

## Russian Civil War

- 1) Two sides - Reds & Whites
  - a) Reds the Bolsheviks
    - i) Army organized and led by Leon Trotsky
    - ii) Trotsky one of Lenin's closest allies
  - b) Whites the opponents of the Bolsheviks
  
- 2) White armies not unified
  - a) Czarists, Cadets (Constitutional Democrats), Mensheviks, and Cossacks (Siberians).
  - b) Lack of unity would cripple their efforts to overthrow the Bolsheviks
  - c) Britain, France, U.S., and Japan sent troops to help the Whites
    - i) Confused goals
      - (1) Get Russia back in war to fight on Eastern Front
      - (2) Japan looking for influence and territory in Siberia
      - (3) Britain, France, and U.S. wanted Bolsheviks out of power
        - (a) All were afraid of spread of Communism
    - ii) Wilson pressured by Allies to take part
      - (1) Believed that Russians should determine own fate but...
        - (a) Believed that Bolsheviks didn't represent will of people
        - (b) Paradox - wanted to get rid of communism - interfere to let Russians determine their own course
  - d) Intervening countries could not decide on one White Russian leader to support
  - e) Gives Trotsky's Red Army time to mobilize

- i) Red Army moves across Russia - eliminating opposition
  - ii) White leaders systematically eliminated - arrested and/or executed
- 3) Civil War lasted from 1918 - 1920
  - a) More than 15 Million dead from fighting, hunger, execution
  - b) Enemies of the Bolshevik regime were shot
    - i) Among those executed were Czar Nicholas II, the czarina, and all 5 children (July, 1918)
  - c) The Bolshevik leadership did not forget that Western powers helped their enemies
- 4) Whites lose
  - a) Too divided to beat Reds
  - b) Lost support among peasants and workers because:
    - i) Some White leaders threatened to restore land and factories to former owners
    - ii) Many, especially Cossack leaders in Siberia, were brutal and wanton killers
- 5) Civil War left Russian Economy in ruins
  - a) Many talented leaders were killed off
  - b) Former managers of factories were removed - left void in production
  - c) Many factories were destroyed in the fighting
  - d) Would lead to later repressive measures by Bolsheviks to restore order and production

## A FABERGE EGG CREATED FOR THE CORONATION OF NICHOLAS II



Peter Carl Faberge was appointed goldsmith and jeweler to the Russian imperial court and also to many other crowned heads of Europe. Each year, the tsar would give one of Faberge's fabulous gold and jewel encrusted eggs to the tsarina for Easter. Faberge's designs were so imaginatively conceived and opulently executed that his work elevated jewelry to a decorative art level unequalled since the Renaissance. Faberge fled to France with his family and business when the Bolsheviks took control of Russia in 1917. Faberge's escape from communist Russia is one example of the outflow of talented individuals who fled from the Bolshevik Revolution.