DO NOT WRITE ON THIS!!!

Russian Revolution of 1905

**Before**

Before 1905, the Russian government was an autocratic monarchy. Meaning one person, the tsar (a king) held all the power. Under the tsar were the nobles who owned all the land. Peasants and serfs were forced to work the land. Agriculture was the biggest economic system in Russia before 1905. Most peasants did not know how to read and write and did not have any rights. However, as the population grew more people started to move to the city looking for work. Working conditions were terrible and the pay was very low. The working conditions made the workers very mad and they started demanding the government do something for them. The Russian people became even more upset when Russia lost to the Japanese in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905.

**During**

On Sunday, January 22, 1905, about 200,000 workers marched on Tsar Nicholas's Winter Palace to present him with a list of things that needed to be improved. The police fired on the crowd and at least 100 people were killed, and another 3,000 were injured. This was called Bloody Sunday. Seeing the violence, more people started rising up against the government. To avoid more violence, Tsar Nicholas decided to give some things to the workers.

**After**

After the revolution, Nicolas created the Duma, a national assembly to represent the people. However, only the rich people were allowed to be in the Duma. The people were granted more right and the men were allowed to vote. But more people stayed peasants practicing agriculture and workers in the cities still had low wages and poor working conditions.

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February Revolution - 1917

**Before**

Before the February Revolution, Tsar Nicholas took back any power he gave to the Duma and used his complete power to keep the Russian people down. In 1914, Russia joined World War 1 on the side of Britain and France. However, unlike Britain and France, Russia did not have enough factories to make military weapons. Many times, soldiers were sent into battle without any rifles or bullets. They were told to pick up the weapons of dead soldiers. At home, peasants were not able to make enough food to feed the soldiers. Any food they made was given to the army and thousands of people starved.

**During**

The February Revolution did not last long. Workers went on strike and started rioting to get food. The Tsar Nicholas told the soldiers to fire on the workers but they refused. Seeing that he was defeated Tsar Nicholas gave up his throne.

**After**

After the February Revolution, Russia moves away from a monarchy and becomes a republic. The Duma declared itself the leaders of Russia. However, most people did not gain any rights and workers continued to have bad working conditions in factories. The Duma also did not pull out the WWI which most people wanted them to do.

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October Revolution - 1917

**Before**

After the February Revolution, most regular people did not see the change the Duma had promised them. People were still poor and hungry and workers still had bad conditions in factories. World War I was still being fought and thousands of Russians were dying.

**During**

A leader named Vladimir Lenin started telling people to go against the Duma. He was a communist and believed that the only way for Russia to change was through a revolution. His followers (called the Bolsheviks) promised people “Peace, Bread, and Land” if they joined the revolution. Lenin and the Bolsheviks took over government buildings without much fighting.

**After**

Russia became the first communist country and changed its name to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The Communists leaders pulled out the WWI and signed a peace treaty with the Germans. Some Russians were against the Communists and upset over the treaty so they started a civil war. The people loyal to the Tsar Nicholas (Whites) fought against the Communists (Reds). The Communists won and executed Tsar Nicholas and his family. (Anastasia, from the Disney movie, was one of Tsar Nicholas’ daughters!) After their victory, Lenin started the New Economic Policy which gave land back to the peasants. Industries were nationalized - meaning the government took them over. This helped increase the food supply. After Lenin died, Joseph Stalin took over the USSR. His government was a single party with total control.