

RUSSIA: INDUSTRIALIZATION AND REVOLUTION (1750-1914)

Russia During the 19th Century

- ❑ STILL had an absolute monarchy (the tsar)
- ❑ No national parliament
- ❑ No political parties
- ❑ No nationwide elections
- ❑ Russian society = dominated by titled nobility
- ❑ Until 1861 = most Russians were serfs
 - Bound to their masters' estates; subject to sale; greatly exploited



Tsar Nicholas I
(1825-1855)



Russia: “Transformation from Above”



- In the U.S. = social and economic change has always come from society as people sought new opportunities and rights
- In Russia = change was initiated by the state/government itself
 - Done to catch up with the more powerful and innovative states of western Europe

Russia: “Transformation from Above”

- Peter the Great (1689-1725)
 - ▣ Enlarged and modernized the military
 - ▣ Created new educational system for sons of nobles
 - ▣ Supported new manufacturing enterprises
 - ▣ Nobles had to dress in European styles
 - ▣ New capital = St. Petersburg = “window on the West”
- Catherine the Great (1762-1796)
 - ▣ Russia’s “heir to the Enlightenment”



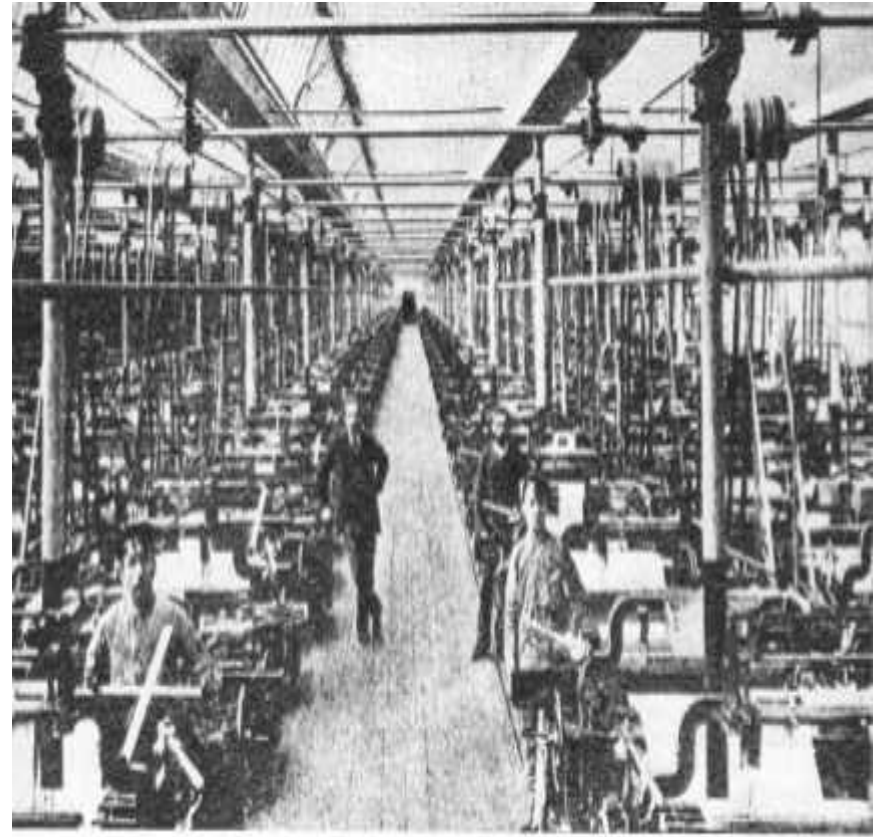
Russia: “Transformation from Above”



- 1861 = Russian state abolished serfdom (by Alexander II)
- Stimulated by its defeat in the Crimean War (1854-1856)
 - Lost to British and French forces
 - War was over influence in territories of the declining Ottoman Empire
 - Tsar Alexander II saw the defeat of Russia's serf-army at the hands of FREE British and French troops as a sign to end serfdom
- After the abolition of serfdom = Russia began a program of industrial development

Russia's Industrial Revolution

- 1890s = industrialization under way and growing rapidly
- Focused on railroads and heavy industry
- By 1900 = Russia ranked 4th in the world in steel production
- Had major industries in: coal, textiles, and oil



The interior of the weaving mill of the Poznański Co. in Łódź in 1906

Social Outcomes: The Middle Class



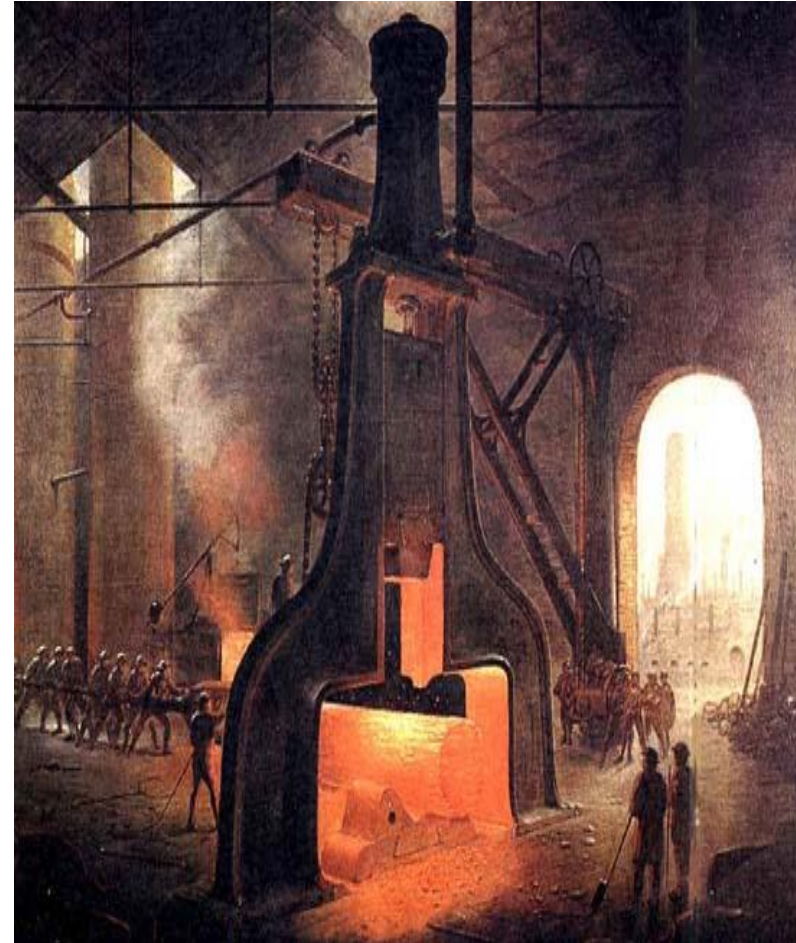
A Family at Table, 1938

Painting of a Middle-Class Russian Family

- Growing middle class = comprised of businessmen and professionals
- Many objected to tsarist Russia and wanted a greater role in political life
- But, the middle class was also dependent on the state for: contracts, jobs, and suppressing the growing radicalism of the workers

Social Outcomes: The Working Class

- ❑ Factory workers = about 5% of total Russian population
- ❑ Harsh work conditions
 - ▣ 13-hour work day
 - ▣ Ruthless discipline and constant disrespect from supervisors
- ❑ Most lived in large, unsanitary barracks
- ❑ Unions and political parties = illegal
 - ▣ Only way to protest was through large-scale strikes



Social Outcomes: The Working Class

- Many workers and educated Russians turned to Marxist socialism
- 1898 = illegal Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party created
 - ▣ Got involved in: workers' education, union organizing, and revolutionary action
- 1905 = a revolution in Russia erupted

Russian Revolution of 1905

- Erupted following a Russian defeat in a naval war with Japan
- Workers went on strike and created their own representative councils called soviets
- Revolution also included: peasant uprisings, mutinies in the military, student demonstrations, and revolts of non-Russian nationalities



The Russo-Japanese War (1905) occurred as a result of imperialist competition over Manchuria and Korea



Russian Revolution of 1905



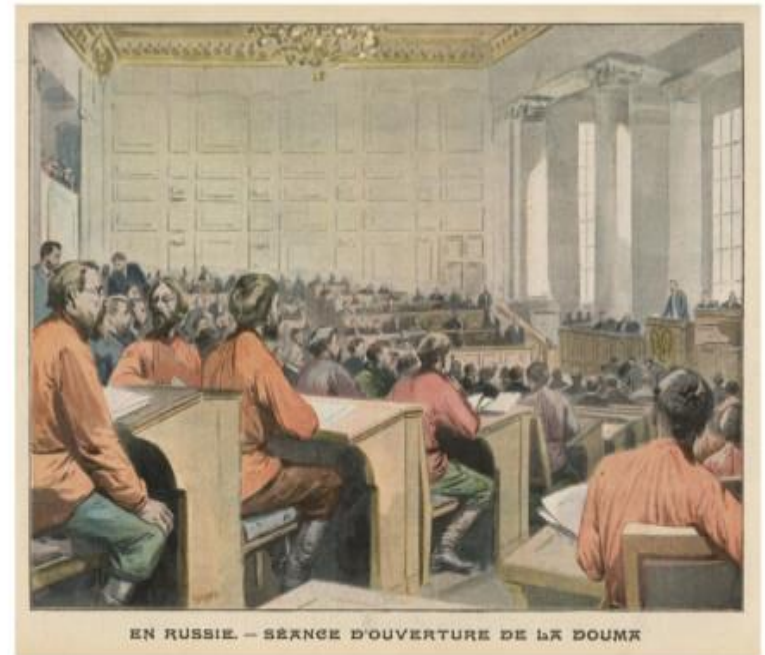
Russian Revolution of 1905



- Revolution was brutally suppressed and pretty unsuccessful
- As a result of the revolution, the tsar's regime implemented some reluctant and halfhearted reforms (most of which weren't actually carried out)
 - ▣ Granted a constitution
 - ▣ Legalized trade unions and political parties
 - ▣ Permitted election of a national assembly (the Duma)
 - ▣ Censorship eased
 - ▣ Plans for universal primary education
 - ▣ Continued industrial development

After the 1905 Revolution

- ❑ These limited reforms did not tame the radical working class or bring social stability to Russia
- ❑ 1907 = Tsar Nicholas II dissolved the Duma
- ❑ Limited political voice even for the privileged classes
- ❑ Many felt that revolution was inevitable and necessary if real changes were going to happen



Russian Duma in 1906

Growth of Revolutionary Groups



- Most of these groups were socialist
- Most effective in the cities
- Published pamphlets and newspapers
- Organized trade unions
- Spread their messages among workers and peasants
- Furnished leaders who were able to act when the revolutionary moment arrived

The Revolutionary Moment

- Key catalyst = World War I
- Russian Revolution of 1917 sparked by:
 - ▣ Hardships of WWI
 - ▣ Social tensions of industrialization
 - ▣ Autocratic tsarist regime
- This revolution brought to power the Bolsheviks = radical socialist group
 - ▣ Led by Vladimir Lenin



Only in Russia...



- Industrialization caused violent social revolution
- A socialist party, inspired by Karl Marx, was able to seize power
- Modern world's first socialist society