Russian Revolution Timeline

1894 Nicholas II (Romanov) becomes Tsar. Announces “The principle of autocracy will be maintained by me as firmly and unswervingly as by my lamented father.”

1903 Russian Marxist Party splits to form the Mensheviks and Bolsheviks (Lenin)

1904-05 Russo – Japanese War: Russian troops are defeated on land and sea. The war ends with negotiations led by U.S. President Roosevelt (earning him a Nobel Peace Prize). Russia makes territorial and diplomatic concessions to Japan

1905 Bloody Sunday Massacre and the Revolution of 1905 – a major uprising of striking workers that was halted by gunfire from the Imperial Guards

1905 Revolution of 1905 is put down; Russia establishes a Duma (parliament) with few powers

1908→ The formation of the soviets; organizations of workers that serve as local governments

1914-1918 The Great War (World War I)

1915 Nicholas II assumes control of the Army and moves headquarters to the front; therefore the Tsar is not present to run the government from St. Petersburg (Petrograd)

1916 Rasputin, healer and advisor to the Royal family, is assassinated.

1917 March Revolution: Revolutionary forces lead Nicholas II to abdicate. The Provisional Government is established but chooses to continue the war.

1917 April: Lenin returns to Russia from exile; Peace, Bread, and Land!

1917 October (November) Revolution: Bolsheviks, led by Lenin and Trotsky and with the support of the Russian Navy and Petrograd Guards take over the government.

1917 Russia ends involvement in WWI with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk; sacrifices 1/3 of its population and ¼ of its territory to Germany to keep from being invaded.

1917-1922 Civil War between the Reds (Communist) and the Whites

1918 Romanov Family executed

1918-1922 Foreign intervention in Russia by United States, Britain, and Japan

1921 Lenin issues the New Economic Policy

1922 Lenin suffers a stroke and becomes an invalid, dies in 1924

1928 Joseph Stalin takes control of the Communist Party in Russia; the first 5-Year Plan to industrialize and collectivize the agriculture of Russia