

# **THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION**

**FROM CZAR TO COMMUNISM**



# LIFE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

- **Russians unhappy w/ govt for long time**
  - Widespread hunger
  - Poor working conditions
  - Czar (Russian emperor) Nicholas II was a weak and stubborn leader
- **WWI = MAJOR issue & cause of the revolution**
  - Govt put all focus, \$ into military → lack of food
  - Russia = not industrialized → HUGE military losses
- **Communists promised change for the working class**
  - Communism = everyone is economically (\$) equal, no social classes, everyone owns everything



# 1<sup>ST</sup> REVOLUTION OF 1917

## February Revolution 1917

- Worker strike, demand for bread
- Soldiers revolt
- Czar Nicholas II steps down
- Provisional govt. created



# **THINK-PAIR-SHARE**

**What similarities do you see between the Russian Revolution and previously studied revolutions?**



# THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

- **Leader = Alexander Kerensky**
- **People demanded immediate change**
  - Peasants wanted to own land
  - Workers wanted power
  - Soldiers wanted Russia out of WWI
- **Govt. decides to stay in WWI**
  - Wanted to keep alliances with GB, FR
  - People were **ANGRY!**



# VLADIMIR LENIN & THE BOLSHEVIKS

- **Lenin = Communist; leader of the Bolsheviks**
  - Bolsheviks = Communist political party in Russia
  - Supported by workers and soldiers
  - Wanted a Marxist revolution for Russia
  - Upset that revolution in Russia was happening without him



# VIDEO BREAK! 😊

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZbho6AsBOc>



# 2<sup>ND</sup> REVOLUTION OF 1917

## OCTOBER REVOLUTION 1917

- **Lenin & Bolsheviks revolted against Provisional Government**
  - Lenin takes over Russia
- **Quickly signs treaty with Germany**
  - Ended Russia's involvement in WWI
  - Russia suffered huge territorial losses
  - Lost alliances with GB, FR
- **Enemies of Bolsheviks immediately go to war with Lenin**





# RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR 1918 - 1922

- **The White Army VS The Red Army**
  - White = Supporters of the Czar, enemies of Bolsheviks,
    - \$ and support from US, FR, GB
  - Red = Bolsheviks, workers, peasants, soldiers
- **Red Terror**
  - Lenin, Bolsheviks kill 50,000 – 1 mill. “counterrevolutionaries”
- **The Red Army wins = Russia is now communist**
  - Millions dead from war and famine
  - Farms, factories, economy destroyed
  - Now known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

