



1894	Tsar Nicholas II becomes leader following the assassination of his father. He is very reluctant to change the system of autocracy.
1904/5	Russo-Japanese war. Russia declares war against Japan, it expects to win very quickly as Russia has a much bigger army and Navy but due to the majority of the Russian Navy being stuck in the wrong place it is a huge defeat. Russia is humiliated.
February 1905	Workers (including women and children) March on the Winter Palace to present a petition to the Tsar asking for better working conditions. The Tsars soldiers open fire and kill about 200. The Tsar is no longer seen as the father of the nation. A revolution begins but is put down by October following the Tsar allowing for greater freedoms and reform.
August 1914	WW1 begins. Russia is allies with Britain and France and supports them in the war against the Axis powers.
February 1917	Second Revolution- following failure in the war, poor supplies and conditions for the workers they go on strike. Approximately a thousand are killed in clashes with police and the Tsars troops. The Petrograd Soviet join the workers.
2 nd March	Tsar Nicholas II abdicates the throne. He hopes his brother, Prince Michael will take the position but Michael refuses. Power passes to the provisional government.
April 1917	Vladimir Lenin (leader of the Bolsheviks) returns to Russia promising Bread, Land and Peace.
October 1917	The provisional government are seen as weak and the Bolshevik party, led by Lenin take control.
21 st January 1924	Lenin dies and a battle begins for leadership of the Bolshevik party and Russia. Lenin's testament which is read after his death criticises all of the possible leaders. Stalin sets about discrediting his rivals and purging opposition.
1927-1945	Controlled by Stalin there are purges of opposition and wealthy peasants. He uses propaganda to create a 'hero' type image and anybody who opposes this finds themselves either purged or sent to a gulag. Stalin changes introduces economic targets and improves the economy through fear.

Key words and definitions	
Communism	A system of ruling in which the community owns all property and everything is shared out according to need.
Ideology	A set of beliefs
Capitalism	A system of government where property and trade are owned by individuals.
Tsar	The monarch (King) of Russia
Autocracy	A Tsar who believes that they represent God on earth and do not take any advice on how to rule.
Revolution	Getting rid of one system of government for another.
Consequence	A result of something. Can be positive o negative.
Gulag	Government run forced labour camps.
Soviet	A council of workers.
Purge	To get rid of.
Abdicate	When a monarch gives up their throne.
Bolshevik	The majority party who wanted to overthrow the government in favour of communism.
Provisional	Temporary. A leadership put in place whilst the country held elections.

