

# TIMELINE – RUSSIAN REVOLUTION



# Life Under Lenin

- Policy of “war communism,” direct control of industry and peasants were forced to send food to the cities.
- 1918: Communist soldiers imprisoned and killed the royal family.
- The Cheka, secret police, arrested counter-revolutionaries.



# All of this was called...The Red Terror



- The Red Terror was a program of mass repression, class extermination and execution carried out by the Bolshevik government during and after the Russian Civil War.
- a massive police state was created, which operated outside the law and could arrest seemingly anyone, at any time, who was judged a class enemy.

# The Red Terror

- Looking suspicious, being in the wrong time at the wrong place, and being denounced by jealous rivals could all lead to imprisonment.
- Hundreds of thousands were locked up, tortured and executed. Perhaps 500,000 died.
- Lenin kept himself apart from the daily activity like signing death warrants, but he was the driving force that pushed everything up the gears.



# Then things start to get even worse...

- On August 9th, the Bolshevik leader issued his famous 'hanging order', instructing communists in Penza to execute 100 dissident peasants as a public deterrent.
- On September 5th, the Central Committee issued a decree calling on the Cheka "to secure the Soviet Republic from the class enemies by isolating them in concentration camps".
- It also ordered that suspected counter-revolutionaries "must be executed by shooting [and] that the names of the executed and the reasons of the execution must be made public."



# Soviet Russia and the use of terror

- the Cheka carried out almost 8,500 summary executions in the first year of the Terror and ten times that number were arrested, interrogated, detained, tried or sent to prisons and labor camps.

- The true numbers of extra-legal killings were undoubtedly much higher, possibly approaching six figures.

- *Remind you of any other revolutions we have seen?*





Why do leaders after a  
revolution tend to go  
corrupt?

# The Death of Lenin

- Lenin was in control of the new Soviet Government- Creating the Soviet Union
  - Joseph Stalin oversaw the Central Committee Secretariat
- After the civil war, various communist political parties emerged- varying ideas about the new communist government
  - Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin
- In 1924, Lenin died due to a stroke? Much debate about this
- He was succeeded by fellow revolutionary, Joseph Stalin

