The Russian Revolution

Background
- Alexander II assassinated in 1881 by terrorists
  - Alexander III takes over
    - Complete totalitarian
    - Dies in 1894
    - Inept Nicholas II comes to power
- Nicholas II
  - Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905
  - First Russian revolution 1905
    - Attempt Liberalization
    - Horribly handled
    - Bloody Sunday January 1905
    - Peasants march on Winter Palace
    - General strike, paralysis of the country

Fall of the Tsars
- First concession by Nicholas on his power
  - October Manifesto
    - Forms Duma
      - Supposed to be an advisory body to the tsar
      - Representatives elected by universal male suffrage
      - Majority of people elected to the Duma were liberals
        - "Kadets" are constitutional democrats
  - 1906 – cancels the Duma twice
    - Does not get called again until 1907
      - Returns with more conservatives
  - Government violence used to suppress critics
    - 1906 in both Latvia and Estonia
    - Uses heavy handed tactics to get rid of dissidents
      - Over 1000 people killed
      - Persecution of Jews
    - 1906-1907 Executes political opponents
      - Over 1,000 executed
  - Stolypin
    - Pushes for more control over land for peasants
    - Assassinated in 1911
      - By nobles who were against reforms
        - Did not want peasants owning land
  - 1911-1914 Industrial strikes, peasant violence
  - 1914-1917 Russia does very badly in WWI

Socialism
- Makes a comeback because Nicholas II is so weak
  - First party founded in 1898 by Lenin
    - Social Democratic Workers Party
      - Founded in Minsk
      - Lenin exiled to Switzerland
    - Intellectual heir to Marx
Leninism

- **Violent Revolution**
  - The only way to get rid of capitalism is violent revolution

- **Conditions**
  - Industrialization was needed according to Marx
  - Lenin revises it to any repressed workers
  - Not necessarily in an industrial economy

- **Cadre**
  - Highly focused, controlled cadre of dedicated, intellectually revolutionaries
    - Marx called for dissatisfied workers

- Not everybody agreed with Lenin
  - Socialist party splits
    - Bolsheviks vs. Mensheviks (minority)
      - Mensheviks want mass revolution

**February Revolution - 1917**

- **Causes**
  - World War I embarrassment
  - Duma with no power
  - Wife Alexandrina
    - Connection with Grigori Rasputin

- **St. Petersburg**
  - Centre of the revolution
  - People strike which leads to massive food shortages
    - Leads to riots

- **Nicholas II Abdicated on March 7th**
  - Put under house arrest
  - Only 1,000 people died

- **Factions**
  - Constitutional democrats vs. Petrograd Soviets (Mensheviks)
    - Communists wanted a seat at the political table
      - Supported the provisional government
        - Plan to eventually take it over

- **Alexander Kerensky** takes over
  - Worker
  - Has some legitimacy

- **Seeks peace with the central powers**
  - His program:
    - Did not want outright social revolution
      - Too big of changes right away
    - Equality under the law
    - Freedom of religion, speech, assembly
    - Right of unions to organize
    - Amnesty for political prisoners
    - Election of local officials
    - 8 hour work day
- Issuance of **Army Order No. 1**
  - Issued by the Petrograd Soviets
    - Replace military officers loyal to the tsar
    - Positions should go to elected bodies of normal soldiers

**October Revolution**
- Lenin comes back
  - With help of Germans
    - Germany is worried about the Russians rejoining the war
    - April 1917 arrange to get Lenin smuggled back into Russia
    - Lenin, true to form starts trouble
      - He refuses to cooperate with the provisional government.
  - He wants nationalization of all banks and landed estates
    - **April Thesis** – socialist revolution, nationalization
      - “All Power to the Soviets”
      - “All land to the peasants”
      - “Stop the War now”
    - Lenin is creating the first communist revolution
      - In a country that Marx would have called unfit for a communist revolution
  - Provisional government tries to repress Lenin and his government
    - He is forced to flee again to Finland
      - Which is part of Russia
      - Continues to direct the Bolsheviks from afar
    - Eventually the Bolsheviks will win a majority

- **Kornilov Affair**
  - Overthrow of Kerensky’s government by the conservatives
    - Bourgeoisie
    - It works, but not the way they wanted it to
      - Lenin and the Bolsheviks take power
    - The provisional government falls
      - Chaos ensues
  - Politburo created
    - Including **Leon Trotsky**, Vladimir Lenin, and Joseph Stalin
      - Trotsky was the leader of the Red Army
        - Leader of the Petrograd which will evolve into the Red Army
        - Guerrilla General
      - Jewish
      - The Red Army overthrows the provisional government
        - Arrests its members
  - Oct. 26th Bolsheviks take over the government
    - Arrest many opponents
    - Create Cheka
      - Secret police
- Elections for government assembly
  - Lenin runs on the campaign “**Peace, Land, Bread.**”
- Bolsheviks lose (29%), but they overthrow them anyway
  - January 1918
- Lenin institutes Reforms to keep power
  - Gives land to the peasants
    - Which they have already taken
  - Gives control of the factories to the workers committees (Soviets)
- March 1918 – Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
  - Russia withdraws from World War I
    - They lost 1/3 of population and 25% of their land
      - Lost the Baltic states, Finland, Ukraine, and Poland
  - Treaty nullified when Germany loses the war in November
- Lenin moves the Government to Moscow
  - Trotsky takes official charge of the Army and reorganizes it
  - People resist

Russian Civil War
  - 1918-1920
  - Reds
    - Bolsheviks
  - Whites
    - Conservatives and Liberals
      - Including monarchists
    - Including Old Army
    - Supported by Europeans and United States
      - Including trapped Czech legion
      - **Operation Archangel**
        - United States sends 5,000 troops to help the whites
        - Creates problems later between Russia and the west
          - Stalin certainly does not forget
  - Brutal war
    - Peasants side with the Reds
    - Eventually the reds will win by engaging in “War Communism”
      - Capitalism while government slowly takes control
      - Applied total war concept to their civil war
      - Declared all industries nationalized
        - Ended private trade
        - Forced peasant to deliver food to town
    - Cheka hunted down and assassinated thousands of opponents
      - Tsar and royal family killed July 17, 1918
    - Reds were organized and the whites were not
  - Union of Soviet Socialists Republic declared in 1922
    - Not before **15 million died**
      - Starvation due to economic collapse
        - International trade stopped
        - 2 million workers fled the country