A Revolution in Russia

Human Legacy,

Chapter 26.3, Pages 789-793
Russia and World War I

“On the eve of World War I, Russia was a troubled nation. Czar Nicholas II had promised reform after the revolution of 1905, but he delivered little real change. Economic conditions grew worse, and another revolution seemed near”

~Human Legacy, Page 790.
The Years Before the War

• The Bolsheviks
  – Small Marxist group
  – Led by Vladimir Lenin
  – Sought to overthrow the czar

• Bolshevik Ideology
  – Rule by the Proletariat
    • Industrial workers
  – An elite group would lead the revolution (the party)
Russia in World War I

• Russian Advantages
  – Early surge of patriotism
    – Strengthened Nicholas’ position
  – Large army of 6 million troops

• Disadvantages
  – Few factories to produce military supplies
  – Poor transportation system
  – Poor leadership & outdated equipment

• Early Success
  – Russian army advances
  – Suffers heavy casualties
Conditions Grow Worse

- Nicholas II takes personal command in 1915
  - Czar’s fate now linked to his army
  - Russians offensives begin to fail

- Home Front
  - Nicholas’s wife Alexandra left to run the government
    - She is German
    - Relies on the advice of Grigory Rasputin
  - Food shortages cause people to become desperate
The Russian Revolution

“By the end of 1916, Russia was once again on the edge of a revolution. As the new year began and conditions in Russia continued to worsen, the Russian people clearly wanted change.”

~*Human Legacy*, Page 791.
Revolution Begins

• Petrograd uprising
  – March 8\textsuperscript{th}, 1917
  – Workers protest lack of food & Fuel
  – Soldiers refuse to shoot rioters

• Nicholas II abdicates
  – Nicholas tries to disband the Duma (Russian Legislative body)
  – Duma defies the Czar
  – Nicholas II steps down on March 15\textsuperscript{th}
The Provisional Government

• Aleksandr Kerensky
  – Sets up a provisional government by the Duma
  – Vows to stay in the war
  – Wants to set up a Republican government

• Opposition to Kerensky
  – Most Russians tired of the war
  – Thought Kerensky’s reforms ineffectual

• Bolsheviks
  – Wanted an immediate Marxist revolution (end to private property)
  – Lenin Returns to Russia in April 1917

The Russian people are suffering from economic fatigue and from disillusionment with the Allies! The world thinks the Russian Revolution is at an end. Do not be mistaken. The Russian Revolution is just beginning.

— Alexander Kerensky —

AZ QUOTES
The Bolshevik Revolution

- Russian Army collapses then mutinies
- October Revolution
  - Nov 1917
  - Red Guards (factory workers) attack the provisional government
  - Kerensky’s government collapses
  - Lenin takes power
    - Offers Peace, land & bread
After the Revolution

“After the Bolshevik Revolution, Lenin set about ending Russia’s involvement in World War I. He sent Leon Trotsky, a top Bolshevik official, to negotiate peace with the Central Powers. Because Russia’s army was virtually powerless, Trotsky had to accept an agreement that was harsh on Russia. Russia had finally gained peace but was forced to give up huge chunks of its empire.”

~*Human Legacy*, Page 792.
Civil War

• **White Army**
  – Included anyone opposed to the Bolsheviks
    • Army officials
    • Wealthy Russians
    • Supporters of Kerensky
    • Czarists
  – Was poorly organized
  – Supported by France, Great Britain and the United States

• **Red Army**
  – Lenin’s Bolshevik supporters
  – Triumph after 3 years of fighting
  – Millions die from fighting or famine
New Economic Policy

• Peasants & workers especially hard hit by the civil war

• Lenin’s New Economic Policy
  – Permits some capitalism
  – Peasants could sell food at a profit
  – Intended to encourage more food production
The Soviet Union

- Russian Economy improves by 1922
- Russia Reunites with some former parts of its empire
  - Known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)
  - Russian leadership dominates
  - Lenin dies in 1924 with no clear successor