

Revolution in Russia Name: _____ Prd: ____ Score: _____ /30

Directions: Highlight the answer in the text on the left *before* answering the questions on the right.

On **January 22, 1905**, 1000s of Russian workers gathered in front of the royal **Winter Palace** in St. Petersburg. The workers were discontented, & they had come to ask their emperor, Czar Nicholas II, for help. Among other things, they wanted an 8-hour workday & a minimum wage of one ruble a day (about 50 cents).

The workers sang religious & patriotic songs & carried pictures of the royal family. They thought if they could just see the czar, their requests would be granted. But the czar had no intention of meeting the workers. His soldiers were posted in front of the palace to stop them. Suddenly the soldiers panicked at the sight of such a huge crowd...& began shooting! Screaming, the workers tried to run. But there were 200,000 of them, & no room to run! In a few moments' time, 100s of men, women, & children lay dead!

The incident, called "Bloody Sunday," was really the beginning of the end of traditional Russian government. For centuries Russia had been ruled by emperors, called czars (tsars). They had absolute power over their subjects. The czar's decisions were the law. There were no elections for government officials & no law-making body existed. The ruler appointed all advisers, & there was no freedom of speech or of religion.

From the 1500s, Russian society & its economy had been based on serfdom. This was a system that tied serfs, or peasants, to the land ~ most of which was owned by the noble families of Russia. Serfs belonged to the estates of their landowners. They could be sold to other estates & could be forced to work as servants. They could even be forced to work in factories in the towns & cities. Other millions of serfs were owned by the government.



Making conclusions: What did workers "singing *religious & patriotic songs* & carrying pictures of the royal family" suggest as far as the crowd's **INTENTIONS**:

- a. they were angry c. trouble was brewing
b. they were there d. it was a peaceful intent
to riot



The incident on **January 22nd, 1905** was forever known as " _____."

Total/power over one's subjects is called

- a. totalitarian rule c. a monarchy
b. a republic d. democracy

I. Russian (hierarchy) society

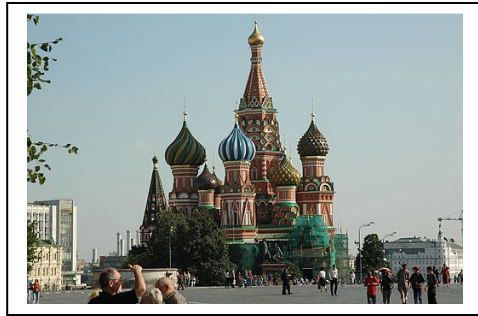
- A. nobles at the top
B. _____ or peasants
1. tied to the _____
2. belonged to estates of their _____
3. could be _____ to others
4. also could be forced to work as _____ or in _____
C. others owned by the government

By the middle of the 1800s, however, many Russians, including some nobles, realized that reforms had to be made. Russia, they reasoned, could not be a great European power if it did not change its economic & social system. Many Russians were also alarmed at the violent revolts that broke out periodically. They lived *in fear of* a serf uprising.

Still, most landowners would not *voluntarily* free their serfs. So, **Czar Alexander II**, in 1861, himself, *abolished* serfdom. His proclamation *freed* some 40 million Russian peasants, allowing them to now *own* their own houses & land! They were given *some say* in running local governments, but freedom for these peasants was *limited*. They had to pay the government for the land they received. Often it was not good land, nor was it enough to support them. The payments to the government overburdened the peasants.

Peasants were not the only discontented group in Russia. University students, teachers, & writers also hoped for further reforms. But Alexander II backed away from any more changes. Soon, groups of **radicals** ~ people who take extreme measures to bring about change ~ formed in St. Petersburg & other large cities. They believed that only revolution could change Russia. Some were influenced by the ideas of **Karl Marx**, a visionary who *believed in a utopian* world filled with dignity, honor & freedom for all. Many others were simply revolutionaries who constantly plotted to overthrow the government. Most plots involved the murder of the czar. And in 1881, a group of revolutionary terrorists assassinated Alexander II!!

The czars who followed Alexander II had no intention of making any further reforms. Alexander III & his son Nicolas II *brutally suppressed* radical activity. The state **secret police (KGB)** *captured & executed* scores of revolutionaries, but the risk of being caught did *not* stop radical plots against the government.



Lived in
fear of

_____.

Czar Alexander II _____.

- gave peasants some say in government
- freed some peasants by abolishing serfdom
- allowed former serfs to own land & homes
- all the above
- only b & c



T or F: The end of

serfdom brought about *only positive* consequences.

Radicals used ___ methods *to bring about change*.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| a. peaceful | d. serene |
| b. excessive | e. a & d only |
| c. radical | f. b & c only |

_____ was a **visionary** who *believed in* a _____ world ~ filled with _____, _____ & _____ *for all Soviets!*

Applying past knowledge: A "**utopian** world" is *one that is* _____.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| a. dishonest | c. illegal |
| b. criminal | d. perfect |

What was life like *under Alexander III & Nicolas II*? _____

A great uneasiness grew in Russia. **Nicholas II** was not a czar who would bring about reform. He was a quiet, religious man who was dominated by the idea that the czar alone ruled Russia. Nicolas refused to make any reforms to help the workers & peasants, & he clung stubbornly to his belief in absolute rule.

The events of 1905 showed that the Russian people were getting ready to throw off absolute rule. Half a million Russian workers *walked off* their jobs in the month following Bloody Sunday. The crew of the battleship Potemkin *mutinied* in protest. Peasants *drove* landowners from their estates. Workers *rioted* in the cities. And in some places, czarist soldiers had to put down the riots.

Nicholas had to make some changes or else risk losing his power. He *reluctantly* agreed to form a **Duma** ~ a group of elected government officials who were *supposed to have the power to help make laws*. Nicholas also made trade unions legal & guaranteed freedom of speech. Nicolas, however, refused to allow any laws to be passed *that he did not agree with*. Whenever the Duma disagreed with him, he dissolved it & held elections for a new one!

Many people saw that the czar, despite the Duma, *still kept all his power*. Radicals began to organize demonstrations & strikes, & distributed pamphlets on **Marxist** & other radical ideas. The ideas of one particular Russian Marxist began to be heard. This was Vladimir Ulyanov...later to be called **Lenin**!

Lenin believed in many of the ideas of **Karl Marx** but did not believe that a workers' revolution would happen in Russia on its own. He argued that workers had to be won over to Marxist ideas by a strong group of leaders. These leaders would form a disciplined party of professional revolutionaries. Lenin wanted an immediate revolution. After that, he argued, socialism could be proclaimed!

Nicholas II's beliefs:

- 1) _____
alone ruled Russia!
 - 2) no reforms for

- or _____

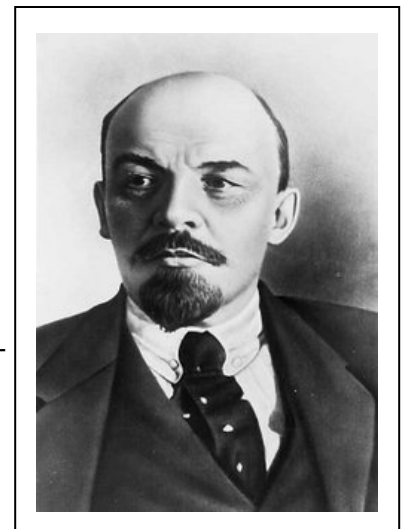
How did the Russian peasants *show* that they were "*primed*" for a rebellion?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____



T or F: Though **Nicholas II** *reluctantly* agreed to elected government officials, their new laws had to be those he supported.

Vladimir Lenin ↓



Lenin is *credited with bringing the ideas of*

to the Soviet Union...
but did not believe it would happen on its own.

Lenin devoted his time to building the kind of party that would lead Russian workers to revolution! By 1912, his party was known as the **Bolsheviks**, meaning "majority" in Russian.

When World War I broke out in 1917, a wave of patriotism swept the nation. Russians rallied behind their government in spite of its failings. Except for the Bolsheviks, even radical parties offered to help defend their country. Thousands of soldiers cheered the czar as they marched off to the front (war.)

But as the *war dragged on*, weariness & unrest replaced loyalty to the government. Millions of *men were dying* at the front as German armies overran the western part of Russia. *Food & weapons were in short supply*. What *war machines there were often did not reach the front* because the *railroads were inadequate*. In addition, many *officials were dishonest ~ stealing* military supplies & food. There were *severe food shortages in the cities*, which were *crowded with refugees* from the countryside. When the Duma suggested reforms to solve the problems, Nicolas refused to listen!

By March of 1917, the country had erupted into revolution. Half the industrial workers of Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg) went on strike. Ninety thousand people *rioted* in the streets *protesting* food shortages. Soldiers were ordered to put down the riots, but the soldiers *sympathized with* the people not the government.

With the soldiers on their side, the workers of Petrograd *seized control* of all transportation, communication, & food distribution. News of the Petrograd revolution spread to other parts of Russia. In a few days, czarist officials in every part of Russia were *thrown out* of office. No one was willing to fight to keep the czar. By the end of the month, Nicholas II was forced to give up his throne.

Who would now rule Russia in this period of confusion?

Lenin's majority party was called the _____.



Painting of the leaders of the Bolshevik party. ↑

Why did loyalty to the Soviet government & WWI eventually fade?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

(There are more than 4 ~ you pick!)



Lenin with troops in Petrograd ↑

How did Petrograd workers *seize control*?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Making predictions: *Who* do you think will now **rule** Russia? _____

Soldiers wanted to come home. Civilians in the cities waited in long lines to buy food & fuel. Workers demanded higher wages & control of the factories. Peasants demanded more & better land. The economy was collapsing.

Led by a socialist lawyer, Alexander Kerensky, the Duma formed a provisional (temporary) government. For several months, the provisional government struggled to carry on the war, but it could not control the army. Soldiers by the 1000s *deserted*. Some regiments *mutinied*. Peasants demanded more land, while workers wanted real reforms.

Into this confusion stepped Lenin & the Bolsheviks. Their slogan was "**Peace, Land, & Bread.**" Their goal was to overthrow the provisional government & establish a government ruled by the **proletariat**, or working class.

Even though the Bolsheviks were small in number, they were *highly organized*. They were also *very persuasive* in their promises to bring peace & give the people control of the land & the factories. In the major cities & towns, they took control of the **soviets** ~ councils made up of workers & soldiers. With their cry of "All power to the soviets!" the Bolsheviks urged the councils to overthrow local governments.

In November 1917, the Bolsheviks struggled. Guided by Lenin, the soldiers & workers of the Petrograd soviets stormed the government buildings & arrested the leading officials. Around the country, local soviets rose up. Any resistance was *brutally crushed*. When the revolution was over, the Council of Peoples' Commissars became the new government, & Lenin was its leader.

The Bolsheviks, later called **Communists**, moved quickly to pull out of the war. In its peace treaty with Germany, Russia gave up much of the territory ruled by the czars, including Poland & Finland. Many Russians felt *betrayed* by the treaty & *resisted* with acts of violence.

List the problems facing most Russians as the war raged on: 1) _____
 2) _____
 3) _____

(There are more than 3; you pick 3.)

Applying past knowledge: "To **mutiny**" is to:

Recalling past knowledge x2:

What was **France's** revolutionary slogan?

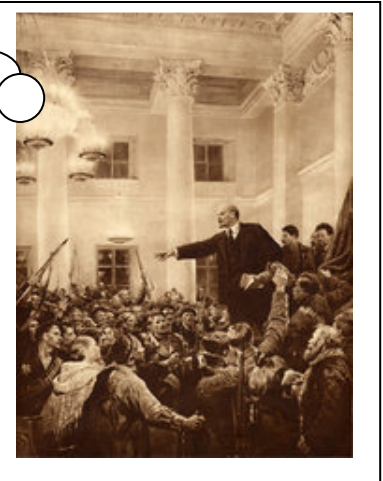
L _____! E _____! F _____!

The Bolsheviks referred to the working class as the _____.

Peace! Land! Bread!

Describe *how* the Bolsheviks were so effective: _____

Lenin proclaims Soviet power



At the end of WWI, Russia was forced to give up much land *including* _____ & _____.

Still the Communists maintained control of the government. When an elected assembly tried to declare the new government illegal, Lenin *dissolved* it by force. Other political parties were abolished & the secret police were established to suppress any resistance.

To carry out its promises of reform, the government took over all industry & put workers in charge of factories. Banks were taken over. Private ownership of property was abolished, & peasants were allowed to work the land.

In the midst of making tremendous economic & social changes, the Communists also had to fight a civil war. Thousands of Russians opposed the government. Many fled the country. Others stayed & fought.

For two years, a bloody civil war raged across Russia. The "Red" armies of the Communists fought the "White" armies of their opponents. The Whites did not have the resources in supplies & equipment to carry on a long war. Also, the Whites quarreled among themselves, & they did not have the full support of the peasants in the country. By 1920, the Red armies had defeated their opponents.

Lenin died four years after the end of that civil war. He had worked to solve the nations economic & industrial problems. But the Communist leaders disagreed among themselves, & began to struggle for power. Lenin had *hoped* that eventually a **dictatorship** would be unnecessary. But he died without achieving this. The next leader of what was now the Soviet Union, **Joseph Stalin**, was to establish one of the most repressive **dictatorships** in history.

flag of the Soviet Union →



Applying current knowledge:

Russia's secret police were called the _____.
(Clue: See page 2!)

BONUS: What do these initials ↑ stand for?

Reform took the form of _____.

- a. abolishment of private property
- b. banks taken over
- c. industry controlled by the government
- d. all the above

Drawing conclusions: Why did the "White" army of Russia *lose to* the "Red" army in their civil war?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

succeeded Vladimir Lenin & created one of THE most **oppressive** _____ in the history of Russia or any other country.

