

From Vladimir to Vladimir



In the three years since the outbreak of World War One in 1914, an estimated four million Russian soldiers and civilians are killed fighting German forces.

Russia faces social and economic collapse

■ **1917, October Revolution:** Led by **Vladimir Ilyich Lenin** (above), **Bolsheviks** overthrow **Provisional Government**, installed following abdication of **Tsar Nicholas II** (left).



Lenin seizes control of

media – post, telephone, telegraph and printing presses – to spread propaganda

■ **1922:** Bolsheviks win civil war against opposing **“White” Russians**. Conflict claims around 10 million lives. **Soviet Union declared**

■ **1924:** **Joseph Stalin** consolidates power following death of Lenin

■ **1928 onwards:** Stalin’s five-year plans turn Soviet Union into modern industrialized country. Huge increases in coal, oil, and steel output lead to economic growth



Stalin’s ruthless purges of those opposed to his form of Communism sees three million people sent to **Gulag** labour camps in Siberia. At least 750,000 “enemies of the people” are executed

■ **1949:** Soviet Union explodes its first atom bomb

RUSSIA HAS ATOMIC BOMB!
U.S. Learns of Recent Explosion, President Discloses Pentagon Shows Excitement, But Officials Mum



■ **1953:** Stalin’s death leads to period of less oppressive rule under leadership of **Nikita Khrushchev** (right)



■ **1957:** Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1

Achievement proves Soviet Union has ballistic missiles and can strike U.S. territory with nuclear weapons



■ **1962:** For 14 days in October, world stands on brink of nuclear war after Khrushchev secretly deploys nuclear weapons to Cuba, less than 150km from U.S. coast. Most dangerous confrontation of **Cold War**

■ **1970s:** Under hardline President **Leonid Brezhnev** (right) economic growth stagnates to less than half of world’s average



■ **1982-85:** Two short-term rulers succeed Brezhnev – **Yury Andropov** holds office for 15 months while **Konstantin Chernenko** lasts just 13 months

■ **1980s:**

West regards **Mikhail Gorbachev** (right) as reformer who helps end Cold War – but Russian people experience worst economic crisis in decades



■ **1989:** Fall of **Berlin Wall** marks dramatic downfall of communism in Eastern Europe

■ **1991:** Coup against Gorbachev fails – Soviet Union rapidly collapses. Gorbachev resigns

■ **1991-99:** **Boris Yeltsin** (left) becomes leader of post-Soviet Russia.

Oligarchs amass vast wealth – social inequality and poverty spreads



■ **2000:** **Vladimir Putin** (below) becomes president

■ **2000-14:** Facing further break-up of Russia, Putin wages war in **Chechnya** and **Georgia**, and seizes **Crimean Peninsula** from Ukraine



■ **2017:** U.S. intelligence accuses Putin of using cyber war to spread propaganda, including influencing U.S. presidential election