

RUSSIA REFORM AND REACTION

- I. The Russian Colossus
 - a. 1800 – largest and most populated empire in Europe
 - b. lands from Baltic and Black Seas to Pacific Ocean
 - c. had immense natural resources
 - d. size gives it global importance
 - e. Obstacles to Progress
 - i. Was economically underdeveloped
 - ii. Czars didn't want to reform because didn't want to give up power
 - iii. Rigid social structure
 - 1. landowners don't allow change
 - 2. middle class small and no power
 - 3. serfs – majority of people, tied to land
 - f. Shame of Serfdom
 - i. Masters have total control over serfs
 - ii. Serfs mostly peasants
 - iii. Industry develop and serfs sent to factory but gave pay to master
 - iv. As long as have serfdom, economy wouldn't advance
- II. Three Pillars of Russian Absolutism
 - a. Alexander I (1801-1825)
 - i. Originally offer reform but moved away from it
 - 1. oppose nationalism and liberal reforms
 - b. Revolt and repression
 - i. December Revolt – (1825) led by Army officers once Alexander died
 - 1. demand constitution and liberal reforms
 - ii. Nicholas I (1825-1855)– new czar
 - 1. defeat revolt and cracked down on dissent
 - 2. banned books from west to stop liberal ideas
 - 3. liberal and revolutionary leaders were shipped to Siberia
 - c. Orthodoxy, autocracy and nationalism
 - i. Orthodoxy
 - 1. strong ties to Russian Orthodox church
 - ii. Autocracy
 - 1. absolute power of Russian government
 - iii. Nationalism
 - 1. support Russian culture and tradition and suppress all other non Russian groups within empire
 - iv. attempted some reforms but didn't want to anger nobles, so didn't go very far
- III. Reforms of Alexander II (1855-1881)
 - a. 1855 become Emperor during Crimean War
 - i. Crimean War
 - 1. Russia try to take lands from Ottomans
 - 2. France and western countries fight and defeat Russian
 - 3. reveals how backward and inefficient Russia is

- b. Emancipation
 - i. Russia loses Crimea, so people demand changes in government
 - ii. 1861 Alexander II frees all serfs
 - iii. serfs now had to buy land, but had no money
 - iv. lands they had were too small to support family
 - v. serfs remain poor and unhappy
 - vi. did encourage other reforms
 - c. Other Reforms
 - i. Zemstvos – local assemblies set up to help with government
 - 1. control road repair, education etc.
 - ii. Legal reforms
 - 1. trial by jury
 - iii. eased military requirements and censorship
 - iv. increased women’s rights
- IV. Return to Reaction
- a. Reforms weren’t enough for people
 - i. Peasants want land, liberals want constitution, radicals want socialism
 - b. Revolutionary Currents
 - i. “Go to the People Movement”
 - 1. socialists go to peasants and urge them to rise up and demand reform
 - 2. failed to make change, so they resort to violence
 - ii. 1881 – Tsar Alexander II killed by a bomb
 - c. Crackdown
 - i. Alexander III respond with severe repression
 - 1. secret police, censorship, exiled critics
 - 2. reject democracy and constitutions
 - ii. Russification
 - 1. policy to suppress all cultures in empire except Russian
 - 2. target Jews, Muslims, Poles, Ukrainians, Armenians, Finns
 - d. Persecution and Pogroms
 - i. Alexander III persecuted Jews
 - 1. limit education, where they can live, jobs they can get
 - ii. Pogroms – official persecution of Jews
 - 1. Jews fled Russia to other lands
- V. Building Russian Industry
- a. Alexander III and son Nicholas II bring Russia to Industrial Age
 - b. Began developing railroads to access iron and coal resources
 - i. Trans Siberian Railway developed
 - c. Resistance to Industrialization
 - i. Nobles and peasants fear changes made to their lives
 - d. Problems with Industrialization
 - i. Overcrowding, disease, poverty
 - e. Reaction to Problems
 - i. Growth of Socialist movement

- ii. Lenin reads about Marx at this time
- VI. Little Father Betrays his People
 - a. 1904 – Russia fights Japan and suffers humiliating defeat
 - b. Peaceful March
 - i. Frustration of losing war encourage people to demonstrate to improve life at home
 - ii. Workers march on Winter Palace in St Petersburg to let tsar know of their sufferings
 - 1. led by Father Gapon
 - c. Bloody Sunday
 - i. Tsar was scared of crowd so he left and called in troops
 - ii. Shots are fired, hundreds died
 - iii. People felt betrayed and abandoned by tsar
- VII. Revolution of 1905
 - a. After Bloody Sunday there were many strikes
 - i. Countryside there were revolts, in cities assassinations
 - b. October Manifesto
 - i. Nicholas forced to give reforms
 - 1. grant freedom of speech, assembly and union
 - 2. agreed to a Duma (legislature) that would make laws
 - c. Results of Revolution
 - i. Manifesto made moderates separate from socialists
 - ii. Nicholas use divisions to prevent threat to his power
 - iii. 1906 Duma meets, but dissolved when criticize tsar
 - d. Stolypin
 - i. Peter Stolypin – appointed prime minister
 - 1. tried to restore order with pogroms, arrests, executions
 - 2. realized repression wouldn't work, need reform
 - a. tried land reform
 - b. strengthen zemstvos
 - c. improve education
 - 3. assassinated in 1911
 - e. Russia remain autocracy dominated by elites