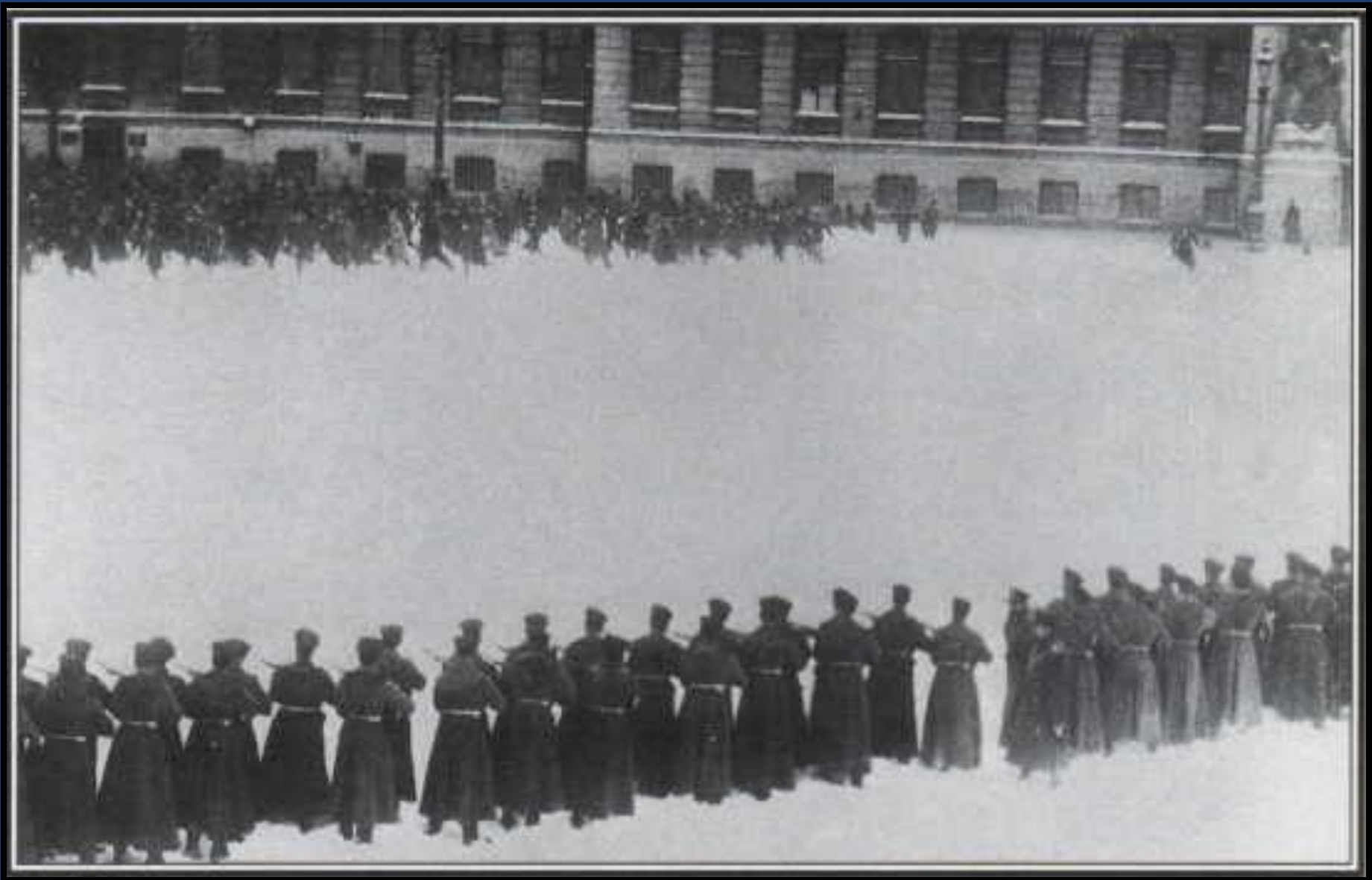
Serf Life

- In exchange for working long hours for a landlord, a serf received a small log hut, a tiny piece of land, and a few animals.
- Most of the serfs' crops went to pay the landlord's taxes.
- Anyone who resisted the rules was beaten with a leather and wire whip. Many tried to escape, but few succeeded.



Bloody Sunday

- In 1905, Russia lost a war with Japan, which angered many serfs and workers because their family members were forced to fight in the war.
- On January 22nd, thousands of people marched on the Winter Palace to ask Tsar Nicholas for reforms.
- Palace troops shot people in the crowd; this became known as “Bloody Sunday”.
- More and more riots began to occur after this.



WWI

- When Russia entered WWI in 1914, many of its peasants were forced to join the army.
- They were not trained or equipped to fight, and many were sent into battle without enough clothes, shoes, or weapons to survive.
 - Over 2 million soldiers were killed and nearly 5 million were wounded.
- Russia's people were also struggling with food shortages and not having enough coal to keep warm.



Tsar Nicholas

- The Russian people blamed their tsar for entering the war and getting so many killed or wounded.
- Tsar Nicholas II ignored the fact that his people were suffering and unhappy.
 - He was seen as a weak man and became increasingly remote as a ruler.
- He did not see that changes were needed in the way that his country was run.

Change

- In early 1917, thousands of workers filled the streets and began to riot.
- Men and women protested against the tsar's failing government.
- Tsar Nicholas ordered his army to end the riots, but the people outnumbered them and the military could not keep the peace.



Revolution

- Workers united against the Russian ruler and on March 15, 1917, Tsar Nicholas II abdicated his throne.
- The tsar and his family were captured.
- A new government took over Russia.

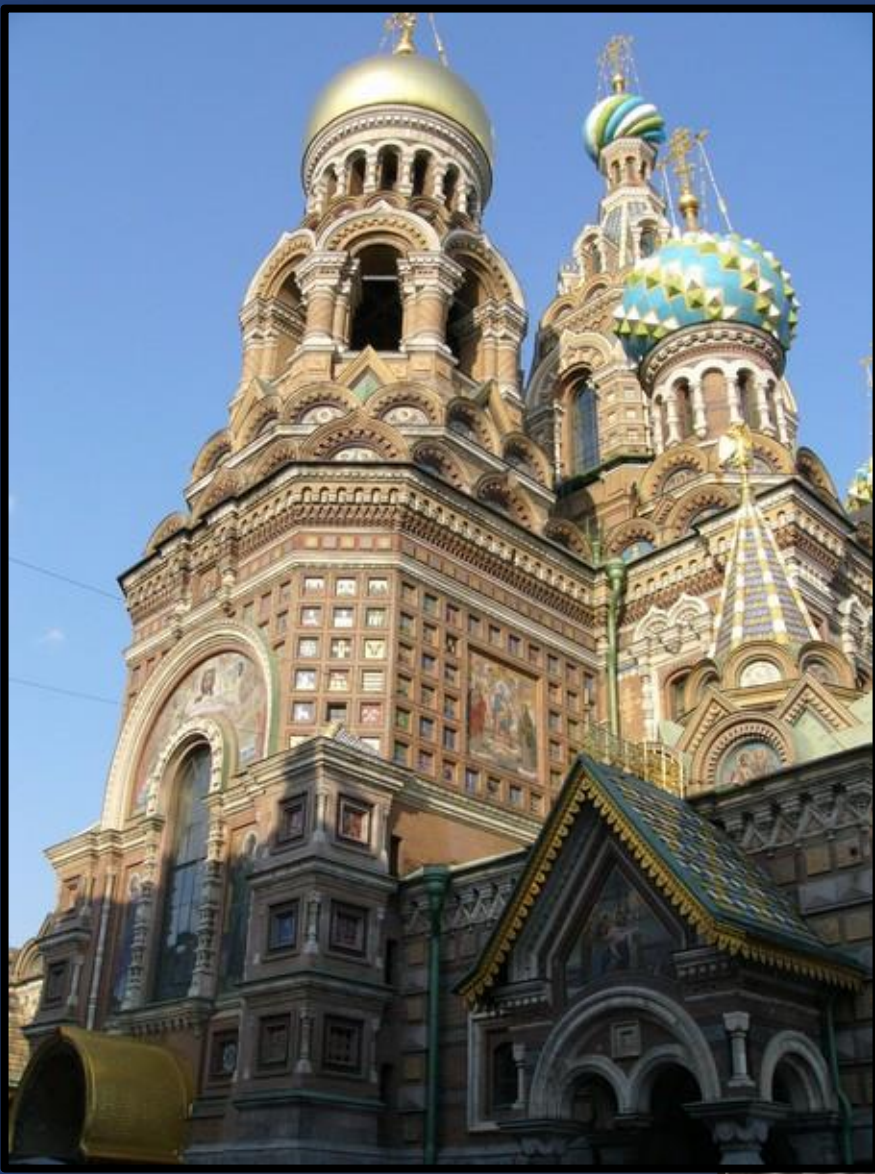


Seeing stars of liberty.—Philadelphia Inquirer.



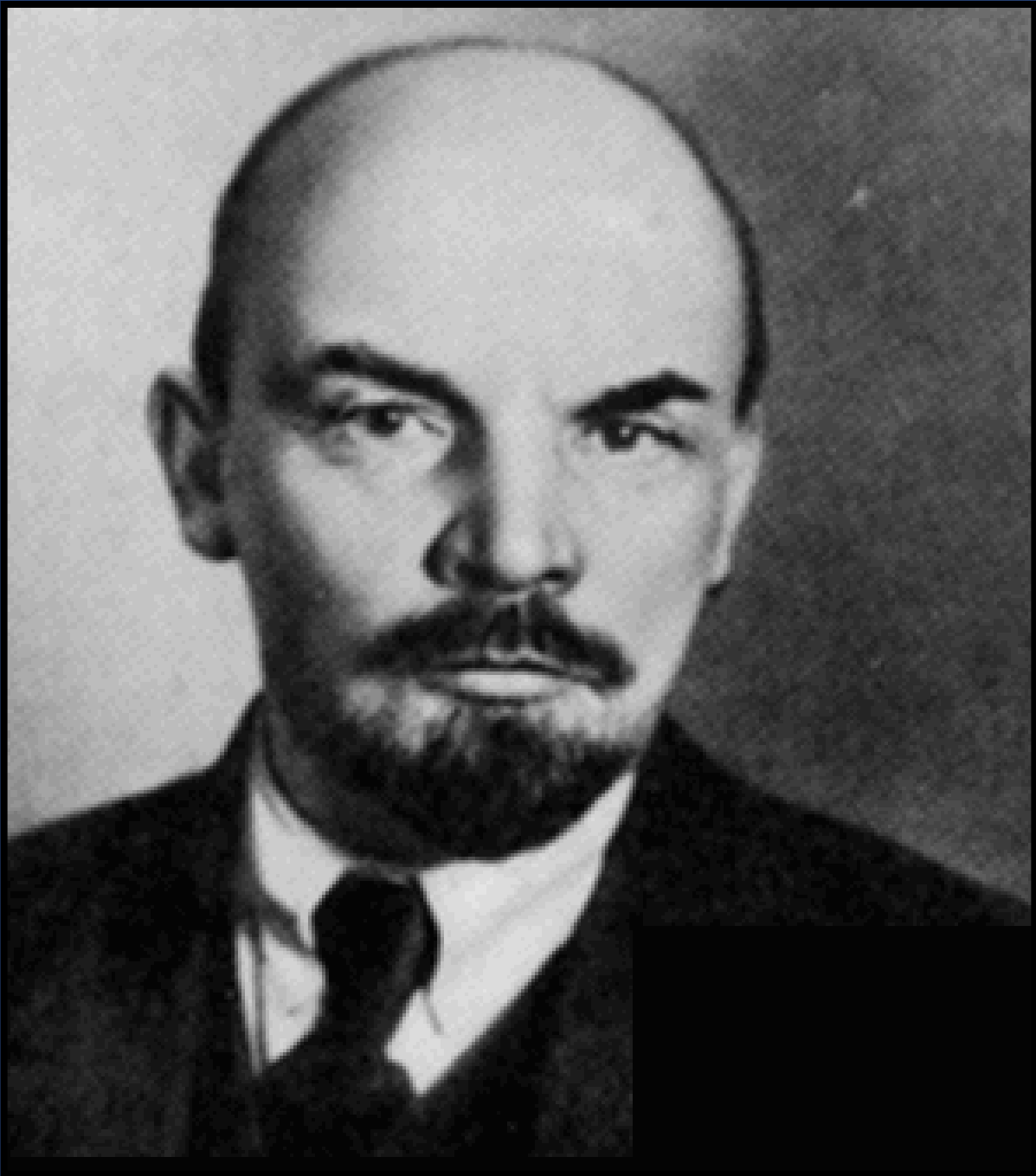
The Duma

- The Duma was the Russian congress.
- There were 3 attempts to make the Duma work, but each was too radical and still favored only the wealthiest Russians.
- In the end, there were just too many problems.
- It was time for a new revolution...



Lenin

- In October 1917, a revolutionary group called the Bolshevik (Communist) party seized power.
- The Bolsheviks, lead by Vladimir Lenin, took control of the Russian government.
- Lenin ordered Tsar Nicholas and his family to be executed.



Soviet Union

- Lenin declared himself dictator of Russia.
- In 1922, Lenin established the Soviet Union, the first communist country in the world.
 - This joined Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine.
- Lenin promised that communism would bring fairness and equality to ALL Soviets.
- Overtime, Communism spread to other parts of the world (Cuba, China, North Korea, Vietnam).



What is It?

- Communism is a theory based on the ideas of the German philosopher Karl Marx.
- Marx published the *Communist Manifesto* in 1848, and in it he said that capitalism divided people into three classes: rich, middle, and poor.
- Marx believed that the poor class would one day rise up and overthrow the wealthy rulers, creating a new society without classes.
 - People would work together and share everything as a community.

Communism

- Communism says the government should own the farms and factories for the benefit of all the citizens.
 - Everyone should share the work equally and receive an equal share of the rewards.
- This appealed greatly to many Russians because there was such a huge split between rich and poor.
- Unfortunately, the system did not work and Russia's people continued to suffer for years to come...



