Russian Revolution Project

Background

It is March, 1917 in Petersburg. Tsar Nicholas II and his family have just abdicated and a provisional government has been established by the Duma along with the Petersburg Soviet (a governing body chosen by the factory workers and soldiers in the city). While there is great hope for the future, Russia is still in the Midst of troubles. The people are still cold and hungry and Russia is facing shortages of all goods and services as well as joblessness and heavy inflation. The Peasants in the countryside remain without land and without pleasant future, while agricultural yields fail to keep up Russia’s needs. Additionally Russia is still at war with Germany and Austria-Hungary. While Russia’s allies, Britain and France make great promises, Russian soldiers are dying by the thousands as they lack both the supplies and the leadership to continue the war. Russia faces many challenges, and many political factions offer their ideas as to How Russia should move forward.

Assignment: Your group represents a political faction hoping to solve Russia’s economic, political and social problems. You have the opportunity to present your position as to what form of government Russia should take and how it will solve the problems of its citizens. Your group will be assigned a political faction (Kadets, Social Revolutionaries, Mensheviks or Bolsheviks) and you will present the platform position of that faction through a video interview. One member of the group will be a political & military expert for the group and another will be an economic and social expert. Two other members of the group will take on roles of concerned citizens being interviewed to whom the group experts will respond. Through these interviews and questions & answers you will advocate for your faction’s option for Russia’s government and how it should address the needs and concerns of the people. You should use the Questions on page 40 to get started but feel free to present additional questions and information as well. You may use any of the concerned citizens from pages 42 & 43 for your interview, but you should choose one’s whose problems are the focal point of your faction’s goals. The Political and Economic experts should assume the roles of historical members of the faction (Kerensky, Lenin, Stalin etc.). You will need to do some modest research to find out who these people were. Your resources are the various readings we have done, including the exercises on the peasants and the political parties plus the packets on presenting your option. You do not need additional information. When playing the roles of the concerned citizens feel free to be creative, but ask questions will help your group to present its position.

Due date: Videos are due on Friday, March 23rd. We will watch and discuss the videos on Monday, March 26th.
I have a sample power point on presenting the option of supporting the Tsar (The Union of the Russian people faction) on my website.