# 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

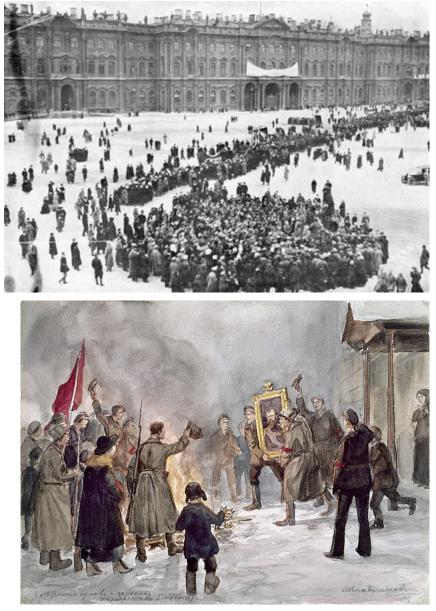




## **1<sup>ST</sup> REVOLUTION OF 1917**

## 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! ③

#### 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)

