Foundations of Russia’s Government
The Monarchy

• Ruled Russia as autocrats from 1613 – 1917
  • Limited reform and liberal reform
    • Attempts often met with bloody response
  • Opulent life of aristocracy as compared to peasants

• Russification
  • Policy of securing power for Russians over ethnic minorities

• Modernization in the 20th Century
  • Switched economy to more industrial
    • Social Institutions failed to advance
Russian Revolution

• Causes
  • World War I
  • Autocratic Rule
  • Denial of Liberal reforms
  • Stolypin, Rasputin, and dissolved Duma

• February Revolution (1917)
  • Duma calls for Tsar to abdicate
  • Monarchy replaced by Provisional Government
  • Led by Alexander Kerensky

• October Revolution (1917)
  • Workers of Petrograd begin rebellions
  • Under leadership of V.I. Lenin
  • Bolsheviks rose up and occupied Petrograd
Lenin’s Russia

• Wartime Communism – New Economic Plan
  • Collectivization – Gives land to peasants
  • Selective Privatization – Some factories allowed to remain in private control

• Russian Civil War (1917-1922)
  • Bolsheviks fought with “Whites” for control of country
    • Whites trying to reinstate Tsar
    • Bolsheviks able to win over Russia
      • More effective leadership
      • Establish Cheka as secret police

• Problem of Succession
  • Stalin dies in 1924
  • Stalin vs. Trotsky
Stalinism

• Totalitarian Russia
  • Cult of Personality built around Stalin
    • Developed through propaganda
  • Loss of freedoms
    • No social or economic mobility
    • Live in fear of government
  • The Great Purge
    • Relocates and “disappears” enemies of the state

• The Five-Year Plan
  • Call for Soviet citizens to work for the overall good
  • Set goals for rapid economic growth through heavy industry
    • To develop core industries, spur military growth, and provide minimum consumer goods
    • Government decided the quantity
The Cold War

• Nikita Khrushchev
  • General thawing of Cold-War tensions
    • Détente
    • “Secret” Speech
  • Ended with Cuban Missile Crisis

• Leonid Brezhnev
  • Restoration of Cold War Tensions
    • "When forces that are hostile to socialism try to turn the development of some socialist country towards capitalism, it becomes not only a problem of the country concerned, but a common problem and concern of all socialist countries."
  • Invasion of Afghanistan
  • Use of KGB to ensure stability at home and abroad
Mikhail Gorbachev

- Last leader of Soviet Union
  - Abolished position and opened democratic elections
    - First elected leader of the Soviet Union
      - Leaders had been chosen by Politburo and Nomenklatura
  - Glasnost – Openness: More government transparency
  - Perestroika – Restructuring: Changing the judicial and economic operation to allow more freedom
Boris Yeltsin

• First President of Russia
  • Adopted rapid liberalization
  • Rapid economic reforms
    • Inflation and loss of production as market restructures
  • Rapid Privatization
    • Mines
    • Factories

• Rise of Oligarchs
  • Old KGB bosses bought up businesses as they became available
    • Owners forced government to provide subsidies for businesses
    • Monopolies developed