

## Tsarist Russia

### **Tsar Nicholas II – 1894 (24)**

Married Tsarina Alexandria (Grandmother = Queen Victoria)

Russia = 150 million – autocratic rule (absolute)

Divine right of Kings

All final decisions and government policy (not constitutional)

### **Industrialization**

Large peasant population, far behind Europe

1890's European countries got heavily involved (Why?)

1891 Trans-Siberian Railway (Moscow – Vladivostok)

Industry = giant leap – severe shortage of skilled laborers – raised capital by taxing peasants = problem!

Industry massed in cities

Marxist position (bourgeoisie = exploiting) – masters of strike, general strikes

Peasants –  $\frac{3}{4}$  of pop. in 1900

Illiterate + superstitious + excessive taxation

### **Revolution 1905**

Countless strikes

Elected assembly, civil liberties (free speech, assembly, and press)

Communists = 1900 social democrat

1903 All Russian Soviet Democratic Workers Party Congress

1. Bolsheviks: (Lenin)

a. Small group of hardcore leaders could start revolution

b. Lenin arrested in 1895, 2 years in Siberia

2. Mensheviks: masses had to be won over before revolution

### **Lost Russo – Japanese War 1905**

Embarrassment (1<sup>st</sup> European pwr. defeated by an Asian country)

Entire Russian Baltic fleet was sunk off the coast of Japan

Bloody Sunday 1905, 400-500 people killed

1<sup>st</sup> soviet (council) during 1905 strike (mass strikes)

They were crushed and Trotsky went to jail.

### **October Manifesto**

Tsar knew changes needed

Create Duma (Leg. Assembly) had real power

Debate laws and bills advise council

Radicals wanted what Brit. had

Everything eased off and Tsar would cancel duma if they did something he didn't like. – rigged election, so no radicals got in

### **WWI – Exaggerating Russia's problem**

Rasputin advised against war (claimed to be able to see future – saw the end of Tsar if they went to war)

War could rally nation

Major shortages for soldiers – didn't believe in crawling in battle

1915 1 million dead

Nicholas II went to front, Alexandra in charge –

Rasputin ran government

Tsar and Tsarina liked him

Claimed to be able to cure hemophilia

His government fell

Wages went up 100%

Prices went up 400%

Dec. 30, 1916 Rasputin assassinated

WWI Russia (1.7 million dead, 4.95million wounded, and 2.41million POW)