| Time | Economic | Social | Political | Leadership | External | Groups |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Up to 1914 | Stolypin’s Agrarian Reforms: could leave mir to consolidate land into single unit, encourage agricultural production, personal initiative. By 1914, only 10% farms on land separated from mir. Russia was largest grain exporter in the world.  1907-1914, industrial production grew 6% p.a.  Focus on rearmament for Russo-Japanese War.  1870-1916, industrial production increased from 0.68-33.8 million tonnes | Class Structure   * Nobility: 1% population, owned 25% of land. Dominated powerful positions in army and government due to status * Middle class: small but growing, insufficient to begin bourgeois revolution. * Urban workers: poor conditions and wages, around 2.5% of population * Peasants: restricted to commune, 80% population, lived and worked on strip farms of nobility. Kulaks: richer peasants who hired labour and owned land.   Emancipation of the serfs 1861: liberated from slavery and were given own land, but were responsible to the commune who could redistribute land and collect taxes. Serfdom had inhibited the growth of the industrial class, and a productive agricultural industry  1881: famine | 1905 Revolution  Causes:   * Rapid social and economic change: economic growth meant peasants move to cities, poor conditions = strikes and repression/dissent * Politically active and liberal middle class/intelligentsia - involved in zemstva (local government) and began to dissent from Tsar * Economic depression since 1900, industrial workers suffered and increased action. Peasants protested against high rent, among poor crops * Increased liberal opposition: liberal revolutionary parties forming eg. Social Democrats, Social Revolutionaries. Workers joined state-organised police unions * Russo-Japanese War 1904-05: expansionist policy in East, Russia refused to compromise and was crushed by Japanese - seemed to demonstrate incompetency of government * Bloody Sunday Jan 9 : Father Gapon, pro-Tsar priest, led 100,000 strikers to Winter Palace to peacefully petition Tsar after strike at Pulitor Engineering works. Authorities opened fire - 130-200 killed, 300-500 injured. As a result, by end of Jan, over 400,000 strikers in St Petersburg   TSAR ONLY MAINTAINED POWER DUE TO SUPPORT OF THE ARMY AND CONCESSIONS | October 13 1905: St Petersburg Soviet formed, Trotsky deputy chairman. By December, over 80 had sprung up around country. Organised food supplies and coordination of Revolution - success  October 17: Tsar forced to agree to October Manifesto, concede agreement to freedom of speech, end of unwarranted arrests, elected **duma (constitutional experiment)** - but largely dismissed as a trick by revolutionaries - dissatisfied, split liberals (wanted constitutional democracy) and socialists (wanted socialist revolution)  Mensheviks wanted be broadly based , be more democratic, encouraged trade unions to aid working class, believed that the bourgeois democratic government would exist for a while, Workers would develop a class, develop revolutionary consciousness until ready for revolution  On the other hand, Bolsheviks wanted to centralise the party power to prevent them getting infiltrated (this got criticised)  Lenin: 1903 socialist congress, Lenin managed to insult a group of socialists in order to make them leave the room in anger - Lenin gained control of the Congress, called his faction ‘Bolshevik’ (majority party) and the others Menshevik (minority party) | Crimean War (1853-1856) Russian Empire lost to an alliance of the Ottoman Empire, France, Britain, Sardinia. The longer-term causes involved the decline of the Ottoman Empire & the unwillingness of Britain and France to allow Russia to gain territory and power at Ottoman expense.  -Russo-Jap War (8 Feb 1904 – 5 Sep 1905) Russia suffered multiple defeats by Japan, but Tsar Nicholas II. Japan first Asian country to defeat European power |  |
| 1914-1917 | 1916, Russia matched German shell production. 1000% growth in artillery/weapons  Drop in agriculture: peasants no incentive as govt wouldn’t pay higher prices: processing factories had been transformed to weapons factories. By 1915, production of agricultural goods was 15% of pre-war levels.  Inflation: Russia printing money to pay for wages, high demand for short supply of goods. Cost of living increased  300% | Impact of war:  1 million Russian soldiers died May-Dec 1915  Battle of Tannenberg and Battle of Masurian Lakes, over 230,000 Russians died  Causes of Russia’s loss:   * Poor leadership: generals chosen for loyalty to Tsar, not expertise * War Ministry failing: short of supplies, no structure of command, no war plan. End of 1914, 6.5 million men but only 4.6 million guns (Pipes, 1996)   Effect of Russia’s losses   * Losses weakened internal support from duma and society * Loss of land in west cut railway line to Petrograd: supplies cut. By 1916, Petrograd receiving ⅓ daily food and fuel supplies required | Tsar:   * Nationalistic support increased at start of war, but quickly evaporated due to mismanagement * Professionals formed War Industries Committees to convert factories to military production * Zemstva and muncipalities joined to make Zemgor, supplied own medical care and uniforms, tents, Established more than 3000 hospitals (Peeling, 2014). Highlights incompetence of Tsar. Proved that there was a viable and effective alternative to the Tsar - people were able to run the day-to-day activities of the state independently of the Tsar. Success of the Zemgor and WICs strengthened the liberal and socialist arguments for reform of the Tsarist administration and an elected Ministry in the Duma. Especially given first chairman of Zemgor, Prince L’vov, was also PM in the Duma from March to July 1917. CWICs used as political forum for opposition to Tsar - empowered workers and revolutionaries * Duma reconvened July 1915, ⅔ liberal deputies formed progressive bloc that demanded elected ministers replace incompetent war ministers. Tsar refused and suspended duma - weakened internal and external support. | August 1915, Tsar took direct control of army from Mogliev - became personally responsible for losses, left Tsarina and Rasputin to lead from Petrograd  Poor decisions in ministerial appointment, poor decisions because ministers flattered Tsarina, eg. PM Sturmer  Rasputin: adored by Tsarina, healed haemophilic son Alexei. Gave him, an adulterer, direct access to nobility. Reputation extended to Tsarina - pornographic propaganda  Tsarina - ‘German Woman’. Eventually killed by Prince Yusupov - detested by the aristocracy |  | Industrial workers: wages were less than ⅓ of average Western European industrial worker, little government attempt to improve conditions.  Strikes increased 466-3,500 1911-1914.  Peasants: minority prospered, others remained impoverished |
| 1917 | Economy continued to spiral downhill under PG  Railways failing, shortages of fuel and raw materials led to factory failure - 568 factories closed, 100,000 jobs lost in Petrograd Feb-July 1917  Caused prices to rise - grain cost doubled Feb-Jun 1917. Grain requisitioning to access hoarded grain due to low prices  Strikes increased, Workers’ Committees began to take over factories completely - anger with PG, demanded halting of speculation, harsher measures on industrialists.  PG had lost the opportunity to gain support by intervening in the economy and freezing prices. | February Revolution  23 Feb: women’s protest joined by those protesting for food. By 25th Feb, 300,000 workers had gathered  27 Feb: 160,000 of the Petrograd Garrison mutinied - had been only body capable of enforcing Tsar’s authority, staying in cramped conditions fit only for 20,000 men, identified personally with the strikers of the previous day.  27 Feb: Petrograd Soviet formed  Duma urged Tsar to resign, in response the Tsar attempted to dismiss Duma. Instead, created the group of 12 ‘Provisional Committee’  Petrograd Soviet called for elections and temporary support for PC.  Tsar had been at the front - attempted to return to Petrograd to address situation, troops blocked  March 2nd: Tsar abdicates throne, end of Romanov dynasty  Allies immediately accepted PG  July Days:  2nd July: Trotsky addressed 1st Machine Gun Regiment to criticise Kerensky for June Offensive  3 July: protests requesting PG step down, supported by 20,000 Kronstadt Sailors and 20,000 workers.  July Days were a lax, failed Bolshevik coup d’etat. Lenin’s ‘wait and see’ mindset - didn’t dissociate from protests, but didn’t seize power.  Letter leaked from PG saying Lenin sent by Germans to undermine, Soviet troops arrived to disperse crowd, arrest Trotsky and Kamenev, shut down party paper, Lenin forced to flee Russia  Land  By May 1917, peasants were hungry for land, unrest in country  Land seizures - nobody to stop them taking it  Peasants believed would be better represented by SR leader Chernov in PG in May. Chernov suggested that peasants take free control of the land and ownership be sorted out later - but plan rejected, land was an issue left to the elected Constituent Assembly for later. Lost opportunity for PG to gain support.  July, 237 cases of land seizure - urgent need for reform to placate peasants.  Kornilov Affair  By end of August, Kerensky was eager to restore law and order  Appointed General Kornilov as Supreme Commander of Russian Forces, agreed to bring protection to Petrograd - Kornilov wanted to crush socialism  Sent troops marching towards Petrograd  Kerensky forced to call on Bolshevik Red Guard for protection in order to prevent counter-revolution - unintended effect of boosting support for Bolsheviks, who were seen as heroic defenders of the city. As a result, popularity surged, and Bolsheviks gained control of Petrograd Soviet by September 9 1917.  Army’s turning on Kerensky weakened provisional government’s support amongst the population, as stood as evidence of their powerlessness and illegitimacy.  Thus, when Bolsheviks sieged Winter Palace in October 1917, army was unwilling to protect a PG they saw as untrustworthy (having betrayed Kerensky) and illegitimate - deserted defence of the palace, directly enabling Bolsheviks to seize power.  Bread rations in Petrograd decreased from 335 to 110g/ day in Petrograd (working class). In the same time, Bolshevik support in municipal elections increased from 11 to 51%. | Provisional Government  Prince Lvov named PM, Kerensky Minister for Justice  Self-appointed - dictatorial?  Overwhelming liberal/moderate majority: Kadets, Octobrists  Would govern Russia until elections  Dual Power: Petrograd Soviet still had significant power, controlled army, railroads, post, telegraph  Decrees of the PG:   * 8 hour working day * Unions recognised * Okhrana abolished * Freedom of speech/assembly/press * Universal suffrage   War under the PG   * Continued war, as highly dependent on foreign loans, wanted to make territorial demands if Allies won. Soviet outraged, wanted defensive war only. Conscripts had a 73% chance of dying, blife expectancy mmmjmmmmon front was one month * May 5, Menshevik leader Tsereteli and SR leader Chernov joined PG - would be blamed if war went badly. Bolsheviks were now the only alternative to the PG * 1917 Summer offensive 16 June: PG believed that military success would increase control of army, give Russia better bargaining power in peace negotiations with Germany. Still financially dependent on Western Allies, could not leave war Attack lasted 3 days before falling apart, poorly supplied and poorly trained soldiers, 60,000 lost (Hingston, 2017), Russians retreated 240km (Livesy, 1994). Had been unpopular with the soldiers - 170,000 had deserted before beginning (Perfect, 2014). As a result, Lvov resigned as PM and replaced by Kerensky 8 July, alliance between Kadets and socialists in PG fell apart. Tensions heightened btw Soviet and PG - Soviet claimed that PG had sent 1st Machine Gun Regiment (main Bolshevik support of Petrograd Garrison) to front to break power of garrison and strengthen PG - protests   Petrograd Soviet  Chairman Chkheidze  Dominated by socialists: Mensheviks and Bolsheviks (SRs)  March 1 Soviet Order Number 1: Soviet controlled the Military, would follow duma as long as didn’t conflict with Soviet’s aims. Soldiers demanded representation. Demands made by soldiers who were wary of politicians still closely associated with the Tsar, had put their lives at risk for revolution and wanted to see its completion. Final trigger for abdication of Tsar.  Why didn’t it seize power?   * Not right time for workers - had to wait for bourgeois revolution before socialist revolution (classical Marx) * Wanted to avoid civil war, keep middle class and army on side to retain power * Leaders of Soviet worried that street anger would be turned against them   Peasants also set up committees locally, encouraged local self-government  Lenin hiding in Finland, believed October was right time for Bolsheviks to seize power from PG: controlled Soviet, popularity high after Kornilov affair (200,000 members after Soviet elections, Flanagan, 2015), PG powerless and could fill power vacuum. Needed to act before separate peace with Germany would gain support for PG  October 23: Lenin’s secret meeting with Bolshevik leaders, managed to convince: Trotsky wanted to wait for Soviet Congress (more convincing seizure of power, would look Soviet approved) and Zinoviev/Kamenev believed revolution too risky considering Bolsheviks mightn’t have support of army or workers.  24-25 October, organised by Trotsky hiding in Smolny institute, Red Guard soldiers seized key points in Petrograd.  25-26 October, stormed Winter Palace, arrested PG.  25th October, Soviet Congress met and denounced Bolshevik Revolution, saying it would cause backlash against socialism. Trotsky criticised - many socialists stormed from hall, leaving Bolsheviks with majority. Passed motion for Bolsheviks to take power on behalf of Soviet - shroud of legitimacy and legality.  Popularity of the Bolsheviks  Workers supported Bolsheviks: PG had created no real change, and Mensheviks had simply tried to mediate workers/employers.  Peasants - approved of Bolshevik promise of land.  Main source of support was urban working class eg. Nov 1917 CA elections - won 24% overall vote, but 70% of some working-class areas of Petrograd | Lenin’s April Thesis  Made speech at Petrograd Station, despite being asked to leave by Chkheidze, calling for:  - Worldwide revolution  - immediate end to war  - no cooperation with PG  - Soviets take power  - land to peasants  Delivered theses to SD meeting: rejected to Mensheviks, thought he was abandoning pure Marxism. Bolsheviks thought was too radical. By end of April, Lenin had negotiated for April Theses to become party policy - compelling leader  Bolsheviks now radically different to socialists and PG (radicalised)  Slogans: Peace, Land, Bread and All Power to the Soviet  Appealed to workers and soldiers, demands becoming more radical  Kerensky: problems  - PG moving to the right - no more land reform, military discipline, defence of private property  - influence of PG declining: moderate socialists out of touch with workers and soldiers, lacked decisive leadership  - Kerensky was forced to be the middle man of the PG and Soviet  - Increasing support for Bolsheviks: workers, soldiers and sailors becoming increasingly radical, PG not meeting their needs  - lawlessness in cities and country  - mutiny and disintegration of army |  |  |
| Civil War | War Communism  Reasons for War Communism:   * Bolshevik policy of handing factory management to workers, and land management to peasants, had resulted in economic and industrial fall, in turn causing high inflation and unemployment, and food shortages in the cities. * As a result, many left the cities eg. 70% left Petrograd. * To ensure war production stayed high, and the workers were fed, Lenin introduced War Communism   1918-21 Civil War  28 June: Decree on Nationalisation  All industries nationalised, run from Moscow - most important feature - in order to maintain Red Army strength  Militarisation of labour - could relocate workers on basis of state needs  Grain requisitioning: Peasants had to hand over all surplus food to govt to feed urban workers, as govt didn’t have sufficient money to buy off peasants - led to hoarding, resentful peasants  Lenin’s response to hoarding was brutal (pragmatism, keep power).  Workers’ committees replaced by old bourgeois ‘specialists’ - workers had been electing themselves, huge pay rises etc.  Non-working class citizens - slave labour  Private business illegal  Railways managed by military only  Internal passports introduced to prevent mass migration from cities.  Effects of War Communism:  Economic output dropped eg. by 1921, Iron production was 2% of 1914 levels. Agricultural output fell 135-52 million tonnes grain 1913-1920.  No private trade - black markets flourished - more private trade existed than ever before. Up to 60% bread in cities being supplied on black market.  No tax system due to no currency - allowed People’s Bank to print more money, led to inflation. Rouble became worth 1/20,000 of its original value. (Langley, 2014).  By 1920, value of wages reduced to 1/50th of 1914 levels (Langley, 2014) - workers moved to rural areas, number of industrial workers decreased from 3 to 1.5 million workers 1917-21 (Langley, 2014).  Industrial output was 13% of 1913 levels.  After Civil War, economy was 14% of what it had been worth 10 years prior. |  | Reds: Bolsheviks. Controlled Sovdepia - central Russia  Whites: Liberals, Tsarists, Nationalists, Moderate socialists and SRs, anyone who opposed Bolsheviks, foreign powers   * Yudenich: northwest * Denikin then Wrangel: south, army officers and Kadets * Kolchak - Omsk Government: reactionary rightist government, controlled large areas of Siberia * Komuch: SRs, expelled CA members, River Volga and Samara - claimed democratic governance   Greens: peasants, deserters from other armies  Jan 1918: Red Army established  March 1918: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk  August 1918: British and American forces arrive in Russia  Oct 1919: Yudenich reaches outskirts of Petrograd, pushed back by December.  Nov 1920: Wrangel, Denikin’s replacement and last remaining White general, is defeated  Mar 1921: Treaty of Riga: peace between Poland and Russia  Britain provided £100 million to Whites, French vengeant as had invested in Russian industry, all lost in nationalisation push. US motivated by desire to prevent further Japanese expansionism.  Nov 1919-Aug 1920: Polish-Bolshevik War: Poland launched offensive to capture Russian lands in Ukraine, had occupied Kiev by early 1920. Summer 1920, Bolsheviks under Tukhachevsky defeated and pushed back - were a major threat to their rule. Ended with peace treaty  Took Bolsheviks 3 years to fully end the war and consolidate power: wipe out anarchists in Ukraine, destroy new Siberian Republic  10% Russia’s population died between 1914-24, Civil War killed 10 million, more deadly than WWI  Failures of the Whites:   * Poor organisation eg. Summer 1919: 3 White losses due to poor coordination: Kolchak, Denikin, Yudenich * Disunity: Reds were united for the goal of sustaining socialism. Whites were disunited - SRs wanted CA back, Monarchists wanted Tsar back, socialists wanted a new Soviet, foreign nations wanted to halt the spread of Communism and control alliances in the East * Foreign intervention * Lack of support from workers and peasants: Denikin had the policy of returning peasant land to nobility - unpopular. * Whites ineffective use of propaganda and terror - Whites had no grounds for terror while the Reds used the Cheka and terror efficiently and institutionally, rooting out potential opposition and defectors. Allowed the Reds to create a more unified and disciplined army. * Geographical factors: Reds controlled Sovdepia, central Russia. Contained factories for armaments, large sections of the railways to supply troops, administrative centres in Moscow and Petrograd. Problems with Sovdepia could have destroyed Reds eg. geographically isolated, could not import or export and thus economy had to be self-reliant. Farmland also largely controlled by the Whites. | Trotsky:  Commissar for War 1918, came into power with a disintegrating army. Restored leadership and discipline, professionalism. Hierarchy of command. Used Tsarist officers - experienced, but if betrayed the war, families were executed. Despite many Bolsheviks rejecting this decision, Lenin supported it. At the beginning of the war, 75% of Red Army officers had held posts in the Tsarist army (Williams, 1991)  Abolished elections for officers, death penalty for deserting - ensured professionalism and discipline. Left key decisions to military strategists. Had personal train to travel quickly to heavy fighting areas, raise morale and motivation.  Pipes argues that Whites had superior military leadership - Reds did as well, and military decisions were made by Tukhachevsky or Budyonny on a united front. |  |  |
| Time | Economic | Social | Political | Leadership | External | Groups |
| 1917-1922 | NEP March 1921  Grain requisitioning abolished: replaced by ‘tax in kind’ ie. smaller fixed proportion of grain to state, rest could be sold on free market. Small business reopened, private ownership and trade, nationalisation of heavy industry.  Rationing abolished, people bought their own food.  Intended only to be temporary - was in conflict with underlying principles of Communism  Successes of NEP:  Concessions to private enterprise and workers = greater support.  Economic recovery by 1922: people moved back to cities, 1920-23 factory production increased 200%  Peasants benefited from free trade and private industry. Could farm land with less govt interference - traditional commune organisation  International perspective: end of Communism - increased confidence in Russia, trade deals eg. Germany 1922, Britain 1924.  Open markets meant that food could re-enter cities  Failures of NEP  Nepmen: 25,000 in Moscow by 1923, wealthy and affluent, corruption and bribery rampant, brought up produce from villages and resold to cities. By 1923, handled ¾ retail trade.  Scissors Crisis: food prices dropped (abundant) while industrial goods price increased (short supply). Imbalance meant peasants unwilling to supply food for low prices. Managed by govt: brought industrial prices down, took cash rather than food taxes from peasants to encourage private selling. By 1926, industrial production had reached 1913 levels again.  Unemployment reached 1.24 million by 1924  NEP dubbed ‘New Exploitation of the Proletariat’ by peasants. | Bread rations (g/person/day) Petrograd 1917: dropped from 335g-110g Apr-Oct. By Feb 1918, were 50g/day - led3 to food riots. Food rationing prioritised soldiers and workers, not peasants.  Starvation: under W.C., < ⅓ diets came from rations, rest were on black market.  Wages in 1919 were 2% of 1913 levels.  Bolshevik Reforms:   * 8 hr day * Unemployed benefits/ pension * Banned religion * Seized church assets * Separation of church and state * Easy abortion and divorce (to maximise workforce)   Cheka: terror, replaced Okhrana. Right to torture, hold and execute (Tsars 17 executions per year, Lenin 1000 executions per month).  Censorship of newspaper.  Bourgeoisie suffered: not allowed to work: 42% prostitutes in Moscow were bourgeois.  Cities emptied as people moved to country to try and find food: 72% Petrograd’s population left by end of Civil War.  Around 300,000 people were executed during the terror of War Communism  Kronstadt Rebellion March 1921  Aim to start Rebellion against Bolsheviks - had previously been strongest supporters of Bolsheviks in October Revolution  Made it clear to Lenin that drastic change was needed  Establishment of USSR: unite republics eg. Ukraine and Georgia - change from RSFSR to USSR. Wanted to avoid imperialist claims, so worked to preserve traditional cultural practices and national identity, sense of unity between Republics and Communism.  Tambov Rebellion Aug 1920 to June 1921.  Incited by increased grain requisitioning. Red Army attempted to quash - led to 200,000 deaths. Indicated to the Bolsheviks that they needed to radically change their economic policies.  Lenin’s Dekulakisation  Convinced that food shortages were due to kulaks withholding grain in countryside - would release when prices were higher. Encouraged class warfare - neighbours turn on neighbours. Failed, as Bolsheviks underestimated community mindset of peasant communities - not willing to denounce eachother. Amount of grain collected does not increase - forced into grain requisitioning. Kulaks were most successful farmers - dekulakisation stifled farming innovation, reduced yield. Were highly resistant - no incentive to farm well, known that it would be taken away anyway. By 1921, harvests producing 37% of what they had been producing in 1913 (Langley, 2014).  Cheka was rebranded the GPU  Famine  Man-made famine - Cheka took grain, but also took seedcrop - could not find enough food. Historians say 5-10 million died, majority from starvation (Langley, 2014).  Famine so devastating that Russia forced to accept aid from USA - soup kitchens fed 10 million Russians per day. (Langley, 2014). | Despite the Revolution, the Soviet was still dominated by alternative socialist parties, who also came to dominate the Constituent Assembly elections November 1917:  Bolsheviks won 24% overall vote, but some 70% of vote in heavy urban areas. SRs won 53% vote - Bolsheviks no popular mandate.  Moscow Municipal elections 1917 Jul-Oct: Bolshevik support ↑ 11%-51%  SR support ↓ 58%-14%  Workers and soldiers generally supported Soviet power, wanted coalition govt of socialist parties, not a one-party state.  Pro-soviet workers often voted Bolshevik by default - one of only parties that supported Soviet power.  Bolsheviks rule by decree at first - pragmatism.  Cheka killed Tsar and family to send message to dissidents and other royal families  Corrupt Bolsheviks: 5000 lived in luxury in saunas and restaurants of Kremlin.  As a result of lack of political power in a coalition of socialists, Lenin formed Sovnarkom, committee formed entirely of Bolsheviks. It conflicted with the principles of the democratic CA, which Lenin thus closed after only one day of sitting, claiming they were a bourgeois tool, and had been rigged.  Land:  Peasants demanded land rights and the legitimisation of their seizure of aristocratic property. Passed Decree on Land - not Marxist as it allowed a right to private property among the peasantry.  Workers:  Worker’s Control Decree intended to appease workers. Set up factory committees which were given managerial role. 8 hr day, social insurance scheme.  National minorities:  Rights of the People of Russia Decree: declared independence - inactive, as Bolsheviks had almost no power outside main urban industrial hubs.  Coalition  Lenin pressured into a coalition by powerful unionists - eg. Railwayman’s Union had the ability to cut food supplies to cities - essential. Reluctantly, Lenin agreed to negotiate with other parties, but he engineered the talks to fail - could claim to have attempted a coalition. Eventually invited some left SRs into Sovnarkom, thus elevating support by the peasantry.  Political Repression  Censorship: 1922, deported writers and scholars - control intelligentsia.  Attacks on political rivals: arrested 5000 Mensheviks in 1921 for counter-revolutionary activities. Outlawed SRs and Mensheviks.  Show trials: left SRs would accuse old SR colleague groups of heinous crimes. 34 SRs convicted of terrorism, 11 executed.  Cheka (GPU 1922). Arrested Nepmen - keep capitalism under control. Put down strikes, arrest rivals.  Crushing opposition eg. destroyed whole villages after Tambov revolts 1922.  Revolutionary justice: arbitrary arrest, terrorisation of the bourgeoisie, justification for murder.  Attacks on the Church: destroy the regrowing influence of the old Tsarist system, only rival for power. Removed church assets, executed or imprisoned church leaders.  Lenin Assassination attempt: Fanny Kaplan, SR who believed Lenin had betrayed the revolution by dissolving the CA. Two shots - she was hung 5 days later. Day after attempt, 512 enemies of the state executed. | Removal of Tsar: no alternative to Bolsheviks  Lenin: charismatic and honest leader.  Used brutal methods of repression eg. Cheka, but openly justified this to the public by convincing them that these measures were pragmatic and necessary in order to quash any chance of counter-rebellion from the Whites, which he said would inevitably remove the gains of the Revolution from the peasants and workers. Massive propaganda campaign as evidence for why it was necessary | Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 3 1918) under Lenin’s promise of getting out of war. Lost ⅓ population and ½ of industry. Humiliating treaty, but essential to keeping support, had been part of promise of ‘peace, bread, land’. Lenin predicted correctly that Germany would lose the war and Russia would gain back what it had lost.  Comintern: Communist International - founded Moscow 1919, aimed to sponsor and encourage world revolution. 1921, USSR was given heavy leadership role in Comintern. Supposed to infiltrate democratic institutions and overthrow the government from within. Influence increased during difficult times of the 1930s. Run by Trotsky. Inspired attempted Revolutions in Germany and Hungary.  Pariah nations: Germany and USSR: were seen as hostile, ‘different’ nations within Europe: had had economic downturns and violent uprisings, had lost territory to create Poland. Both had been refused entry to League of Nations and shared a collective fear of a Western anti-Soviet alliance.  Treaty of Rapallo 1922: restored diplomatic relations to USSR and Germany, drop any financial claims against eachother. Against TOV, German soldiers were allowed to practice military exercise and train pilots (Luftwaffe), which ironically would be used in WWII against Russia. USSR and Germany would split Poland between them in the event of war.  Attempt to resume trade and diplomacy within Europe.  Trade agreement with Britain in 1921. Broke off diplomatic relations in 1927 when British officers raided the office of a Russian trading organisation and found subversive material. | Workers: radicalised by poverty and inflation, PG had created no change but Bolsheviks offered real change.  Peasants: land seizures and violence increased, PG had failed them but Bolsheviks promised to support land. Peasants largely supported leftist SRs working with Bolsheviks. |
| Stalin’s seizure of power | Contenders for Party Leadership:  Trotsky:   * Pros: oration, knowledge of Marxism, intellect, popular with younger radicals and army. * Cons: arrogant, war general (as Napoleon had been - fear of dictatorship), uncompromising (might cause splits), fevers in 1923 meant absent from meetings and votes   Zinoviev:   * Pros: old Bolshevik, had worked with Lenin, orator * Cons: weak, unpopular, not intellectual, associated with Kamenev   Kamenev:   * Pros: old Bolshevik, approved by Lenin, capable, moderate, intelligent. * Cons: soft, ineffective   Bukharin:   * Pros: close to Lenin, very popular, theorist. * Cons: unskilled in politics, not Marxist enough   Tomsky:   * Pros: hard worker, represented urban worker * Cons: opposed Lenin   Rykov:   * Pros: frank, outspoken, supported NEP * Cons: heavy drinker, not endearing   Lenin’s will spoke out against most, if not all, or the candidates. He didn’t want any of them to rule alone - instead, he wanted a collective leadership to reduce the risk of autocracy forming. | By 1921 Spring, 1/10 population living in starvation. 5-6 million were kept alive by American aid.  Internal conflict: Spring 1921, 50,000 guerilla peasants in groups targeting grain requisition officers. Had gone against promise of land.  1927 war scare: Britain ended diplomatic relations, France broke off trade deals, Japan threatening war from far East, Communism in China failing after Communist Party was massacred in Shanghai Massacre - rapid industrialisation in preparation for war.  Stalin introduced the Lenin Enrolment as a tool of cementing his own influence, by convincing the population that Stalin was committed to Lenin’s legacy. Within 2 years of 1924, party membership increased from 500,000 to 1 million members. Were young, inexperienced and lacked education - 8% had secondary education - easy to indoctrinate.  Reasons for Stalin’s win:   * Personality: Stalin came from peasant family, was a man of the people. Seen as humble, unambitious, Leninist/ Trotsky born into a rich Jewish family - anti-bourgeois and anti-Semitism. He had been part of Mensheviks and was thus considered disloyal. He was aloof and arrogant. Compared to megalomaniac Napoleon, also war leader - fearful of dictatorship. * Lenin’s legacy and apotheosis after death. Stalin always tried to cast himself in Lenin’s shadow, whereas Trotsky was a more confrontative, ambitious leader. Trotsky left out of Lenin’s funeral * Stalin’s position in party: could hire and fire top 5,500 executives of the party and thus insert his supporters, had access to party files to blackmail members. Trotsky had influence over army but little else * Lenin enrolment at Stalin’s discretion - minimised enrolment of soldiers which would support Trotsky * Luck: Lenin sought to democratise the party and remove Stalin, but died too soon.   Trotsky’s failures:   * Criticised NEP and party bureaucracy - seemed a betrayal of the party, also threatened high-standing members. * Permanent Revolution unpopular in country that had already sacrificed so much for international affairs. Russians preferred nationalist notions of SOC | Stalin and Lenin disagreed: Stalin wanted central control of republics, insisted harshness and violence in Georgia. Alternately, Lenin wanted federation of socialist republics: USSR.  Dec 1922: wrote ‘Letter to the Party Congress’ to be read after death. Warned of Stalin in particular, but also Trotsky’s arrogance, and Bukharin’s failure to stick to Communist ideology.  1922: Stalin appointed General Secretary  Had Lenin lived longer, would have democratised party more to reduce Stalin’s power  21 Jan 1924: Lenin’s death. Public grief, 3 days 3.5 million people came to visit body. Funeral: Trotsky told wrong date by Stalin, missed funeral as was on malaria recovery break in South Russia. Damaged Trotsky’s prestige. Stalin was pallbearer, made a speech - transfer cult of Lenin to himself, establish himself as natural successor to Lenin.  Power vacuum created by absence of the figurehead of Leninism (not Communism), thus was necessary to have strong leader to replace him and keep the party together. Petrograd renamed Leningrad.  Power Struggle  Lenin’s funeral Jan 27 1924: bolstered Stalin.  May 1924: Krupskaya gives Lenin’s letter to Central Committee, but wasn’t read out (protected Stalin), as had incriminating comments on Kamenev and Zinoviev as well. Trotsky stayed silent. CC concerned because letter bolstered Trotsky - dictatorship.  Triumvirate formed: Stalin, Kamenev, Zinoviev, presented party policy to 13th Party Congress. Trotsky opposed but was shut down by Stalin loyals.  1924: Kamenev and Zinoviev campaign against Trotsky’s loyalty to Lenin and the Party. Division on left exploited by Stalin to gain greater personal support.  1925: Trotsky resigned as War Commissar after pressure from Central Committee meeting. Stalin and Bukharin make alliance: NEP and SOC both attacked by Kamenev and Zinoviev. Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev form United Opposition - expelled for factionalism.  1928: Stalin attacked Bukharin and the NEP: advocated for rapid industrialisation, 1929 party congress voted against NEP. Bukharin, Tomsky and Rykov removed from power. |  |  |  |
| Life under Stalin | NEP had been a concession: By 1929, 90% of industry was privately owned, and by 1927 production had reached 1913 levels (Staniforth, 2014).  Reasons for collectivisation   * Soviet economy and agriculture was backward and required modernisation: highly inefficient farming methods including subsistence farming * Food needed for town workers - required for rapid industrialisation * NEP failing: By 1928, the USSR was 20 million tonnes of grain in deficit to feed towns and cities (Clare) * Encourage peasant migration into cities to aid industrialisation * Produce more grain to export, raise capital for industrialisation * Eliminate Kulaks: enterprising peasants who would withhold grain from market until prices were high, meaning cost of food was greater * Imminent threat of invasion and attack on socialism: needed to become self-sufficient in agriculture, modernise industry, and cement Stalin’s position as party leader.   What did collectivisation mean?   * Combine lands into large communal farms (kolkhoz) * cattle, tools were to be shared * Machinery such as tractors to be provided by government * 90% produce sold to state, profits were shared. 10% was to feed the peasants of the kolkhoz   Exports:   * Had been 13 million tonnes in 1913, dropped to 3 million tonnes max in NEP * Due to: low prices which meant peasants didn’t want to sell grain anyway, small peasant plots which encouraged subsistence farming. * Stalin needed exports to increase pace industrialisation - meant Stalin ordered grain requisitioning and collectivisation   Resistance   * Peasants reluctant to hand over land, livestock and equipment to the government collective - wanted NEP-style private farming * Government sent out activists and secret police to persuade peasants through: propaganda of benefits, coercion, deportation, execution, sent to labour camps * Peasants would slaughter animals and burn crops/equipment rather than hand it over to the collective   Successes   * By 1940, 94.5% of sown area was collectivised, up from 27.4% in 1930. A quarter of a million collectivised farms existed (Clare) * Modernisation: new, large scale farming methods and attitudes which assisted industrialisation * By 1937, 97 million tonnes of grain produced - some exported for cash (Clare) * 17 million peasants moved to work in the towns, 1928–37 (Clare). By 1939, 50% of population were working class * Agriculture was integrated into the industrial economy with the primary aim of serving industrialisation * Communists gained power: officials ran farms, ensured total loyalty etc.   Failures   * Livestock fell: peasants would kill off their livestock in protest of joining collective farms. Head of sheep and goats fell from 150 to 66 million between 1928-37 (Clare) * Decreased wages * Greater opposition to Stalin   Man-made famine in Ukraine   * Stalin determined to wipe out Ukrainian nationalism * 1932 Stalin raised Ukraine's grain quotas by 44% - meant that there was no grain to be left for families. Million starved, and those who did not look on the brink of starvation were often suspected of hoarding grain. \*\*ARCHIVES * Police, NKVD, party officials were brutal against those who did not meet quotas * Death penalty for taking a handful of grain * Estimated that 7 million died (Conquest) * Grain levels did not reach pre-collectivisation levels until 1935 * \*\* Half of grain produced came from 2% of land in private plots = success of NEP over collectivisation   Industrialisation  Motives   * Ideology, Marx- Socialist countries are industrialised with the proletariat in control * Stagnation, NEP+scissors crisis, peasants can’t afford industrial goods * Politics. Bukharin favoured NEP, weakens him, Stalin desires self sufficiency (autarky) * 1928: the Great Turn or second revolution from above. Changed to industrial nation. NEP ended with first 5 year plan   Successes:   * Full industrialisation achieved * Arms production increases * Raw goods supply increases * New cities and towns established * Eliminated unemployment * New factories opened * More support from workers * Between 1928-37, electricity increased x7, coal x4, oil x2. * Greater support for the regime eg. workers supported abolition of old bourgeois specialists and creation of ‘Red specialists’ to train workers and imporve social mobility * 10 million women entered the workforce   Failures   * Massive use of slave labour and gulags * Dangerous work conditions * Lack of improvement in living conditions * Lower quality goods produced * Lower productivity, no incentive to do well * Use of inefficient techniques * Faking of figures to meet targets and gain Stalin’s favour, avoiding punishment (death) * Productivity limited by Great Purge 1936   Statistics   * 5000 new factories open 1928-37 (pearson GCSE book) * 55% increase in coal production 1928-36 (Fiehn, 2011) * Over 8.5 million move to cities 1929-1932 (Staniforth, AQA History)   Quotes   * Stalin: “It’s asked whether it’s possible to slow industrialisation. No… to slacken would mean falling behind.”   Five Year Plans  What are the Plans?   * Centrally planned economy * Setting of production targets, enforced with punishments * Party sets vague targets, Gosplan specifies targets, regional administrators send to factory managers, managers give orders to workers by shift * Large focus on heavy industry over consumer goods - seen as the proletarian industry * Always declared complete after 4 years, psychological propaganda of success * Construction of industry centres east of Urals * Massive engineering projects * Mass urbanization to support new factories * Targets for industry enshrined in law, meant failure to meet them was a criminal offence - adherence and contestability of any stats   First Five Year Plan (October 1928-December 1932)   * Heavy industry focus * 3x production of electricity * 2x output of coal and iron * Steel output increases by a third * New industries like engineering emerge * Mass collectivisation (see collectivisation for more specific info) * Lack of skilled workers * Ridiculously high targets * Consumer industries disregarded   Second Five Year Plan (January 1933-December 1937)   * Heavy industry focus (again) * A bit more evenly distributed but not by much * Benefits of the massive projects from First Plan, dams, etc * 1937, autarky achieved in machine and metalworking * Rapid growth of railway network * Development of chemistry industry * Consumer industries disregarded (again)   Third Five Year Plan (January 1938-June 1941)   * Cut short by WW2 * Growth of heavy and armaments industries * Minimal growth in steel output * Low oil output causes a fuel crisis * Material shortage   Human cost   * Collectivisation killed millions through famine * Forced labour used for projects like White Sea Canal * Gulags used as concentration camps for prisoners providing forced labour * Bad living and working conditions * Militarisation of labour, massive penalties * Use of terror, NKVD and purges   Quotes:   * Figes-”The Five Year Plan promised to deliver the socialist utopia… but when the Five Year Plan had been completed and the utopia hadn’t been reached, another Five Year Plan was introduced” * Service-”The USSR underwent drastic change… It would be the work of Stalin and his associates. Theirs would be the credit and theirs the blame.”   Labour turnover:   * Average coal worker changed jobs 3 times per year, as a result of newly moved peasants in cities overturning jobs quickly. * Impacts: high rate of absenteeism, lack of skills eg. 17% workers had any skill in 1931 = lower quality. * Party combatted labour turnover: increased wages for those still in jobs, prison sentence for absenteeism 1940, piece work = pay per piece of work completed. * 1938: internal passports to limit movement | Dekulakisation and famine   * Stalin announced, 27 December 1929 at the Conference of Marxist Agronomists that “we have passed from the policy of the limitation of the exploiting tendencies of the kulaks to the policy of the liquidation of the kulak as a class.” (Stalin, 1953)   Motivation:   * Destruction of Kulaks: anti-communist, new bourgeois class. Stalin wanted to wipe them out through collectivisation. * Had potential to be influential opponents to communism, concealed capitalist elements of Russian society. Would never support Stalin, as had prospered from the NEP * Eliminate opposition to collectivisation * Deportation to colonise potentially productive areas eg. Siberia   What was a Kulak:   * By 1930, anyone who regularly employed labourers, owned a wind or water mill, agricultural machinery, a horse, a cow, commercial buildings, or a large house was called a class enemy or kulak. * Often people were labelled kulak if they were related to one, taught Sunday School, led a church choir, belonged to a church, refused to join the local collective, or exchanged letters with relatives in North America or Europe * Began with the economic strangling of the kulak class during the grain procurement crisis of 1927-28. Tax levies on households could range from 5 to more than 100 percent of their income - meant essentially that they had to give up more income than they could ever raise. Grain was expropriated without compensation. (Neufeldt, 1998). The share of the gross output of kulak farms in grain producing regions declined from 10.2 percent in 1927 to 5.7 percent in 1929. (Viola, 2000) * Dekulakisation exiled 10 million, 3 million killed (Clare) * Jan 30 1930 Politburo resolution ‘on measures to be taken for the liquidation of kulak ownership in complete collectivisation regions’ created quotas for arrests and deportations of Kulaks: goal of arresting 60,000 ‘First Degree Kulaks’ who were ‘activists, engaged in counter-revolutionary activities’ and deportation of a further 129,000 to 154,000 families (Werth, 2008) * Feb to September 1930, 284,000 persons were arrested as "1st category kulaks," five times the original estimate (Werth, 2008) * The OGPU sentenced 20,000 to death in 1930 (Werth, 2008) * Only 44% were actually kulak farmers - rest were clergy, Tsarist civil servants, landowners or members of the ‘rural intelligentsia’ such as teachers, people affiliated with former SRs (Werth, 2008). While estimated that 3-5% of Russian population were Kulaks, the arrest and deportation rate in some towns and villages was anywhere between 2 and 25% (Neufeldt, 1998) - higher rates = elimination was politically motivated to maintain power and ensure the success of collectivisation, rather than ideologically motivated to eliminate capitalist elements of society * First wave of Mass Deportations Feb - May 1930   + 560,000 persons (115,000 families) arrested and deported to Siberia and the Urals - mainly came from the more agriculturally rich regions where the push to collectivise was strongest - thus dekulakisation was clearly a move motivated by collectivisation. Mortality rate 15%(Werth, 2008) * Second wave of mass deportations: May - Sep 1931   + On February 20, 1931, the Politburo adopted an ambitious new deportation plan: starting in the spring of 1931, between 200,000 and 300,000 families were to be deported (Werth, 2008)   + 1,244,000 persons (265,000 families) were deported in this wave (Werth, 2008)   + 487,000 lost either to death or fleeing deportation missions (Werth, 2008) * Autumn 1932: expanded dekulakisation to entire peasant communities suspected of sabotage   + November-December 1932, three Cossack communities in the Kuban region were entirely emptied of their population, deported to Siberia, the Ural and Kazakhstan (45,600 deported) (Werth, 2008)   + New era of elimination: collective deportation. Had only been seen once before with deportation of Terek Cossacks at the end of 1920 (Werth, 2008)   Famine:   * Since Robert Conquest’s The Harvest of Sorrow (1986), Western, Russian, Kazakh and Ukrainian historians all tend to agree that famines were not simply a result of weather conditions by of policy decisions from 1930 * Forced collectivisation (drop in production, less livestock), massive quotas for agricultural and livestock products to export for industrialisation (none left for peasants) eg. Meat quotas in Kazakhstan tripled 1931-33, resulted in 85% fall in livestock count in Kazakhstan over three years (1929-1931). 1.1-1.4 million people died of hunger or epidemics in Kazakhstan between 1931-33. (Werth, 2008) * Ukrainian Communists had rejected Stalin’s collectivisation plan at their 3rd Conference in July 1932. Stalin was convinced that a resistance front in the Ukraine was preventing the acquisition of grain quotas to fulfil the needs of industrialisation, so enforced a regime of forced procurement as a punishment to the Ukrainian peasantry * Armed ‘activists’ and police units from Russia would ransack Ukrainian farms, even taking seed grain - thus, was motivated by retribution, not the increased production and acquisition of grain. Villages that failed to meet quotas were blacklisted, food imports were banned to them, shops shut down - enforced famine. To further isolate the starving peasants and prevent famine from moving to city, train ticket sales were stopped and police and troops were sent in along regional borders to prevent migration to cities. In February 1933 alone, 220,000 Ukrainian peasants who had tried to flee their villages were stopped by OGPU troops, thus condemned to near certain death (Werth, 2008) * During starvation, Soviet govt exported 1.8 million tonnes of grain to honour debts to Germany and to pay for industrialisation, and state reserves of grain were 3 million tonnes. In comparison, the quota for Ukraine was 7 million tonnes of grain in 1932. (Werth, 2008) * Estimated death toll due to famine was 7 million (Conquest)   Cult of Personality  Cult of Lenin   * Established against his wishes * Lenin memorabilia produced, cities renamed * Difficult to speak out against it without being labelled disloyal * Provided legitimacy to Stalin, working as Lenin's successor   Cult of Stalin   * “Stalin is the Lenin of today” * Developed in early 1930’s * Portrayed as perfect leader, national father (kinda like a tsar) * Depicted in art as close to Lenin and as mastermind of OR+CW (all false) * Initially shown as less important than USSR, Lenin and the people * Constant praise for policies, great focus in poems and textbooks * Later works portray superiority of Stalin over everything * Stalin fulfils role similar to Tsars, strong traditional leader   Quotes   * Figes-”He was a Soviet Tsar” * Lynch-”It was a consistent use of mass propaganda to promote the leader as an ideal and heroic figure” * Khrushchev, 1953-”Comrades, the cult of the individual acquired such size chiefly because Stalin himself… supported the glorification of his own person”   Magnitogorsk:   * Giant idealised Russian industrial town - propaganda * Part of push for gigantomania eg. Dneiprostroi dam - constructed to demonstrate might of USSR, increased electrical output by 500% * Moved from West to East of Urals between 1928 and 1934 to defend from potential German invasion   Stalin Canal - 200km long to White Sea.   * Dug by 300,000 prisoners and 10% died * Not dug deep enough for ships - demonstrates poor quality of work   Dizzy with success March 2 1930   * Stalin wrote article in Pravda to say that enthusiastic local Communist leaders had pursued collectivisation too quickly, against his orders, and had thus caused mass repression, death etc. * Stalin blamed middle ranks of party - made him a central, relatable figure and increased support from population. Undermined local support to ensure loyalty to the state - centralism. * Becomes international news, propaganda for Stalin and communism   Stakhanovism:   * Alexander Stakhanov cut 102 tonnes of coal in a 5 hour shift - 16 times normal rate. * Received 7x wages, own appartment etc * Became a propaganda exercise for the party - put in Pravda * Stakhanovite movement forced an increase in productivity. | The Purges  Reasons for the terror   * Needed to unite the country under Stalin * Urgency to catch up to rest of the world before inevitable German invasion within 10 years * Stalin’s paranoia (threatened by plots everywhere) and hunger for power (demanded constant praise and support) * Increasing unpopularity: by summer 1930, Stalin’s popularity was decreasing due to collectivisation and first five year plan * Internal opposition: some Communist leaders calling for less violent, more moderate policies of Collectivisation, posed a threat to Stalin - eg. Lominadze the party chief in Transcaucasia ‘if there is to be a spring cleaning every piece of furniture has to be removed, including the biggest one’ (Clayton, n.d.). Was later arrested * Ryutin Platform: 1932, released Ryutin Platform, demanded end of collectivisation, slowing down industrialisation, a restatement of expelled members of the party (including Trotsky) and a removal of Stalin by force. Under the name of Leninism. Was seen by Stalin’s rivals: Trotsky, Kamenev, Zinoviev, Bukharin, Tomsky, Rykov. Ryutin and 17 of his group arrested 23 September 1932. Stalin wanted them arrested but Kirov protested. 1 million of 3 million party members expelled as ‘Ryutinites’ (Staniforth). Demonstrated that Stalin was unwilling to accept other ideas, but his ability to eliminate people was limited. * Feb 1934 Kirov proved more popular than Stalin at 17th Party Congress: 3 votes cast against Kirov, 292 cast against Stalin - pro-Stalin electoral chair destroyed 289 ballot papers so there were only 3 votes against each man. (Staniforth)     Purges CONTINUED:   * Reason 1. Economic Problems: Underperformance blamed on imaginary ‘wreckers’/‘saboteurs’ * Reason 2. Stalin’s Fear of Kirov: Stalin afraid of Kirov’s rising popularity * Reason 3. Stalin’s Paranoia: Paranoid about possible rivals to power * Reason 4. Following Lenin’s Example: Red Terror was a precedent for the purges * Reason 5. Stalinism: Fear of anyone who had opposing views could rise into power * Violence to eliminate opposition * Gulags- labour camps * Focus on party members and staff * Brutality used until confession of accused crime * 1931- Ex-Mensheviks shot as ‘wreckers’ * 1933- 18% of party members expelled as disloyal or unsuitable * 1934- murder of Kirov * 1936- 1st show trials- 16 senior party members including Kamenev and Zinoviev * 1937- Show trial- 17 more senior party members- all guilty * 1937- NKVD begin mass arrests * 1937- purge of the military * 1938- Last major show trial- Bukharin shot * 1938- Purge spreads to NKVD * 1941- Purges sent around 8 mil. people to labour camps * CONSEQUENCES OF PURGES: * No one dared question Stalin leadership, every scared into obedience * All ‘Old Leninists’ killed, no one could challenge Stalin * Shortage of experienced officials, they had all been killed! * Weakened armed forces   Show Trials:   * Only high profile party members had show trials (e.g Kamenev and Zinoviev) * Make Soviet people believe country was under attack from enemies of the people * Enemies blamed for issues of Soviet Union * Justified all mass arrests * Ordinary convinced enemies everywhere * Power to ordinary people to criticise managers and disliked people to NKVD * Those accused basically forced into confessing * If did not confess, just executed without formality of a trial   PURGE QUOTES AND STATS   * Conquest-”The one fundamental drive is the strengthening of his (Stalin’s) position… It lead him to absolute power.” * July 1937, 28% of those arrested designated to be executed to fill quota (Fiehn, 2011) * Conquest- 3-3.5 million killed, 7-8 million arrested |  | Socialism in One Country  1927: Litvinov took part in disarmament talks with League of Nations - first time Russians involved in disarmament.  Collective Security: after rise of Hitler in 1933, Soviets realised that Germany was a genuine threat - Hitler had been outspoken against Bolsheviks. Litvinov = foreign minister. Made Litvinov Protocol: collective security, made non-aggression pacts with France, Poland, Finland and Estonia, Italy and Czechoslovakia.  1934-35: reshuffle in alliances  1934: German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact, directly contrasted Treaty of Rapallo. End of good relations with Germany and USSR.  USSR joined LoN in 1934, became less opposed to its actions.  USSR became less hostile to socialism - encouraged communists and socialists to bind together and form popular governments eg. constitution similar to western democratic values  1936: Anti-Comintern Pact between Germany and Japan, Italy joined a year later. Agreement to keep eachother infomed about Comintern’s activities. Aligned with Hitler’s hatred of a Bolshevik-Jewish plot, and Japan’s detestment of a Soviet-Chinese Non-Aggression Treaty in 1936 which threatened Japan as the Soviets were selling munitions to the Chinese.  1938: Hitler took Czechoslovakia. USSR’s demands had been continually ignored in the negotiation practice. An Alliance with France and Britain was unlikely. Collective security had failed for the Soviets - LItvinov replaced by Molotov in May 1939.  Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact 23 August 1939  Molotov contacted the Germans to propose a treaty - as a French/British/Soviet treaty was unlikely. For the Germans, meant that if war occurred upon their invasion of Poland, the USSR would not be involved, and Germany would not have to fight a war on two fronts. For Soviets - bought them time for re-armament and preparation for war, and the creation of a buffer-state between USSR and Germany. Arranged for the partition of Poland between the two forces.  Russo-Finnish War: 1939-40.  USSR demanded land for defensive purposes eg. fortifications, a naval base and the surrender of several islands in the Gulf of Finland. When the Finnish refused, Stalin broke off diplomatic relations on 27 November 1939, and on 30th November, they invaded Finland and declared the country under the control of Russian puppet Otto Kuusinen. Finnish put up a fight - the Russian Red Army was poor quality with most officers killed in the purges. As the Soviets advanced, the League of Nations denounced the USSR as an aggressor and expelled it from membership. Russia suffered over 200k casualties, but eventually the Finns collapsed and were forced to concede land. | See dekulakisation for effect on kulaks |
| WW2 | Timeline of Key Events:  1937-1939 - Border clashes with the Japanese at Nomonhan and Khalkhin Gol, poor result for the Japanese convinces them to avoid confronting USSR and expand south instead  September 1 1939 - Germany invades Poland, 17 days later USSR also invades, dividing along border agreed in M-R pact  Nov 1939-March 1940 - Winter War, USSR is heavily stalled and takes huge casualties against Finland before eventually making minor gains. Many lessons learnt.  1940 - USSR annexed Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania  April 1941 - Soviet-Japanese neutrality pact signed. Japan will not aid German invasion, instead focusing on southern expansion  June 22 1941- Operation Barbarossa, enormous invasion of USSR by Germany and its allies. Huge initial successes before eventually falling short of goal of AA (Astrakhan-Arkhangelsk) line  1941 - Allied Lend Lease begins. 11 400 aircraft, 7000 tanks, and most importantly 400 000 trucks arrived from the US by Pacific, Arctic, and Persian routes. The UK also provided significant equipment.  Sep 1941-Jan 1944 - Siege of Leningrad. 1 million starve, but the city does not fall, factories keep running  Oct 1941-Jan 1942 - Battle of Moscow, Germans attempt and fail to take the Soviet capital, and have to withdraw under threat of being encircled. First large Soviet victory.  June 1942- Case Blue (Fall Blau). After winter, Germans launch their Summer attack south to secure the Caucasus oil fields. This eventually fails.  Aug 1942-Jan 1943 - Battle of Stalingrad. Germans attempt to capture important city for propaganda boost and to defend flanks of attack into the oil-producing Caucasus region, but become bogged down in urban fighting. Are encircled by counter attack, 91 000 captured and 200 000 dead. Enormous Soviet victory.  July 1943 - Battle of Kursk. Last major German attack on the Eastern Front. Despite mass concentration of tanks, Germans fail and are sent into retreat.  April 1945 - Battle of Berlin. Bitter German resistance finally surrenders after Hitler’s suicide. VE day on 8 May, the party is so big Moscow runs out of vodka.  Aug 1945 - In accordance with an agreement made with the US at Yalta, USSR invades Japanese Manchuria, a key industrial and resource area on Asian mainland. Together with nuclear bombings, this convinces Japanese to surrender. VJ day 15th of August. | | |  | Japanese Aims:  Controlling areas with more resources (food, oil, steel) to make their empire self-sufficient, had option of going North into USSR or South into southeast Asia (chose the latter after losing border skirmish and signing Non aggression pact)  German Aims: Increased lebensraum in the East to feed and house growing German population, extermination of Communism, extermination of inferior Slavic races (outlined in generalplan ost)  Allied Aims:  First priority stopping spread of Fascism, second priority stopping spread of Communism  Already had self sufficient empires, wanted to preserve political influence |  |