~~Feb~~. March 4, 2008

Russia + Britain 1855-1900

I) Russia
   A) Alexander II Reforms
   B) Revolutionary Movement
   C) Terrorism

2) Britain
   A) Victorian Politics
   B) Irish Question
   C) Empire

Britain led by Queen Victoria. However shots called by Prime Ministers Disraeli & Gladstone.

Russia – lost Crimean war. Tsar Nich. Died. Succeeded by Alex II. Showed promise of a reformer. University & army wanted change. Initially some attempts at modernizing. Serfdom was largest problem. Drag on economy & symbol of backwardness. Set up a commission – came up with a plan to abolish serfdom. Very complicated plan. Emancipation – no free land; peasants had to buy land. 49 year loan program. High interest. Few resources to start life anew. Peasants Drifted. Manorial system replace by village commune or Mir. Eventually landlords controlled Mir system. Peasants wanted control over their own lives. Deeply flawed emancipation. Embittered Russian peasants all the way to the 1917 revolution. Only Russian proper serfs liberated; none in Poland or Ukraine.

New legal code imported from England. Looked good on paper but not widely applied. Conservatives resented liberal moves – were called slavophiles – loved slav culture, history. Proud of isolation from West. Liberals were called westernizers. Battle still reigns today – Putin is neo-tsar & slavophile. Starts with Alexander II. Dostoyevsky was slavophile. Chechov was a westernizer. Solsh. was a slavophile too.

Army – Alex II reduces service obligation from 25 to 15 years. Still poorly equipped. Loses Jap war in 1905.

Russification of Poland – 1863 Revolt led by intelligensia – brutally crushed by Tsar.

Jews also suffered badly. Alex II was anti-semitic. Jews forced to live in pales - places beyond the city. Subject to Pogroms - semi-official attacks on Jews. Rape, robbery, & sometimes murder. Many Jews fled. Cracow was in the pales & a popular spot for Jews.
Populism - idealistic, students for uplifting of peasants - instill a revolutionary sensibility in countryside. Students ~~→~~ espoused liberal causes like democracy & constitution. Failed. Great frustration on reformers. More radical movement - terrorism - People's Will movement. Eventually killed Tsar Alex II. Studied his movements. Built a roadside bomb. Destroyed his bomb proof carriage purchased from Nap. III. Set off a wave of unrelated terrorism in Europe & US → McKinley. Joseph Conrad book. Result was increased conservatism in Russia.

Britian - Victorian period - Queen Victoria. Great period of intellectualism. 1832 - expanded franchise. 1867 - more workers allowed to vote. Conservative - Lord Derby. & Benjamin Disraeli. - got reform bill through in 1867. Tory or conservative reform. Reform pension plans - rights & ways to bring workers into the system.
1868 - Tories lose to Liberals - PM → William Gladstone. Advocated classic liberalism - Laissez Faire free trade. economics. Opened institutions - competitive exams for civil service. Meritocracy. Improved quality of beaucracy. Oxford & Cambridge opened to non-Anglicans.

Ordered lower education schools to be under state control.

1874- Disraeli - half Jewish wins PM. Brilliant mind. Shrewd politician. Idolized by Queen Victoria. Conservative reforms - First public health system, public housing. Important reforms that still exist today.

Irish Question - English dominated Ireland - landlords, culture. Big role for religion - Catholics vs. Anglicans. Church taxes ended in 1869. Irish wanted title to land - Charles Stuart Parnell was leader. Irish party in House of Commons. Gladstone supported home rule. Split the Liberal party. Home rule - Failed until 1914. Gradual decline of Liberalism in Great Britian. Churchill ~~was~~ started out as a Liberal Unionist.

Empire - constant war to maintain empire.

Great Game - Britain & Russia vie for control of central Asia - India was prized. Lose in Afghanistan to locals. 1 of 16,000 survives to tell the tale.

1857- Sepoy mutiny - very bloody. Led to changes in British administration. Later ruled with help of locals.

Britain ruled large parts of the world but its rule was often contested. Transportation became the most effective punishment for Victorian England.

Thursday- Intellectual Issues.