

Russia Review – Some Key Points

1. By the 800s -- Few natural barriers so groups invaded including the Vikings and Mongols. Mongols demanded tribute (a tax – a bribe) so the Slavic groups were under Mongol control.
2. Leaders:
 - a. In 1480 Ivan III refused to pay the tribute and declared himself czar (emperor) of the Russian people.
 - b. Peter the Great (part of the Romanov family – had power under 1917) gained power in the late 1800s. Peter wanted to modernize and westernize Russia – expanded the borders and built St. Petersburg.
 - c. Catherine the Great – expanded the borders again, but at the cost of the peasants (rich got richer, poor got poorer).
3. Nicholas II becomes czar (late 1800s, last czar); not very good – people protested the harsh conditions and the wars that drained the country's resources = forced to create the Duma (government of advisors), but Duma ineffective
4. Russian Revolution 1917 – Nicholas II and family executed; Lenin leads the Red Army (Bolsheviks) under Marxism/Socialism/Communism vs. White Army (Bourgeoisie – rich people) – civil war
5. Civil War won by the Bolsheviks (supported by the proletariat – working poor); 1922 Russia becomes the Soviet Union and becomes Communist