

## UNIT 5, PART 2: TOTALITARIANISM

### **TWO REVOLUTIONS IN RUSSIA - The March Revolution**

Long-Term Unrest - majority of pop. = peasants - endured stark poverty

- Czar Nicholas II created the Duma (Russian parliament) after the Revolution of 1905 to show he supported reform - however, Duma had no real political power
- many didn't trust the czar - used his secret police, govt. was a corrupt bureaucracy
- revolutionaries hoped to lead peasants in a revolt against the czarist regime - Marxists gained support among the proletariat (working class, the "have-nots")

Impact of World War I - Russian soldiers were poorly equipped, suffered huge casualties

- Nicholas II went to the front to help boost morale of the troops - left his wife Alexandra in charge of Russia's domestic affairs - many didn't trust her (German born, knew little about govt.)

Rasputin - an illiterate peasant, self-proclaimed "holy man" and healer - became close to the royal family, hired to help cure their son Alexei of hemophilia (a secret) - his influence over Alexandra weakened confidence in the govt.

Collapse of the Monarchy - March 1917 - bread riots in St. Petersburg (capital of Russia), workers went on strike - troops refused to fire on protesters - on advice of military/political leaders, Nicholas II abdicated

- Duma set up a provisional (temporary) govt. led by Alexander Kerensky - decided to continue the war with Germany - most Russians wanted out of the war - many troops deserted at the front, peasants wanted land, city workers demanded food

**Lenin and the Bolsheviks** - V.I. Lenin - revolutionary who hated the czarist govt. (his brother had been arrested, hanged for plotting to kill the czar) - read the writings of Karl Marx, led student demonstrations, spread Marxist ideas among factory workers

- 1895 - Lenin and fellow socialist Nadezhda Krupskaya were arrested, sent to Siberia  
- during imprisonment, they were married - after serving sentence, they lived in exile in Switzerland, spreading revolutionary ideas

A New View of Marx - Marx predicted that the industrial working class would rise up, overthrow capitalism (but Russia didn't have a large urban proletariat) - Lenin chose an elite group of Bolsheviks to lead the revolution ("Bolsheviks" means "majority") - said only revolution could bring about needed changes

Lenin Returns From Exile - April 16, 1917 - Lenin, with the help of Germany, took a special train across Germany to Russia

**The November Revolution** - Lenin began to plan the revolution with supporters like Leon Trotsky - The Bolshevik Takeover - November 1917 - Red Guards (armed factory workers) joined Russian sailors in attacking the provisional govt. - Bolsheviks took control, provisional govt. fell without a struggle, Kerensky stepped down

The Bolsheviks in Charge - Moscow became the Bolsheviks' capital, and the Kremlin (former czarist center of govt.) its HQ - ended private ownership, distributed land to the peasants, workers given control of factories and mines - new flag: red background, entwined hammer and sickle in yellow (hammer = workers, sickle = peasants)

- Bolsheviks renamed themselves the Communists

**Russian Civil War** - after revolution, Lenin quickly sought peace with Germany  
- March 1918 - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk - Russia gave up a huge chunk of its territory and population in exchange for Germany ending its war on the Eastern Front

Opposing Forces - July 1918 - Russian Civil War began - Reds vs. Whites (Reds = Communists, Whites = counterrevolutionaries loyal to the czar) - U.S., France, Britain sent forces to help the Whites - Japan seized land in East Asia that czarist Russia had once claimed

- Allied presence did little to help the Whites - Whites captured and slaughtered Reds, tried to assassinate Lenin - Communists organized the Cheka, a secret police force - former Czar Nicholas II, his wife and five children were beaten, stabbed and shot to death by the Reds to keep them from becoming a rallying symbol for the Whites

War Communism - policy in which the Communists took over banks, mines, factories, and railroads - peasants forced to deliver surplus food to hungry people in cities, drafted into military or into factory work

- Leon Trotsky - leader of the Red Army - made it an effective fighting force - he gave the order to shoot every tenth man if a unit performed poorly (tactic borrowed from the armies of ancient Rome)

A Costly Triumph - 1921 - civil war had ended - Reds had won, but Russia was still in chaos - millions had died since WWI, millions more dead from disease and famine, nation's economy was in ruins