

# Russian Revolution

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## Causes of the Revolution

- Industrialization of Russia
  - Used foreign investment to build factories
  - Poor working conditions led to urban unrest
- Russo-Japanese War
  - Russia was embarrassed by loss to Japan
- Revolution of 1905—“Bloody Sunday”
  - Russian soldiers fire on unarmed protesters
    - 500-1000 people were killed
  - Led to creation of the Duma

## Resistance Movements

- Workers begin to support the revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx
- Believed industrial workers would overthrow the czar
- Bolshevik party formed in 1903
  - Led by Vladimir Lenin (right)



## Causes of the Revolution

- World War I
  - Russia was consistently defeated by Germany
    - 4 million casualties in the first year
  - Demonstrates weakness of czarist rule
  - Czar’s wife Alexandria runs the government while husband leads the war effort
    - Rasputin undermines her authority
  - Defeats destroyed the moral of Russia troops
    - Soldiers mutinied, deserted, or ignored orders

## February Revolution

- Women in St. Petersburg led citywide strike in March 1917
  - 200,000 workers joined the strike
  - Soldiers sent to stop the strike joined the strikers
  - Led to general uprising in Russia
- Czar was forced to abdicate his throne
- Provisional government established
  - Led by Alexander Kerensky



## Bolshevik Revolution

- Lenin and the Bolsheviks seize power in October 1917
  - Motto was “Peace, Land, Bread”
- Immediate Reforms
  - Ordered all farmland be distributed to peasants
  - Control of factories given to workers
  - Withdrew from World War I
    - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- Russian Civil War

## Reforms of Vladimir Lenin



- New Economic Policy
  - Creates limited capitalists reforms in order to promote agricultural and industrial development
- Dies in 1924
  - Battle for succession between Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin

## Reforms of Joseph Stalin

- Goal was to create communist state envisioned by Bolsheviks
- Collectivization
  - Eliminate private farms in favor of collective farms
  - Kills millions of peasants
  - Secures Soviet control of countryside



## Five-Year Plans

- First Five-Year Plan (1928) focuses on iron, steel, machine tools, and electricity
  - Called for 1115% increase in coal production, 200% increase in iron, and 335% in electric power
  - Posted worker production in factories
    - Workers who failed to meet production quotas were shot or imprisoned in the Gulag

## Great Purge (1936-1939)

- Attempt by Stalin to eliminate political opposition
  - Leading members of the Bolshevik party were executed or sent to labor camps
- Stalin purged prominent military officials
  - 50% of a military officers were purged
- Historians estimate 10 to 20 million people died during the Great Purge