



The Russian Revolution



From 1613-1917, Russia was:

- a monarchy
- an autocracy
- ruled by the Romanov family
- ruled by a tsar with absolute power

Some Russian Tsars:



Mikhail Romanov ruled 1613-1645 as the first Romanov tsar.



Peter the Great ruled 1696-1725.



Catherine the Great ruled 1762-1796.

What About the People of Russia?

Most Russians were part of the working class or peasants.

- lower class of society
- little pay
- often went with little or no food
- had few if any rights
- very difficult lives



Russia Enters World War I (1914)

Tsar Nicholas II forced the working class and peasants to join the army.



Problems

- were not trained to fight
- sent to battle without food
- many did not have shoes
- were not given weapons

Effects

- approximately 2 million killed in battle
- about another 5 million wounded
- Russian citizens did not have enough food to eat
- Russian citizens did not have enough coal to keep warm
- Russians were not happy



Russian Revolution Begins (early 1917)

Russians blamed Tsar Nicholas II for ignoring the fact that so many Russians were getting killed, were wounded, and were struggling.

Workers, men and women, filled the streets to strike to show their unhappiness with the government.



Tsar Nicholas II sent his army to end the riots.

Soldiers were outnumbered, and they began to mutiny against the tsar.

Tsar Nicholas II abdicated his throne on March 15, 1917, and he and his family were captured.

Bolshevik Revolution (Oct. 1917)

A new government took over after Nicholas II abdicated his throne, but another revolution occurred months later.

Vladimir Lenin was the leader of the communist Bolshevik Party.



What is communism?

A political and economic system in which productive resources in a society (factories and farms for example) are owned by the government, and wealth is distributed to the citizens either equally or based on individual need.

Remember:

Farmers in Russia did not own the land on which they farmed. Lenin promised to distribute the land to the farmers so they could own it. This made them happy.

How is this communism if farmers can own land?

Lenin told the farmers they were getting their own land to own. However, after he came to power, he told the farmers what to do and how to do it. In reality, they did not truly own their land. The government did. The farmers soon realized Lenin only told them what they wanted to hear.

Bolshevik Revolution (Oct. 1917)

Lenin led the Bolshevik Party to a complete takeover of Russia's government.

Effects

- Lenin ordered Nicholas II and his family to be executed
- Lenin made himself dictator
- a peace treaty was signed with Germany to withdraw from WWI
- Russia lost land rich in natural resources and farming to Germany



The Soviet Union is Born

- Russia was no more as Lenin established the Soviet Union in 1922, as the first communist country in the world
- The Soviet people would suffer for many years to come



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