

Russian Revolution

and the aftermath

Important dates so far...

- 1900: Russia is fourth largest producer of steel (introduction of workers, factories, socialist movement begins)
- 1905: Bloody Sunday: workers petition the tsar, army opens fire on them
- Nicholas creates a Duma and allows civil liberties
- By 1907: Nicky has all the power again
- 1914-1916: Russia fights in WWI, Nicky is an atrocious leader

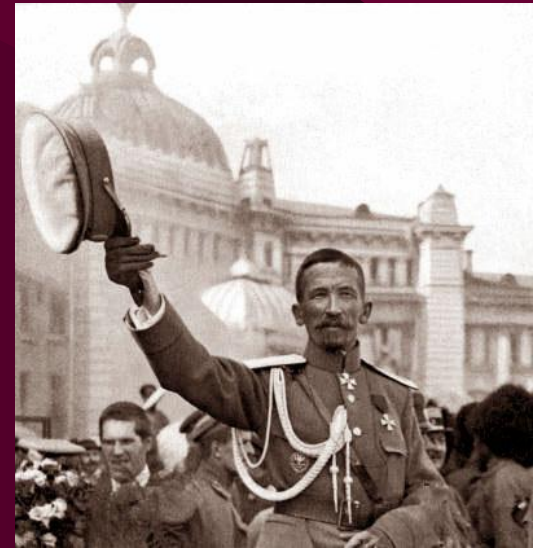
March 1917

- Bread is being rationed
- Tsar abdicates the throne
- Duma established the new provisional government which shared power with the soviets (representatives of workers and soldiers)
- This was considered to be a temporary government
- They chose to stay in the war (oops)



New government

- In reality provisional government had no authority. Soviets were supported by workers and rank-and-file soldiers
- Provisional government allowed major socialist leaders to return to Russia (Lenin)
- German military leaders sent Lenin back and he is able to win many supporters- why did they do that?



Lenin's April Thesis- 1917

- Lenin speech laid out the Bolshevik platform
 - calling to end the war
 - a VIOLENT revolution of the workers
 - Get rid of all of the police and put the power into the hands of the soviet workers
 - Redistribution of land to the peasants
- “Peace, Bread, Land”
- Ordinary Russians were involved by listening to speeches at Znamenskaya's Square, sang International song



Тов. Ленин ОЧИЩАЕТ
ЗЕМЛЮ ОТ НЕЧИСТИ.

Comrade Lenin Sweeps the World of the Unclean (1920)

Mikhail Cheremnykh

Source: Victoria Bonnell, [Russian Posters, 1914-1953](#). 2001.

Contributor: With Viktor Deni

October Revolution (November 1917)

- Bolsheviks gained popularity
 - They refused to have anything to do with the provisional government
 - Most people were sick of war
 - Lenin was a very powerful speaker
- October 24th the Bolshevik takeover began
 - Took over key government buildings and railroads in Petrograd
 - Took over the Winter Palace
 - Very little violence, many people did not know it was happening

March 1918

- The Bolsheviks rename themselves the Communists
- Russia drops out of the war – a humiliating loss



Out of WWI

- In order to stabilize and concentrate on the civil war/chaos at home Lenin pulled Russia out of the war and gave up a lot in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
 - Lost 34% of its population
 - Lost 32% of its agriculture
 - Lost 54% of its industry
 - Lost 89% of its coal mines



1918-1922: Civil War

- The Allies send troops to Russia: they are scared of Communism
- Communists fight anti-Communists, those loyal to the czar and those that don't like Lenin and Ukrainians
- Red army was well disciplined due to Leon Trotsky
- Their opponents were not united and so were defeated
- Secret police developed- destroyed those that opposed the Communist regime
- 1920-1922: Drought and famine



Joseph Stalin, Vladimir Lenin, and Mikhail Kalinin meeting in 1919. All three of them were "Old Bolsheviks"; members of the Bolshevik party before the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Cult of Lenin

- Petrograd became Leningrad
- After his death, people in the party tried to emphasize their relationship and allegiance to Lenin as qualifications to gain power



1922: Communists are totally in command of Russia

They are ignored at the PPC

Union treaty formally joins Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and the Transcaucasus - which were divided in 1936 into Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan - into the Soviet Union. (Russia ceases to exist...)

And then Lenin died... (this is where it gets really messy...)

People are desperate

- Starving, humiliated, angry: the Russian people are ready for stability
- Lenin tries a New Economic Policy that is more capitalist than communist...
- This temporary retreat into capitalism saved Russia

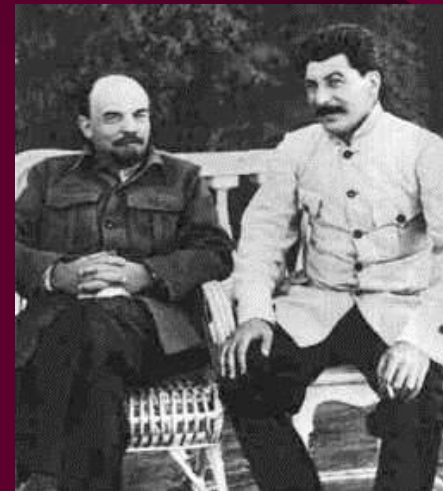
Lenin died in 1924

- Struggle for power
- Trotsky wanted to keep the NEP, Stalin wanted a return to socialist policies
- 1926: Stalin gains control of the party
- 1927: Trotsky is expelled from Russia (dies in 1940, probably by Stalin)
- Enter the Five Year Plan...

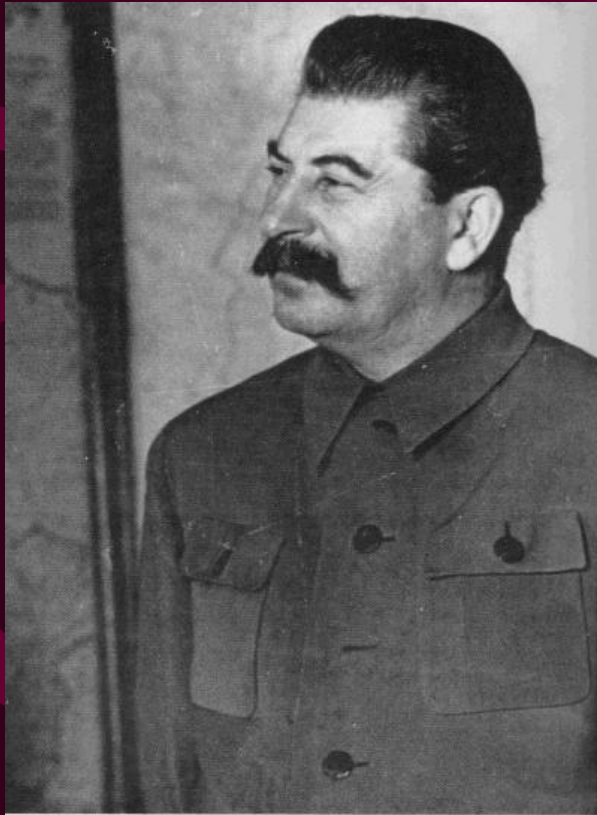
"Stalin is too rude and this defect, although quite tolerable in our midst and in dealing among us Communists, becomes intolerable in a Secretary-General.

That is why I suggest the comrades think about a way of removing Staling from that post and appointing another man in his stead who in all other respects differs from Comrade Stalin..." -

VI Lenin



- Stalin!



Stalin with the Pioneers

Stalin

- Ended the NEP and implemented a “Command Economy”
- Industrialized Russia at all costs



The Five Year Plan

- Economic goals, transform from a mostly agricultural society to an industrial society
- 1928-1937 (the first two 5 year plans) resulted in huge increases in steel production
- It also resulted in: poor housing, propaganda, less farming, collectivization of farmland, famine

- 1932-1933: millions starve to death in Russia and surrounding areas

- The Holodomor is sometimes referred to as the Ukrainian Genocide, implying that the Holodomor was engineered by the Soviets, specifically targeting the Ukrainian people to destroy the Ukrainian nation as a political factor and social entity (starve them to death)



Purges

- 1936-1938
- Like Lenin he executed or deported all those who disagreed with him as a continuation of the Red Terror
- Purges
 - 10 million Soviet citizens died
 - Many were executed but others were sent to work camps
 - Russian Orthodox church lost power and authority

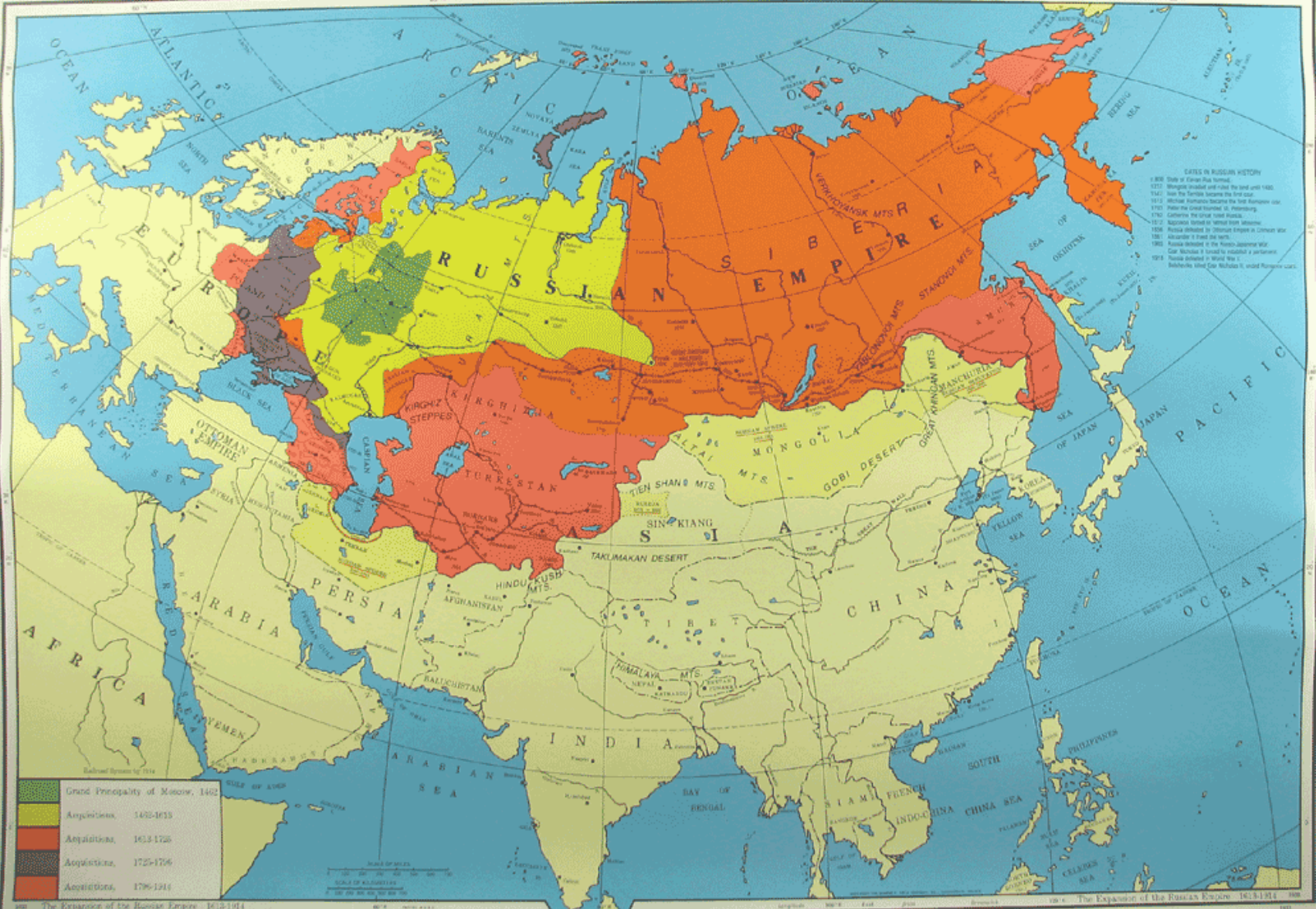


Nikolai Yezhov, the young man strolling with Stalin to his right in this photo from the 1930s, was shot in 1940. Following his death, he was edited out of the photo by Soviet censors. Such retouching was a common occurrence during Stalin's reign.

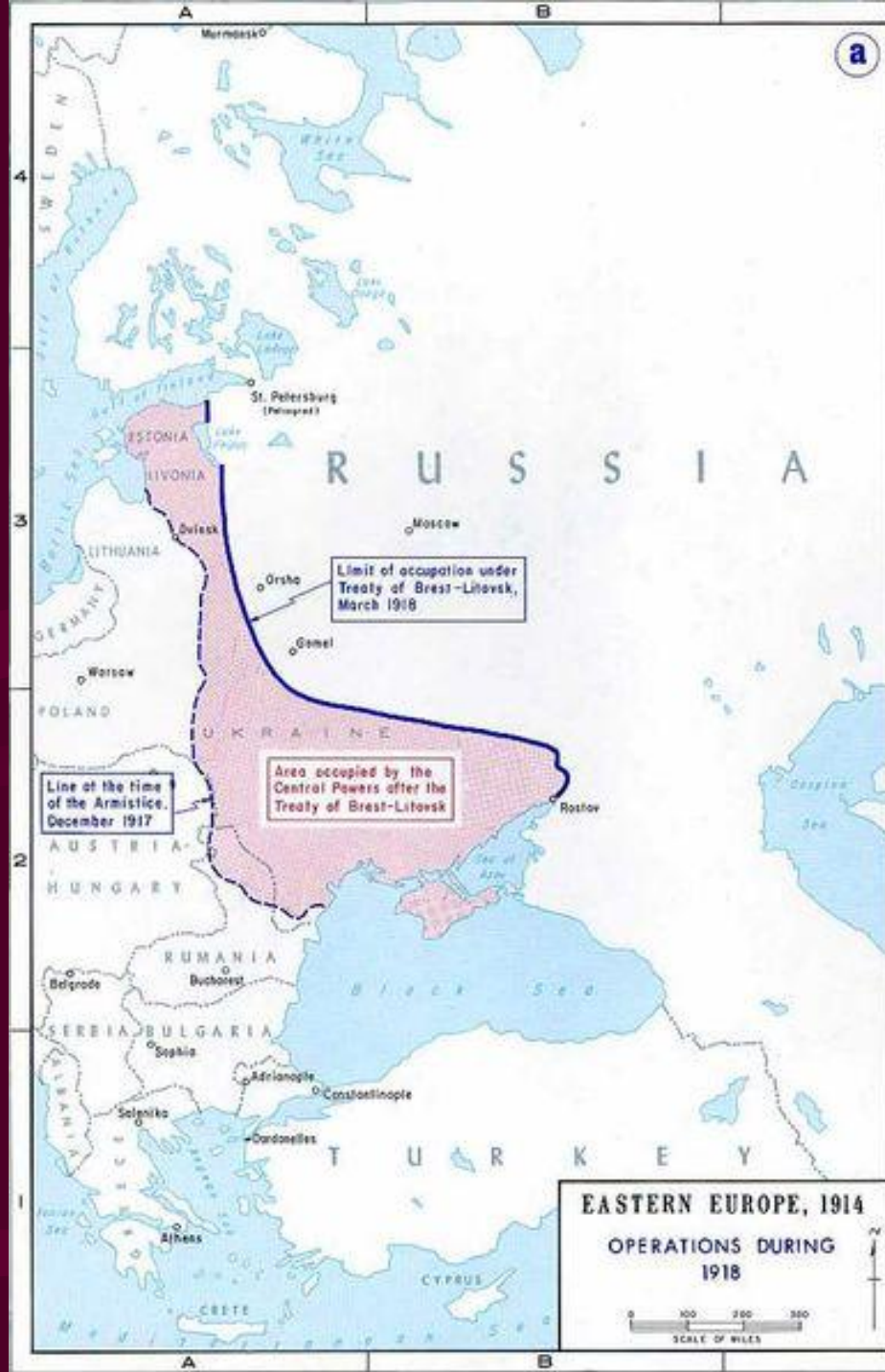




THE EXPANSION OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE, 1613-1914



The Expansion of the Russian Empire, 1613-1914





DATE REPUBLICS BECAME PART OF THE USSR

