

Geography	<p style="text-align: center;">RUSSIA (1750-1914)</p> <p>Located in eastern Europe and covering over 6.5 million sq miles, Russia stretches from the arctic islands in the Barents Sea to the Caucasus Mountains in the southern border. Russia consists of vast plains in the west and north and mountains in the south and east. Russia is rich in natural resources and has a harsh climate. By late 1800s, 1/6th of Earth's surface</p>
Political	<p>Catherine the Great continues legacy of past Czars through expansion; sends explorers out to Alaska and as far as Hawaii. After Napoleon's invasions in 1812, Russian leaders sought to protect their power from Enlightenment ideals. Tsars were conservative however, intellectuals remained connected with Western trends. After the Decembrist uprising, Nicholas I turned to more repressive conservatism. Conservatism and the lack of a middle class helped Russia avoid the revolutions in Europe in 1830 and 1848. Russia continued territorial expansion. Polish nationalism in 1831 was suppressed. Russia supported Balkan nationalism to weaken the Turks. The Emancipation of the Serfs did not give the serfs any political freedom and peasant uprisings continued due to harsh conditions. In the 1860s and 1870s Alexander II began military reforms, improved law codes, and created zemstvos, local political councils. Zemstvos had no influence on national policies. After the 1860s, ethnic minorities began demand for national recognition. Peasant unrest was increased by taxes, population pressure, and recurrent famines. Business and professional people wanted more personal and political rights, while the intelligentsia wanted radical political and social reform while preserving Russian culture. Some tried to gain peasant support. When that failed, some turned to terrorism. The government reacted by stopping reform, starting censorship, and exiling dissidents to Siberia. After Alexander II was assassinated in 1881, his successors opposed reform and imposed repressive policies. Marxism spread among the intelligentsia. Lenin adapted Marxism to fit the Russian situation. Urban workers formed unions and went on strikes. Russian military expansion ended with the Russo-Japanese War of 1904, a conflict over expansion in Manchuria and in which Japan defeated Russia</p>
Economy	<p>Russia's economy remained agrarian, falling behind the industrialized west. Stricter labor obligations were imposed on the serfs as to increase production. Their defeat in the Crimean War (1854-1856) reflected how far Russia had fallen behind the west even after defeat of Napoleon's forces. Convinced by the Crimean war that reform was needed, Alexander II emancipated the serfs in 1861. The serfs however, were tied to their villages until they paid for the land they received. This, along with high taxes kept former serfs poor. While the emancipation created a larger workforce, it did not encourage agricultural productivity. Industrialization was part of the pattern of reform. The state played an important role in capital formation and investment, since Russia lacked a middle class. In the 1870s, a railway system was created. This allowed for more efficient use of Russia's natural resources and shipped grain to the west, helping to finance industrialization. By the 1880s factories were developing in major cities. These factories were protected by the government. Nearly one half of Russia's industry was foreign-owned. Russia was inferior to the west technologically and in agricultural productivity. The Stolypin reforms after the revolution of 1905 aimed to create a market-oriented peasantry. Kulaks, peasant entrepreneurs did increase production.</p>
Religion	<p>"backwoods" Orthodox Christianity was common among Serfs; it incorporated pre-Christian spirits, spells, curses, and magic</p>
Social	<p>During Alexander II's reforms in the 1860s and 1870s some women gained access to higher education and professions. The masses of Russian citizens were only slightly affected by industrialization and a middle class was not significant. Russia remained a traditional peasant society.</p>
Intellectual	<p>During Alexander II's reforms in the 1860s and 1870s literacy increased and a market for popular reading material developed. During the late 19th century scientists such as Mendel and Pavlov advanced in genetics and physiology.</p>
Arts	<p>During the late 19th century eastern Europe and Russia had a period of cultural productivity. Russian novelists and music composers gained fame.</p>
Decline	<p>The loss of the Russo-Japanese war sparked the Russian Revolution of 1905 in which urban workers and peasants protested. The government reaction was to create the Duma, a national parliament and enact the Stolypin reforms. These reforms were soon undone as the tsar (Nicholas II) took away rights and took away the Duma's authority. , WWI Russian Rev of 1917 deposed the czarist autocracy</p>
Global connections	<p>Many of the new nations that were emerging in the Balkans copied Russian political autocracy though many created parliaments. Most eastern European nations abolished serfdom. Landlords continued hold economic and political power. Western Europe was still superior to Russia and Eastern Europe. There was a Slavic connection with Russia in the Balkans that would contribute to WWI Influence of German born Karl Marx helped to influence the November Revolution and Lenin WWI was a defeat to the Germans; signed Treaty of Brest-Litovsk 1460s-1917 rule under the czars would be replaced by Communism (1917-1991)</p>