

The Russian Revolution

Unit 2 Notes

SS6H7 The student will explain conflict and change in Europe to the 21st century

- a. Describe the major developments following World War I: the Russian Revolution, the Treaty of Versailles, worldwide depression, and the rise of Nazism

Pre-Revolutionary Russia

- Only true **autocracy** left in Europe
- **Nicholas II** became last Russian czar in 1884
- He believed he was the absolute ruler anointed by God



Russia's Serfs (Peasants):

- Russia was divided into 2 groups—the very rich and the very poor (serfs)
- In exchange for working long hours for a landlord, a serf received a small log hut, a tiny piece of land, and a few animals.
- Most of the serfs' crops went to pay the landlord's taxes.
- Anyone who resisted the rules was beaten with a leather and wire whip. Many tried to escape, but few succeeded.



“Bloody Sunday”

- 1905: Russia lost a war with Japan
 - This angered many serfs and workers
 - January 22nd: thousands of people marched on the Winter Palace to ask Czar Nicholas for reforms
 - Palace troops shot people in the crowd; this became known as “Bloody Sunday”
 - More and more riots began to occur after this...



Discovery
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The Effects of World War I

- 1914: Russia entered World War I and did not do well
 - Millions of soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing,
 - people suffered severe food shortages,
 - Soldiers did not have enough clothes, shoes, or weapons

The Effects of World War I

- Czar Nicholas ignored the signs that people were unhappy
- He was seen as a weak man & became increasingly remote as a ruler
 - He did not see that changes were needed in the way that his country was run
 - Numerous soviets thus began to appear on the scene...

Time for a Change



- Early 1917—there were riots in the streets
 - Women, factory workers, and farmers demanded a change
- Groups greatly outnumbered the police & the military could not keep the peace
- Czar Nicholas was forced to give up his throne, and a weak government took over
 - Czar & his family were captured

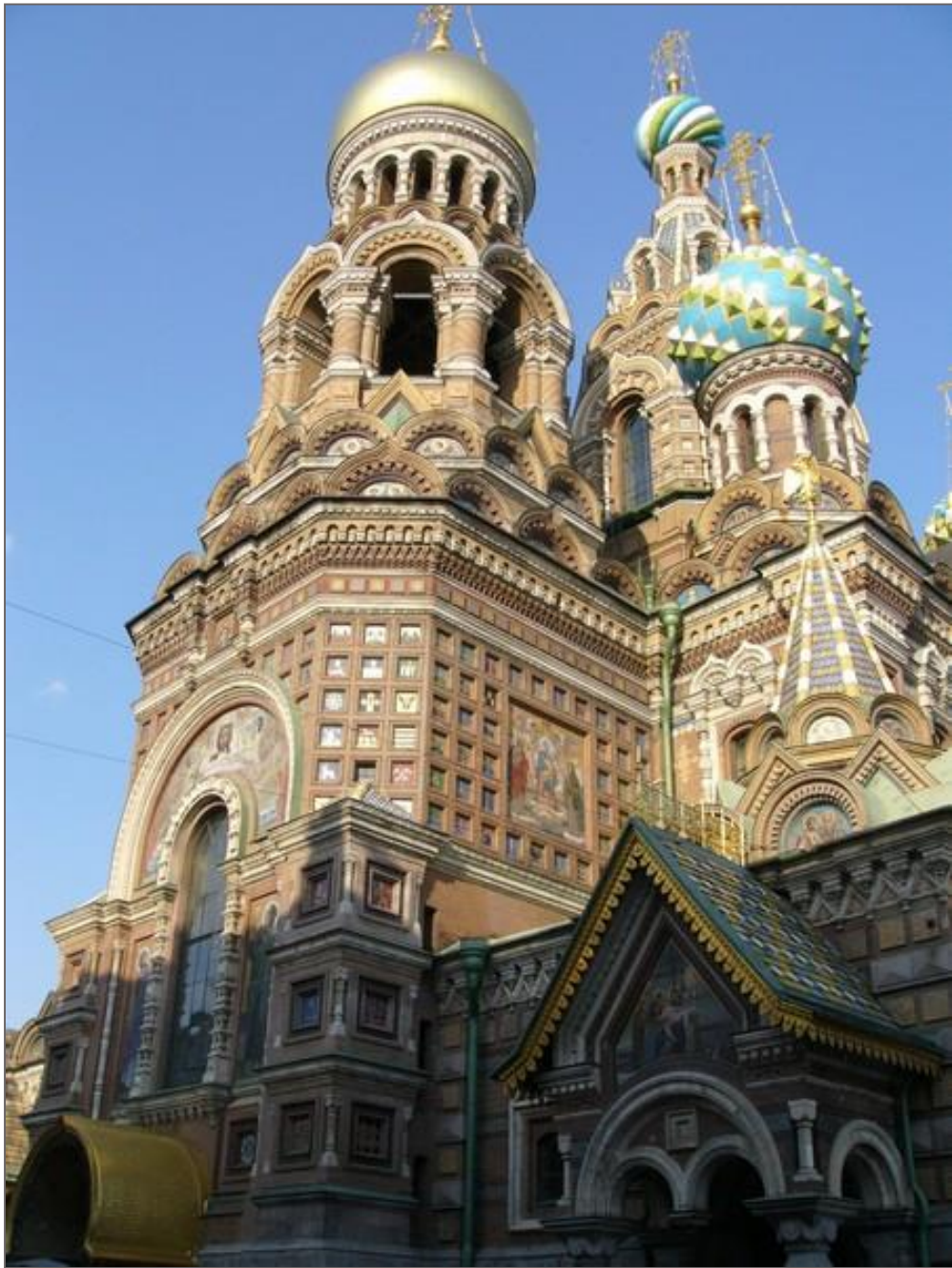


The Revolution Spreads...



Opening of the Duma

- ◆ “Duma” = Russian Congress
- ◆ There were 3 attempts to make the Duma work, but each was too radical & still favored only the wealthiest Russians
- ◆ In the end, there were just too many problems
 - ◆ Time for another revolution...



Lenin Brings Communism to Russia



- 1917: Vladimir Lenin pushed the weak government aside and Communists took control of Russia
 - Czar Nicholas & his family were executed
- Lenin reorganized the country and named it the Soviet Union



Why Communism?



- A theory that says the government should own the farms and factories for the benefit of all the citizens
- Everyone should share the work equally and receive an equal share of the rewards
 - Appealed greatly to many Russians (split between rich and poor)
 - Lenin promised that communism would bring fairness and equality to ALL Russians...

Credits

- Presentation retrieved from www.Slideshare.net.
Posted by North Gwinnett Middle School
- Modification by Mrs. Morgan –
- *Bloody Sunday Sparks Revolution of 1905*. Prod. Discovery Education. Discovery Education, 2004. *Discovery Education*. Web. 10 September 2011. <<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/>>.
- *Russia Revolution and Formation of USSR*. Prod. Media Rich Learning. Media Rich Learning, 2009. *Discovery Education*. Web. 10 September 2011. <<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/>>.
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