Russian Revolution
1917 - 1921

Weaknesses of Czarist Absolute Monarchy
- Nicholas II
- resistant to liberal reforms (no Duma, no rights, poor working conditions)
- humiliating loss in Russo-Japanese War
- continued lag in economic/industrial power
- WWI - poor leadership, losing battles, heavy casualties, wartime shortages, famine.

\[ \text{Revolution! (1917) [x2]} \]
- strikes

1st = March 1917: liberal revolution (Kerensky) - est. provisional gov't
\[ \rightarrow \] parliamentary rule (Duma returns) \[ \downarrow \] weak!
- Nicholas II abdicates (no more czars)
- but...
  - gov't continued WWI (unpopular)
  - no solutions to peasant problems + industrial workers
  - economy in shambles
  - Soviets form = orgs. of Socialist revolutionaries demanding change
  - Lenin returns from exile \[ \rightarrow \] organizes Soviets

2nd = October 1917: Bolshevik Revolution (Lenin) - promises "Peace, Land, and Bread"

- dissatisfied workers & Soviets turn on provisional gov't - Kerensky arrested
- Duma \[ \rightarrow \] "Congress of Soviets"
- Bolsheviks (Communists) in power
- Peace w/ Germany
- Czar and family murdered
- forms Red Army (Leon Trotsky leads)

\[ \rightarrow \] Civil War! (1918-1921)
Communists vs. Mensheviks

- attempt to establish new soc. poli. structure
- econ. ruined \[ \rightarrow \] Lenin tries NEP
- Mensheviks \[ \Rightarrow \] Communist PARTY (all others outlawed)