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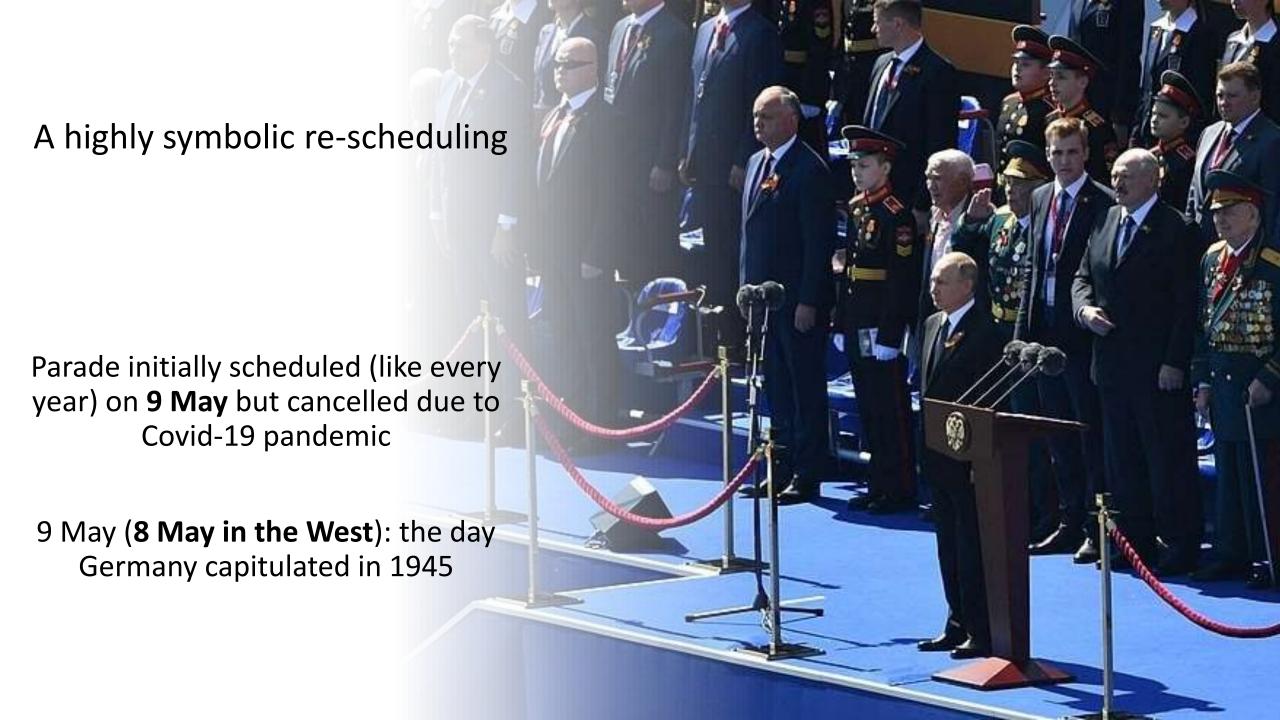
Click on Life Institute

Password to access the PowerPoint presentations: **lifeinstitute**

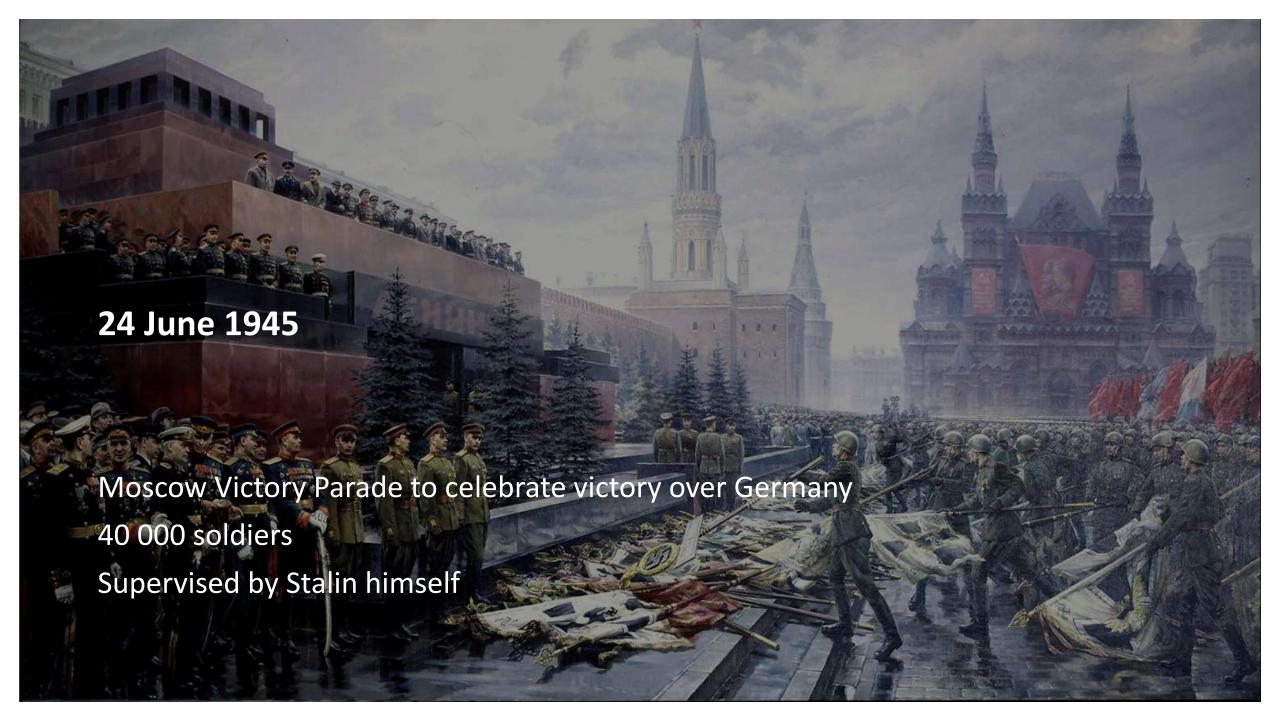
















The "Great Patriotic War" (1941-1945)

A decisive contribution to the Allied victory against the Nazis 27 million dead (16 million civilians)







9 May

A national holiday since 1965 WWII: a trauma not to be commemorated until then

Brezhnev: **General Secretary of the Communist Party** (1964-1982)

Victory Day to glorify a communist regime facing increasing economic difficulties

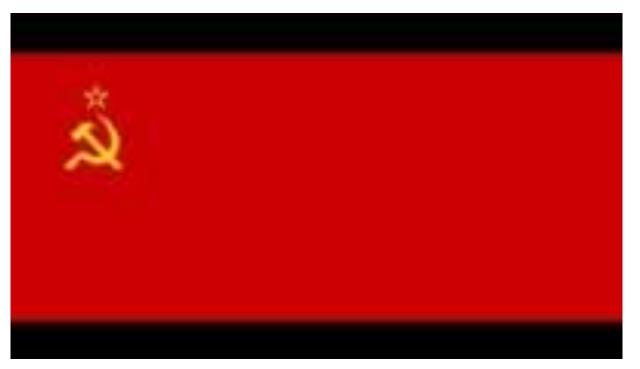


The hijacking of an emerging remembrance movement

The role played by the Western allies during WW2 conveniently forgotten

Soviet symbols restored







February 2012

Re-election campaign rally

"We are a victorious people — it's in our genes, in our genetic code, passed down from generation to generation"

"The battle for Russia continues! We will be victorious!"

(Reference to Napoleon's invasion of Russia – 1812)



February 2012

The West accused of trying to destabilize Russia

The term "fascists" widely used by Russian diplomats in reference to a hostile Europe



Russia as a "besieged fortress"

Russia as the equal of the U.S.

No foreign meddling (internal affairs and Russia's near abroad)





Re-writing the History of WW2

The West accused of triggering WW2

"Today, European politicians, and Polish leaders in particular, wish to sweep **the Munich Betrayal** under the carpet

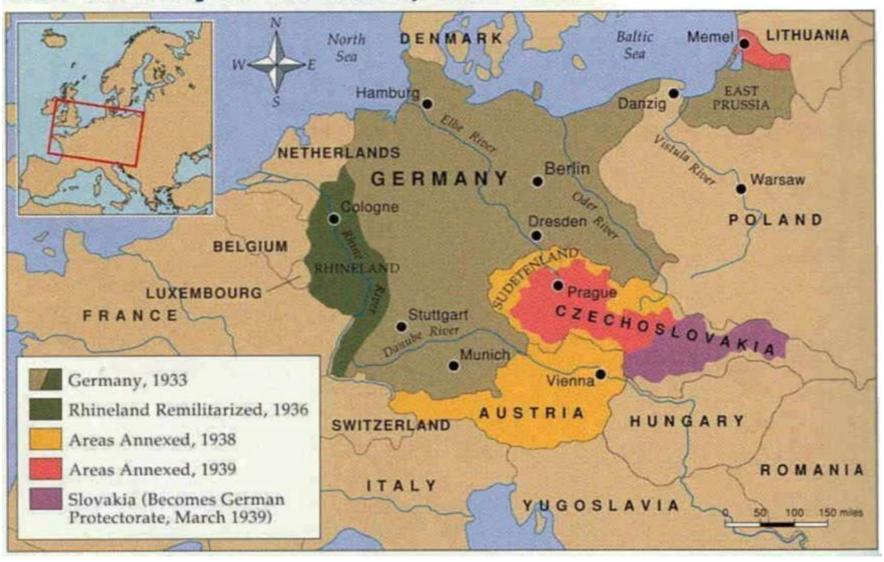


- Vladimir Putin: The Real
 Lessons of the 75th Anniversary
 of World War II

 The Russian president offers a comprehensive assessment of the legacy of
- World War II, arguing that "Today, European politicians, and Polish leaders

Name and Address of the Parket of the Parket

Nazi Germany on the March, 1936-1939



The Munich Agreement (30 September 1938)

"Secret protocols" still not declassified signed with Hitler against the Soviet Union! (Putin)

Poland not a victim but an accomplice of Hitler

"The blame for the tragedy lies entirely with the Polish leadership"



The Baltic States

"Integrated" to the Soviet Union with the consent of their elected officials and "according to international law"



The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

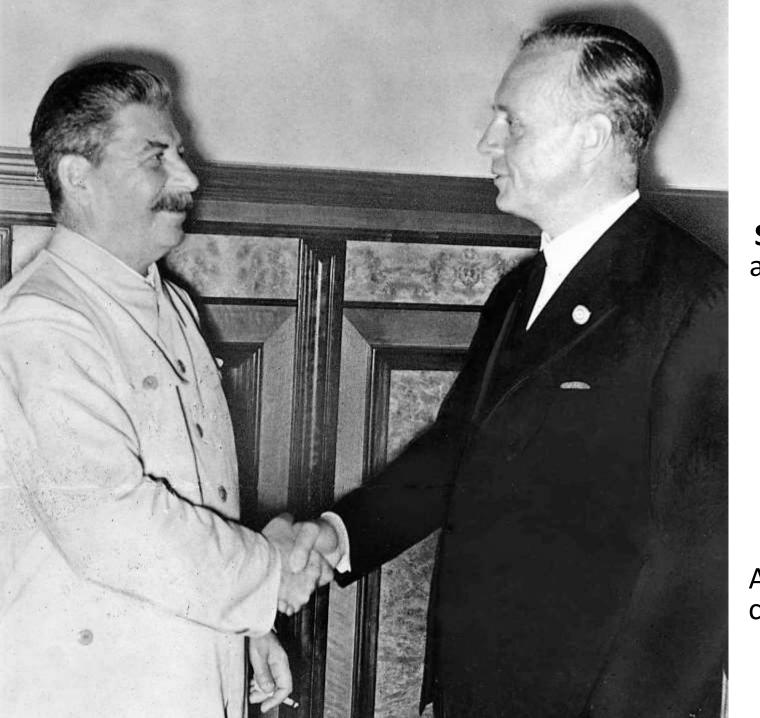
23 August 1939

Largely ignored by Putin

"We are going to shut the dirty mouth" of those who would want "to re-write History"







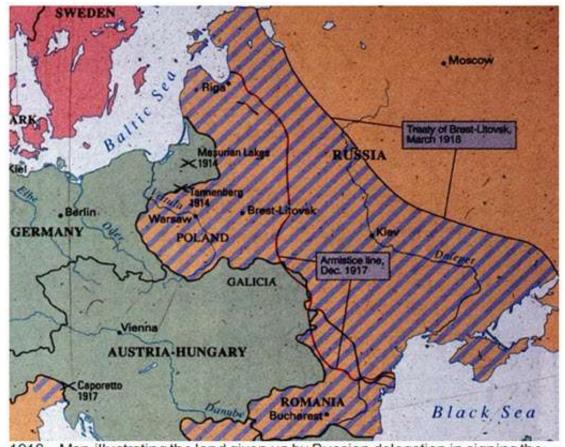
Non-Aggression Pact

Secret Protocol (made public in 1989): agreement on "spheres of influence" in Eastern Europe

Poland to be dismembered

Stalin's objective: to get all the territories lost in 1918 back (Treaty of Brest-Litovsk)

A pre-existing strategy of conquest not compatible with the spirit of the "Great Patriotic War"



1918 – Map illustrating the land given up by Russian delegation in signing the Brest-Litovsk treaty.

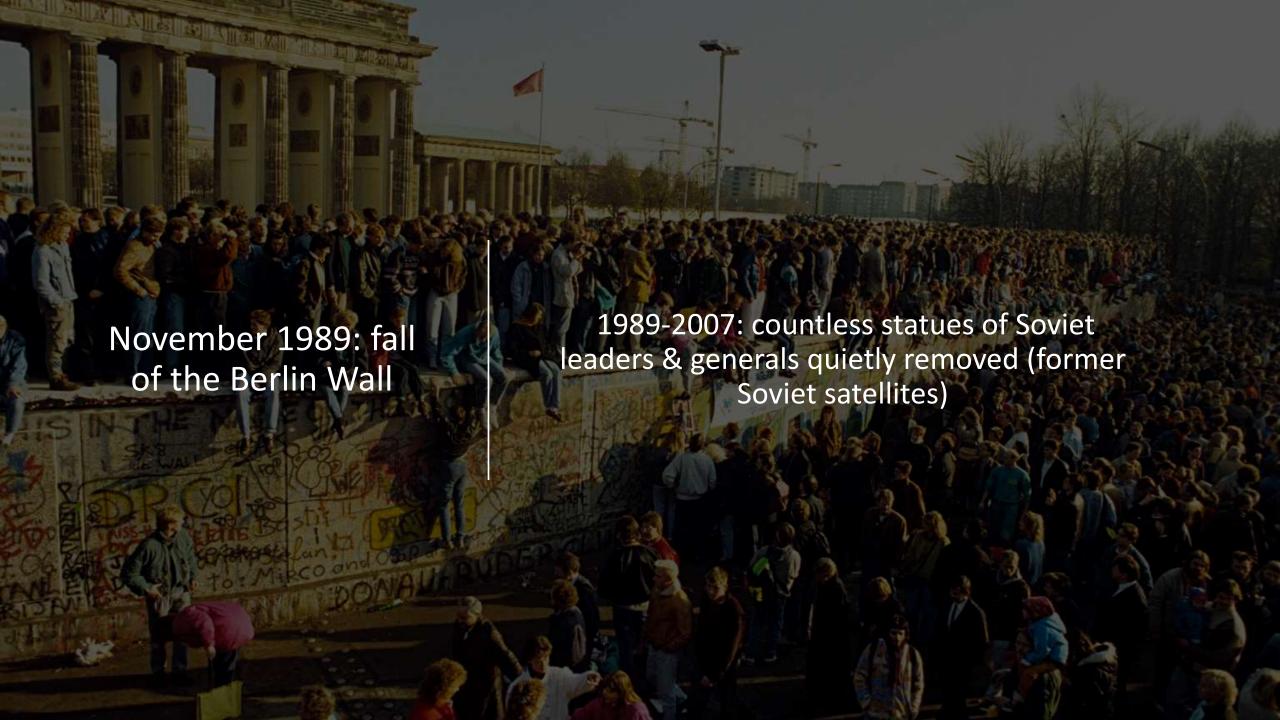
















The Bronze Soldier of Tallinn (2007)

Transfer from downtown to the periphery

Massive **cyberattack** attributed to Russian hackers





Statue of Marshal Ivan Konev (Prague) Konev: a Soviet WW2 military hero who liberated Prague in 1945

AND

Planned the repression of 1956 Budapest uprising

April 2020: Kremlin accused Finland of "genocide"

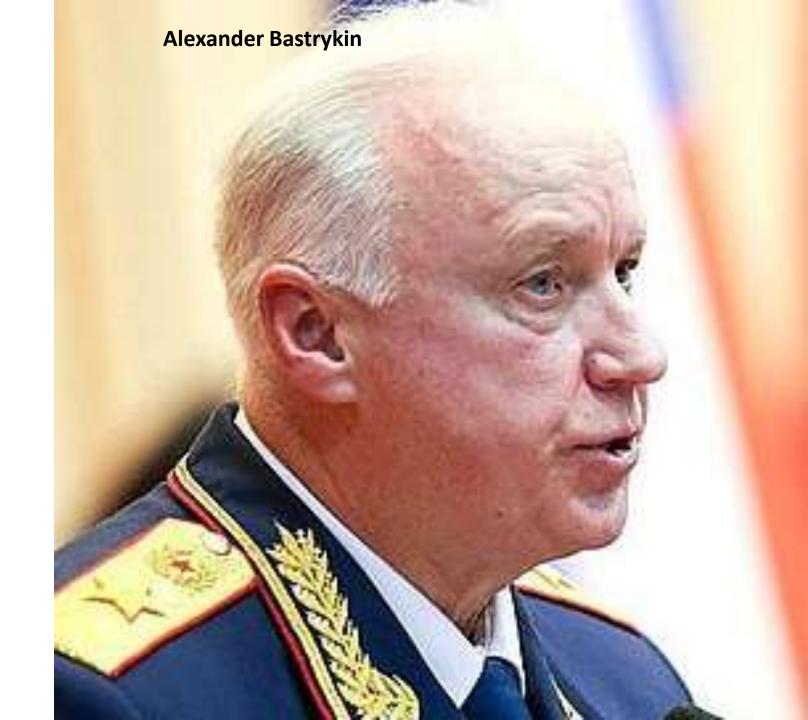
"Genocide" of 8 000 Soviet civilians (including 2 000 children) in "concentration camps" allegedly equipped with gas chambers



An overzealous head of the Investigative Committee of Russia?

Bastrykin close to Putin

The accusation no longer available on the Committee's website!







Stalin's era: a necessary evil

Memorial (international human rights organization founded in Russia in 1989)

To establish the truth about the crimes of Stalin's era

Classified as "foreign agent" (2014) and accused of "high treason"

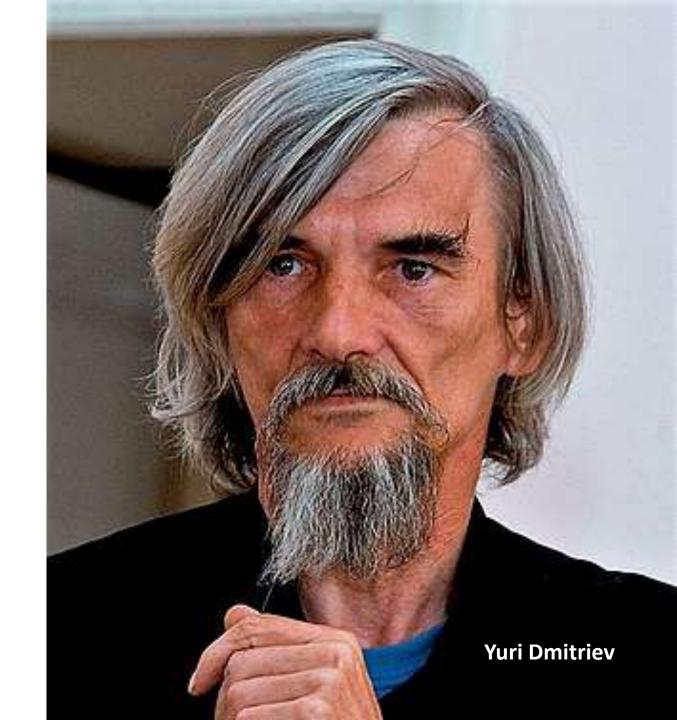


The case of Yuri Dmitriev

Head of a local branch of Memorial Established list of 40 000 deported or executed in Karelia under Stalin

Accused of acts of pedophilia (unsubstantiated)

Condemned to 13 years in a camp





Stalin partially rehabilitated

Stalin: WW2 leader who extended the influence of the Soviet Union over Eastern Europe

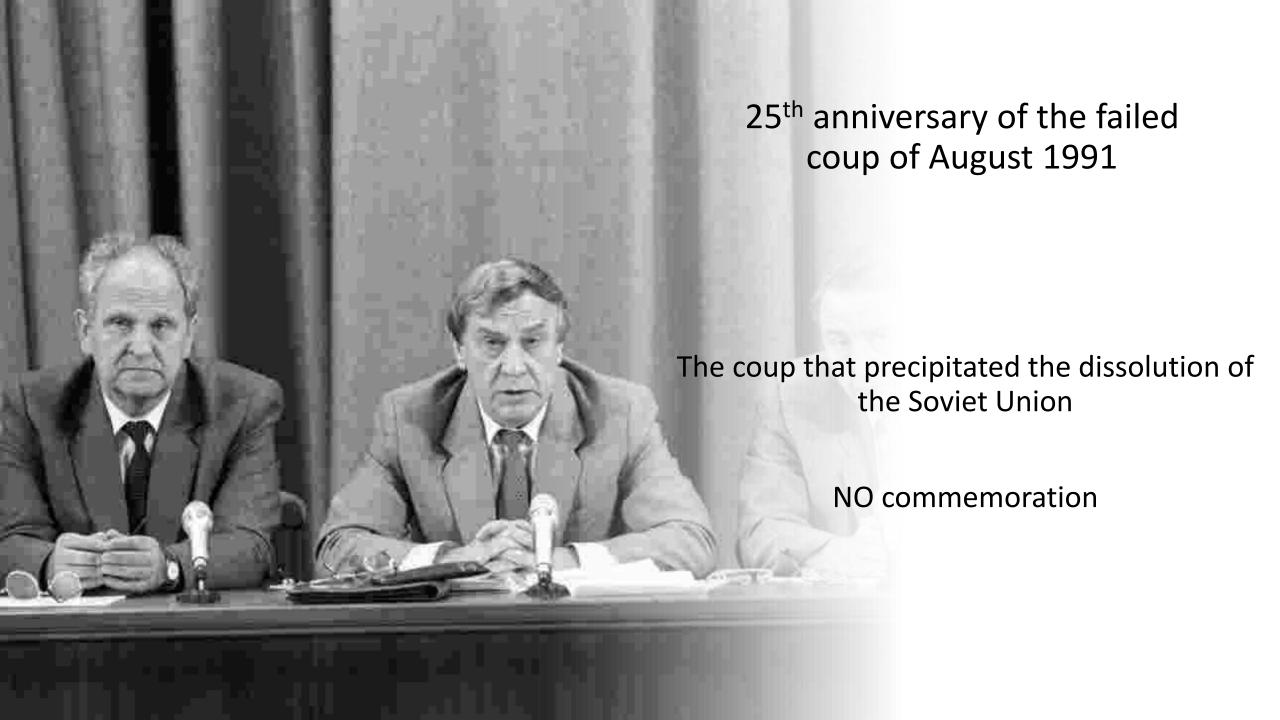
Negative view on Lenin: leader who oversaw a major political upheaval

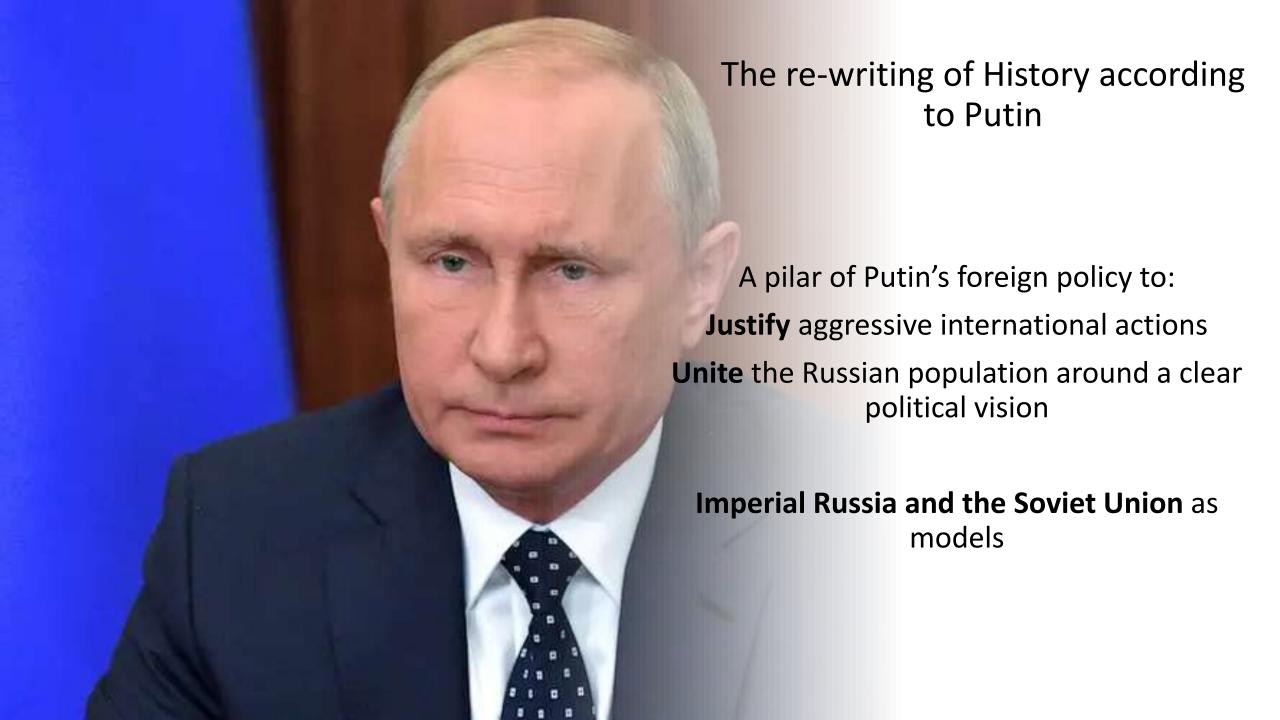
The role played by the Bolsheviks in Russia's WW1 defeat to the Germans

"We lost to the country (Germany) who lost the war" (Putin)







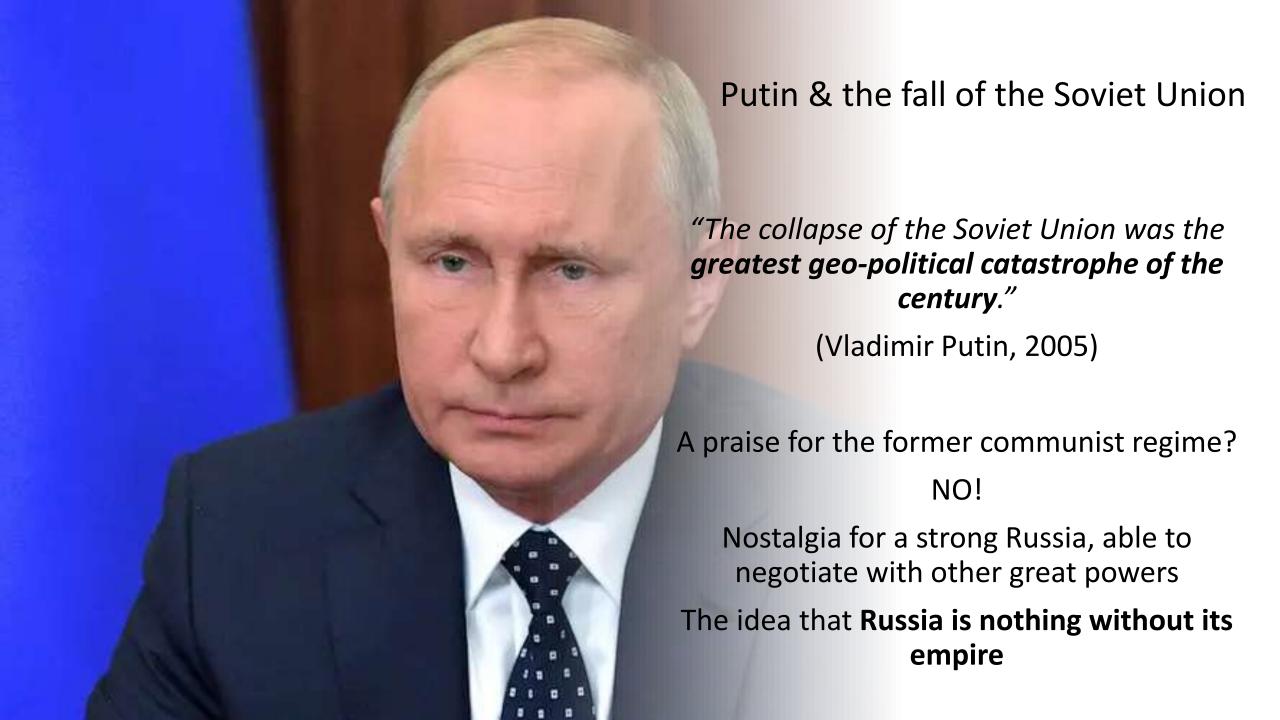




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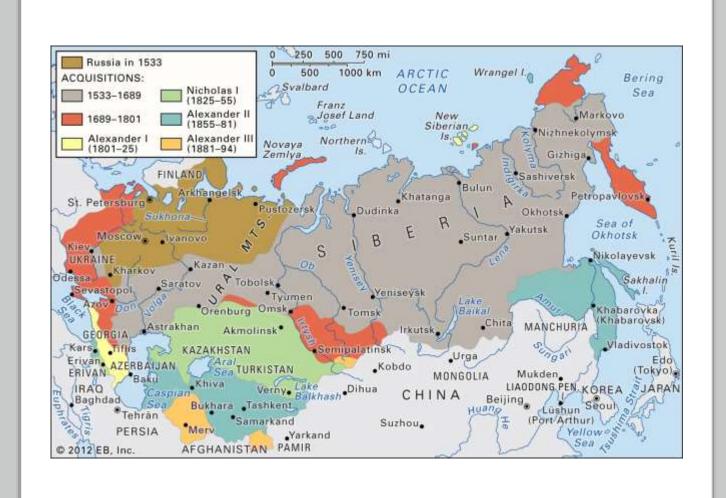
"War propaganda is a lot more important than peace propaganda, because war takes us back to the glory of Russia and peace to its weakness"





The largest country in the world

A triple heritage







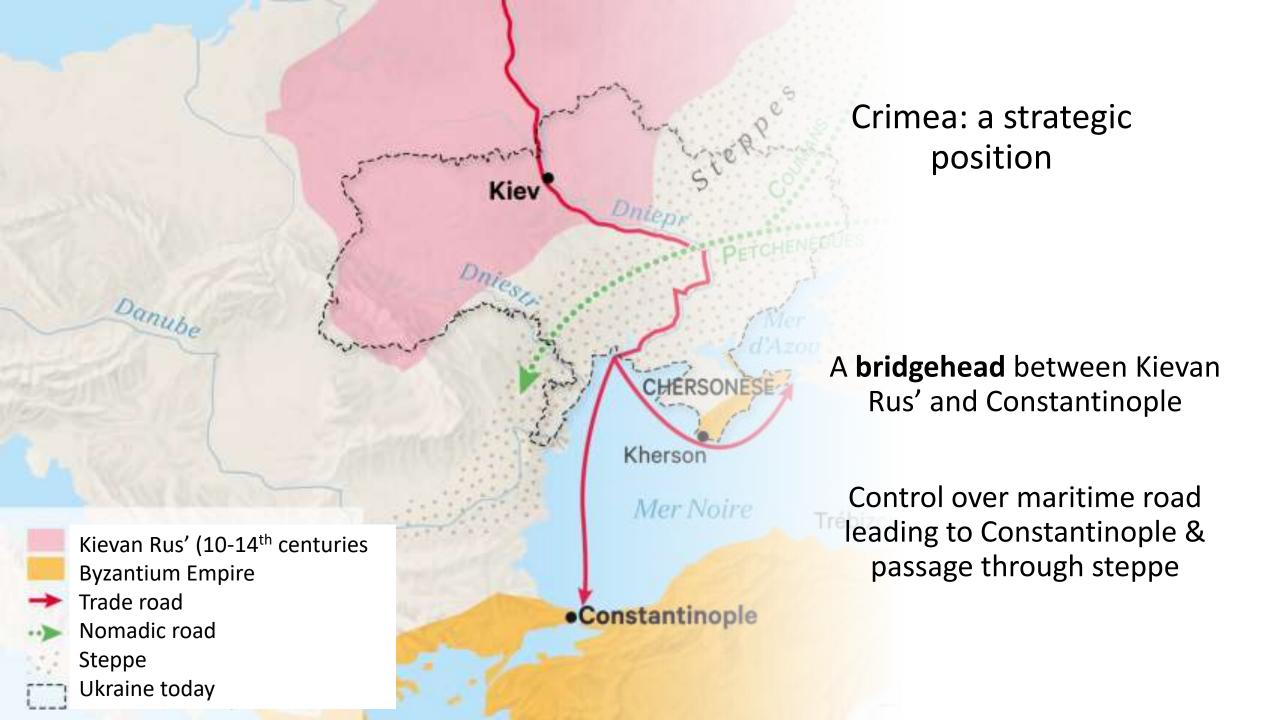
The **Scandinavian heritage**

Territorial overstretch + small population

=

Gradual political division of Kievan *Rus'* divided in several principalities (Russia of Moscow)





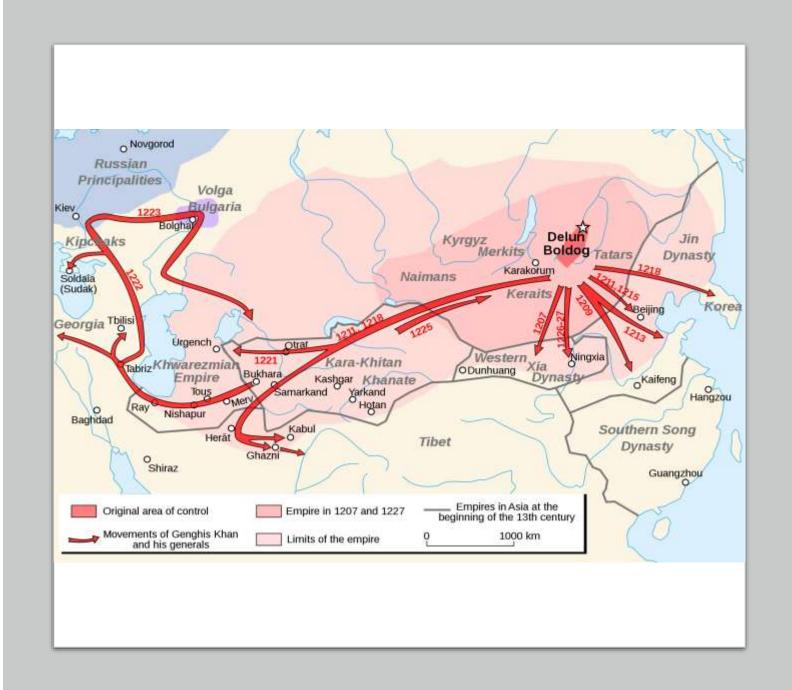
The **Mongol heritage**

The Mongol invasion (1237-1240)

Russian principalities at the periphery

The **princes of Moscow** as intermediaries

Superiority over all other regional sovereigns



The **Grand Duchy of Moscow**

Territorial expansion

To gather the necessary resources to pay the tribute (iassak) to the Great Khan



The heritage of Byzantium 1453: the fall of Constantinople

The "Third Rome" doctrine:
Moscow succeeded Rome and
Byzantium Rome as the true centre
of Orthodox Christianity & of the

Roman Empire

The prince of Moscow as "Caesar" (Czar)



Ivan IV the Terrible (1530-1584)

Expansion towards the East (Siberia)

The Russian "Czar" as the successor of Genghis Khan

Policy of religious tolerance (Muslims)

Russia as multi-ethnic & pluri-religious monarchy

Population in 1800: 37 million divided into 25 ethnic groups





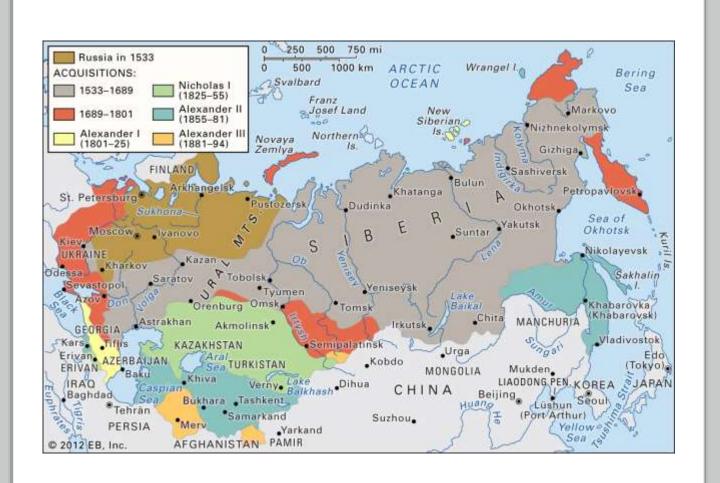
A mosaic of peoples

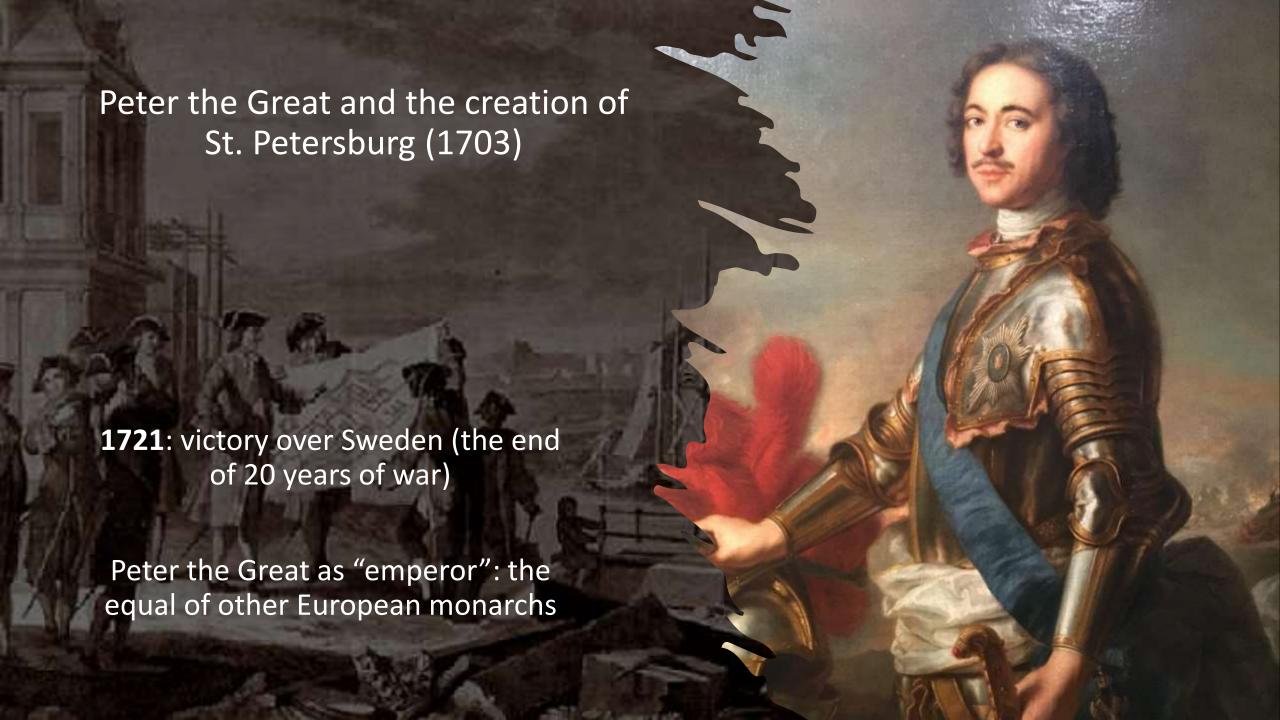
1650-1800: Russia as the **largest continental empire** in the world

Multiple languages, cultures and religions

A collection of peoples united in their political submission to the czars and use of Russian language (administration)

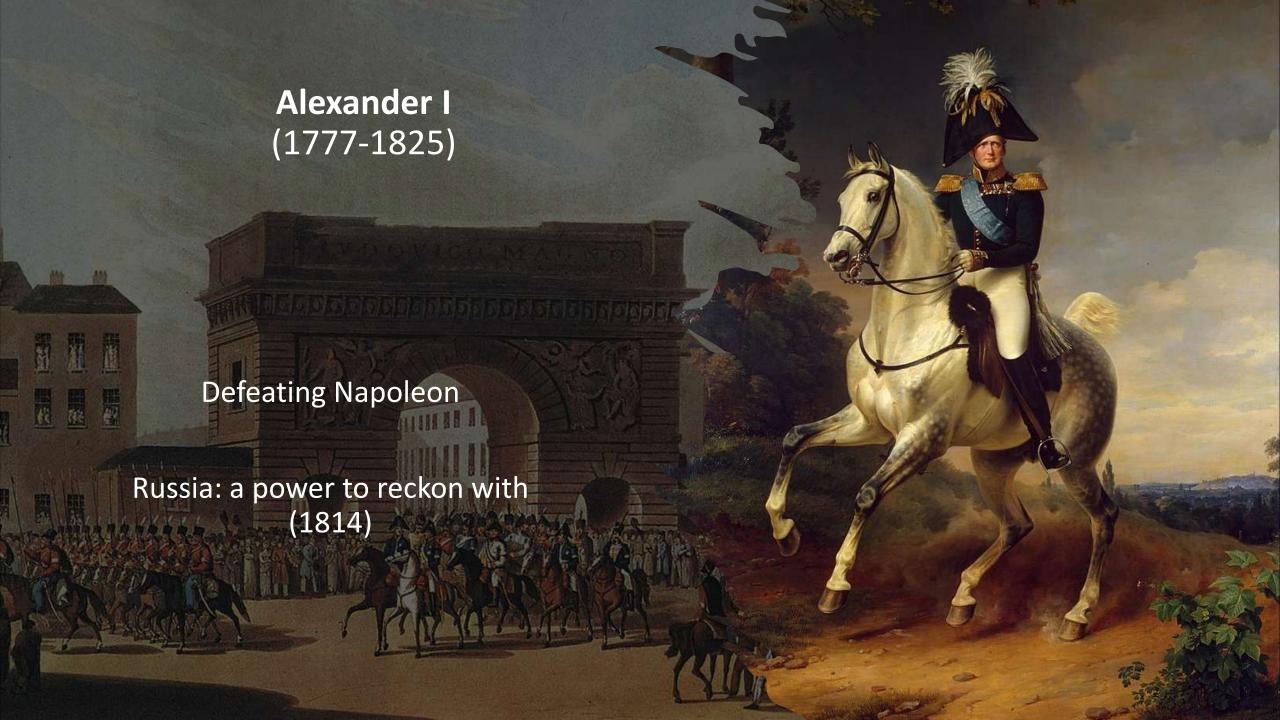
A flexible mode of government











19th century Russia

Increasingly perceived as a dangerous colossus

Expansion in the Caucasus and Central Asia: a source of tensions with Great Britain



Southern expansion

Access to warm waters

Control over Constantinople and
the straits

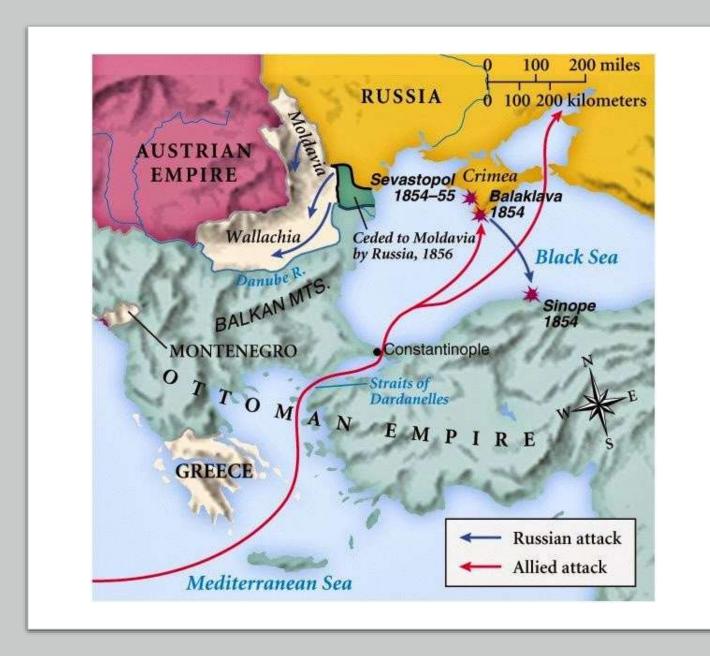
Unacceptable to the British and French (military alliance with Ottoman Empire)

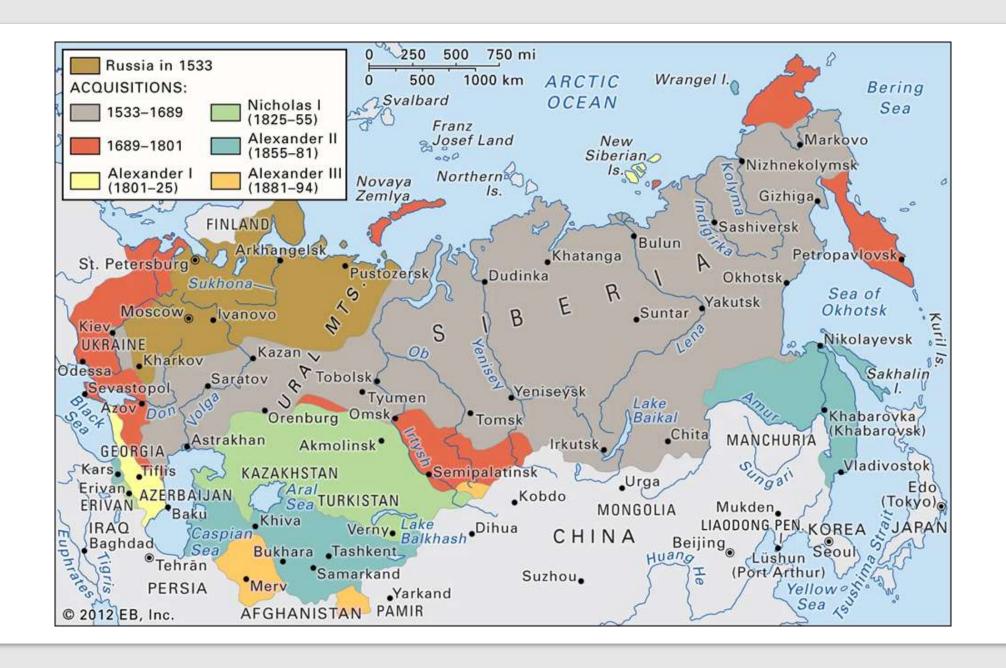


The **Crimean War** (1853-1856)

Russia defeated

Renewed interest for Asia







February 1917: revolution in Petrograd

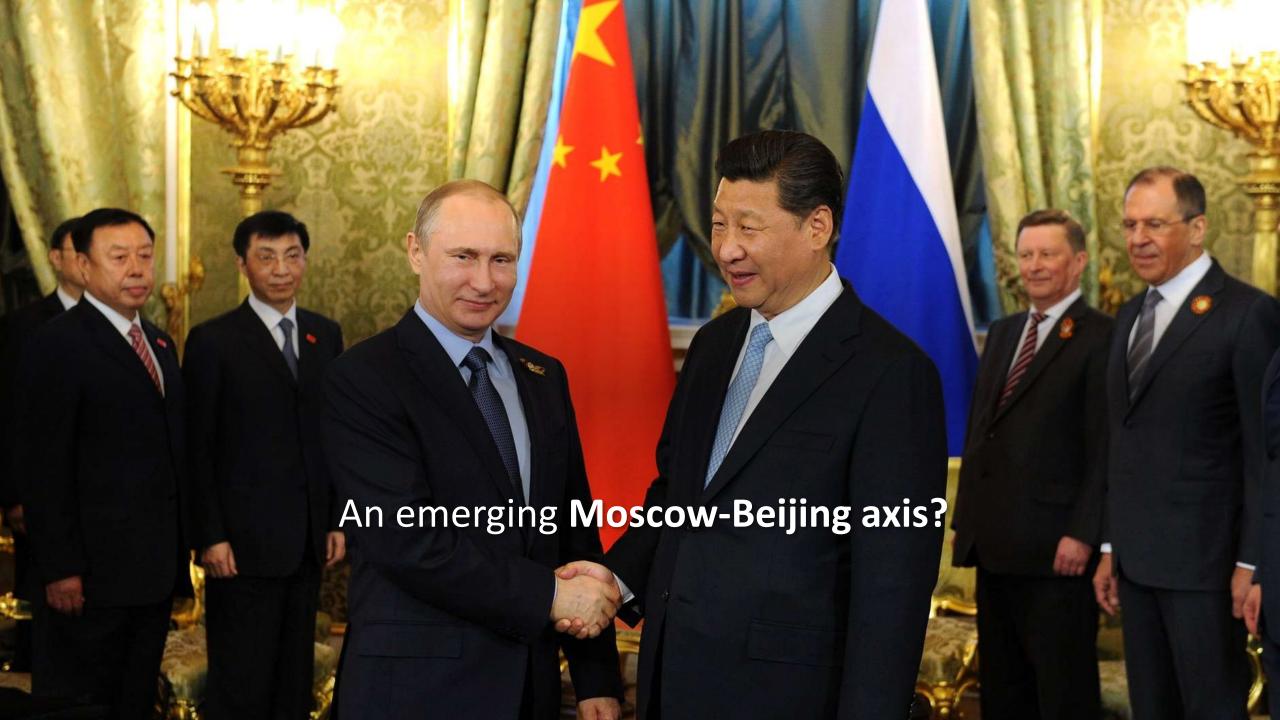
The fall of czarism: the abdication of Nicolas II



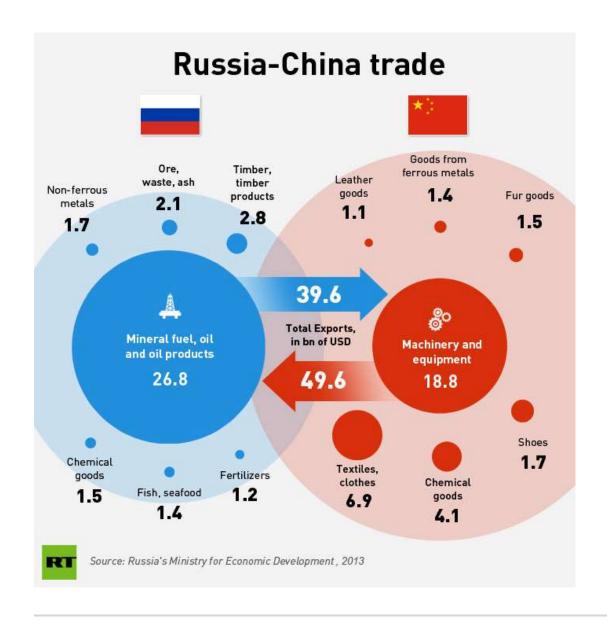












Economic balance of power favors China

2018: **76.19**% of Russian exports to China = oil & natural gas

Manufactured good: 5%

China's exports to Russia: machinery & equipment

Conflict in Ukraine + Western sanctions: enhanced economic ties between Russia & China

