

# Russian Revolution

Review:

Emancipation of Serfs

Enlightenment vs Authoritarianism

Bloody Sunday-Revolution of 1905

Duma

Bolsheviks

Russia's involvement in World War I proved to be the fatal blow to Czar Nicholas' support in Russia

The Russian military was no match for the German army

Russia had difficulty producing weapons for soldiers on the front, food shortages were common for troops & civilians, the lack of trains slowed supplies & communication

Russia drafted 15 million soldiers & nearly 7 million were killed or wounded; 1.5 million civilians died



Russian soldiers running from German army, 1918



By early 1917, citizens were rioting across Russia demanding an end the monarchy & to World War I



In March, Czar Nicholas II abdicated the throne & the Duma created a provisional (temporary) government



# Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia & led the Bolsheviks in the Russian Revolution in November 1917



Bolshevik troops marching in Red Square, 1917

Lenin's **April Theses** demanded "*peace, land, & all power to the soviets*" helped him gain popularity

Bolshevik Red Guards seized control of the provisional government & declared themselves the new gov't leaders of Russia

The Bolsheviks arrested & executed the Romanovs which ended 300 years of rule by czars in Russia

After the success of the Bolshevik Revolution, Lenin announced major reforms for Russia



Lenin ordered all farmland to be distributed among the peasants

Lenin gave control of the factories to the workers

Lenin signed a truce with Germany & gave up huge territories in order to get Russia out of the war



- All didn't support Lenin's assertion of power
  - Britain, France, US, Japan sent troops to help the White Army and defeat the communists threat
  - Internal resistance
  - Land redistribution plan and nationalization of industry sparked protests; created more opposition
- Civil war waged; Red Army led by Leon Trotsky, regained stability
  - Lenin promoted people from humble backgrounds; the new recruits believed in his vision
- New Economic Policy
  - Small business owners and peasants retention of rights and freedoms
  - State set economic policies
  - Economy responded; food and production improved
  - Each soviet socialist republic was set up to recognize the different minorities
- Central govt controlled by Russians; Communist party established an authoritarian system



- In 1922, Lenin suffered a stroke & died in 1924; Lenin's death led to a struggle for power in the USSR
- By 1927, **Joseph Stalin** outmaneuvered his rivals & gained control of the Soviet Union
- Stalin quickly created a **totalitarian** state in which he had **total** control of the gov't & peoples' lives
- transformed the USSR into a **police state**
- **Great Purge 1936** - eliminated potential rivals in the Communist Party (executed several million)
- Stalin used **propaganda** & censorship to control information & began education programs to teach communist ideals & loyalty to Russia children



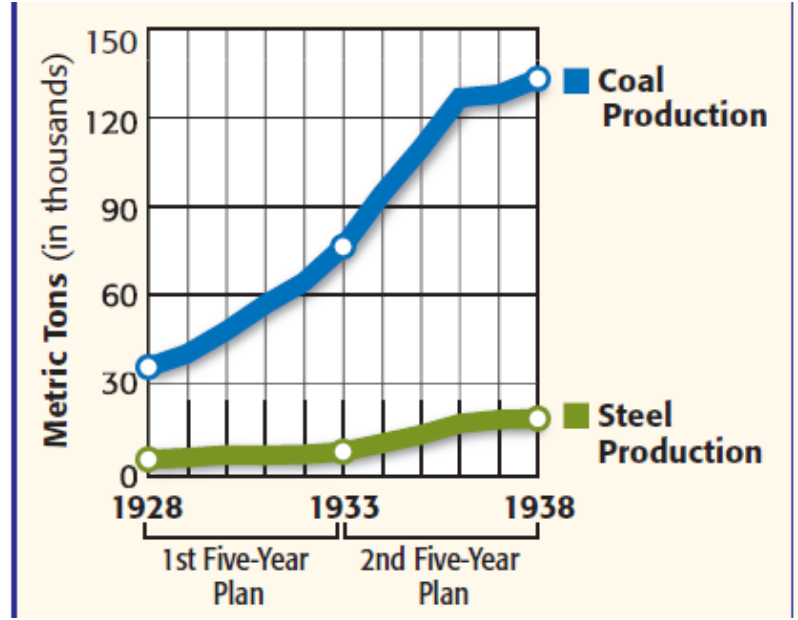
- Russia remained isolated for most of 1930's



# Five Year Plans



- Stalin created a series of **Five Year Plans** to overhaul the Soviet economy
- Stalin seized control of the economy & set high production quotas on **steel**, coal, oil, **electricity**



- Stalin's Five Year Plans dramatically improved Soviet industry & helped modernize the **military**



### Ukrainian Kulaks

The kulaks in Ukraine (shown above) fiercely resisted collectivization. They murdered officials, torched the property of the collectives, and burned their own crops and grain in protest.

Recognizing the threat kulaks posed to his policies, Stalin declared that they should "liquidate kulaks as a class." The state took control of kulak land and equipment, and confiscated stores of food and grain. More than 3 million Ukrainians were shot, exiled, or imprisoned. Some 6 million people died in the government-engineered famine that resulted from the destruction of crops and animals. By 1935, the kulaks had been eliminated.

- Stalin seized 25 million acres of **private farms** & combined them into large **government-controlled** collective farms
- 90% of all peasants lived & worked on **collective** farms
- Agricultural production improved in the USSR, but farming was inefficient & peasants resented having their land taken from them



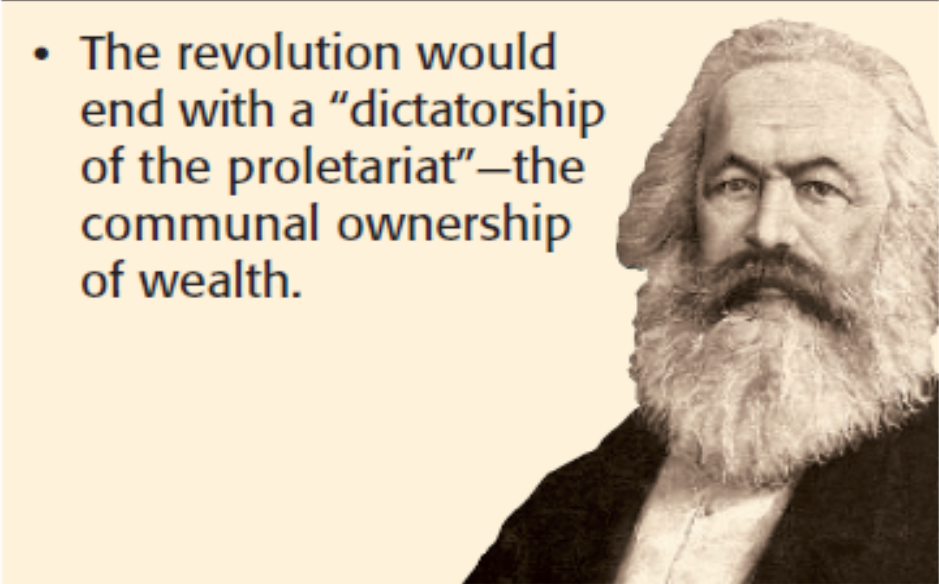


- Stalin declared men & women **equal** in the USSR; Women's rights increased as women could **vote** & join the Communist Party
- Women were expected to **work** in factories and on collective farms like men
- Stalin attacked all **religion** & attempted to create a nation of **atheists**
- Stalin ordered destruction of Orthodox churches & Jewish synagogues

# Evolution of Communist Thought

## Marx

- History was the story of class struggle.
- The struggle Marx saw was between capitalists and the proletariat, or the workers.
- The proletariat's numbers would become so great and their condition so poor that a spontaneous revolution would occur.



## Lenin

- History was the story of class struggle.
- The struggle Lenin saw was capitalists against the proletariat and the peasants.
- The proletariat and the peasants were not capable of leading a revolution and needed the guidance of professional revolutionaries.

