

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 govt service of professions
 - Led to a new 'class' of intelligentsia (educated people)
 - Women's Rights in 60s as well
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
 - “People's Freedom” terrorist group

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

Peasant Life in Russia after 1861

1. Geographic and economic mobility
2. Education
3. Love
4. Lecture based off of letters from a peasant family
5. Background
 - Letters written to 2 sons
 - Class: “State peasants”
 - Parents: No formal education
 - Self taught “literate”
6. What letters tell us
 - Births and deaths: baptisms and funerals
 - Marriages: arranged and for love
 - Parent-child: parental power and its shifts

- Siblings and in-laws: seniority, cooperation, fights
- Religion: prayers, charity, pilgrimage, values
- Language: norm and dialect
- Daily life: food, drinking, clothing, house
- Economy: farming, delivery business
- Mobility: starvation -> wealth
 - “horseless” in 1881 -> big steam ship owners by 1896
 - 1886 bought 1st steam boat (6 HP, 2,600 rbl)
 - 1892 bought 2nd steam boat (25 HP, 8,500 rbl)
 - Opened a pub in Pazdery
 - 1894 bought 3rd steam boat (40 HP, 19,000 rbl)
 - Abandon farming and pub (movement against alcohol)
 - 1896 bought a steam ship (120,000 rbl)
- 7. Random stuff
 - One woman had a child out of wedlock and was punished for it, never married either
 - Her son Ivan was adopted
 - Letters refer to his mother as Baushka, adopted grandmother as Babushka

Russian Cuisine

1. Variety of pies–pirogi, pirozhki
2. Main technology used to be boiling, stewing, keeping on low heat because cooking done in a Russian stove
3. A lot of fish
4. A lot of restrictions by the church, no meat on certain days etc.
5. Zakuski
6. Vodka
 - Traditional medieval drink: mead
 - Vodka appeared in XIV-XV centuries
 - From voda (Water)
 - State had a monopoly on selling vodka
7. Kulich – Easter bread
8. Know staple dishes and soups (quiz online)

Painting

1. Before 18th century – icons and folk art (lubok)
2. 18th century – portraits
3. 19th century: A variety of genres (social themes, history, portraits, landscapes)

4. Lubok – equivalent of a comic strip
 - Sold in markets for cheap
5. Wanderers
 - Wanted to paint real life and bring art to people
 - 14 students left the Imperial Academy of Arts
 - Formed Peredvizhniki (Wanderers) society
 - Created Association of Travelling Art Exhibits
 - Content over form
 - Most famous
 - Ilya Repin (1844-1930)
6. “An Unexpected Return” – Repin
 - Exiled family member returning from exile
7. Isaak Levitan (Landscapes)
8. Futurism
 - Originated in Italy
 - Natalya Goncharova
 - Kandinsky
 - Malevich (Suprematism)
9. Chagall
 - Policies of Russification
 - Jewish pogroms
 - Language policies
 - Surrealism
 - Wanted to study art in Russia, but was Jewish so could not
 - Went to France instead

Literature

1. Realism
2. Symbolism
 - Came from France
 - Alexander Blok
3. Futurism
 - Mayakovsky
4. “A poet in Russia is more than a poet”
 - You don’t have to be a poet, but your obligation is to be a citizen
5. Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol
6. Gogol
 - Born in present day Ukraine
 - Moved to St. Petersburg at 17 to become a writer
7. Turgenev, Goncharov, Tolstoy
8. Tolstoy
 - Religious crisis (excommunicated by Orthodox church in 1901)
 - Felt that people should work for their living

People and Intelligentsia

1. Intelligentsia
 - Literate
 - Populists (for the people)
 - Zemstvo teachers and doctors
 - Readers of thick journals
 - Thinking of the fate of man in life/history (The Bet)
 - Mindful of Russia's role in history
 - Believers in justice and fairness
 - Typically opposed the absolute monarchy

Silver Age of Russian Culture

1. Review: Realism
 - Ivan Turgenev
 - Leo Tolstoy
 - Fyodor Dostoevsky
2. 3 Schools of Poetry
 - Symbolism (2 generations)
 - 1st Bryusov and Annensky (broke with realism)
 - 2nd Bely and Blok
 - Art for art's sake
 - Ushered in avant-garde
 - Futurism (Mayakovsky and Pasternak)
 - Mayakovsky's futurist manifesto
 - Acmeism (Akhmatova and Mandelstam)
 - Valued clarity, concision, and craftsmanship
3. Music (Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky)
 - Rachmaninoff
 - Symbolism in music
 - Moved to USA after Russian Revolution
 - Scriabin
 - "The" symbolist composer
 - Synesthesia
 - Famous for writing music to go along with poetry, art
4. Art
 - Vasily Kandinsky
 - Juxtaposition and mixing of colors
 - Influenced artists at Bauhaus in Germany
 - Marc Chagall
 - Flying people, village scenes
 - Suprematism
 - A lot of geometric shapes

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The Bet (Chekhov)

1. Banker challenges guy to live in isolation for 15 years, no human contact
2. The man reads a shitload
3. In the end, he has come to hate everything about the outside world and gives up just hours before the bet ends, forfeiting 2 million rubles