Tsarist Russia: Alexander III and Nicholas II

Alexander III
- Ruled 1881 – 1894
- Father assassinated
- Repressive
- Opposed to liberal ideas
  - (education, reform, civil liberties)

Repressive Reforms
- Military courts
- Took away power from zemstvos
- State control over education
- Arbitrary arrests
- Silenced critics (exile)
- Secret police

“Russification”
- Ethnic campaign
  - To strengthen Russian culture
  - Russians = 40% of pop.
  - Many minorities
- Religious repression
  - Only Russian Orthodox Church recognized
- Non-Russian languages, clothes, and customs were banned
  - More lenient on loyal groups (Finns, Armenians)

Nicholas II
- Ruled 1894 - 1917
- The Last Russian czar
- Faced many problems
- General unrest
- Forced to abdicate

Russo-Japanese War
- 1904 – 1905
- Manchuria, Liaodong Peninsula, Korea
- Surprise attack (February 1904) by Japanese
  - Russian navy nearly destroyed
  - Land and naval victories for Japanese

Defeat in Russo-Japanese War
- Russians poorly supplied
  - Only 1 supply railroad to the East
  - Outdated equipment
- Battle of Mukden
  - 1st time trenches used in Battle
- Humiliating for Russians
  - Russians favored to win
  - Japan=Small Island Nation

Treaty of Portsmouth
- Japan gained influence over Korea
- Japan took Liaodong and Manchuria
V.I. Lenin
- Born in 1870
- Russian reformist
- Brother silenced by Tsar
- Constantly exiled and arrested
- What Is to Be Done?
  - Outline for a revolutionary party
  - Minority of conscious workers would join intellectuals to lead the masses
- Bolsheviks = Lenin’s Party

Revolution of 1905
- Small-scale uprising
- Reformers thought that a rebellion of the masses would attract Tsar’s attention
- January 1905
  - 100,000 workers in St. Petersburg go on strike
  - Father Gapon leads workers to Winter Palace
- Bloody Sunday
  - Tsar’s troops fire on demonstrators
  - 300 killed, 1000s wounded
  - Led to more unrest

October Manifesto of 1905
- Nicholas willing to grant reforms
  - Duma = national representative assembly; very weak
  - UMS
  - Lessened civil restrictions
  - Middle class satisfied “Octobrists”
- Unrest still present
  - Kadets = liberal party; wanted constitutional government
  - Soviets = worker unions; organized strikes
  - Black Hundreds = Russian nationalists (feared liberal economic reform, helped Tsar)
  - Attacks on Jews and minorities

Pyotr Stolypin
- Prime minister (June 1906)
- Dissolved the Duma
- Military courts for “violent political crimes”
- “Stolypin’s neckties”
  - Over 1000 executed
- Agricultural reforms
  - Wanted wealthy peasants (Kulaks)
  - Enclosure
  - Allowed independent farms
- Assassinated
  - Possibly by Tsar’s order (for being too liberal)