Russian Revolution

# Context for Revolution

Czar: The title of rulers or emperors of Russia from the sixteenth century until the Russian Revolution. The **czars** ruled as absolute monarchs.

1861 Emancipation of the serfs.

# 1905 Revolution

1904-05: Russo-Japanese War

1905 Bloody Sunday

1905 Revolution

# 1917 Revolution: Bread, Peace, and Land

1914 World War I begins

February Revolution

October Revolution

Civil War 1918-21

Russian Revolution

# Context for Revolution

Absolutist power of the Czar: Despite the Western (Enlightenment) influence upon Russia, the country still remained absolutist (enlightened despots: Catherine the Great).

1861 Tsar Alexander emancipates the serfs in order to provide a labor force for the factory system (industrialization)

# 1905 Revolution

1904-05: Russo-Japanese War: The Japanese defeat Russia in their rival ambitions for imperial control over Manchuria. The power of the Czar is put into the question.

1905 Bloody Sunday: After imperial forces shoot on protestors demanding better working conditions., a revolution forces Nicholas II to form a constitutional monarchy. A legislature called the duma is formed.

# 1917 Revolution: Bread, Peace, and Land

1914 World War I begins. Russia suffers heavy losses and the war becomes increasingly unpopular.

**February Revolution**: Revolts in Petrograd lead the Czar to abdicate. A transitional government led by Kerensky is formed, but keeps Russia in the war. .

Socialist Democratic Labor Party pushes for reform centered on the urban working class. Party splits in two: Mensheviks support gradual progress. Bosheviks led by Lenin support rapid progress led by a vanguard.

**October Revolution**: 1917 Bolsheviks take control of government and forbid other party from participating in government.

Civil War 1918-21. Bolshevik ‘reds” defeat the “whites” led by the bourgeoisie and farmers in civil war.

Csarist Russia: Nicholas II (absolutism).

Estates

Nobles: landowners. (some were poor even though because after the liberation of the serfs, they did not invest in factories)

Peasants 80%. Liberated from serfdom. They were free, but paid landlord for the freedom. No longer worked for free, but little real change.

Workers: some peasants moved to cities for the factory system. The government encouraged industrialization.

Clergy merchants peasants

Primarily agricultural, but modernizing (Westernizing). Liberals wanted greater power to the duma.

Russo-Japanese War: proof that Russia must industrialize and that the autocratic power of the Czar is obsolete.

1905: Democratic reform

Socialist Revolutionary Party and Socialist Democratic Party (

1917 Bolshevik Menshevik