

The Russian Revolutions and the Rise of Communism



Russia Before the Revolution



- Tzar (Czar) Nicholas II – King/Emperor of Russia
- Last autocrat in Europe (had total power)
- Ignored/Repressed protests and rebellions
- Tried to maintain monarchy and control

Serfdom in Russia

- Similar to slavery, people had to work against their will
- An agricultural laborer bound to work on his lord's estate.
- Extreme poverty





World War I: “The Last Straw”

- In 1914 Russia joined France and Britain to fight Germany and Austria in World War I.
- Poorly prepared, Russia suffered military defeats, losing millions of men between 1914 and 1916.
- Many Russians blamed Czar Nicholas II for the country’s poor performance in the war and for food shortages.



Communism

- A political and economic ideology based on people's shared control over industry and the government
- Originally seen as factory workers rising up against owners
- Appealed to poor workers around the world.
- Karl Marx invents the idea in a book called *The Communist Manifesto*

Vladimir Lenin

- Tried to adapt Communism to fit Russia
- Lead a violent revolt against the Tsar in 1917 based on Communism
- Imprisons and kills the Tsar and his family
- Known as the October Revolution



Surrender to Germany

- After promising “Peace, Land and Bread”, Lenin signed a peace treaty with Germany and surrendered large parts of Western Russia (including the Ukraine)
- When Germany surrendered to the Allies, the land Russia gave up was turned into Independent Nations
- Russia was not invited to the Versailles Peace Conference

Civil War in Russia

- After the October Revolution, supporters of the Tsar and wealthy Russian families fought against the Communists
- Reds (Communists) vs. Whites (Tsarists)
- After five years and many millions dead, the Red's proclaim victory
- Russia becomes part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

LO: Identify who was on the two sides of the civil war and explain why they took the side they did?

Russian Civil War 1917-22



The Russian Civil War was a war between the Reds and the Whites, but who were they and why did they take the side that they did?



The Soviet Union

- Taking the place of Russia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) is born when Lenin and the Communists take power
- Eventually, the nation contains 15 Soviet States, including the Ukraine and other lands lost to the Germans
- Complete control of government, industry and law was held by the Soviet dictatorship



Joseph Stalin

- Lenin died soon after taking power
- Joseph Stalin fought for control and was named dictator of the U.S.S.R. in 1929.
- Under Stalin, the Soviet Union was transformed from a peasant society into an industrial and military superpower.
- He violently repressed all opposition and killed millions of his own people

Joseph Stalin

- History.com video
- <http://www.history.com/topics/joseph-stalin>