April 1st, 2008

Era of Revolutions 1917-1919

I) Russian Revolution
  A) March Rev.
  B) Bolshevik Rev. (November)

II German Revolution

III New Era

U.S. emerges as a world power- the American Century. Soviet empire too. Pre-war confidence thought that war would hold up existing orders. 4 empires fell apart- ~~Russia~~, France, Germany Ottoman & Austria-Hungary.

Russian Rev. - Tsar & wife despised by many parts of Russian people. Lost Japanese war. ~~in 1905~~ 1905 revolution. Rasputin. Final blow to Romanov Dynasty was WW I. Germany blockaded Russia. Petrograd (St. Petersburg) suffered badly. People ate pets & then rats. Alexandra (Tsarizna) was hard line conservative. Against bringing Duma (Parliament) into gout. Brusilov offensive failed miserably. March 1917 - spontaneous rebellions esp. in cities. Lots of desertions in army. Alexandra calls out Cossacks. - Horseback riders & warriors. Cossacks refused to fire on the people. Czar 500 miles away at the front. Called in more troops rather than produce reforms. Troops also refuse to fire on people. Tsar abdicates power. Hope to save dynasty. No one to pass power to that wanted. Duma declares a republic. Provisional gout.

set up in March. Alexander ~~Har~~ Kerensky - minister of justice & then PM in July. Alternate center ~~point~~ of power is Soviet (council). Behind the scenes power- backed by Social Democrats which were mostly Marxist. Menshivik & Bolsheveik - (minority & majority in Russian). Worked against provisional govt. Kerensky - elected to stay in the war. Bad decision with public. April 1917 - Germans sent Lenin from Zurich to Russia because Lenin wanted Russia out of the war. Lenin - imperialist war, not responsibility of workers. Called for peace, bread & land. Charismatic speaker- united peasants who wanted land, bread for all hungry people - workers esp. in cities & peace that everyone wanted. "All power to the Soviets". War front & home front conditions deteriate. Bolshiveiks fail the first time to overthrow govt. Trotsky goes to jail. Lenin to Finland. Summer of 1917. General Kornilov from right tries to overthrow govt. Bolshiveiks allowed to come back & help prov. govt. Fight off Kornilov. By Nov. Bolshiveiks try again to sieze power. Little support left. Trotsky credees arrest of prov govt. in Winter Palace. Soviets succeed. Now Bolsheviks turn against Menshoviks. Cancel Parl. election. Nationlize land & banks. Repudiated Foriegn loans. Publish secret treaty with west. Start negotiations to withdraw troops from front. Brest-Litovsk was treaty. Russia forced to give up Poland, Baltic States & Ukraine to Germany. Lenin & Trotsky saw Communist rev. succeeding & land would

come back to them. Rev. would spread or their own rev. would fail. Instead rev. lead to Russias isolation. West supported civil war & white factions. 1917-1922 - very bloody war. Allies, French, Brits & US help whites. Contingents were small. Whites were divided. Did not cooperate well. Trotsky- divide & conquered whites. Bolsh. survive & crush whites. Dr. Zchivago - fictional account. Boris Potsky. novel. Bols. murder Tsar & Family. under orders from Lenin. Feared Tsar would be a magnet for counter revolution.. Anastatia & entire Family was killed. Shot & bayonetted. House was torn down by Yeltsin. Putin put up a shrine on site. Wishes to be Tsar? Murder was in 1918, July. Lenin died in 1924.

German Revolution - 1919- able to move troops From east to west. Counterbalanced by American troops. Ludendorf in summer of 1918 stages an ~~offensive~~ Germans lacked fire power & offensive Failed. Ludendorf convices Kaiser to create a cabinet that was responsible to parliment & asked For armistice. Public outrage Followed. Had no idea of how bad the situation was. Wilson has 14 points. Wilson wanted William II gone. ~~Finally he leaves~~. Revolt spreads From Bavaria to Kiel in north.

Kiel - naval port. Fleet bottled up. Admirals want to Fight British, ~~soldiers~~ sailors mutiny & revolt spreads to civilians & cities. Military was near its end anyway.

Bavaria- Munich - Felt like victims. Beer watered, shorted supplies by Berlin. Coup by Eisner on left. Overthrew local monarch. Eisner Delared Republic of Bavaria. Germany as a whole is declared a Republic by head of Social Democratic Party - Nov. 9, 1918. Communists declares Germany a socialist, leftist Republic. Same Day! Govt is alliance. Jan. 1919- radical left, Sparticists revolt. Figures are Karl Liebknecht & Rosa Luxemburg. Want Bolshivek model. Uprising Fails. Military assists. Free Corps - volunteers also help. Later try to overthrow Weimer republic. Germany remains a moderate social democratic state. Born in defeat. Called Weimar republic & was disliked from the beginning. Themes for future set at the end of the war.

April 3rd, 2008 Recitation Exam Day.

Received our Western Front papers back. 14/15 points.

7/10/08 Maybe our exams will come back today. No class this week.

Treaty of Versailles-

Germany felt humiliated. Lost colonies. Military disbanded. Subs disallowed, army reduced to 100,000. Navy pared down. Alsace-Lorraine went back to France. Lost 10% of industrial & 15% of agricultural lands. Forbid Germany from annexing land; Czech., Poland & Austria.

Stalin, Hitler & Poland.