Dr. Zhivago’s Russia

Dr. DenBeste
Professor of History
CSU Fresno
Russian Names—How to keep track

- **First names**
  - Diminutives (often end in –a or –sha)
  - Nadezhda=Nadia, Alexander can be Sasha or Sashka

- **Patronymics**
  - Endings (ovna, evna for women –ovich, -evich for men)
  - **Polite form of address**
  - Thus: Fedor Alekseevich Dostoevsky
  - Sofia Alekseevna Dostoevsky
- Challenges of Russian geography
  - Lack of fixed geographic boundaries
  - Vast
  - Access to water
  - Borders
  - Climate
  - Time Zones
Alexander I (1777-1825)

- Napoleonic Wars
- Invasion of Russia in 1812
- Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)
- Holy Alliance (Prussia and Austria)
What did 19th century Russia look like?

- Empire
- Autocratic government
- Orthodox
- Serfdom
- Emerging industry
- Contacts with west (Crimean War, Napoleonic Wars, diplomacy, travel)
Crimean War 1853-1855

- Russia lost use of Black Sea
- Relinquished control of mouth of the Danube
- Lost access to orthodox church in Ottoman Empire
- But, mostly, Russia lost face
- Started under Nicholas I, settled by Alexander II
Alexander II’s great reforms

- Emancipation of the serfs (1861)
- Military Reform
- Educational Reform
- Church Reform
- Legal Reforms
- Creation of the Zemstvo
Nicholas II 1894-1917
End of century problems—or what caused the revolution?

- 1. serfdom
- 2. changes in military structure—losses at war
- 3. contacts with west (napolenic wars)
- 4. inflexible political structure
- 5. WWI
- 6. Refusal to change
Revolutionaries

- Decembrists (1825)
- Populists (Narodniki)
- Socialist Revolutionaries (SR’s or Essers)
- Marxists (Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, Socialist Democrats)
- Liberals
1905

- Bloody Sunday
- October Manifesto
- Duma
- Fundamental Laws
- Huge casualties of up to 35 percent of its troops
- Lack of preparedness
- Lack of supplies
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
1917

- Provisional Government
- Petrograd Soviet
- Alexander Kerensky
- Lavr Kornilov
- Dual Government
From Lenin to Stalin

- War Communism
- Civil War
- NEP
- Inter Stalin Years
- Five Year Plans
- NKVD
- Purges
- Totalitarianism???
Questions?

- Contact me
  mdenbest@csufresno.edu