Eastern Europe
Russia
Early Russia Foundation

• In the late 800s Vikings from Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Finland) moved into and across Russia, conquered local Slavic people who were living there
• They set up settlements, and established the city of Kiev (located in present day Ukraine)
• These Vikings were called “the Russ” (Roo-s)
• Kiev located along the Dnieper River and the River systems tied the area together
Impact of Byzantine Empire on Kievan Russia

• The “Russ” adopted many things from the powerful Byzantine Empire
• 1. A system of writing – Cyrillic (this was developed so Russians could read the bible)
• 2. Christian Religion – Allowed the monarch to be the religious head of state (the leader)
• Kievan Russia traded heavily with the Byzantine Empire which added wealth!
How did the Mongols impact Russia?

• Mid 1200s - mid 1400’s Mongols ruled Russia!
• Mongols brutally conquered Russia! (and Central Asia and most of Europe too!)
• Made the Russian principalities pay Tribute (like a tax). Russian Princes competed to be the “Grand Prince”
• Drained much of the wealth of the Russian territories
• Did however connect Russia to trade throughout Mongol Empire.
Feudalism

• Definition: A stratified (layered) governmental and social structure where each level of society supports and owes allegiance to the level above it!
• Monarch—at top
• Nobility—middle class
• Peasants—bottom

Feudal Pyramid of Power
Falling behind on the mortgage? Are your medical bills making even the most mundane tasks impossible?

Try SERFDOM! The economic quick-fix!

Vince from Shamwow!

We’ll shoulder your debt and house you for free in a lovely bucolic setting.

All you have to do is work the land until your hands bleed. Easy!

Three bowls of gruel a day. So nice.

Just think: no bills! No messy loans! We’re pet friendly and reasonably close to a water source!

Call one of our representatives to see if rutabaga farming for an oppressive lord is right for you! (It is.)

BORS

1-800-SERFDOM

Sign up today and we’ll throw in a free itchy sweater. Convenient!
What is the social impact of Feudalism?

- Monarchy and the Nobility usually worked together to exploit the work of the peasantry.
- Sometimes Nobility tried to get more power and struggled against the monarchy.
What is the economic impact of Feudalism?

Monarch: required taxes to be paid to him from the nobility and the peasants

Nobility: required food and taxes from the peasants (serfs)

Peasants: very poor, barely had enough to survive!
How would Feudalism impact development?

• Feudalism prevented development! Why?
• No incentive to change from the nobility or monarchy (the system kept them rich!)
• No access to education for vast majority of the population (serfs didn’t know any better)
• No access to social mobility (serfs tied to the land they worked)
• No economic development for peasants (no middle class could emerge)
A Peasant Leaving His Landlord painting by Sergei B. Ivanov
Russia Rise to Power

• Russia’s early history Youtube clip http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r_WXKto268
Imperialism

• Definition: One country controlling another country

• How? Militarily, Economically, Politically, Socially

• Parent Country: The country of origin, the one controlling the other.

• Colony: the area/country being controlled by the parent country. The British controlled the first colonies that later became the first 13 U.S. states.
What was imperialism’s impact on the parent country?

• The purpose – financial gain!!!
• The parent country would
  – demand labor
  – exploit natural resources
  – Use the colony as a captive market to sell manufactured goods.
  – Extract taxes or “tribute”
Imperialism’s impact on the colony:

• **Positives:**
  – Opened the colony up to trade throughout a larger empire.
  – Exposed the colony to advancements of the parent country. (material or intellectual advancements)

• **Negatives:**
  – Drained the colony of material wealth
  – Made colonists subject to rules from outside their homeland
  – Governing structures were changed to whatever the parent country wanted.
Reasons for Moscow’s rise in significance under Mongol Rule

• The princes of Moscow grew rich by keeping a share of the taxes they collected for the Mongol Khan. Moscow’s leaders were always pretty good at this.

• Moscow’s prince was regularly awarded the title of Grand Prince (most favored prince by the Mongols)

• Moscow was located near many important rivers which became a central trading area.
Ivan III “The Great”

- He was the one that finally threw off Mongol rule and set up the first centralized Russian state. (unified it as one nation)
- Married niece of Byzantine Emperor and thus married into a royal blood line.
- He took the title “CZAR” which means “Caesar” in Russian (tried to link himself to the Roman/Byzantine empires and blood lines)
- Established an “autocracy”, which means he had unlimited power.
Ivan IV “The Terrible”

• A pretty progressive leader when he first gained power as Czar.
BUT...when nobility
• tried to undermine his authority, he went on a “rein of terror” to solidify his power.
- Set up a secret police force to seek out and destroy those oppose to him (no trials or anything)

– Killed many, many people to further increase the power of the Czar/autocracy.

• Youtube clip. Russia land of the Tsars-4
Peter the Great...how he tried to change Russia

- Tried to bring Western (European) ideas to Russia.
- He hired western engineers, ship builders, and other technical experts to modernize Russia’s army/navy and build industries.
- He set up schools to teach western ideas.
- He reduced the power of the Christian Church in Russia. (very similar to Europe at the time)
- He would use force against those who opposed his progressive reform efforts.
Catherine the Great...not really as enlightened as she claimed to be

- She ruled during the period of the Enlightenment in Europe.
- She read and agreed with many Enlightenment philosophers and even encouraged western thought and learning.

HOWEVER...

- When the ideas conflicted with her autocratic power or ability to rule, she ignored them.
What similarities exist between Peter the Great and Catherine the Great of Russia?

• Both saw the positives of European learning and development, and looked to copy them. BUT...
• They both had limited success in developing Russia enough to catch up to Europe, because they would have had to sacrifice much of the power of their autocracy to do so.... And that they resisted.
Czars of Russia interest in expansion

- Value of resources to be exploited in the new territory
- Needed resources for industries/farmland for food
- Access to new waterways for trade & defense
- Splendor and glory of having tons of land (and rulers thought they were cool when they looked at a map and saw how big their territory was compared to others)
- Military victory always pacified the home population... kind of distracted them from their own, potentially miserable, lives.
Impact of Expansion on Russia

• Turned Russia into a multi-national (had many nationalities/groups of people) empire. Ethnic Russians made up less than half the pop.
• Gained access to more fur, farmland and mineral resources
• Newly acquired Siberia became a place to send prisoners to labor in labor camps (mines)
• Gained a warm-water port on the Baltic Sea. (present day Estonia and Latvia)
The Capital of the Russian Empire, St. Petersburg was founded by Tsar Peter the Great. It was changed to Petrograd in 1914 because St. Petersburg sounded too German. Renamed Leningrad in 1924 (for Vladimir Lenin). In 1991 the city was once again called St. Petersburg. Today it is Russia's second largest city with 4.8 million inhabitants!

What's the largest city in Russia today?
Causes of discontent in 1800s

• **Peasants:** Serfs wanted their freedom & their own land to farm.

• **Nobles:** (only some actually wanted change) wanted to adopt Enlightenment ideas in Russia
  – Wanted an end to the autocracy; wanted a limited monarchy like in England.

• The Small (educated) Middle Class:
  – Wanted radical change (complete overthrow of the monarchy... wanted democracy or socialism)
Impact of Enlightenment on Russia

• Great impact on every level of Russian society.
  – Czars like Peter and Catherine really believed in and advanced western ideas in Russia.
  – Nobles and Serfs will use the Enlightenment ideas to demand greater freedoms within the Russian empire. They will also use these ideas to weaken the power of the autocracy.
What was the Decembrist Revolt?

• It was when a small group of nobles and army officers tried to overthrow Czar Nicholas I’s government in 1825.
• The revolutionaries hoped to set up a constitutional monarchy
• The Czar Nicholas I quickly crushed the uprising (executed the leaders)
• The revolutionaries became heroes to later generations of revolutionaries.
What was Czar Nicholas I’s reaction?

- Crushed the uprising
- Imposed censorship—banned books
- Secret Police spy on students
- More than 150,000 people accused of treason and sent to Siberia
- Enforced Russian Nationalism and loyalty to the autocratic rule
Why did Czar Alexander II emancipate (set free) the serfs?

- Serfs: peasant farmers, that were tied to the land they worked. Couldn’t leave without permission from the lord. (Emancipate = to free)

- In Russia, serfdom slowed industrial development because the serfs could not leave. Factory owners could not find enough workers (Unlike Britain where labor was cheap and abundant).
Why did Czar Alexander II emancipate (set free) the serfs?

• The Czar needed industrial development if Russia was going to compete with the big European Empires.

• Freeing the serfs allowed them to go to cities to get jobs in factories (making industrial development possible).
Main Terms of Emancipation, 1861

Serfs made legally free of their landlords

Ex-serfs were then allowed
- to own property
- to buy land assigned them from their previous owner’s estates
- to marry according to their choice
- to trade freely
- to sue in courts
- to vote in local elections.
Effects of Industrialization

**POSITIVES**
- Peasants flocked to cities
- The middle class grew
- Education spread
- Better healthcare became available
- More food resulted from mechanizing agriculture
- Eventually formed unions (although they were outlawed)

**NEGATIVES**
- Life did not improve for most people
- Population soared and peasants consequently had less land than before.
- Same type of working and living conditions as in industrialized Europe.
Who would want to overthrow the Czar’s and why?

• Most revolutionaries came from Russia’s educated middle class (small as it was).
  – They were frustrated with the slow pace of change
  – They wanted to overthrow the Czar and establish socialism in Russia
  – When the peasants would not support their cause, they turned to terrorist activities. They killed prominent officials and eventually Czar Alexander II.
What was the Czar Alexander III’s response to his father’s assassination?

- He resorted to repression of the population and reduced freedoms to all, to counteract the terrorist/revolutionaries.

Unfortunately...

- It failed to do anything about the general unrest and frustration within the population.
- Probably only made it worse.
“Bloody Sunday” (1905)

• Father Georgi Gapon planned a peaceful march of factory workers in St. Petersburg where they would present a petition (request) to Czar Nicholas II asking for better working conditions and more political rights.... Peacefully!!!

• As the group reached the Czar’s palace, the troops guarding the palace opened fire on the crowd...Over 100 marchers were killed.
Bloody Sunday
Q: What was the cause of the 1905 Revolution?

• Answer: the Bloody Sunday Massacre
  – Russians were horrified and outraged by the massacre.
  – Riots and strikes swept through the cities
  – Peasants looted and burned the homes of land owners in the countryside.
Outcome of the Revolution?

• Czar Nicholas II was forced to set up an elected assembly stay in power.
  – The elected assembly was called the DUMA.
  – It had limited authority, but the Czar was supposed to consult with the Duma when he passed legislation or made policies.... He never did though!
• The discontent is going remain
Russian Empire (summary)

• Lasted nearly 300 years ends with the Russian Revolution of 1917.
• One of the largest empires in world history, surpassed in landmass only by the British and Mongol empires.
• At one point in 1866, it stretched from eastern Europe across Asia and into North America!
• However...Russia lagged behind Europe because of Mongol Rule and Feudalism (Czarist Rule)
Russian Empire Pt. 2 (summary)

• Russia ruled by Romanov family for 300 years!
• Feudalism social structure with a monarch on top of society, peasants on the bottom.
• Czar Nicholas II: poor leader. Creates a DUMA (a legislature to meet the needs of the people)
• He neglects it though=more unrest
• Nicholas II, sent Russia into WWI unprepared-Russia lost millions of soldiers!!
Russian Rule

• 1917: Nicholas abdicates the throne (later killed)
• Provisional government put into place! (a temporary government wanted a democracy).
• Why didn’t a democracy work in Russia?
• The Provisional government continued to fight WWI and didn’t want to pass reforms until the war was over...conditions got worse.
Quick Review Events of 1917

• February: Bread riots, Workers fill the streets of St. Petersburg,
• March Revolution: Soldiers join protest, Czar Nicholas II abdicates the throne
• “Soviets” are formed! *local councils made up of workers, soldiers, and peasants
• People trusted the Soviets...they were made up of the people...people they knew...people like them.  Soviets in turn trusted the Bolsheviks...
Bolsheviks

- **Bolsheviks**: A Russian political party that supported socialism and wanted to change Russia into a socialist nation.
- **Vladimir Lenin** (leader of the movement).
- Wanted to apply the theories of Karl Marx (Communist Manifesto) to Russia.
- Marx predicted the working class would rise up, in a great socialist revolution. Lenin believed that the revolution could be done only if carried out by small group of leaders.
“Peace, Land, Bread”

• Lenin and the Bolsheviks gained support from the people because they:

• Proposed an immediate peace with Germany to get out of WWI. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk marked the end of Russia’s participation in WWI.

• Told the peasants they could keep the land they had seized in the March Revolution

• Promised workers better wages & conditions
Russia’s Civil War

• The Bolshevik Revolution Begins!
• 1918 to 1921 Civil War raged Russia. The Communists, as the Bolsheviks began calling themselves, were known as the “Red Army”
• Well organized-took grain from peasants
• Took control of factories, mines, banks, and businesses.
• The White Army (Supported by British, French, Americans).
Soviet Union

- In 1922 the Communists win Civil War. Reorganized Russia into a union of four republics. Renamed to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
- In Russia’s Civil War 7 million people died!
- USSR on verge of collapse. Lenin creates New Economic Policy (NEP)
- Allowed: peasants to sell surplus, some private business, Communist state in place.
Vladimir Ilyich Lenin died in 1924 at the age of 53. Original cause of death was stroke, later changed to syphilis.

Upon his death, Winston Churchill, said:

“He alone could have found the way back to the causeway... The Russian people were left floundering in the bog. Their worst misfortune was his birth... their next worst his death.”
The River Neva flows through much of the center of St. Petersburg

(R: the “Winter Palace”)
Born Joseph Dzugashvili, he took the name “Stalin” which means “Steel”

- Prior to death, Lenin warned the Central Committee of the Communist Party on Joseph Stalin.
- “I propose to the comrades to find some way of removing Stalin from his position and appointing somebody else...more tolerant, more loyal, more polite and considerate to his comrades...”
Stalin Rise to Power

• 1924: Power Struggle after Lenin’s death between Bolsheviks Leon Trotsky and Stalin
• Stalin forced Trotsky into exile and in 1927 became dictator of the Soviet Union.
• Trotsky later murdered by Stalin’s agents.

• Stalin launched a PLANNED ECONOMY campaign! Turned USSR into a socialist state (Government makes decisions about the economy)

• Stalin known for:
  • 1. The Five Year Plans
  • 2. Collectivization
  • 3. The Purges
Economic Goals

• 1928-32: Announced his first “Five-Year Plan” in which set goals of Modernizing and developing Soviet industry and increasing food production through collective agriculture.

• 1933-37: 2\textsuperscript{nd} five year plan continued to emphasize heavy industries but there was also a commitment to communication systems such as railways and new industries such as the chemical industry.

• 1938-41: 3\textsuperscript{rd} five year: emphasis on weapons production (which required an input from heavy industries) WWII begins.

Industrial Development

• “We are 50 to 100 years behind the advanced countries...either we do it or they crush us,” Joseph Stalin.

• Stalin believed USSR needed to modernize quickly! Emphasized heavy industry over consumer goods.

• Poured resources into building steel mills and dams for hydroelectric power.

• Coal and oil production increased.
Industrial

• Steel, oil and other industries climbed rapidly but at a high human cost!
• Factories and mines were operated by forced labor!
• Many people were worked to death.
• Free workers forbidden to strike.
• Anyone who protested DISAPPEARED into Stalin’s huge network of prison and slave-labor camps.
The punishment for failure was severe. A manager could be executed as an "enemy of the people". Workers could be sent to a prison camp in Siberia. Nobody was allowed to condemn or criticise the five year plans as they were Stalin’s idea.
Life for the workers

- *Life was very hard for industrial workers.* Pay was poor, not much they could spend their money on.

- *Consumer goods were simply not produced.* Working conditions were very dangerous and the hours were long. The homes that were provided were poor. So why did they work so hard?

- *Young workers idealistic. Concept of communism was still intoxicating.* Stalin was known as "Uncle Joe" and they were willing to suffer a few years of hardship if they were going to get to the promised land of a better society.
Life for the workers

People encouraged to work hard by propaganda which bombarded the workers in all directions. Played on the belief that if most did it, the rest would follow on as they did not want to be seen as different.

Rewards were given to the best workers. Groups of workers were encouraged to compete against each other.
Agriculture

• Industrial growth required increased food production...So,
• Stalin combined millions of small peasant farms into large COLLECTIVE farms.
• Collectivization led to disaster.
• Peasants protested, millions resist. Destroy crops and livestock and contribute to terrible famine that spread across the Soviet Union in 1930s.
Collectivized Agriculture

• Stalin’s response to peasant protest?
• Violence!!!
• Red Army soldiers shot peasants who refused to give up their farms. KULAKS (prosperous peasants) sent to brutal labor camps.
• Between 5 to 10 million people died as a result of collectivization and state terror.
Stalin...“Man of Steel”

• In 1937–38, the Great Purge, a period of mass repression in which hundreds of thousands of people were executed. (purge=expel)

• Stalin’s high ranking rivals within the Communist Party and military officers charged with treason were either executed or imprisoned.

• Great Purge increased Stalin’s Power but Soviet Military weakened (Hitler building)
Communist System

• 1936 Stalin writes new Constitution
• Legislature called Supreme Soviet
• Citizens expected to vote for members of Supreme Soviet (only one political party though so voters had no choice)
• Supreme Soviet made the laws-Communist party ran the Soviet Union.
• Totalitarian Rule under Stalin run by Communist party!
Soviet Union Fast Facts

• Russian official language (multinational country)
• Communist leaders become elite social class: wealth, housing, best schools, goods
• Communists hostile to ALL Religions
• Why? Religion competes for peoples loyalty
• “Not a single house of prayer will be needed any longer in any territory of the Soviet Union,” –Joseph Stalin
Non-aggression Pact with Germany

• Stalin signs pact in 1939 to protect his economic success and his new military leaders
• Within two years Hitler broke pact attacks Soviet Union.
• WWII most devastating war in Russian history
• By the end of WWII more than 20 million people, approximately 20% of the Soviet population had died.
Forgive me comrade, but it seemed such a good opportunity!
Stalin and WWII

• 1945. WWII ends. Stalin sets up friendly communist governments in Eastern Europe. Idea that Germany never again will invade Soviet Union. Communism over democracy.

• 1941-1945 U.S. and Soviet Union were allies versus Germany in WWII. USSR stays in WWII, unlike WWI

• 1945 U.S. friendship ends “Cold War” begins

• Stalin dies in 1953
Stalinist Architecture
(Right: Apartment building in Moscow)

"Seven Sisters" is the English name given to a group of Moscow skyscrapers designed in the Stalinist style. Built from 1947 to 1953, in an elaborate combination of Russian Baroque and Gothic styles, and the technology used in building American skyscrapers.
Cold War

• The Cold War is the name given to the relationship that developed between the USA and the USSR after WWII (1945-1985)

• Where does the term come from? In October 1945, writer George Orwell argued that the invention of the atom bomb brought a ‘peace that is no peace’ in which the United States and USSR would be both ‘unconquerable and in a permanent state of cold war with each other’.

• The Cold War dominated international affairs for decades.
Types of War

• In diplomatic terms there are 3 types of war.

1. **Hot War**: this is actual warfare. All talks have failed and the armies are fighting.

2. **Warm War**: this is where talks are still going on and there would always be a chance of a peaceful outcome but armies, navies etc. are being fully mobilized and war plans are being put into operation ready for the command to fight.
3. **Cold War**: this term is used to describe the relationship between US and the USSR 1945 to 1985. **Neither side ever fought the other** - the consequences would be too appalling - but they did ‘fight’ for their beliefs using **client states** who fought for their beliefs on their behalf.
Cold War

• EXAMPLE: S. Vietnam was anticommunist and was supplied by America during the Vietnam war while North Vietnam was pro-Communist & fought the south (and the Americans) using weapons from USSR or communist China.

• In Afghanistan, the Americans supplied the rebel Afghans after the Soviet Union invaded in 1979 while they never physically involved themselves thus avoiding a direct clash with the Soviet Union.

• [http://www.history-ontheweb.co.uk/concepts/cold%20war.htm](http://www.history-ontheweb.co.uk/concepts/cold%20war.htm)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>America</th>
<th>Soviet Union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Free elections</strong></td>
<td><strong>No elections or fixed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Democratic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Autocratic / Dictatorship</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capitalist</strong></td>
<td><strong>Communist</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Survival of the fittest’</td>
<td>Everybody helps everybody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Richest world power</strong></td>
<td><strong>Poor economic base</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal freedom</strong></td>
<td><strong>Society controlled by the NKVD (secret police)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freedom of the media</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total censorship</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mutually Assured Destruction

This lack of mutually understanding an alien culture, would lead the world down a very dangerous path - led to development of weapons of awesome destructive capability and the creation of some intriguing policies such as MAD - Mutually Assured Destruction.
• The doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) assumes that each side has enough nuclear weaponry to destroy the other side; and that either side, if attacked for any reason by the other, would retaliate without fail with equal or greater force. The expected result is an immediate irreversible escalation of hostilities resulting in both combatants' mutual, total and assured destruction.

• The doctrine further assumes that neither side will dare to launch a first strike because the other side will launch on warning (also called fail-deadly) or with secondary forces (a second strike), resulting in unacceptable losses for both parties. The payoff of the MAD doctrine is expected to be a tense but stable global peace.
Space Race and Cold War

• The successful development of the Soviet nuclear program enabled the country to become the world's second nuclear weapons power. The Soviet space program started as spin-off of the nuclear project (sputnik).

• Soviet Union's first atomic bomb test was in 1949. It was a missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead to the United States.

• The first Soviet rocket launched in July 1951.
Nikita Khrushchev

- Following Stalin's death, **Nikita Khrushchev** succeeds - Communist party stays in tact
- **1956** denounces Stalin as a tyrant who caused the Soviet people great suffering
- Reduces censorship, brutal terror of Stalin period. “Peaceful coexistence with US”
- Visits Des Moines, Iowa cornfield in 1959 to learn how to grow high yield crops, worried over his country’s low crop yields
Countries in the world under Soviet influence 1959
Leonid (Lee-ah-nid) Brezhnev

- Communist party leader 1964-1982
- Ends openness of Khrushchev regime
- **Dissidents** (people who speak out against government) jailed, exiled or sent to hospitals for the mentally ill
- Global influence of the Soviet Union grew dramatically during his reign
Soviet Union

- Soviet Economy had major problems
- Food shortages (often rotted in railway cars before it reached cities)
- Industry low production
- *Demand exceeded production* in almost all areas
- All Soviet children received at least eight years of schooling
- By 1960s, Soviet Union had virtually ended illiteracy.
- 5th Grade=intense study of English
- Taught, “Evils of Capitalism”
Mikhail Gorbachev

- Communist Party leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 until 1991 (Last USSR head of state)
- Stated that Soviet Union was, “on the brink of disaster,” as food and housing shortages hit major cities.
- Alcoholism and absenteeism among workers
- Black Market, corruption gave little incentive to work hard (Russians-Sting)
Mikhail Gorbachev

• Policy of **Glasnost** or Openness
• **Perestroika** - restructuring of Soviet economy
• Lifted controls from the Press, opened media to political debate, 1989 “free elections” voters given a choice of candidates for each public office
Gorbachev Actions and Reforms

• Gov’t eased censorship reported on alcohol and crime
• Allowed dissidents to come out of hiding
• Sped up reforms
• Dismissed corrupt leaders and sought to restructure the political system!

• Soviet government changed!
• Power transferred from Communist party to an elected legislature
• Communist monopoly ended-Voters had a choice of more than one candidate
Results of Gorbachev Reforms

- Failed to improve the economy—in fact conditions grew worse
- Planned economy needed to collapse before new market economy could be effective
- **Food became scarce!** Collective farms traded food directly for goods
- **Factories reduced workers** to improve efficiency—Many Soviet workers unemployed
Collapse of Soviet Union

• Soviet Republics sought Autonomy (self government). Why? Felt little loyalty to USSR. Baltic Republics (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia)

• Conservative party members tried to seize power in Coup attempt

• Coup failed though as Russian President Boris Yeltsin led a counter-coup when Soviet army refused to take action. Gorbachev returned weakened.

• Republics broke away declared Independence Soviet Union collapsed-74 yrs. after Russian Revolution!
End of Soviet Union

- End of 1990, communist government toppled, program to create a market economy implemented
- Boris Yeltsin radical reformer wins election over Gorbachev in 1991
- August 1991 Communist coup attempt failed
- Soviet Union falls apart republics declare their independence

Economic Problems

• Limited Resources for many of the former Soviet Republic countries while others had many resources
• Limited experience of the new countries with market economies and democratic political systems
• Factories closed in many places, high unemployment. Goods scarce & prices soar!
Changes and Challenges from Communism to Democracy

• No one had a blueprint on how to transition from a Central planned economy to a free market economy (HYPERINFLATION as prices soar, imported goods more plentiful—just not affordable)

• Known as Privatization (to take something out of state control, to transfer to private ownership)

• Western countries provided advice but little $$

• 75% of Russians lost pensions (Social Security) life expectancy fell from 66yrs to 58yrs
Russia Today

• Vladimir Putin: President of Russia-was elected in 2012.
• He previously served as President from 2000 to 2008.
• Prime Minister of Russia from 1999 to 2000 and again from 2008 to 2012.
• Ranked as the most influential person in the WORLD!
Forbes Magazine Ranks Him #1 as the most powerful person in the World

• “Putin has solidified his control over Russia and anyone watching the chess match over Syria has a clear idea of the shift in the power towards Putin on the global stage. The ex-KGB strongman—who controls a nuclear-tipped army, a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and some of the world's largest oil and gas reserves—is allowed to serve another six-year term, which could keep him in office until 2024.”
Vladimir Putin
Russia President

• Today...Russia has an increasingly authoritarian government

• Russian-American relations at a low point, after Putin gave asylum to Edward Snowden, who had stolen NSA secrets.

• Syria, Iran, Cuba and Venezuela look to Russia for protection against the United States.
Russia Under Putin

- Putin's first presidency was marked by high economic growth (wages more than tripled)
- Middle Class has increased
- Unemployment and poverty cut in half

- As Russia's president, Putin passed into law a flat income tax of 13%, a reduced profits tax, and new land and legal codes.
- As Prime Minister, Putin oversaw large scale military and police reform.
Positives of Putin Regime

• Energy policy has affirmed Russia's position as an energy superpower.
• Putin supported high-tech industries such as the nuclear and defence industries.
• A rise in foreign investment contributed to a boom in such sectors as the automotive industry.
Russia...Host to the World

- Russia to host 2014 Winter Olympic games - first Winter Olympic Games ever to be hosted by Russia. Games will be in Sochi (located along the Black Sea near the border between Georgia and Russia).
- Russia has also won the right to host the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup and 2018 FIFA World Cup, also for the first time in Russian history.
Authoritarian Rule Under Putin

- Administrative reform designed to limit power of regional leaders
- Move from a democracy to more of a police state in which government has more control
- Crack down on outspoken critics of his regime
- Safari Montague Video: *Commanding Heights: The Agony of Reform: Vol. 2* (ch. 21) begin at 5:00
  
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0HQiE0F8g0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0HQiE0F8g0)
Putin – Reflection of Stalin?

Some see reflections of Stalin regime in Putin regime because he reinstated Stalin’s national anthem, approved a teaching manual that justifies the Stalinist era, restored a naval memorial to the late dictator.

Human rights groups say that in the last decade, the country has become less free.
Reflections of Stalin?

• "He thinks that democracy stands in his way," says Gorbachev, who won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for his reform policies.

• Putin's 2004 decision to eliminate elections for key regional governors and city mayors has angered critics, including Gorbachev. Those positions are now filled by Kremlin appointees.

• In 2008, Putin found a way around the law that prevented him from running for President again when his second term expired: He handpicked Dmitri Medvedev as his successor, and after he won in a landslide, Medvedev appointed Putin as his Prime Minister.
7 examples of Authoritarian Rule

1. Court system controlled by the Government
2. Suspicious Deaths of people who are critics of Putin
3. Freedom of the press restrictions
4. Human Rights violations
   a. Putin instituted a protest law which restricts people from protesting
   b. internet control
   c. expanded the definition of treason
7 examples of Authoritarian Rule

5. LGBT rights restricted/eliminated
6. Crack down on illegal immigrants
7. Protecting civilians in the civil war going on in northern Russia
CBC's "The Passionate Eye" presents The Putin System - a point-of-view documentary that presents an ominous view of what Putin is willing to do to ensure Russia regains its position on the world stage.

The Putin System chronicles the remarkable life of Putin, a tough, young leader who is not afraid to make harsh decisions and holds a secret purpose-to restore the old Russia of his dreams.

The Putin System is directed by Jean-Michel Carré in association with Jill Emery for the French production company Les Films Grain.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5Rkom1RpKA
Kimmel