The Modernization of Russia
Life in Czarist Russia

- Russia was the last of the Great Powers to experience the IR
  - 90% of the population still lived on the land
  - Open-field system was still utilized
  - Serfdom still existed
The Crimean War of 1853

- Major players:
  - Russia vs. Ottomans, French, and British

- Immediate Cause:
  - Russia demanded the right to protect Christians in Palestine, but Ottomans refused

- What about British and French?
  - Eastern Question!
Results of the Crimean War

• Big Picture:
  – Concert of Europe was destroyed!
  – Austria and Russia were now enemies
  – Growth of Pan-Slavism in the Balkans

• Impact on Russia:
  – Russia was humiliated due to its lack of modern infrastructure
  – Turning point!
    • Reforms must be made to catch up with western Europe!
The “Great Reforms” of Alexander II

• Emancipation of the Serfs in 1861
  – Was collective ownership still bondage?

• Zemstvo
  – Local councils – popular participation?

• Legal reform
  – Equality under the law
  – Independent courts
The IR in Russia

- Industrialization begins with the railroad!
  - Increases agricultural profits, which can be invested in industry
  - Increases Russian nationalism among Slavophiles and encourages territorial expansion
Political Conservatism under Alexander III

- Alexander III institutes conservative backlash after the assassination of Alexander II by Nihilists
  - Strict censorship
  - Secret police
  - Siberian prison camps
Russian Economic Nationalism

- Sergei Witte pushes greater railroad expansion
  - Trans-Siberian Line
- Protect domestic industry with tariffs!
- Encouraged foreign investment in Russia!
  - Influenced by Westernizers!
  - Steel and oil became key products
Sunday Bloody Sunday!

- **Causes:**
  - Russia’s humiliating defeat in the Russo-Japanese War
  - Negative effects of IR
  - Lack of political modernization

- **Led by Father Gapon,**
  - thousands of workers protested outside the Czar’s Winter Palace in St. Petersburg
    - Russian troops fired on the crowd
    - 500-1,000 Russians were killed
The Revolution of 1905

- Soviets formed to spread radical ideas among the lower classes
  - Riots, strikes, and revolts spread across the country
- Nicholas issued the “October Manifesto”, which provided for basic liberties and a parliament, the Duma
  - However, Nicholas stripped it of any kind of government power through changing the electoral law
Impact of Revolution of 1905

• Though very conservative, Russia was technically a constitutional monarchy!

• Due to the Socialist failure of this revolution, it only served to increase the numbers and influence of secret groups of Russian Marxists (aka Bolsheviks) over the next 12 years