

RUSSIA: THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

Czar Nicholas II (1894-1917)

- Like his father, an autocratic ruler who used the secret police, censorship of the press and universities, and persecution of non-Orthodox Christians to hold power.
- Did not understand problems of industrialization
- Did not understand agrarian (agricultural) crisis of time

Czar Nicholas II (cont)

- Did not understand need for constitutional and political reforms.
- Repressed minorities – “Russification”



Events leading to Revolution

- Defeat in Russo-Japanese war (1904-1905)
- 1905 revolution
 - Started by women
 - Swept countryside –workers protested
 - Demanded suffrage and work day limits
 - Czar submitted de jure but not de facto, e.g. weak parliament
- Nihilistic, Anarchistic, and Socialistic movements sought to undermine the Czar
 - E.g. Social Revolutionary party: peasant dedicated to the use of violence to remove czardom and the aristocracy

Events leading to Revolution

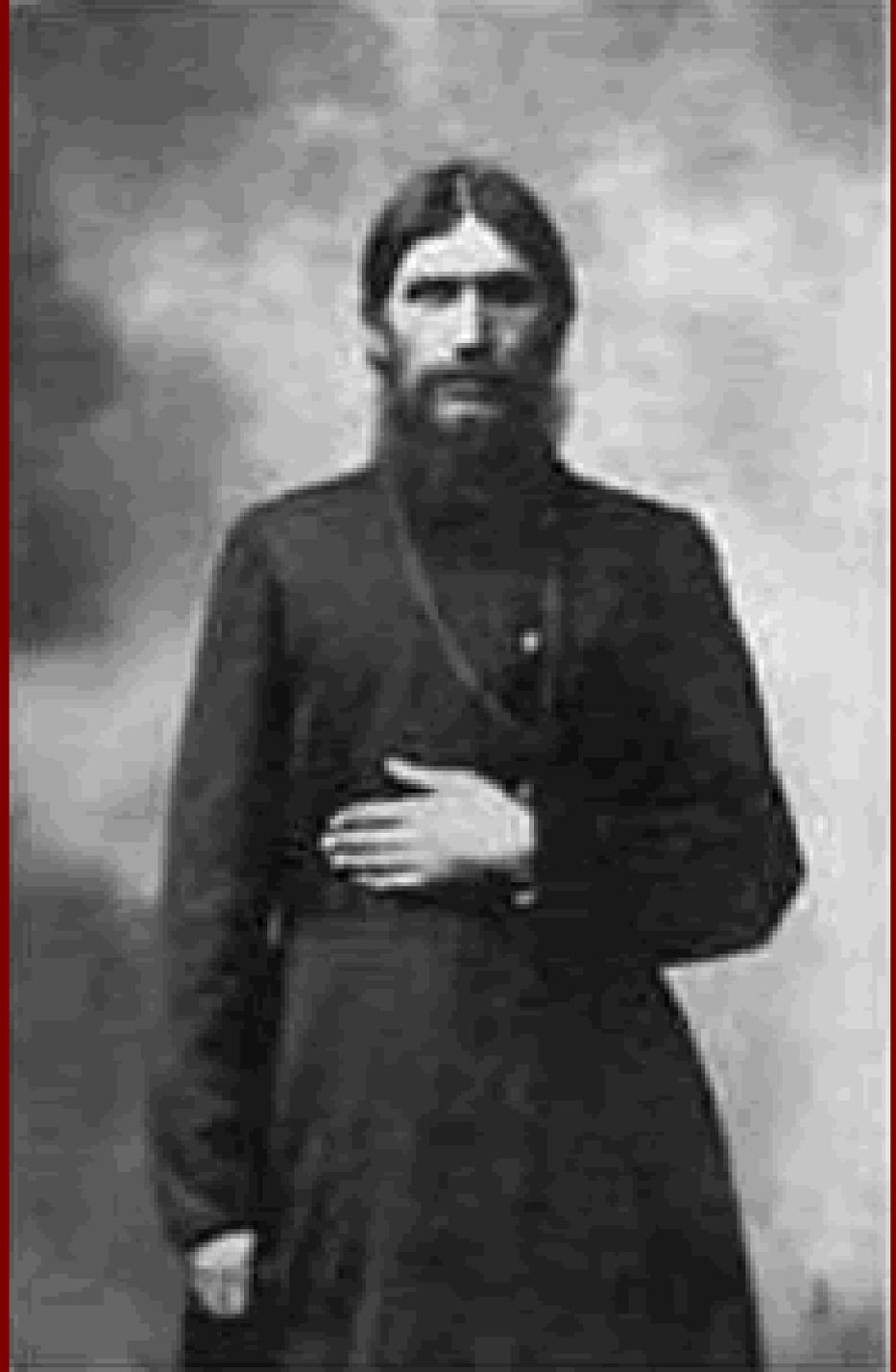
- Pan-Slavism drew Russia into the Balkans
- Russia entered WWI as “protector of the Slavs”, but also to expand its territory in the Balkans & E. Europe.
- WWI caused more discontent among peasants
 - Shortages of supplies
 - Draft
 - Lowered standard of living for all (produce taken by army)
 - Soldiers: Low morale, desertion

CZAR NICHOLAS refused to budge, had wife and Rasputin running government

The Czarina –
a hemophiliac



Rasputin:
Much
maligned



Disney's
"Rasputin"



The February Revolution

General strike

shut down
economy

– Some soldiers
rebelled

Reaction: Czar
Nicholas II
refused to budge



March, 1917

- Riots in St. Petersburg
 - Food riots (esp. women)
 - Soldiers mutinied

CZAR stepped down

Provisional government established



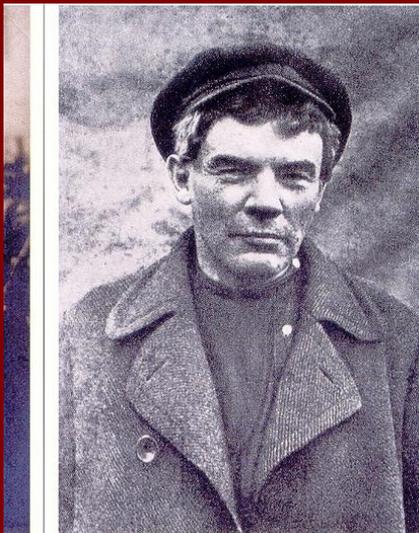
Provisional Government

- Social democrats
- Moderate “Mensheviks”
- Social Revolutionaries
- Radical “Bolsheviks” kept out

Alexander Kerensky



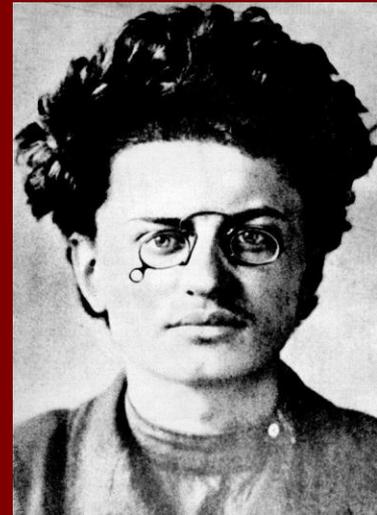
V.I. Lenin



Joseph Stalin



Leon Trotsky



Establishment of “Soviets”

- Activists formed Soviets (“councils”) as watchdog on government
- Used strikes and protest

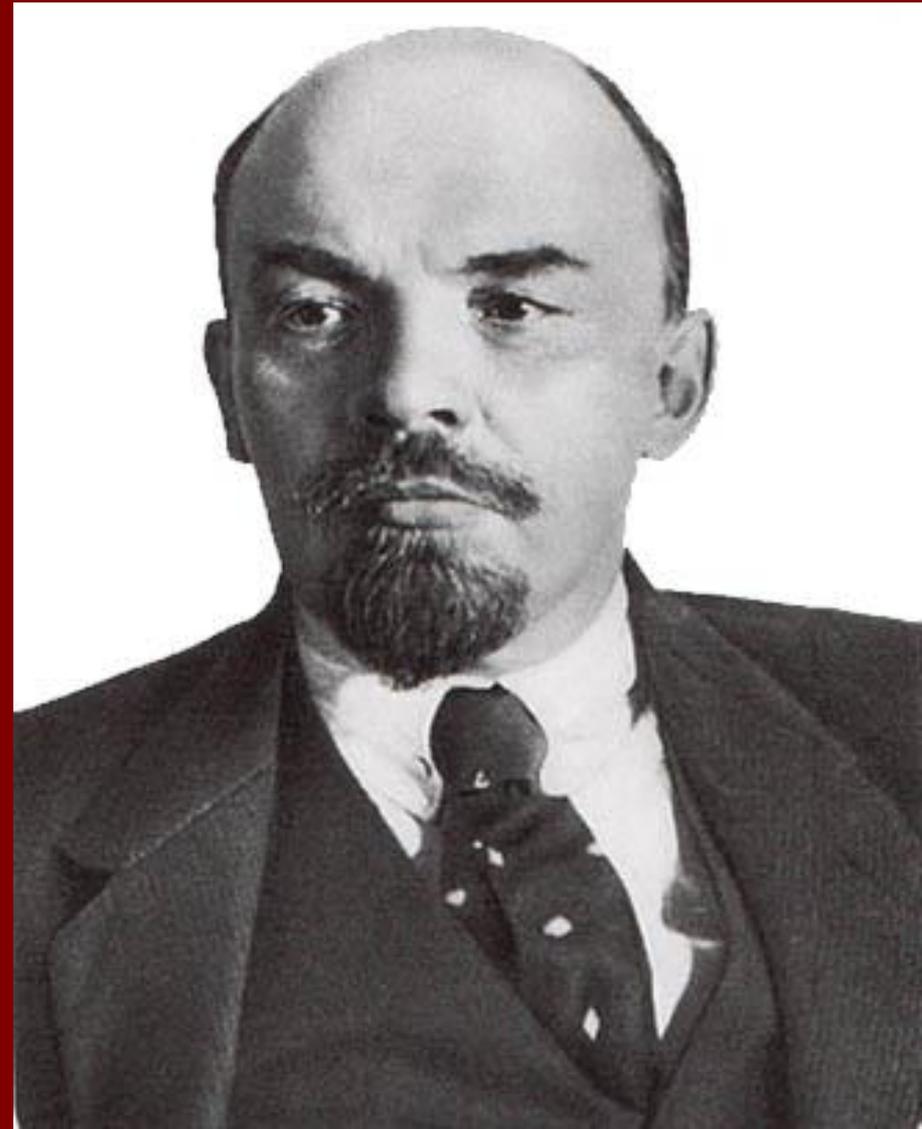
Major Issues

1. WWI – provisional govt chose to **stay in war**
2. Peasant land reform – **put off** until end of war

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT UNPOPULAR

V.I. Lenin

- Radical Bolshevik
- Believed that proletariat (peasants) needed leadership (intelligencia) to become *class conscious*.
- Had Bolsheviks infiltrate soviets
- Set up Red Guard – armed militia



REVOLT

- Bolsheviks seize power with help from sailors and soldiers (mutineers)
- Seized control of utilities
- Stormed Winter Palace and took out leadership (“Coup D’Etat)
- Declared all power to Soviets (secretly influenced by Bolsheviks)
- Held immediate elections

Bolsheviks Lose Elections

- Only 1 million votes
- Assembly disbanded, election cancelled
- Lenin declared a

DICTATORSHIP of the PROLETARIAT

Russian Civil War began (1918 – 1920)