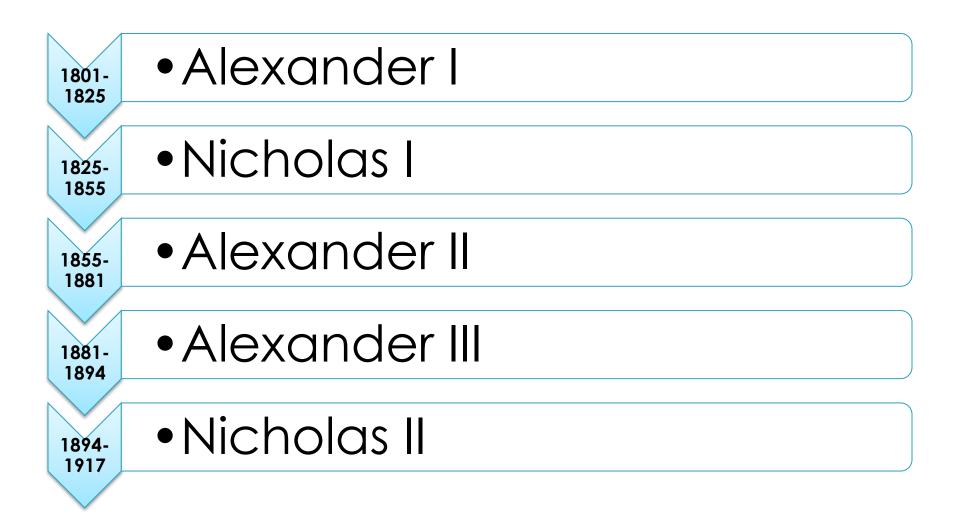


The Decline and Fall of the Romanov Dynasty in Russia

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The Last 5 Tsars



Alexander I (ruled 1801-1825)

- Grandson of Catherine the Great
- Inherited throne after father (Paul I) murdered
- Ruled Russia during the Napoleonic wars
- Expanded Russian empire with Finland and part of Poland
- Initially introduced reforms but later took these back
- Died of typhus



Nicholas I (ruled 1825-1855)

- Younger brother of Alexander I
- Decembrist Revolt (1825)
 - Attempted coup after Nicholas I's older brother, Constantine, declined the throne (after Alexander I died of typhus)
 - Nicholas I's reaction set the tone for his firm rule of Russia
- Highly reactionary
 - Principles of "Autocracy, Orthodoxy, and Nationality"
- Feared nobles' reaction to potential reforms, such as abolishing serfdom



Alexander II (ruled 1855-1881)

- Crimean War (1853-1856)
 - Loss of war prompted military modernization
 - Universal military conscription
- Reforms
 - Allowed for early form of corporations (LLCs)
 - 1861—emancipated the serfs
 - Police force
 - Local self-government (zemstvo)
 - Had finished plans for a duma the day before his assassination
- Assassination
 - Attempts in 1866, 1879, 1880
 - 1881—bomb set by members of Narodnaya Volya (People's Will), a nihilist group



Alexander III (ruled 1881-1894)

- Along with his son, the future Nicholas II, he witnessed Alexander II's assassination
 - Anti-Semitism—blamed Jews for his father's assassination
 - May Laws (1882)—harsh restrictions on all Jews
 - Pogroms—led to Jewish immigration to the U.S. and elsewhere
 - Film reference: "Fiddler on the Roof"
- Return to principles of "Nationality, Autocracy, and Orthodoxy"
 - Put local control in the hands of appointed officials
 - Secret police
 - Strict censorship
 - Political prisoners exiled to Siberia
- Died of kidney disease at age 49



Nicholas II (ruled 1894-1917)

- Married Alexandra, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria of Great Britain
 - Their son, Alexei, was a hemophiliac
 - Treated by the "mad monk" Grigori Rasputin
- Completed the Great Siberian Railway
 - Port at Vladivostok in the east
 - Russians have historically sought warm-water ports
- Rejected calls for democratic reforms
- Last Russian tsar
 - Executed along with his wife and children in 1918



Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)

- Imperial rivalry between Japan and Russia over Korea and Manchuria
- Japanese surprise attack at Port Arthur, Manchuria
 - First modern defeat in war of a European power by a non-European power
- Treaty of Portsmouth (1905)
 - Russians left Manchuria
 - Japan gained recognition of Korea as part of its sphere of influence (i.e., imperialism)
 - Japan gained the southern half of Sakhalin Island

Russian Revolution of 1905

- Among long-standing complaints, the people were unhappy over Russia's defeat in the Russo-Japanese War
- Bloody Sunday (January, 1905)
 - Peaceful protesters, led by a priest named Gapon, marched on the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg with a petition
 - Shot at by tsar's forces
 - 92 dead and hundreds wounded

Russian Duma

- August, 1905—Duma organized as an advisory body
 - But this wasn't well received
- October Manifesto
 - Legislative powers for the Duma and civil liberties for the people
- Nicholas II repeatedly butted heads with the Duma
 - Socialists and revolutionaries kept winning seats

World War I and 1917 Revolution

- Russians joined with Great Britain and France to fight the Germans and Austrians
 - Russian army suffered terrible losses due to outdated equipment and poor leadership
 - Tsar came to the front to lead troops, leaving Tsarina Alexandra to rule
 - Tsarina disliked
 - Foreign heritage
 - Influence of Rasputin
- 1917
 - These factors, along with food shortages and general discontent, led to full-scale revolution
 - Russia withdrew from World War I
 - Civil war in Russia over which group would rule Russia
 - Tsar and his family assassinated by Bolsheviks in 1918

