The Russian Revolution

From Czar to Lenin to Stalin
Czarist Rule

- In the late 1800’s Czars Alexander III and Nicholas II wanted western industrialization while keeping French Revolution ideals out of the country.
- The government was seen as corrupt.
- The czars used secret police to repress reforms.
Peasant Unrest

- There was a rigid social class system in Russia.
  - Upper class landowners
  - Priest
  - Czar and Nobles
  - Peasants
- Peasants were
  - Poor
  - Did not have enough food
  - Could not own land
Diversity and Nationalism

- Russia contained many ethnic groups
- All people were required to think and act as Russians.
- Ethnic groups did not want their culture taken away from them.
- Nationalist movement began.
January 22, 1905 a peaceful march begins in hope of influencing the czar on social reforms.
Nicholas II fears the march and calls in his soldiers.
The soldiers shot and killed many of the marchers.
The people have no faith in the czar.
Revolts begin across Russia.
Czar Nicholas II is forced to make reforms.
Czar Nicholas Announces Reforms

Promises to grant more Freedoms and Rights

Sets up an Elected Legislative body the Duma

The Duma must approve all Laws

Nicholas Dissolves the 1st Duma for Criticizing him

The Duma has limited Power

Results of the 1905 Revolution
World War One/End of the Czar

- Russia does poorly in World War One
- Many lose confidence in the military leaders and the czar.
- The soldiers lack food, munitions
- Soldiers revolt or desert
- Russia is not as industrialized as the west
The March Revolution

- March 1917 the lack of food, fuel and housing causes rioters to march in the streets.
- Soldiers called to stop the riots sympathize with the rioters.
- The czar loses control over his military.
- Czar Nicholas II abdicates the throne.
- The Romanov Dynasty comes to an end
Alexander Kerensky

- Alexander Kerensky a member of the Duma sets up a provisional government
- The new government wants to give equality to the peasants, workers and soldiers (Enlightenment ideas that they did not have under the Czar)
Alexander Kerensky

- The Provisional government has problems
  - They share power with local governments called soviets - It is hard for anyone to make decisions
  - The new provisional government wanted to keep the war going
    - The government felt if it could continue the war it could secure Russia’s boarders and create a stable Russia and a liberal democracy
Alexander Kerensky

- The soviets wanted out of the war
- The soldiers and peasants who were represented by the soviets also wanted out of the war
- The provisional government while trying to make changes (for the better) misjudged the climate of the people in Russia and there hatred of the war
- The Provisional government was doomed to fail
The Bolshevik Revolution

Lenin Takes Control
Marx and Communism

- Marx believed that for a country to become communist it must be fully industrialized.
- Marx believed that only then could the workers rise up and overthrow the capitalist/government.
- Marx further believed that once the government was in control of the people it would be the government of the people.
- Finally there would be no need for the government.
Problems with Russia

- Russia was not fully industrialized. The country was still agrarian.
- Most of the country was made up of peasants, not factory workers.
Lenin

- The soviets rallied around the socialist party called Bolsheviks
- Lenin the Marxist leader of the Bolsheviks turned towards the soldiers and peasants for support
- Lenin issued his April Theses which demanded peace, land for the peasants and power to the soviets
- “Peace, Land and Bread”
Lenin’s chief goal was to create a classless society.
Allowed for private businesses and for peasants to hold land.
Wanted to raise the standard of living.
The only problem was that Russia was not industrialized a key component to Marx’s communism.
Lenin further believed that only the upper educated could and should control the government for the people.
Lenin takes over

- By October 1917 the people of Russia stopped supporting the Provisional government.
- November 1917 the Bolsheviks led by soldiers, sailors and factory workers take over the government.
The Communist

- The Communist as Lenin now calls the party do the following;
  - Distribute land to the peasants.
  - Give workers control of the factories and mines.
Lenin’s Rule

- Lenin ends Russia’s involvement in World War One by signing the Brest-Litovsk Treaty.
  - Russia gives up large portions of land to Germany in western Russia to get out of the war.
  - Russia was now out of the war which angered the allies
  - Because Russia dropped out of the war they would not be allowed to attend the peace talks at the Treaty of Versailles
  - The land that the Russian gave up to Germany was turned over the allies who defeated Germany not Russia
Russia’s Civil War

- From 1918 to 1921 Lenin’s Red Army lead by Leon Trotsky, battled against the White Army which was loyal to the czar.
- Areas like the Ukraine, Siberia which were now part of the Soviet Union resented the new communist government and so started counterrevolutionary movements.
Lenin and The Communist Party

The Communist Party became
- the only legal party in Russia.
- had all the power.
- only members of the Communist Party could run for office.
- used the secret police and military to enforce its control.

Russia was now a one party system of government in which Lenin had all control.
New Economic Policy

- Once the soviets were out of World war One they could concentrate on domestic problems
- Lenin needed to industrialize the country
- In the early 1920’s he instituted the NEP (New Economic Policy)
New Economic Policy

- Under the NEP the government still controlled the banks, factories and foreign trade.
- Some private businesses were now allowed which helped the economy recover.
- Farmers were allowed to sell their grain for profit.
- The plan worked at increasing agricultural production however industrial production was still slow because it lacked trained workers to run the factories.
Death of Lenin

- In 1924 Lenin died.
- The rule of the first Communist leader was over.
The Rise of Stalin

- Born into poverty.
- Not well educated.
- Was seen as a crude man. Was also cold, hard and cruel
- Would use brutality and murder to enforce his reign as dictator.
- Stalin will become one of the most brutal leaders in history.
In 1928 Stalin obtained control of the government.

Stalin turned the Soviet Union into a totalitarian state.

Stalin was the dictator and controlled the one party system of government.
Stalin as a Totalitarian

- Totalitarian leaders
  - centralize the government
  - control every aspect of public and private life
  - appear to provide a sense of direction
  - limit values such as freedom, dignity and individual worth.
  - Uses fear and terror to control the country
    - Secret police to kill off political opponents
The Great Purge

- In 1934 Stalin turn on anyone in the Communist party who threatened his power.
- These murders peaked between 1936 and 1938
The Great Purge

- Bolsheviks who had help start the revolution were arrested, placed on “trial” and executed.
- “Crimes against the state”
- All types of people were arrested for petty crimes and never seen again
- Labor camps were established to punish those who opposed him
- By 1939 Stalin had complete and total control of the government and the Communist Party.
- Between 8 to 11 million people were murdered during the purges.
Russification

- Stalin was a strong Russian Nationalist.
- He did away with individual cultures.
- Stalin promoted
  - A common Russian history, language, culture.
  - Appointed Russians to key posts in Gov’t and the secret police.
  - Re-drew the boundaries of Russia to ensure non Russian republics would not become bigger then Russia.
  - The ruling class of Russia was to be Russian.
Stalin and Propaganda

- The government used propaganda to
  - Encourage people to accept the Communist ideas.
  - Glorify Stalin and the Communist.
  - Praise the Communist reforms.
A Command Economy

- In a command economy the government makes all economic decisions.
- The government controls all the farms, factories and businesses.
Stalin Pushes Forward

- Stalin realized the only way for the Soviet Union to survive was through rapid industrialization.
- In 1928 Stalin began to modernize the Soviet Union.
- Stalin saw the NEP as moving too slow and began to take over all industries in the Soviet Union.
5 Year Plans

- Stalin decided to break up the progress of the country using 5-Year Plans.
- The plans would
  - Strengthen the country
  - Make the country self-sufficient
  - Lead to a true workers society.
The first Five Year Plan in 1928, concentrated on the development of iron and steel, machine-tools, electric power and transport.

The workers high targets.

- 115% increase in coal production
- 200% increase in iron production
- 335% increase in electric power
- Stalin claimed that if rapid industrialization did not take place, the Soviet Union would not be able to defend itself against the capitalist.
5 Year Plans

- Every factory had large display boards erected that showed the output of workers.
- Those that failed to reach the required targets were publicity criticized and humiliated.
- Records were kept of workers' lateness, absenteeism and bad workmanship. If the worker's record was poor, he was accused of trying to sabotage the Five Year Plan and if found guilty could be shot or sent to work as forced labor.
5 Year Plans

Stalin said

“We are becoming a country of metal, a country of automobiles, a country of tractors. And when we have put the U.S.S.R. in a motor car and a farmer in a tractor we shall see which countries may then be classified as backwards and which as advanced.”
5 Year Plans

- 5 Year Plans were a success for the Soviet Union and made them a world industrial power.
Collectivization

- For the 5 Year Plans to work farmers needed to produce enough food for the industrial workers.
- When Stalin felt the farmers were not producing the food he took over the farms.
Collectives

- Stalin set up collective farms.
- This involved small farmers joining forces to form large-scale units. (Somewhat like enclosures)
- Farmers could then afford the latest machinery and share the farming.
- Stalin believed this policy would lead to increased production.
Collective Farms

- However, the peasants liked farming their own land and were reluctant to form themselves into state collectives
Collective Farms

- Kulaks were former peasants in Russia who owned medium-sized farms.
- Many Kulaks did not want to follow Stalin’s policy of collective farms.
Russian Genocide

- Many peasants resisted having to farm for the government.
- Kulaks or wealthy farmers burned their crops and killed off their livestock to resist Stalin’s collectivization.
Stalin’s Forced Famine

- Some peasants continued to resist and only grew enough crops for themselves.
- Stalin seized all these crops.
- Entire communities starved.
- Areas like the Ukraine who were opposed to collectivization had five million people die of starvation.
Collectives

- Collective farming was never a real success in the Soviet Union and caused millions to be killed.
Stalin’s Legacy

- Used brutal tactics to enforce his totalitarian rule.
- Every aspect of life was controlled by the government.
- Five year plans increased industry but did little for the people.
- Collectivization was a failure and caused mass starvation.
- It is estimated that Stalin killed anywhere from 20 to 40 million people during his rule.
Classwork

- Both Lenin and Stalin had similar and different ideas on how to achieve the goals of the Communist Party.
- Create a Venn Diagram how Lenin and Stalin tried or did achieve the goals of the Communist Party in Russia.
- How did both Lenin and Stalin compare to the ideals of Marx—were they way off or on the mark? Why or why not?