

Useful Info #8
From World War Through Civil War

People, Institutions, Events

"ministerial leapfrog"	Empress Alexandra	Grigorii Rasputin
internationalism	defencism	Defeatism
February Revolution	Provisional Government	Dual Power
Petrograd Soviet	April Theses	"July Days"
Military Revolutionary Committee	V. I. Lenin (1870-1924)	Pavel Miliukov (1859-1943)
2nd All-Russian Congress of Soviets	Alexander Kerensky (1881-1970)	Prince G. E. L'vov
Lev Trotsky (1879-1940)	General L. Kornilov (1870-1918)	Iulii Martov (1873-1923)
Constituent Assembly	Reds	Whites

Russia's (Major) Allies in WWI

Serbia, Britain & France (1914)
 Italy (1915), Romania (1916)
 US (1917) [+ many others]

Russia's Opponents in the War

Germany, Austria-Hungary (1914)
 Ottoman Empire (1914)
 Bulgaria (1915)

Some Curious Statistics:

% of male population of working age in army:

1914 14%
 1915 24%
 1916 36%
 1917 37%

Of the 15 million men who served in army:

2.4 million taken prisoner
 2.8 million wounded or sick
 1.8 million killed

Important War-time Events (thru early 1917)

- 1914 Serious losses to Germans at Tannenberg & Masurian Lakes (East Prussia)
 Substantial gains against Austrian forces in Galicia
 Establishment of Zemstvo Union for coordination of war effort
- 1915 Austro-German counteroffensive drives Russians out of Galicia, Poland, Lithuania
 Establishment of War Industries Committees
 Emergence of "Progressive Bloc" (liberal opposition to government)
 Nicholas II takes personal command, leaves government to Empress, Rasputin, et al.
- 1916 Brusilov offensive regains part of Austrian Galicia
 Rumania joins allies (but is quickly overrun by Austro-German forces)
 Food crisis worsens considerably
 Rasputin murdered by members of elite inner circle
- 1917 Demonstrations on Int'l Women's Day leads to February Revolution
 Nicholas II abdicates in favor of his brother, Grand Duke Mikhail
 Mikhail refuses throne, transfers power to provisional committee of Duma
 End of Romanov dynasty (1613-1917)

Significant moments, 1917 – 1921*

1917

23 Feb	International Women's Day: Demonstrations against Tsarist regime
27 Feb	Formation of Provisional Government & Petrograd Soviet
2 March	Nicholas II abdicates on behalf of self & son
3 April	Lenin returns to Petrograd from Switzerland, delivers "April Theses"
16 June	First All-Russian Congress of Soviets Convenes
18 June	Kerensky launches military offensive against Germany (a disaster)
3-5 July	"July Days": unsuccessful Bolshevik demonstrations
24-31 Aug	Attempted revolt by General Lavr Kornilov
25 Oct	October Revolution establishes "Soviet Power"
26 Oct	Convening of Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets
late Nov	Formation of "left coalition" Soviet gov't: Bolsheviks + Left SRs Elections to Constituent Assembly
2 Dec	Soviet Russia signs armistice with Germany

1918

18 Jan	Constituent Assembly meets, but is disbanded by Bolsheviks
3 March	Soviet government signs Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Central Powers Bolsheviks adopt the name "Communists" Left SRs resign from Soviet Gov't (Sovnarkom) Government moves from Petrograd to Moscow
May	Beginning of hostilities between Soviets & Czechoslovaks in Siberia
June	Bolsheviks expel Mensheviks & Right SRs from VTsIK SR government established in Samara White government established in Omsk (Siberia)
July	SR uprisings against Bolshevik rule Outbreak of full Civil War Bolsheviks execute Nicholas II & family in Ekaterinburg First Constitution of RSFSR is adopted
Aug	Military food brigades begin confiscating peasants' grain Anti-Bolsheviks capture Kazan (furthest point of advance)
Sept	Soviet Gov't launches systematic terror against its enemies
Nov	WWI ends; Soviet gov't annuls Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

1920

April	Polish army invades Ukraine, beginning Russo-Polish War
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1921

Feb	End of Civil War
March	Communist party passes resolution against organized factions within party Introduction of the New Economic Policy (NEP)
summer	Famine begins in much of Russia, especially the Volga region

Institutions with Phunny Names:

Sovnarkom: Council of People's Commissars (*Sovet Narodnykh Komissarov*), the first Soviet government

VTsIK: All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets (*Vserossiiskii Tsentral'nyi Iсполnitel'nyi Komitet*)

Sovnarkhoz: Supreme Council of National Economy (*Verkhovnii Sovet Narodnogo Khoziaistva*)

"Cheka": Extraordinary Commission to Combat Counterrevolution and Sabotage (*Chrezvychainyi Komitet*), predecessor of the NKVD and KGB (political police)

* All dates before January 1918 are by the old Julian calendar; dates after beginning of 1918 are by Gregorian calendar (i.e., the calendar that the western world uses today).