

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

By Dylan Ciolfi

Setting the Stage

- ▣ The cruel, oppressive rule of most 19th-century czars caused widespread social unrest.
- ▣ Army officers revolted in 1825.
- ▣ Secret groups plotted to overthrow the government.
- ▣ In 1881, revolutionaries assassinated the czar, Alexander II.

Czars Resist Change

- ▣ In 1881, Alexander III succeeded his father, and halted all reforms.
- ▣ Alexander clung to the principles of autocracy.
- ▣ Imposed censorship codes on published materials and written documents.
- ▣ Teachers had to send reports on all students.
- ▣ Alexander III forbade the use of minority languages in schools.

Russia Industrializes

- ▣ Number of factories doubled between 1863-1900
- ▣ To finance the building of industries, Russia sought foreign investors and raised taxes
- ▣ Creation of longest continuous rail line, the Trans-Siberian Railway began in 1891

The Revolutionary Movement Grows

- ▣ Growth of factories brought:
 - grueling working conditions
 - low wages
 - child labor
- ▣ Unhappy workers organized strikes
- ▣ Several revolutionary movements began to grow & compete for power
- ▣ Marxist revolutionaries believed the working class would overthrow the czar

Lenin



Crises at Home and Abroad

- ▣ Russo-Japanese War
 - Showed weakness in the czar's leadership
- ▣ Revolution of 1905
 - Protests outside palace
 - Bloody Sunday
 - Czar makes reforms, but goes back on them
- ▣ World War I
 - Weren't ready for war
 - Made people even more angry

The March Revolution

- ▣ Czar steps down
 - Protests led to uprising
 - Established a provisional government
- ▣ Lenin returns to Russia
 - Lenin gains control of Petrograd soviet
 - Stirred unrest in Russia, hurt war effort
 - Reached Petrograd in 1917

The Bolshevik Revolution

- ▣ The provisional government topples
 - The Bolshevik Red Guards took over government offices and arrested leaders of the government
- ▣ Bolsheviks in power
 - Lenin and Bolsheviks gave control of factories to the workers
- ▣ Civil war rages in Russia
 - Bolsheviks' Red Army vs. The White Army
- ▣ Comparing world revolutions
 - Russian revolution was more like the French revolution

Lenin Restores Order

- ▣ New economic policy
 - Resorted to the New Economic Policy (NEP)
- ▣ Political reforms
 - Lenin organized Russia into several self-governing republics under the central government
 - Renamed their party the Communist Party
 - The name came from the writings of Karl Marx

Stalin Becomes Dictator

- ▣ Lenin suffered a stroke in 1922 and survived
- ▣ Stalin was cold, hard, and impersonal
- ▣ In 1922 he was the general secretary of the Communist Party
- ▣ By 1928, Stalin was in total control of the Communist Party

Stalin

