

## Alexander II

1. Russian Society before 1861
  - Nobility and gentry
  - Merchants
  - Petty officials
  - City dwellers (meschane)
  - Free and state peasants (about 9 million)
  - Serfs (about 10 million)
2. Serfdom
  - Indentured servitude
  - Used to just be a contract that the serf could buy out of
  - Regulated in the 15th century by Ivan III. Made it so that peasants could only leave for 2 weeks a year (Yuri's Day)
  - Yuri's day cancelled in 17th century by Tsar Alexey Mikhailovich
  - Peter I - no serf can leave their master without written permission
  - Radishev - "A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow" criticized serfdom, spent 10 years in Siberia for the book
    - Catherine the Great: "He is a rebel, worse than Pugachev" allegedly
  - Abolished in 1861 by Alexander II
3. Terrorism
  - Alexander II assassinated on 1881
    - Started growth of terrorism in Russia
  - 1905-1906: 3611 officials killed or wounded
4. Imperial Manifesto 1861
  - Freed the serfs
  - Serfs have to pay landlords to buy their land from them
    - Left many in debt
  - Changes in society
    - New class of bourgeoisie
    - Raznochintsy (people of different classes/ranks of non-noble origin) who got educated and could go into gvmt service of professions
    - Led to a new 'class' of intelligentsia (educated people)
5. Other reforms
  - Zemstvo reform (local governments)
    - Elected council headed by noblemen/gentry
    - In charge of schools and medicine
    - Hired teachers and doctors
  - Military
  - Judicial

## **Turgenev *Fathers and Sons***

1. Historic period: Just before liberation of serfs in 1861
2. Location: Kirsanov estate in central Russia
3. Central conflict: Conflict of generations: ideology, lifestyle, values
4. Plot: 2 friends, Arkady Kirsanov and Evgeny Basarov come back from university in St. Petersburg to visit their families
5. Turgenev's achievement: study of nihilism
  - Denied authority
  - Destroy everything
  - Terrorism as a method of resistance

## **Non-Russians in the Russian Empire**

1. Volga Germans by invitation from Catherine II
  - Gave them land
  - Exempted from taxes
  - Not subject to military draft
  - Guaranteed right to exercise religion
  - Why?
    - Catherine the second was a German princess
    - Europe was weakened by 30 years war
2. Koreans by invitation
  - Moved in 19th century
  - Relocated back to Korea in 1937 by Stalin