

Aim 29: Why did Russia Exit the War and Become a Communist Country?



I. Pre-Revolutionary Russia



A. Leading to Revolution

1. Only true autocracy left in Europe
2. No representative political institutions
3. Nicholas II became Tsar in 1884
4. --Russo-Japanese War (1904)

B. Bloody Sunday

1. Peaceful petition to Tsar Nicholas II
 - i. better working conditions
 - ii. a legislative assembly
 - iii. and universal manhood suffrage
2. Czarist troops open fire on a peaceful demonstration of workers in St Petersburg. January 9, 1905;

II. The Revolution of 1905



1. The creation of a discontented working class.
2. Poor peasants became involved.
3. Duma- (parliament) created.

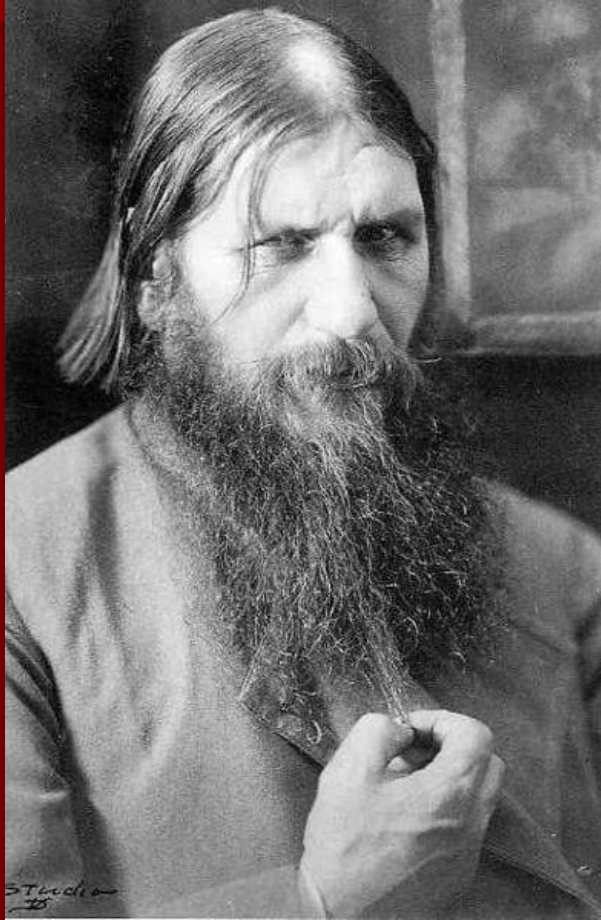


III. Poor Leadership 1905-1917

1. Tsar paid no attention to the Duma
2. Nicholas was personally a very weak man
3. His wife Alexandra was very powerful.



IV. Rasputin



1. Monk who had a lot of influence over Alexandra.
2. Scandals surrounding Rasputin made the monarchy look bad.

3. Healed Alexis, Alexandra's Son with Hemophilia



V. WWI

1. War going badly.
2. 1915 over 2 million Russians die on the front
3. Soldiers do not have sufficient rifles, ammunition or medical care
4. Nicholas II goes to the front to take charge.
5. Alexandra runs domestic affairs.
6. Rasputin assassinated in December of 1916



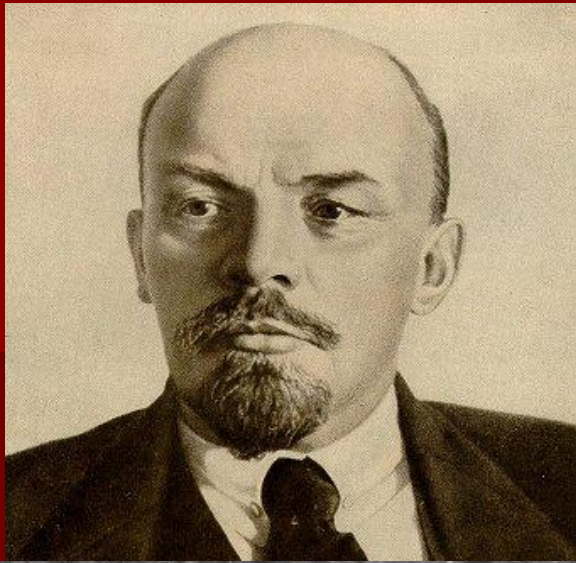
Abführung russischer Kriegsgefangener. An der Spitze ein 18-jähriger russischer Kriegsfreiwilliger

VI. Revolutions of 1917



– A. The March Revolution

1. Origins: Food riots and strikes.
2. Duma declared itself a Provisional Government on March 12th.
3. Tsar abdicated on March 17th.
4. Provisional Government led by Alexander Kerensky.
5. People unhappy with provisional govt.



B. Founder of Bolshevism: Vladimir Lenin

1. Exiled to Siberia in 1897
2. Committed to Class Struggle and Revolution
3. Moved to London in 1902 and befriended Leon Trotsky
4. Bolsheviks split from the Russian Socialist Party in 1912
5. Bolshevism = Marxism-Leninism
 - i. Proletariat needs to be led by an elite.



Lenin continued...



6. Germany helped Lenin return to Russia
7. Slogan used, "Peace, Land, Bread"
8. With Lenin's return Bolshevik party membership increased dramatically.

VII. The November Revolution



1. Failure of the Provisional Government
2. Workers refused to work and soldiers refused to fight
3. All private property of wealthy was abolished and divided among the peasantry
4. Largest industrial enterprises nationalized

VII. November Revolution (cont)



- Revolutionary army created with Trotsky in charge
-- "Red Army"
- Bolshevik Party renamed Communist Party in March of 1918
- The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk negotiated with the Germans

VII. November Revolution (cont)



8. Civil War fought between the "Reds" and "Whites"
9. Complete breakdown of Russian economy and society
10. After Lenin won, he set up the New Economic Policy, or NEP, which allowed some capitalist activity.