

RUSSIAN HISTORY: TSARS, BOLSHEVIKS AND OLIGARCHS



QUIZ

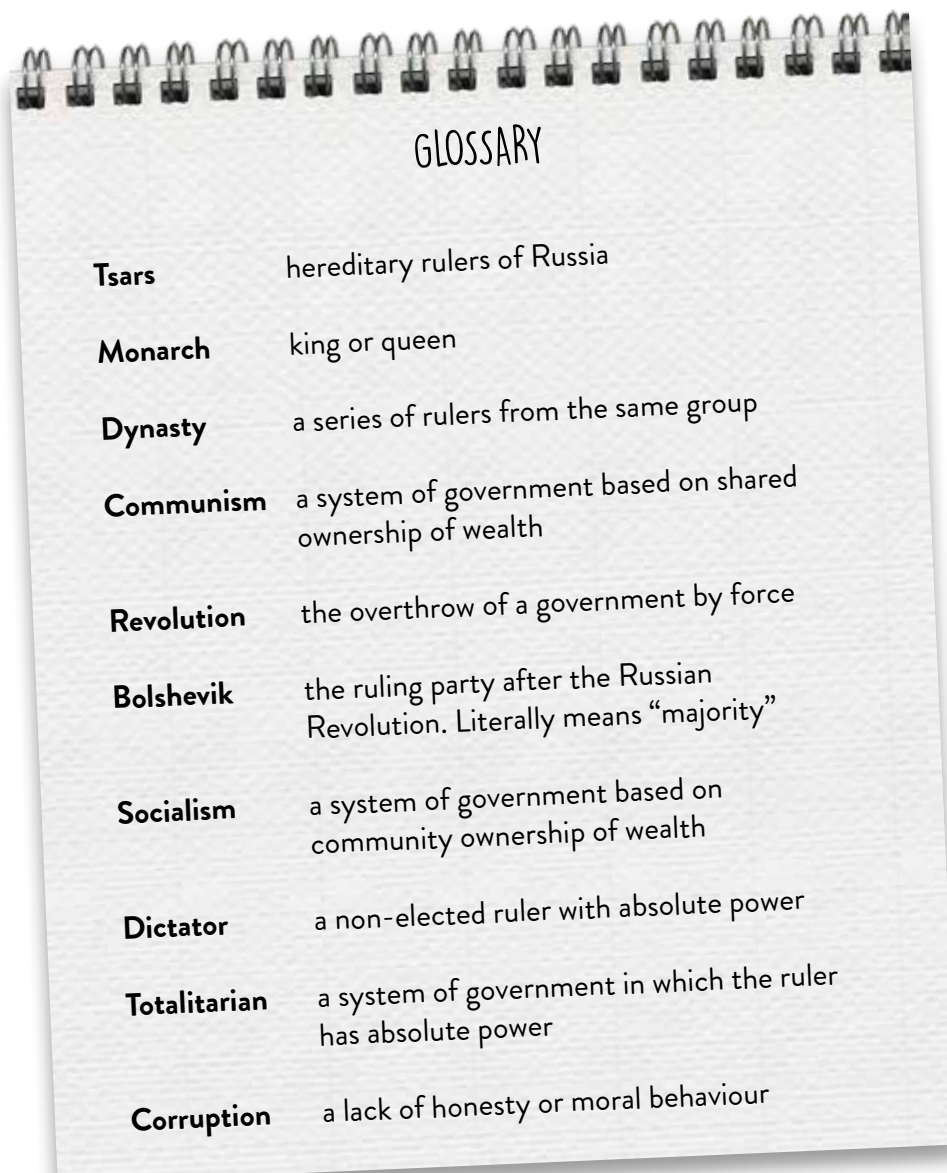
1. What is the grassland in Russia is called?

- Tundra
- Taiga
- Steppe

2. What is the coniferous forest in Russia called?

- Tundra
- Taiga
- Steppe

3. What is the difference between a coniferous forest and a deciduous forest?



THE TIME OF THE TSARS



NICHOLAS II

1547
-1917

THE TSARS

To fully understand Russia, we need to know a bit about its history. From 1547 until 1917, Russia was ruled by hereditary monarchs called Tsars. The first Tsar was Ivan the Terrible and the last was Nicholas II, who was part of the Romanov dynasty. The Tsars were hugely wealthy and lived lives of luxury in lavish palaces. By contrast, most ordinary Russians lived in abject poverty, working on the land as peasant farmers or in poorly paid jobs in the new cities.

1917

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

All this changed in 1917. During World War One, Russia fought with Britain and France against Germany. However, the Russian army suffered huge losses and the war also contributed to food shortages and deprivation in the country. In October 1917, Russia underwent a Communist revolution led by Vladimir Illych Lenin. Tsar Nicholas II and his family were executed, the government overthrown and the Bolshevik party took control.



VLADIMIR
LENIN

BOLSHEVIK PARTY
SUPPORTERS



1922



JOSEF STALIN

STALIN

In 1922 the country was re-named as the USSR: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (CCCP in the Cyrillic alphabet). Communists believed that everyone should have an equal share of the country's wealth. The idea was developed by a German philosopher, Karl Marx, in the 19th century.

In 1924, Lenin died and was succeeded by Josef Stalin, a ruthless dictator. Stalin crushed any opposition, sending approx. 18,000,000 people to internment camps known as gulags between 1930 and his death in 1953. Between 1-2 million people are thought to have died in the camps.

1939-
1990

WORLD WAR 2 AND THE COLD WAR

The USSR again fought with the Allies in WW2 and was instrumental in defeating the German forces.

After the war, the USSR took control of many countries to the East of Germany. The boundary between East and West became known as The Iron Curtain, a term coined by Winston Churchill. This marked the beginning of the cold war – a time when the West and the USSR were on the brink of war and deeply

distrustful of each other, but never actually engaged in outright fighting.

In 1961 the Berlin Wall was built, dividing East and West Germany. The cold war came to an end in 1989, under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev. The Berlin Wall was dismantled and Germany re-united. In 1990, the communist era came to an end and the USSR became Russia once more.



DEUTSCHLAND

BULLEN MIT DEIN SENCKER ALS DEIN HAUS
SIE WERDEN KÖRPERLICH MIT SIND IN ANGEHÖREN
ES HERRSCHT TIERRON IN DEL TSCHELA NO

THE BERLIN WALL



MIKHAIL
GORBACHEV



MODERN RUSSIA AND PUTIN



Vladimir Putin

From 1999-2008 and again from 2012 to now, Vladimir Putin was President of Russia. He is credited with modernising the country and restoring its power, lost during the early 1990s. However, he is also accused of being ruthless and corrupt.



TIMELINE

Highlight/underline the dates from this lesson and place them on a timeline, from 1914 to 2020. Can you add any other dates that you remember from your London at War learning?

2012
VLADIMIR PUTIN BECOMES
PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA AGAIN.



TODAY