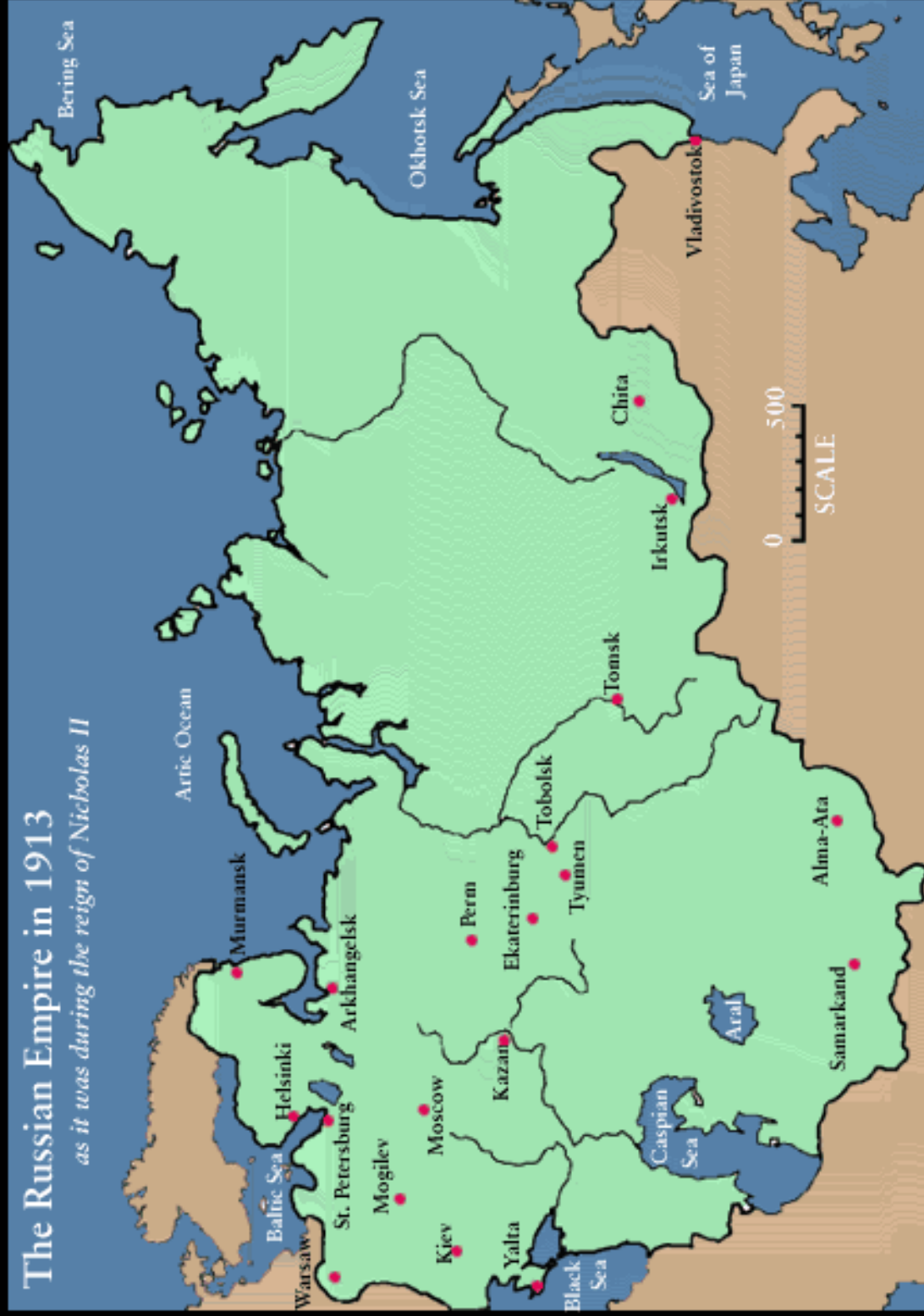




REVOLUTION!

The Russian Empire in 1913

as it was during the reign of Nicholas II



Background – Romanov Dynasty

- Population 90% poor peasants
- Country not industrialized
- Alexander II
 - Reformist
 - Tries to modernize/industrialize country
 - St. Petersburg & Moscow
 - Eliminates serfdom 1861
 - Given land (had to pay gov't for it)
 - Universal conscription mandatory
 - Dealing with Nationalists
 - Planning to give up autarky
 - Assassinated 1881



- Alexander III
 - Conservative
 - Ends may of fathers reforms
 - Go after separatists and Jews
 - Promotes
 - Autarky, Orthodoxy, Russian Nationality
- Keeps country out of war
- Dies 1894
 - Succeeded by Nicholas II



- Nicholas II
 - Not ready to be Tsar
 - Continues fathers ruling style
- Tsarina Catherine is a German



A. Background

- In 1905 Russia lost a war with Japan.
 - defeat caused strikes in the Russian cities, (i.e. Bloody Sunday)
 - Tsar nearly lost control.
 - Nicholas II offered to call a Duma, or parliament, with free elections.
 - accepted by the demonstrators.
- Failure of the Duma
 - Duma began to criticise the Tsar and demanded reforms
 - Nicholas II did not like this at all.
 - Duma was dismissed and
 - new elections, controlled by the Tsar, were called.

It became clear that the Duma would be shut down if it criticised the Tsar. As long as the Tsar had control of the army, his power could not be broken.

Rasputin Scandal



Rasputin Scandal

- Rasputin
 - Peasant Monk
 - Gets reputation as a healer
 - Controlled Prince Alexi's hemophilia
 - Gained favour with royal family
 - Spends time with royal family
 - Rumours spread
 - When Tsar goes to front becomes political advisor to Tsarina
 - Many decisions attributed to Rasputin
 - Assassinated December 1916
 - After his death – gov't failures blamed solely on the Tsar









VLADIMIR LENIN



LEON TROTSKY

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH...



LENNON AND McCARTNEY

The Opposition of the Communists – **Russian Social Democratic Labour Party**

- Russian Communists were divided into two major groups
- **Bolsheviks**
 - led by Lenin
 - Believed in revolutionary overthrow of the gov't to set up communist state
- **Mensheviks**
 - Led by Martov (included Trotsky)
 - Wanted to mobilize population to change country through political system
 - Before 1917 Lenin and many of the other Communist leaders were in exile abroad, plotting to bring about a revolution in Russia

Last episode: THE PEOPLE ARE ANGRY!

- Farmers unhappy
 - Owed money to gov't
 - Most did not have enough land to feed themselves
- Workers unhappy
 - Poor wages
 - Poor living and working conditions
- Inflation
 - War caused shortage of goods
 - Prices rise
- WWI
 - War going badly
 - Soldiers lack training and weapons
 - Tsar takes personal control of military - risky
 - Tsar held personally responsible for failures
 - Army lost confidence in the Tsar



FEBRUARY REVOLUTION OF 1917:

- Actually was more of a March thing...
- Centred in Petrograd
- No real leaders/spontaneous

- Early Feb.
 - Started with several strikes and demonstrations.
- March 7
 - Large strike in Petrograd (wages, working conditions)
 - Workers fired
- March 8, International Women's Day rallies.
 - Turned into economic and political demonstrations
 - Protesting price of bread
- March 10 almost all industry is shut down.

- March 11
 - Tsar Nick sends in the troops to “suppress” the crowds.
- Lots of women and children in crowd
 - many troops refuse and mutiny
 - Join protestors
- March 12 – gov’t authority begins to collapse
 - Petrograd Soviet re-established by socialist parties



MARCH 15, 1917

- Under pressure, Tsar Nicholas II abdicates.
- He also abdicates on behalf of his son, Alexander.
- The Tsarship passes to his brother, Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.
- But the bro says no.
- Which means they don't have a government, so they form a...



PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

- Duma moves to set up Provisional Government
 - Royal family placed in protective custody
- Temporary gov't
 - Until elections can be held
- Dominated by wealthy middle class from Dumas
 - Led by Prince Lvov



The Petrograd Soviet

- Second group with power
- Dominated by Mensheviks(communists)
- Not officially in charge, but had support of workers & Soldiers
 - Controlled key industries
 - Transportation and communication
- Held the real balance of power
- Power struggle Challenged the Provisional Government on all fronts
- Since both governments were new, who was officially in charge did not really matter.



- 
- Provisional Government
 - Wanted to set up a constitutional democracy
 - Include upper and lower house
 - Provisional Government offers to hear opinions of Soviet but do not want a dual-power situation.

• Bolsheviks

- being led by Josef Stalin
 - Editor of Pravda newspaper
- Many Bolsheviks supported Prov. Gov't



- Lenin and others still in exile
 - did not return until April 1917
- Germans help Lenin return to Russia
 - Believed his presence would undermine gov't
 - bring end to the war



The Return of the Lenin

- Lenin comes back in April 1917 to rejoin the Soviet.
 - Works to undermine Prov. Gov't
- Delivers **April Theses**
 1. No Support for the Provisional government.
 1. Those who supported were betraying revolution
 2. Fight for the Soviets to take power.
 3. End the war.
 4. Confiscate the big estates.
 5. Nationalize the banks.
 6. Establish workers' control of industry.
 7. Replace the police and army with a workers' militia.
 8. Replace the old state bureaucracy with workers' administration.
 9. Proclaim a Communist Party; establish a new international.
- Convinces moderate Bolsheviks to be more militant
- Lenin and the Bolsheviks try to gain popularity.
 - "Peace, Bread and land"
 - "All power to the Soviet"
 - "All land to those who work it"
- Failures of prov. Gov't increase Bolshevik support.
- Petrograd Soviet have set themselves up as the opposing force.



PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

- July – Alexander Kerensky new leader
 - People growing restless
 - Little change since February
 - War going badly
 - Lack of food and supplies
- Positives
 - released political prisoners,
 - legalized political parties,
 - introduced labour reforms (i.e. shorter work week)
 - right to strike
- Negatives
 - keeps Russia in the war,
 - mistakenly believing that people would fight for free, democratic Russia



- July - demonstrations against gov't

- “All Power to the Soviets”
- Bolsheviks try to organize
 - Indesivive



- Put down by army

- Bolsheviks seen as threat to gov't
- Lenin flees, Trotsky arrested



- August
- Kerensky believes army revoltinig against gov't
 - lead by General Kornilov in Petrograd,
- Bolsheviks offer gov't help
- 20 000 Red Guards help defend city
 - They become heroes
 - and infiltrate army to promote further desertions, all helping to boost their popularity
- Bolsheviks now control the Soviets

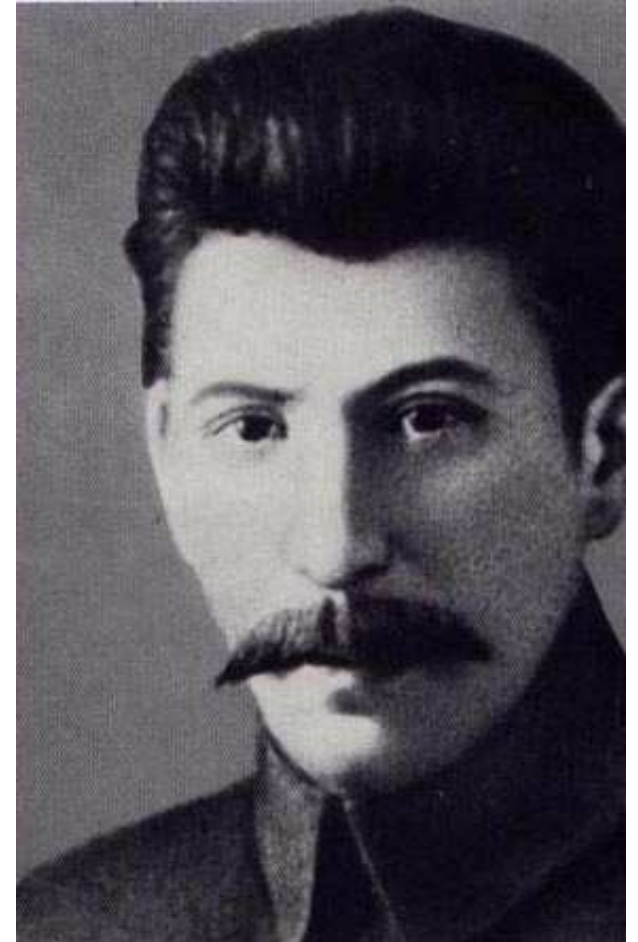


General Lavr Kornilov, Russian Army, later a leader of one of the anti-Bolshevik “White” armies during the Russian Civil War

C. October 1917 Bolshevik Revolution



LENIN, Vlagyimir Iljics



Josef Stalin



Leon Trotsky,

Commander of the
Red Guard in the
1917 Revolution,
later commanded
the Red Army

October Revolution

The Big One

- Lenin returns in Sept.
- Kerensky sees Bolsheviks as threat
 - Tries to regain authority
 - Oct.22 Orders arrest of top Bolsheviks
- 23rd – Lenin and Trotsky plan to overthrow Prov. Gov't
- Lenin based his beliefs on Marxism, this would be Phase 1.
- Gathers his “Red Army.”
 - Well planned by Trotsky
- Overthrows the government, the Soviet is now the “official” government.
- 26th – Soviets hand power to Lenin



- Bolsheviks deliver on what most Russians want
 - Lenin decrees war is over, Russians to stop fighting

makes Russia a one party communist state (not as popular, civil war follows)

- Prov. Gov. supporters and leftover monarchists (Tsar-fans) form the “White Army.”
- **CIVIL WAR ERUPTS!**