

The Russian Revolution

- Russian Revolution (1917)
- Revolution of 1917
- Bolshevik Revolution



Different names for the same revolution



Causes of the Revolution

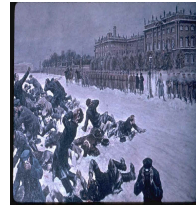
1) Political -- Autocratic rule of the Russian Czars

- **Alexander III** (1881) ruled Russia with absolute power
- Anyone who questioned his authority, spoke a different language, practiced a religion other than Russian Orthodoxy was persecuted against
- He censored anything that was published
- Secret Police were used to find and destroy citizens that could be considered dangerous
- Czar **Nicholas II** (son of Alexander III) was the ruler of Russia during WWI and continued his father's Autocratic politics



2) Economic - Industrialization

- Russia was one of the last European nations to industrialize
- To catch up the Russian Government heavily taxed its citizens to raise money to industrialize the country
- Industrialization led to poor working conditions, low wages, and child labor in Russia
- The gap between rich and poor was enormous (80% Russian Population = peasants -- 79% = illiterate)



3) Social - "Bloody Sunday" and Pogroms

- **Bloody Sunday (1905)** = 200,000 workers approached the Winter Palace (home of Nicholas II) demanding better working conditions and more personal freedoms

- Russian soldiers were ordered to fire upon the crowd
- 1,000 unarmed civilians were killed

- **Pogroms** = organized violence against Russian Jews

- Russian Orthodoxy was the only religion allowed in Czarist Russia
- Alexander and Nicholas made Jews targets for persecution
- Police and soldiers allowed Russian citizens to attack and destroy Jewish institutions (homes, stores, and synagogues)

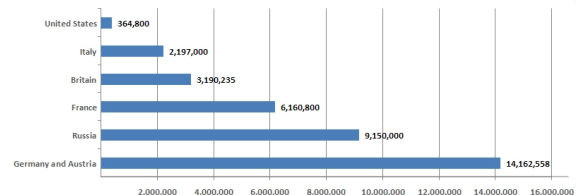


★ 4) Immediate Cause - WWI

1914 = Czar Nicholas and Russia entered in WWI

Russia had to face the German Army alone

- Russian troops were poorly equipped
- Within the first year of fighting; 4 million Russian troops were killed
- Czar Nicholas II was blamed for the failure of WWI and the losing effort of the Russian army
- High inflation occurred in Russia because of the rising costs of the war



The Russian Revolution

- 1917 Czar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate (give up) his throne

Lenin gained popularity and strength because he appealed to the peasant population of Russia

-- His promise to the people was "**Peace, Land, and Bread**"

Peace = end WWI

Land = redistribute land controlled by the Russian nobility

Bread = end starvation and poor economic state of the Russian people



**** In November of 1917, Lenin took control of the Russian Government**

- He fulfilled his promise of "Peace, Land, and Bread" by ordering all farmland to be distributed among the peasants

- Signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany (ending WWI for Russia)



Lenin's Control of Russia

New Economic Policy (NEP)

- Peasants could sell crops for a profit
- Small business owners allowed
- Major industry STILL CONTROLLED BY GOV'T



**** Blended together elements of Capitalism and Communism**

Effects of Russian Revolution

- **Russia becomes the first country with a Communist form of government**

- This Revolution will inspire Communist revolutions in China, Cuba, & Vietnam

- 15 million people died during the Russian Revolution

