

## 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)
  - 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

## 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

## Chekhov

1. Short story writer – influenced the evolution of the modern short story
2. Playwright (early modernism in theater)
3. Was a practicing doctor
4. 6 principles of a good short story
  - Avoid long discourses on social issues
  - True descriptions
  - Should be objective
  - As brief as possible
  - Audacious and original
  - Should exhibit compassion
5. Most famous plays
  - The Seagull
  - Uncle Vanya
6. The Cherry Orchard
  - Watch Act I, III for final
  - Last play Chekhov ever wrote
  - Metaphor for Russia on the turn of the century
  - Characters
    - Lubov Ranevsky – Owner of the estate who comes back from France (in debt)
    - Leonid Gaev – her brother
    - Ermolai Lopakhin – Former serf who got rich and purchases orchard at the end
    - Petya Trofimov – Revolutionary student
    - Anya – Daughter of Lubov
    - Varya – Stepdaughter of Lubov

## End of the Empire

1. Lermontov
  - Predicted end of the empire would eventually come (1830), “Black Day”
2. Bloody Sunday (1/9/1905)
  - Thousands of protesters arrived to give a petition to the Tsar for representative government and worker’s rights
  - Not a political movement
  - Guards opened fire on the protesters as the tsar was out of town and they would not leave until they gave him the petition personally
3. Nicholas II
  - Son Alexei was sick (hemophilia)
    - Brought in a miracle worker Rasputin who ‘stopped’ Alexei from hemorrhaging
  - Tsar 1894-1917
  - Became tsar unexpectedly after his father died
  - Married a German princess Alice, Queen Victoria’s granddaughter
  - Believer in absolute monarchy and his responsibility to the people
  - 1905 Nicholas II Manifesto (attempt at a constitution)
4. Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)
  - Russia wanted access to a warm port on Pacific Ocean
5. First Russian Revolution (1905)
  - Worker strike, peasant unrest, mutiny etc.
6. Grigory Rasputin
  - Adviser to Queen
7. Pyotr Stolypin: Prime Minister 1906-1911
  - Crack down on terror
  - Proposed agrarian reform
  - Development of large-scale individual farming
  - Development of agricultural education
  - Affordable lines of credit for peasants
  - 11 assassination attempts (eventually successful)
8. What led to the revolution
  - Societal changes and social dislocation of peasants
  - Inadequate agrarian laws and practices
  - Weakening of religious faith
  - New and insecure middle class
  - Industrial expansion/working conditions in factories
  - Loss of prestige in monarchy
  - WWI