

History of Russia

Objectives

- Know important events and people from the history of tsarist Russia.
- Know the reason for the rise and fall of the Soviet Union.
- Explain the cause and effects of the Russian Revolution.
- Sequence events from Russian history

Bell Activity

What does it feel like to be in a group where one person insists on always getting his or her own way?

How might other members respond?

Russia has a long history of autocratic rulers who had unlimited power. How might people respond to such rulers?

Russian Descendants

- Modern Russians descended from E. Slavs who migrated from Poland and the Ukraine into W. Russia in the 400-500's.
- East Slavs were traders and founded many trading posts along the rivers that became the cities of Kiev and Novogorod.
- 800's, Vikings dominated these trading posts and merged with the Slavic population.



Kievan Rus Forms

- The Kievan Rus was the first E. Slavic state and is located in present day Ukraine.
- In the early days, Kiev's early rulers grew rich from the trade and united the Slavic tribes.
- The ruler of Kievan Rus was Prince Vladimir who formed ties with the Byzantine empire in 1000 and adopted E. Orthodox Christianity.
- Tribal leaders all became princes and were given large areas of land known as appanages, they were passed onto family members.
- Appanage :a gift of land, an official position, or money given to the younger children of kings and princes to provide for their maintenance.



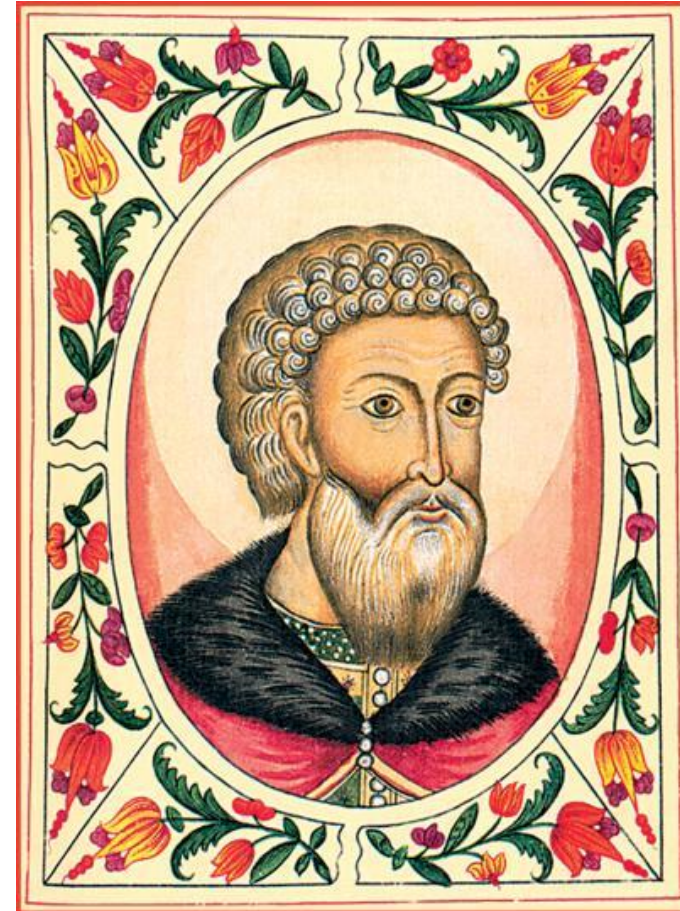
Mongol Invasion

- There was rivalry and fierce competition between the princes which weakened them and left them vulnerable for invasion by the Mongols.
- 1240 – Mongol armies from Central Asia known as the Golden Horde took over Kiev and it collapsed.
- The Russian princes had to accept the authority of the Mongol khan.
- Moscow grew and the Mongols favored this area. 1328 the head of the E. Orthodox church moved to Moscow and the city grew very important.
- A key trading post in Moscow called Muscovy grew in importance.



Imperial Russia and Ivan III or “Ivan the Great”

- Prince Ivan III of Muscovy overthrew the Golden Horde by 1480 and set up a Russian state to rival Europe.
- Prince Ivan III began to call himself tsar or emperor.
 - Tsar: derived from Caesar, the title of the Roman emperors.
- Ivan III hired European architects to design the Kremlin, a grand complex of palaces, state offices and churches in Moscow.



Imperial Russia and Boris Godunov

- The rule of Boris Godunov was a time of political unrest and lawlessness.
- People left farms for cities creating a massive food shortage
 - Godunov forced people into serfdom to work the lands
 - Serf: peasant legally bound to live and work the land owned by his or her lord.



Imperial Russia: Romanov Dynasty

- 1613 an assembly elected 16 year old Michael Romanov to be the new tsar and his family ruled for the next 300 years.
- The first GREAT Romanov tsar was Peter the Great.



Peter the Great

- Peter wanted to rival European nations
- Ruled as an absolute monarch
- Modernized and westernized Russia with ideas and technologies.
- <http://www.biography.com/people/peter-the-great-9542228>



Catherine the Great

- Took over in 1762 and ruled as an “enlightened despot” or wise ruler.
- Transformed the new capital St. Petersburg into a cultural center.
- Greatly expanded Russia by the end of her rule in 1796.
 - Expanded through wars and added 200,000 square miles which included Ukraine and parts of Poland.



End of Imperial Age

- Russia lagged behind W. Europe even with all the advances made.
- Many W. European countries moved towards democracy in the 1800's but Russia's tsars remained absolute monarchies.
- While many W. European countries industrialized, Russia's economy remained dependent on agriculture and serf labor.

End of Imperial Age

- Russia lost the Crimean War in 1856 and this loss shocked the country and exposed the poor state of the Russian army.
- Soldiers were using outdated equipment and marching in their own rags.
- Many serfs joined the army in hopes for liberty.
- Support grew for modernization and emancipation (freedom) for serfs.

Tsar Alexander II

- Alexander freed the serfs in 1861 but made them pay the nobles for land.
- Peasants did not gain economic freedom and remained very poor.



Tsar Nicholas II

- Reformers pushed for greater democracy
 - 1905, violent worker unrest scared Russia's leaders
- Nicholas II responded with the October Manifesto.
- October Manifesto: a charter that granted civil rights and limited democracy.



Communist Russia

- Russia's monarchy collapses during WWI putting a burden on Russia.
 - Peasants left farms to fight the war lowering food production.
 - Inflation made prices of food and goods too expensive for most people.
- Russian parliament forced Nicholas II to give up the throne on March 1917.
- October 1917 Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks took power.

Bolsheviks: The Russian Revolution

- Russian political group calling for worker control.
- Bolsheviks killed Nicholas and his family in 1918 ending the 300 year old Romanov dynasty.
- Bolsheviks put in a new political and social system called communism.

Communism

- Lenin followed the ideas of a German philosopher Karl Marx from 1800's who believed that people as a whole not individuals should own workplaces so everyone had a share in the goods or services produced.
- Marx believed that the working class should control the government and economy as a group creating a classless society.
- Lenin used Marx's beliefs to gain support for communism claiming that the Bolsheviks worked for the working class.
- After the revolution the Bolsheviks renamed themselves the communist party.

- In 1922 The Russians united with other parts of the former Russian empire to form the Soviet Union
- Lenin died in 1924 and Stalin took over.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV9G1QUIm7w>



