

Awe-Inspiring Information #2

The Russian Revolution (to 1938)

The Russian Revolution – from late Tsarism to 1938

1861		Emancipation of serfs in Russia
1881		Assassination of "Tsar-Liberator" Alexander II by populist terrorists
1887		Lenin's brother Alexander executed for conspiracy against Tsar
1898		Formation of RSDRP (Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party)
1903		Split of RSDRP into Bolsheviks & Mensheviks
1904-05		Russo-Japanese War
1905		Revolution of 1905: Tsarist regime in disarray; establishment of Duma
1914		Heightened labor unrest and strikes Beginning of World War I (St. Petersburg renamed Petrograd)
1915		Germans occupy Poland, Lithuania, & Courland
1916		Government attempts to extend state control over food supply system in Russia Labor unrest: Strikes again reach pre-war (1914) levels
1917	Feb	Nicholas II abdicates; formation of Provisional Govt' & Petrograd Soviet
	April	Lenin returns to Petrograd from Switzerland, delivers "April Theses"
	June	Military offensive against Germany (a disaster)
	July	July Days: mass demonstrations, street violence & popular disorder
	August	Unsuccessful right-wing coup led by Lavr Kornilov
	Oct	October Revolution establishes "Soviet Power"
	Nov	Formation of first Soviet gov't (Sovnarkom): Bolsheviks + Left SRs Elections to Constituent Assembly
	Dec	Soviet Russia signs armistice with Germany Finland & Lithuania declare independence from Russian empire
1918	Jan	Constituent Assembly meets, but is disbanded by Bolsheviks
	Jan-Feb	Latvia & Estonia proclaim independence
	March	Soviet government signs Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Central Powers
	May	Recently formed Transcaucasian Federation dissolves ¹ Georgians declare independence with German encouragement Azerbaijan & Armenia declare independence more or less by default
	summer	Beginning of Civil War
	Sept	Soviet Gov't launches systematic terror against its enemies
	Nov	End of World War I; Bolsheviks repudiate treaty of Brest-Litovsk
1919	Feb	Signing of Soviet-Bashkir agreement (to make Bashkir Autonomous Republic)
1920	April	Outbreak of Russo-Polish War
	May	Establishment of Tatar Socialist Soviet Republic (within RSFSR) ²
1921	Feb	End of Civil War
	March	Revolt of sailors at Kronstadt fortress against Bolshevik rule Passing of resolution against factions within Communist Party

¹ Georgia declares independence from the Federation first, compelling Azerbaijan and Armenia to do the same.

² This creation began an intensive process of creating many autonomous regions in 1920-22.

1921	March summer	Introduction of New Economic Policy Treaty of Riga ends Russo-Polish war Famine appears in Russia, lasting until 1922
1922	March Dec	Lenin suffers first stroke Stalin becomes General Secretary of the Communist Party Formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)
1923	March July	Lenin suffers a 2nd stroke, removing him from political life Formation of USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
1924	Jan Dec	Lenin dies; Stalin, Zinoviev, & Kamenev form Triumvirate Stalin and Bukharin promote idea of "Socialism in One Country"
1926	Oct Nov	Trotsky and Kamenev removed from Politburo Code on Marriage, Family, and Guardianship
1927	Nov Nov Dec	Trotsky & Zinoviev are expelled from Communist Party Peasants begin reducing grain sales to state authorities Party Congress calls for 5-Year Plan of industrialization/ collectivization
1928	Jan March May	Trotsky exiled to Kazakhstan (eventually deported from USSR in 1929) "Cultural Revolution" begins with Stalin's attack on "bourgeois specialists" Beginning of the Shakhty trial
1929	Feb Dec	Politburo condemns Bukharin, Rykov, and Tomskii (the "Right") Stalin's 50th birthday: beginning of the "Stalin Cult." Stalin calls for more rapid collectivization and liquidation of kulaks
1930	March July	Stalin's "Dizzy with Success" article Peasant communes and village gatherings are officially abolished
1931	June	Cultural Revolution comes to a close, beginning of "Great Retreat"
1932	Dec	Beginning of famine in Ukraine (lasts into 1933) Introduction of internal passports for urban population
1933	Jan	Beginning of Second Five-Year-Plan
1934	June Dec	Law on "betrayal of motherland" prescribes the death penalty Assassination of Leningrad party head Sergei Kirov
1935	Jan Aug	First trial of Old Bolsheviks Kamenev & Zinoviev Beginning of Stakhanovism campaign
1936	June Aug Dec	New laws prohibiting abortion and tightening structure of family Moscow "show trial" of Zinoviev & Kamenev, who are convicted & shot Adoption of new constitution of USSR
1937	May	Great Purges (" <i>Ezhovshchina</i> ") reach their height
1938	March Dec	"Show trial" of Bukharin & Rykov Lavrentii Beria replaces Ezhov as head of NKVD

Terms, people, and ideas:

Serf emancipation (1861)	Revolution of 1905	Russo-Japanese War
October Manifesto (1905)	Nicholas II (ruled 1894-1917)	Duma (1906-1917)
Kadets (Constitutional Democrats)	Peter Stolypin	February Revolution
soviets	Provisional Government	Dual Power
Petrograd Soviet	Alexander Kerensky	Constituent Assembly
Leon Trotsky	Vladimir Lenin	General Lavr Kornilov
October Revolution	Russian civil war	Kronstadt rebellion
"bourgeois experts"	Socialism in one country	Nikolai Bukharin
Joseph Stalin	NEP	Cultural Revolution
First Five-Year Plan (1928-32)	"Right Opposition"	Collectivization
Stakhanovite movement	Kulaks	kolkhoz
"Dizzy with Success" article	<i>Korenizatsiia</i> (indigenization)	USSR
"Great Retreat"	Shakhty trial	Cheka
GPU / OGPU / NKVD	Sergei Kirov	Nikolai Ezhov
Great Terror (<i>Ezhovshchina</i>)	"show trials"	GULag

Structure of USSR (December 1922)

Union Republics (SSR) ³	Autonomous Republics (ASSR) ⁴	Autonomous Regions (автономные области)
Russian Federated	Bashkir	Komi
Ukrainian	Tatar	Votiak (Udmurt)
Belorussian	Mountaineer (North Cauc.)	Mari
Moldovan	Nachichevan	Chuvash
Georgian	Dagestan	Adigei
Armenian	Abkhaz	Karachai-Cherkess
Azerbaijani	Kirgiz [Kazakh] ⁵	Kabardino-Balkar
	Turkestan	Chechen
	Crimean	Buriat-Mongol (East Sib.)
	Yakut	Buriat-Mongol (Far East)
		South Ossetian
		Kalmyk
		Karelian (Toliers' Commune)
		Volga Germans

³ By 1939, the following additional SSRs had been created (some of them promoted from ASSRs): Turkman, Uzbek, Tajik, Kirgiz, Kazakh.

⁴ By 1939, the following additional ASSRs had been created (or were promoted from lesser status): Ajarian, Kabardino-Balkar, North Ossetian, Chechen-Ingush, Moldavian, Kalmyk, Volga-German, Mordvin, Chuvash, Mari, Karelian, Udmurt, Karakalpak, Komi, Buriat-Mongol

⁵ "Kirgiz" was the pre-revolutionary Russian name for Kazakhs. The people now called "Kirgiz" were called "Kara-kirgiz" before the revolution.