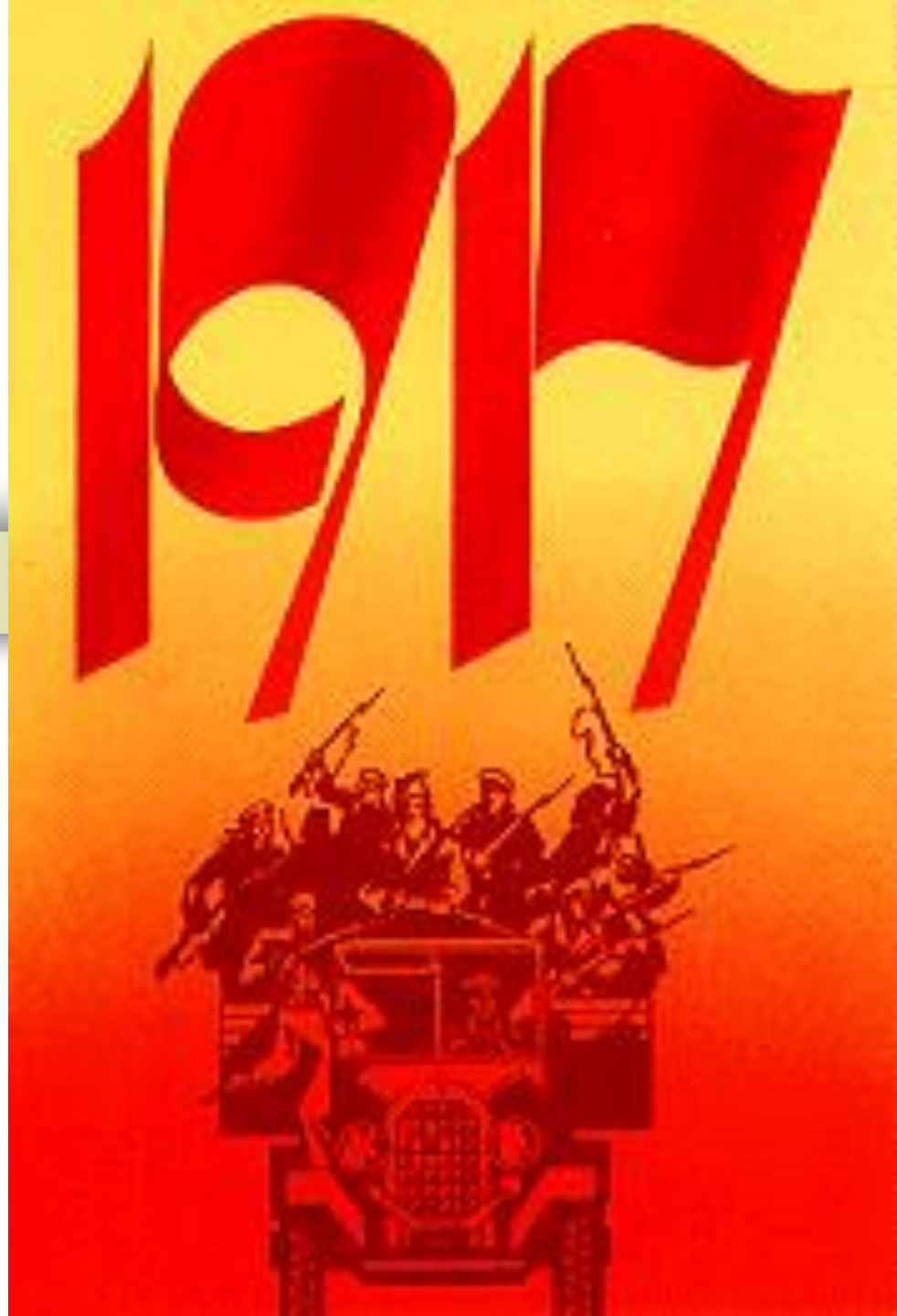


- **Starter Activity:**

- Vladimir Lenin led a Russian Revolution promising the people **“Peace, Land, and Bread.”** Based on this slogan, what problems was Russia facing that would lead to a revolution? (Why were peace, land, & bread offered?)

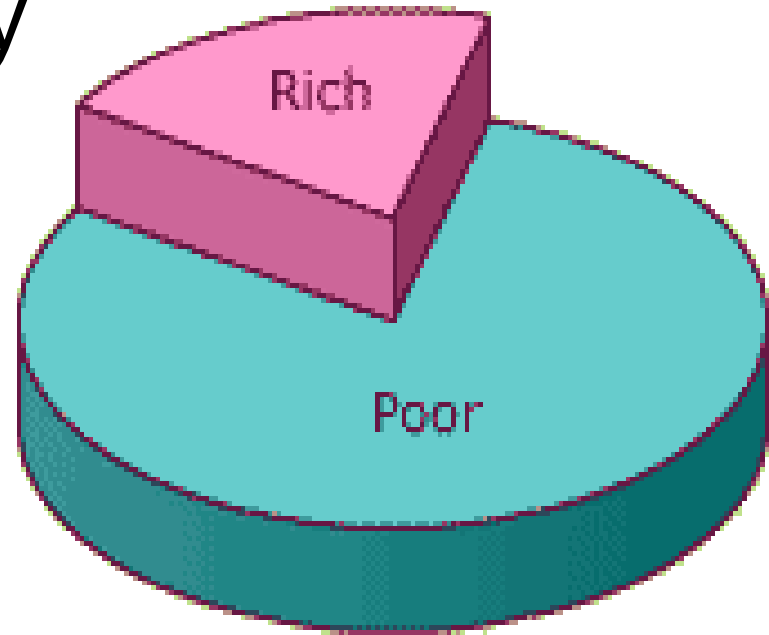
The Russian Revolution

A Country
Falls Apart
as the World
Fights



Background on Russia

- In early 1800s, Russian empire stretched from Europe to Pacific Ocean. Very diverse: 60 nationalities, 100 languages spoken
- Agricultural economy based on feudalism (very poor country)







Background on Russia

- Peter the Great made absolute monarchy for Romanov Dynasty & tried to modernize Russia
- Still 90% of Russians were farmers; 80% were serfs (people permanently obligated to a landowner); serfdom seen as biggest problem for Russia

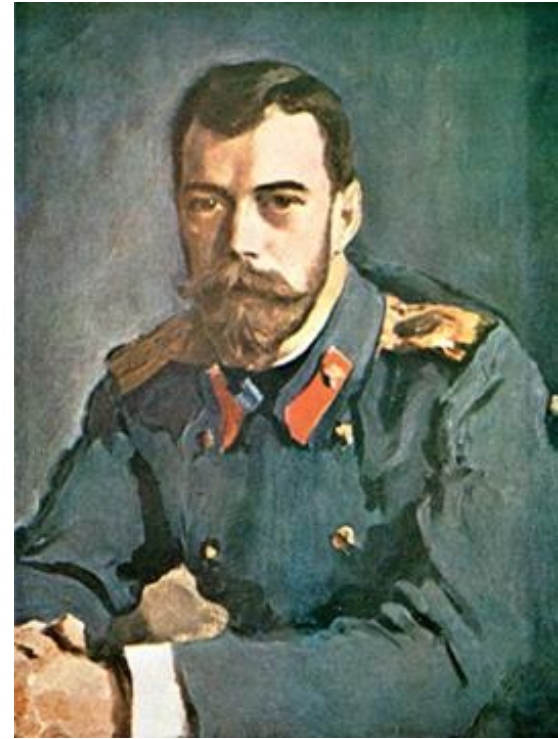


Background on Russia

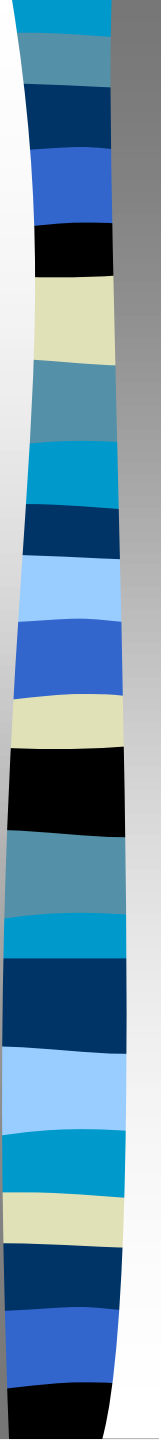
- After Peter the Great, Russia had series of czars—some welcomed improvements, others resisted change
- In 1861, serfs were finally freed & industry increased; but Russia was the least developed country in Europe
- Russia was embarrassed by defeat in Russo-Japanese War

Background on Russia

- In 1894, Nicholas II became czar; his son Alexei had hemophilia; relied on mystic healer named Rasputin to keep son alive
- Russian people thought Rasputin had too much influence over Romanov family



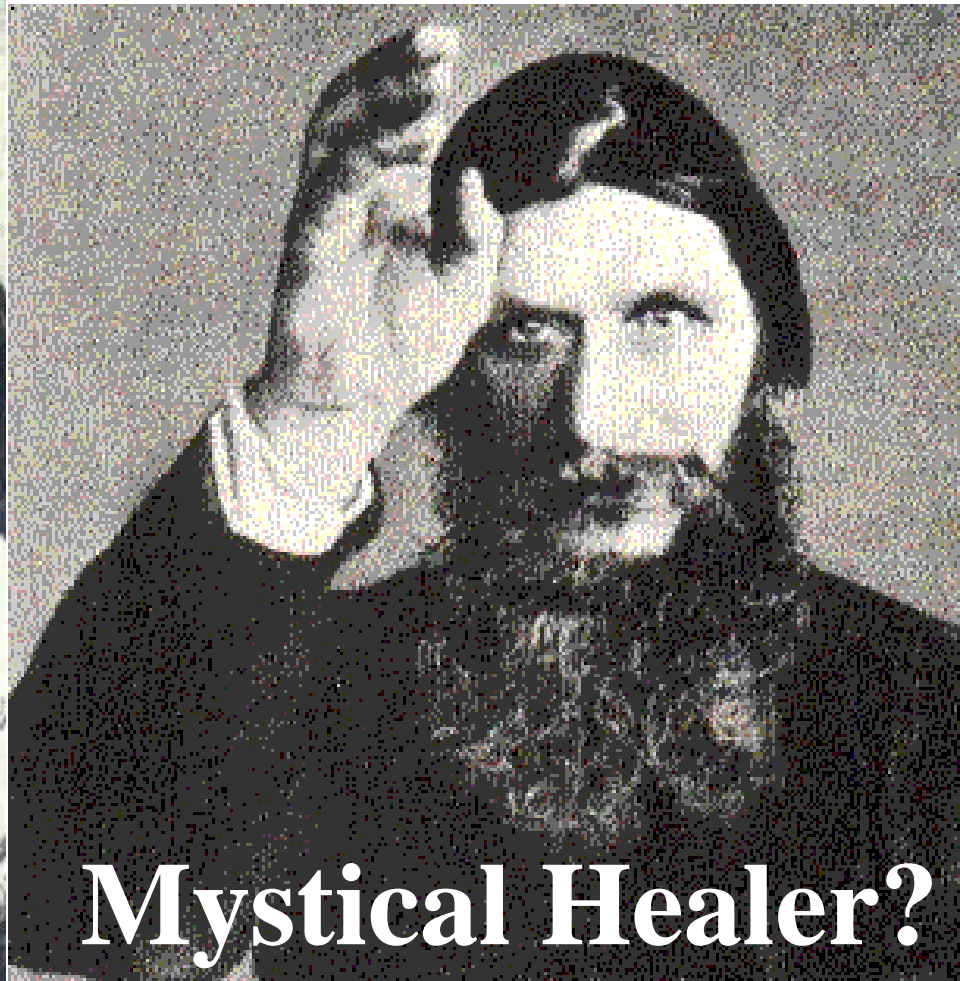
Alexis



Which was the
real Rasputin?



Puppet-Master?



Mystical Healer?



Background on Russia

- People begin to demand a constitutional monarchy:
 - Decemberists—army veterans who had seen advances in Europe revolted, but were put down
 - Revolution of 1905—workers demanded a new constitution with a democratic legislature; 500-1000 people were shot



Socialists Become Popular

- Many Russians turned to the idea of Socialism—government takes over control of economy & protects workers & farmers
- 2 Socialist groups emerge:
 - Mensheviks—want to develop industry & large working class before starting a socialist revolution
 - Bolsheviks—want to use force to bring Socialism immediately



Socialists Become Popular

- In 1905, riots & strikes erupted across Russia; people demanded change
- Workers' councils (called Soviets) were established by industries to hear workers' problems
- October Manifesto—Czar Nicholas II responded by creating a duma (national legislature with elected officials) & accepted limitations by creating a constitutional monarchy



The Great War Destroyed Russia

- The Great War destroyed Russia: morale was low, no food, 25% of soldiers had no weapons, 76% of army killed or wounded
- People blamed czar & Rasputin for failures of military & economy
- March 8-12, 1917-riots began; army joined & refused to stop rebellion

Rasputin's Death



How did he REALLY die???

While visiting Prince Felix Yusupov (Czar's nephew) he was

- poisoned w/ cyanide
- shot in the back
- chased outside, shot 2 more times & beat
- tied up in a blanket and thrown in the river

Rasputin's Death



According to
the autopsy . . .

Hypothermia
was the cause
of death.

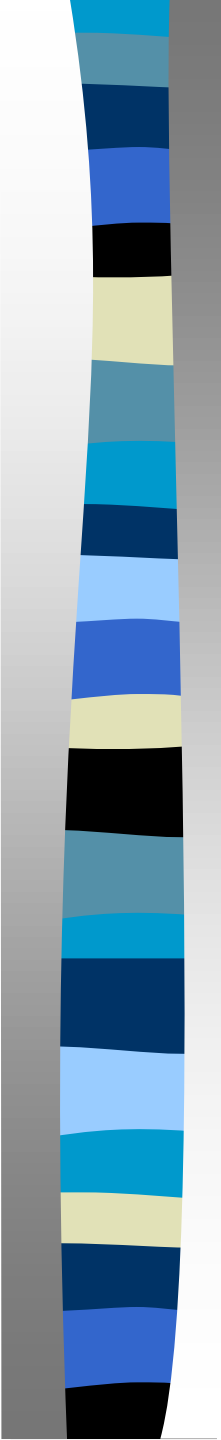


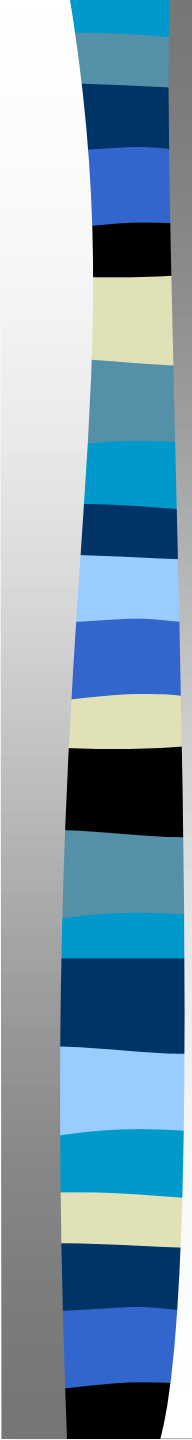
The Great War Destroyed Russia

- March 15, 1917—Czar Nicholas II abdicated, ending 300 year-old Romanov Dynasty (entire Romanov family was later assassinated, seen as threat to Bolsheviks who took over)



The Romanovs



- 
- A letter reportedly written by Rasputin that his secretary Simanovich recovered after the czarina's death prophesied his demise along with the royal family's. He wrote, "if it was one of your relations who have wrought my death, then no one in the family...none of your relations will remain alive for more than two years". On July 16, 1918, Nicholas II, Alexandra and their five children were murdered by revolutionaries.

Provisional Government

- Provisional (Temporary) Government was created & run by Alexander Kerenski (leader of the Duma); called for new elections to create permanent government
- Rivalled by Soviets (councils of workers) who wanted immediate withdraw from WWI, land to peasants, control of factories by workers



Lenin the Leader

- Provisional Government did not withdraw from WWI; Government & Kerenski began to lose support
- Radical Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin felt time was good to seize power
- Lenin promised “Peace, Land, & Bread”; Soviets should be model for the new government



Bolshevik Revolution

- In Nov 1917—Lenin led a coup d'etat called the Bolshevik Revolution
- Bolsheviks claimed absolute power & got rid of the Duma; Created socialist government:
 - Government took over ownership of all property, factories, mines
 - All people can now be equals



Russia Exits the War

- Called themselves communists after Karl Marx's ideas (equal society with no need for government); wanted to spread communism to world
- March 1918—Communists signed a peace with Germany, Treaty of Brest-Litovsk—Russia gave up lots of land & of its 1/3 population





More Problems for Russia

- Not everyone supported Bolshevik Revolution; From 1919-1921, Civil War broke out between Communists (Reds) & Democratic Leaders of Duma (Whites)
- Allies supported Whites because they needed Russia back in Great War
- Red leaders Lenin & Leon Trotsky used force & education to defeat democrats

Communist Terror

- Communists used “war communism”—direct control of industry, food supply; Executed czar and family; Arrested, murdered political opponents
- 1922-Communists rename Russia: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics





Russia Under Stalin

- Lenin had plan to revitalize Russia—but he died in 1924
- Trotsky & Josef Stalin fought for control; Stalin won
- Stalin announced 5-Year Plan to bring agriculture & industry under control



Russia Under Stalin

- Stalin's plans helped increase agriculture & industry
- But used secret police to "remove" political opponents
- Established Comintern to encourage the spread of Communist governments throughout the world

