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| **Aim:**  | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:****1****2** |  |

**Russian Revolution 1**

**A. Russia Under the Czar**

In the early 1900s, most Russians faced difficult conditions. Czar Alexander III controlled society and did not allow Russians to openly criticize him. His secret police carefully watched high schools and universities for those who spoke out against his rule. Teachers had to report on every student. If someone was caught, they were exiled to far away Siberia, a region of Russia. Alexander III died in 1894 and his son Nicholas II became the czar of Russia. By this time, life for Russian peasants was VERY hard. Russian factory workers were unhappy – the conditions in factories were very bad and pay was low. Only the nobility could get good jobs and only 1% of the population was rich. The price of bread was so high that people in Russia could not even afford to buy a loaf of bread for their families. After Russia lost a war (Russo-Japanese) with Japan, they blamed their Czar for Russia’s humiliation and defeat.

*What country that we have learned about does this situation remind you of? (Claim and evidence)*

**B. Bloody Sunday**

On Sunday, January 22, 1905, 200,000 Russian workers, facing bitter cold and snow, marched on the Winter Palace of Czar Nicolas II in St. Petersburg.

 “We workers, our children, our wives and our old, helpless parents have come … to seek … protection from you. We are impoverished (poor) … unbearable work is imposed (forced) on us, we are …not recognized as human beings. We are treated as slaves … We have suffered terrible things.”

They asked for:

* Freedoms, like freedom of speech and religion
* Education for everyone
* Shorter working day
* Higher pay for work
* A government where people can choose their leaders

- Petition to Czar Nicholas (January 22, 1905)

*Which demand in the petition do you think is the most important? Why?*

*What is Bloody Sunday? (Copy from Board)*

**C. The Revolution of 1905 and the October Manifesto**

After Bloody Sunday, the people revolted with repeated strikes, killings, and the setting on fire of many upper-class estates, Nicholas II released a document known as the October Manifesto. It said:

* Freedom of speech
* Everybody can vote
* A Duma (legislative body; government elected by the people) can be formed (Existed for only 10 weeks)

*How did the Duma solve the problems of the people?*

*Was the 1905 Revolution a total success for the Russian people? Explain.*

**D. World War I (1914-1919)**

At first, World War I unified Russia. Expansionists saw an opportunity to gain Balkan territory. Liberals and Socialists hoped that an alliance with France and Britain would help democratize Russia. All Russians were passionate in defense of their country. However, the tables soon began to turn. Nearly 2 million soldiers died, nearly 2 million had been captured, over 1 million civilians died, and nearly 5 million were wounded because Russia did not industrialize. Nicholas II joined his army at the battlefield. While away at the war, he left his wife and the Duma in charge. In his absence there were many strikes, riots, and chaos.

“Fellow Russians! Our fathers, husbands, and brothers are dying. The Czarist government sent them to war to kill them. We starve while the government takes our land to farm for the war. The government is guilty. It began this war and cannot end it. End this criminal government and its murderous leaders so that we can live in peace!”

- Russian Worker, Petrograd (St. Petersburg), 2/23/1917

*Explain the extent to which this quote is a reliable source on how World War I impacted Russia. (Reliable, somewhat reliable, or unreliable)*

**E. Video (The Romanovs – The Last Ruling Family)**

The House of Romanov was the last imperial dynasty to rule over Russia, reigning from 1613 to 1917. The last reigning czar was Nicholas II. He was married to Alexandra and they had five children - Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and Alexi. After his abdication (leaving of the throne) in March 1917, Nicholas and his family had been put under house arrest and kept just outside of St. Petersburg. To many, Nicholas was still the legitimate ruler of Russia. While he was alive, people would rally to his cause.

*Identify the turning point associated with this video.*

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