Essential Question: What social, historical, and economic factors have influenced modern political maps at various scales?
RUSSIAN HISTORY: CZARS, REVOLUTION, COLD WAR, END of COMMUNISM & BEYOND
Although the Russian government has many problems, the Russian people have a rich history of scientific, literary, athletic and artistic accomplishments.

- Over 340 Chess Grand Masters
- Literature: Tolstoy & Chekhov
- 489 Olympic Medals
- 26 Nobel Prize Winners
- Russian Ballet
- Classical Composers
For over 300 years the ROMANOV CZARS ruled the Russian EMPIRE. Between the Great Northern War in 1700 and the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907 the Romanovs continued to EXPAND the TERRITORY of the Russian Empire.
Russia’s Last Royal Family

- In 1894 Nicholas II became the last czar of Russia.
- Nicholas did not understand the needs of the Russian people (lack of food, jobs, fuel).
- Kept money for themselves
- Gave people very few rights
1) Russian peasants **REVOLTED** and overthrew **CZAR** Nicholas II in **1917**

- Led to civil war between communists & non-communists (*Reds vs. Whites*)

- Lenin ordered the execution all of the members of the royal Romanov family, including the children (**because they were heirs**)
A little backgrounder on Communism and Karl Marx
2) Bolsheviks Take Over!

- Set up TOTALITARIAN government with a COMMUNIST economy
- Russian Empire renamed the Union of SOVIET Socialist Republics (USSR)
- Only 1 Political Party allowed – ALL other groups and ideas were OUTLAWED!
3) 5 Year Plans

- **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DECIDED** what to make & how much
- Workers were paid whether they met quota or **NOT**
- Resulted in massive **SHORTAGES of GOODS** (like food & clothing)
4) Stalin’s Reign of Terror

- Lenin died of an “illness” in 1924.
- Josef STALIN became the absolute dictator of the USSR a few years after the death of Lenin.
- Stalin ruled by FEAR; he murdered more than 30 million of his own people.
5) Gulags

• All of Stalin’s enemies & rivals were **PURGED** *(imprisoned or killed)*

• The Soviets created slave labor camps, known as **GULAGS**.

Many were literally worked to death in Siberian gulags
6) Soviet Industrialization

• Stalin demanded **INDUSTRIAL** output to be increased. The main goal was to strengthen the **MILITARY** but the **ENVIRONMENT** suffered greatly.
7) Like HITLER, Stalin also used PROPAGANDA to create a strong sense of LOYALTY to him and NATIONALISM towards the Soviet Union.
8) Although they are opposite politically, USSR teamed-up with NAZI GERMANY to INVADE POLAND in 1939
9) Occupied Eastern Europe

- By the end of WWII, more than **20** million Soviets were dead, & millions more were homeless.
- Soviet troops **OCCUPIED EASTERN EUROPE** (Poland, Hungary, Romania, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, etc.), which were forced to join the **EASTERN BLOC** and become **COMMUNIST**.
10) **COLD WAR** *(1945–1991)*

- A war that is not fought on a battlefield, but in worldwide **PUBLIC OPINION**.

- The distrust between USA & USSR led to massive **SPYING** & **NUCLEAR ARMS RACE**
Stalin died in 1953, Khrushchev became the Soviet leader.

"We will bury you! ! !"

During Khrushchev’s rule:
- Berlin Wall was built
- USSR greatly expanded its nuclear weapons production
- the US forced the USSR to remove its missiles from Cuba
- Russia’s space program was developed
During the Cold War the USSR’s budget was spent mostly on the **ARMS** Race & **SPACE** Race, but very little on the **PEOPLE**.
US gave weapons & training to Afghani Freedom Fighters to fight the Soviet invaders as part of the Cold War... later those “Freedom Fighters” became the Taliban.
13) While the Soviet Union’s economy was already in tatters, US President Reagan began massive military spending, which forced the Soviets to keep up in the **NUCLEAR ARMS RACE**.

“Trust, but verify!”
14) In 1989 the BERLIN WALL “FELL” – it had been a major hot spot and symbol in the COLD WAR
15) In 1991 the USSR DIVIDED into 15 countries, including the RUSSIAN FEDERATION.
Borris Yeltzin  We’re free! Now what???????????
16) After the USSR Collapsed

- Russia became a "DEMOCRACY"

- Changed to FREE ENTERPRISE Economy (Capitalism)

- PRIVATIZED Businesses
  - government SOLD their factories, farms and companies to private citizens
17) Transition Difficulties

• Happened **OVERNIGHT**
  - No time to plan, learn & adjust

• No **EXPERIENCE** with **BUSINESS**

• At first, the products they made could not **COMPETE** with other **MARKETS**
18) Because Russians had a hard time switching to a Free Enterprise system they ELECTED Vladimir PUTIN as president in 2000. Putin started out in the KGB (Soviet Secret Police, who were in charge of spying).

Not-So-Fun-Fact: KGB would be translated as the “Department of Homeland Security”
Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

- Putin had the Russian government **BUY** back many important **COMPANIES** the government sold when communism ended.
- This made Russia into a **SOCIALIST** economy because **PRIVATE** property is legal, but the **GOVERNMENT** **OWNS** large shares of key industries, such as **OIL** and **GAS**.
According to the Constitution of Russia, the President of Russia is **head of state**, and of a multi-party system with executive power exercised by the government, headed by the Prime Minister, who is appointed by the President with the parliament's approval.
20) Putin “WON” the 2012 Presidential ELECTIONS, but massive numbers of Russians PROTESTED.
ISSUES in TODAY’S RUSSIA
Today many Russians wish they could return to the Soviet "glory days" because there was security and predictability.
22 B) **LOW BIRTH RATE**

Not enough babies being born to replace the current number of Russian Citizens.
22 C) JAILING / KILLING POLITICAL OPPOSITION
22 D) Oligarchy
(Billionaires who tell the Government what to do)
INVASION of CRIMEA, Ukraine
22 F) COMPUTER HACKING
23) Just like the famous Russian matryoshka (or nesting dolls) each Russian LEADER is said to have the former leader contained within them. This is because each leader seems to be just as POWER-HUNGRY, UNDEMOCRATIC & VIOLENT as the previous one.
Essential Question: What social, historical, and economic factors have influenced the modern political map of Russia?

Think about:

- Fall of the Czars
- USSR
- Fall of the USSR
- Putin

Write a one paragraph response using information gathered from this lecture.
PEOPLES OF THE SOVIET UNION

THE HERITAGE OF THE SOVIET PEOPLES

The Soviet Union was a diverse country, home to many ethnic groups. The map illustrates the distribution of these groups across the country.

The map shows the ethnic composition of the Soviet Union, with different colors and symbols representing various ethnic groups. Each region is labeled with the predominant ethnic group or groups.

Some key points to note from the map:

- The map is color-coded to indicate the ethnic composition of different regions.
- Major ethnic groups, such as the Russians, Ukrainians, and Jews, are prominently featured.
- The map also shows the administrative boundaries of the Soviet Union.
- The map includes historical and political information about the Soviet Union.
Map Activity!!!!!

On the blank map of Russia just given to you, carve out and label each country that was part of the former Soviet Union. COLOR IT.

On the back of the map, relate 4 terms to the political geography of Russia that we learned from the first lecture of the unit.