Study Guide—Russian History Test

Key Vocabulary:

Czar or Tsar—a male monarch or emperor who ruled Russia until the revolution of 1917.

St. Petersburg—Formerly, Petrograd (1914–24), then Leningrad (1924–91); a seaport in NW Russian Federation in Europe, in the Gulf of Finland, off the Baltic Sea: founded 1703 by Peter the Great (who the city is named after); capital of the Russian Empire (1712-1917).

Dynasty—a series of rulers from the same family

Boyars—A member of a class of higher Russian nobility that until the time of Peter I headed the civil and military administration of the country and participated in an early Duma.

Abdicate—the giving up of a sovereign power with no possibility of resuming it; to formally renounce or relinquish a throne, right, power, claim, responsibility, or the like.

Heir—one who inherits through death, may be entitled to the throne.

Key People:

Slavs—A member of one of the Slavic-speaking peoples of eastern Europe.

Rurik—Scandinavian warrior who ruled the Slavs; founder of the Russian monarchy that ruled until 1598; gave Russia its name (“Rus”=Vikings, Russia=land of the Rus).

Ivan the Great—Grand duke of Muscovy whose victories against the Tartars laid the basis for Russian unity.

Ivan the Terrible—unified Russia & got rid of the Asian Mongols, he gained territory including the region of Siberia, killed his son, heir to the throne, in a fit of rage.

Michael Romanov—Michael Romanov was the Tsar of Russia from 1613 to 1645 and founder of the Romanov dynasty, which ruled Russia until 1917. He was the son of Fedor Nikitich Romanov and was related to the last tsar of the Rurik dynasty, Fedor I. When the zemskii sobor (assembly of the land) met in 1613 to elect a new tsar after the Time of Troubles, (A period of chaotic internal disorders, foreign invasions, and a rapid succession of rulers following the death of Fedor I) it chose Michael I Romanov who became the first tsar of Russia.

Peter the Great—czar of Russia who introduced ideas from Western Europe to reform the government; he extended his territories in the Baltic and founded St. Petersburg. Had his son, Alexis, tried for treason and sentenced to death. **more below**

Catherine the Great—czarina of Russia (1762-1796) who greatly increased the territory of the empire, modernized farming and industry. Was suspected to be involved in the death of her husband, Peter III, because he was a treat to her and her throne following his abdication. **more below**

Alexander I—defeated Napoleon in Moscow.

Alexander II (the Great)—Son of Nicholas I who, as czar or Russia, introduced reforms that included limited emancipation of the serfs. **more below**

Archduke Franz Ferdinand—his assassination in Sarajevo precipitated the Austrian declaration of war. This caused countries allied with Austria-Hungary (the Central
Powers) and countries allied with Serbia (the Entente Powers of which Russia was a part of) to declare war on each other, starting World War I.

Nicholas II—The last czar of Russia (1894-1917), whose reign was marked by defeat in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), the 1905 Revolution, the court influence of the unpopular Rasputin, involvement in World War I, and governmental incompetence, all of which helped precipitate the Revolution of 1917. Forced to abdicate, he and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918.

Rasputin—Siberian peasant monk who was very influential at the court of Czar Nicholas II and Czarina Alexandra, whose magnetic personality and relative success in the treatment of the czarevich’s hemophilia gained him favor in the court of Nicholas II. He was assassinated by noblemen who feared that his licentious manner and ignorance would undermine or weaken the monarchy.

**Important Questions/ Concepts:**

**Peter the Great**

*What made Peter the Great so Great?*
- toured Europe for new ideas to modernize (westernize) Russia
- increased industry & technology
- learned war tactics
- reorganized military with new strategies & weapons (bayonets, artillery)
- modernized navy
- no beard policy or heavy beard tax & ban on Muscovite dress (of court)
- established technical schools
- built canal system in new capital, St. Petersburg
- simplified alphabet & calendar
- changed church government (answer to Tsar)
- improved court manners
- translated science books
- changed title of Tsar to Emperor (temporarily)
- 100+ more reforms (changes)

*What does it mean that he “westernized” Russia?*

After visiting many western countries, he brought the same reforms to Russia in order to bring them “up to date” with the rest of Europe

*What city did he build?*

St. Petersburg, which was named after him

*What did the people learn from Western Europe?*

New ways to dress & look, better manners, improved education, culture.

**Catherine the Great**

*What is she famous for?*
- tireless worker
- inoculated herself & heir against smallpox, 1768
- bore heir to the throne, Paul
- legislative commission to revise legal codes
- war with Turks gave Russia Crimea (region above Black Sea)
- ruled for 34 years

*How did she improve Russia?*

- reorganized municipal system
- founded academies & libraries
- cleaned water supply
- created health care institutions
- fostered Russian Literature
- patron of the arts; built Heritage Museum
- promoted more agricultural and industrial production through German immigration
- engineered building of homes in stone, not wood

*Why was capturing the area of Crimea important?*

Its location on the Black Sea gave Russia a warm water port which allowed them to expand their trade.
**Alexander II**

**What did he do to improve Russia?**
abolished serfdom (same time period as Lincoln)

**What direction did serfs take once freed (what kind of jobs)?**
serfs became farmers or factory workers & were unhappy

**What conditions existed for these people?**
high taxes
were charged $ for little land
people worked harder but often could not produce more causing them to live in poverty (lack of food, clothing & adequate shelter)

**World War I**

**What are the reasons for the outbreak of WWI?**
Rising nationalism (pride or loyalty to one's heritage; movement to create new nations
Complex system of alliances
Communication delays (still used telegraphs & ambassadors)
Arms races (resulting from recent industrialization)

**What triggered the war to start (the final straw)?**
Archduke Franz Ferdinand & his wife were assassinated by Slavic nationalists as they visited Sarajevo, Bosnia on June 28, 1914. A group of 15 assassins who got weapons from Serbia. He was the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, who is threatened by Serbia's growth (from Balkan Wars 1912-1913).

**What is this war famous (infamous) for?**
Trench warfare--form North Sea to Switzerland
Over 9 million died on battlefield (16 million total)
First large scale air bombing, chemical warfare, u-boats (subs)
Ended many absolute monarchies (German, Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, Russian)

**How is it involved in the Russian Revolution?**
Previously fought Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)
Shortly afterwards, entered WWI in 1914, resulting in...
many casualties
financial crisis
food shortages
the Tsar's obsession with war, lack of leadership
rise of revolutionaries (Bolshevik Party, led by Lenin)
After the Revolution, Russia withdrew in 1918 giving up Finland, Baltic Provinces, Poland & Ukraine

**Describe events leading up to the Russian Revolution**

**Coronation celebration**
½ million people went for free food, 2000 were trampled & died
Many deaths during the coronation celebration upset the people
Nicholas II was not there
Angry with Nicholas II because:
  It was a party in his honor
  He never addressed the public regarding the tragedy
  He went to a party that very evening

**February Revolution (1917)**
Massive strikes & demonstrations
Czar’s troops joined the protestors
Nicholas II abdicated the throne.

**Bloody Sunday**
Industrial workers went on strike
200,000 men, woman & children attended a protest at the Winter Palace,
where the people were going to present a petition to the Czar.
Guards asked them to stop advancing towards the palace, confusion ensued
and the guards fired at the crowd
100 protestors died & 800 were wounded
Nicholas II was not even home.

Identify people involved in the Russian Revolution

**Nicholas II**—people were angry because of the coronation celebration, the war with
Germany and Bloody Sunday. He was a poor leader who made many bad decisions
and the people of Russia no longer wanted his as their ruler.

**Alexandra**—she was left to run the country when Nicholas II went to fight the war
with Germany. People were angry that she (a German) was left to run their country.
They also were upset with her decisions (which were heavily influenced by
Rasputin).

**Tsarevich Alexis**—he was the heir to the throne and as such, presented a threat to the
people who wished to overthrow the monarchy.

**Rasputin**—led Alexandra to make many bad decisions for the country. He was
interested in gaining power for himself and his friends. The people of Russia suffered
from his influence on the czarina.

The revolution

**What were the conditions before and after the revolution?**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
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<tr>
<td>Absolute monarchy</td>
<td>Change in rulers (communists)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunger</td>
<td>People still had no say in the government</td>
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<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Large amounts of land given to Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horrible working conditions</td>
<td>which angered the people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little land</td>
<td>Civil war (Reds defeated Whites-1920)</td>
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<td>Heavy taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>War</td>
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**Did the revolution hurt or help the people of Russia? Explain.**
The revolution eventually hurt them as they went from one controlling power to
another, the communists (Bolsheviks).

**The Romanov dynasty**

**How long was the Romanov dynasty?**
The Romanov dynasty lasted 304 years

**Who started it and how?**
It started with Michael Romanov who was elected to power by the Boyars.

**How does the dynasty tragically end?**
The dynasty ends tragically with the execution of the Tsar and his entire family in
1918.

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