

The Bolshevik Government

- ★ Lenin followed through on promise to pull Russia out of WWI
 - ★ Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- ★ Russian Civil War (1918-1920)
 - ★ Reds (Communists) vs. Whites (anti-Communists)
 - ★ Whites not united under one leader
 - ★ Despite help from West – Whites fail to take Russia
- ★ Russia becomes Soviet Union in Dec. 1922



- ★ Lands added over the years
 - ★ USSR = Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
 - ★ Russia itself was Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic
- ★ Bolsheviks changed their name to Communist Party - March 1918
 - ★ Anyone who wanted to do anything or have any power in the USSR had to become a party member
 - ★ Strict monitoring of all activities
- ★ Problem – the USSR was a wreck
 - ★ Having trouble getting itself established economically

- ★ Had no friends in the international community
- ★ Solution –
 - ★ The New Economic Plan (NEP) – 1921-1928
 - ★ Introduced to revitalize the economy, increase food production, and permit business growth after several years of civil war
 - ★ Response to several years of poor economy
 - ★ War Communism
 - ★ NEP allowed farmers to sell their produce
 - ★ Some capitalism allowed to get USSR on its feet
 - ★ Very successful program – some even make money
- ★ Lenin died in 1924
 - ★ Rivalry developed between Leon Trotsky and Josef Stalin
 - ★ Trotsky – father of the Red Army
 - ★ Favored world-wide revolution (like Lenin)
 - ★ Stalin was head of the Communist Party
 - ★ Favored “socialism in one country”
 - ★ USSR needed to strengthen itself first before spreading revolution elsewhere
 - ★ By 1929 – Stalin was able to out-maneuver Trotsky for total control of the USSR
 - ★ Before Lenin died, he warned of Stalin’s treachery – thought he should be removed from power
 - ★ Stalin was able to have Lenin’s testament suppressed
 - ★ No one knew how Lenin really felt about him
 - ★ An early view of the way Stalin operated