Time Period: 1800-1870

Russian Empire

1700: only 3% lived in cities

Russia was slow to acquire modern infrastructure and modern forms of transportation
Fear of political change prevented real progress
Russia had more in common with Europe than the Ottoman Empire
Slavophiles and westerners – major dispute on Russia development
Pan-Slavism – political unity off all Slavic people everywhere
Russophobia in the west

End of 18th Century – Russia reached Pacific Ocean and bordered China
19th Century – Russia expanded more into the South – conflict with China, Japan, Iran, and Ottoman Empire

Great Britain took steps to halt Russian expansion into Central Asia

Culture:
Russia – contact with Europe since the late 17th Century
Wealthy – opposed reforms – felt imperial despotism will result
(occurred during reign of Nicholas I)

Czar Alexander I (1801-1825):
Foreign Affairs: Dealt with Napoleon.
Treaty of Tilsit (1807): France-Russian Alliance.
Alexander I joined the Continental System.
--trade bloc against Great Britain.

1812 – Alexander I opened Russia’s ports to the British.
Result (September 1812) = Napoleon invaded Moscow, Russia with 600,000 troops.
--Severe winter, cold, starvation, and attacks by the Russians
reduced Napoleon’s Grand Army to 30,000 men.
   Alexander I defeated Napoleon.

Congress of Vienna (1814-1815).
   Secured Finland, Bessarabia, and additional Polish territory.

Quadruple Alliance: Russia, Austria, Prussia, and Great Britain.

Domestic Issues.
   Abolished torture (criminal cases).
   Allowed foreign books.
   Freed many political prisoners.
   Alexander I still allowed Serfdom and Autocracy.
Alexander I – reforms never really delivered in practice

Nicholas I (1825-1855).
Decembrist Revolt – small group of nobles who tried to take over the czar (failed).
wanted a constitutional monarchy.
Occurred by reform-minded military officers upon death of Alexander I
Defeated – no more reforms for 3 decades

Militaristic Ruler.
orthodoxy (religion).
autocracy (devotion to the czar).
nationalism (love of mother Russia).

Third Section – secret police.

Russification – attempt to Russianize Poland after the 1830 revolt.
repressed Polish language, church, and government.
also used towards other minorities in USSR.

Led to anti-Semitism.
pogroms – organized acts of violence against the Jews.

Result of Crimean War = heavy penalties on Russia
Alexander II = new ‘major’ reforms

19th Century = Russian scholarly and scientific achievement led to emergence of
significant Russian writers and thinkers
Example Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoyevsky
-Felt French was language of European culture

Crimean War (1853-1856):
Russians destroyed Turkish fleet (Black Sea).
Russia wanted warm-weather ports.
Russia vs. France, Ottoman Empire, and Great Britain.
Treaty of Paris (1856).
Russia defeated → the Crimean War showed that Russia was backwards.

Alexander II (1855-1881):
Great Reforms – series of reforms that affected rural, town, and city government,
judicial, military, and educational systems; as well as the Emancipation Edict that freed
the serfs. (1861)
serfs became second-class citizens.
serfs faced economic hardships.

Results of Great Reforms:
Industrial development between 1861-1900.
However, rural conditions remained stagnant and poor.
Nobles could not deal without serfs (many nobles fell into debt and poverty).
The disappointment with the state of affairs turned many young educated people against the czar (government).

Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky

Qing Empire (China):

Economic/Social Disorder (1800-1839)
Qing conquered China in 1600s
Peace and stability
Expansion of agriculture
Population doubled between 1650-1800
By 1800, population pressure caused environmental damage and increased the number of itinerant farmhands, laborers, and merchants

Discontent – various minorities driven off land
Looked at Qing as weak, corrupt, collusion with foreign merchants and missionaries in Canton and Macao.
19th Century = Internal Rebellions
First One = White Lotus Rebellion (1794-1804)
Goal: Restore Ming Dynasty and the coming of Buddha

Opium War and Aftermath: 1839-1850
Qing did not pay close attention to trade and increase in Opium trade
-Opium only product that British successfully used to correct the imbalances of trade between the British and Qing Dynasty
1839: Qing tried to ban Opium trade
Sent Lin Zexu (Provincial Governor of Liangguang) to Canton to settle matter

Opium War (1839-1842)
Chinese police arrested British opium dealers and confiscated British opium.
British won; China was forced to accept “Treaty of Nanjing”.
Great Britain was given Hong Kong.
Great Britain received “most-favored nation status”.
China was forced to sign unequal treaties.
China paid millions in fines.
extraterritorial rights – an exemption of foreign residents from the laws of a country.
British defeated China
British – better technology and weapons
Gave westerners privileges
Colonization in small pockets of China

Taiping Rebellion: 1850-1864
Means “Great Peace”
Started in Guangxi Province
Poor farming, extreme poverty, economic distress
Ethnic divisions
Minority people = Hakka – worked in lowliest jobs in China
Founder = Hong Xiuquan
Familiar with Christian missionaries in Canton
Preached he was younger brother of Jesus
Founded the Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace
‘Taiping Movement’
Recruited followers of Hakka people
Peasant Uprising.
Wanted Social reforms.
Women treated as equals.
Land divided-up according to household size.
No more footbinding
--women deformed foot to make it very small. The look was considered attractive to Chinese men..
No more queues.

Taiping forces defeated imperial troops in Guangxi
Recruited and/or forced villagers into segregated male and female battalions and work teams – moved toward eastern and northern China

1853: Taiping captured Nanking and made it their capital

Qing finally defeated Taiping with help from provincial governors like Zeng Guofan and also with help from British and French troops

World’s bloodiest civil war
Greatest armed conflict before 20th Century
20-30 million people killed
Depopulation and destruction of rich agriculture in central and eastern China
Destruction of cities and cultural centers in eastern China

“Hundred Days of Reforms”.
Technological advancements.
Manufacturing of military and commercial industry at major ports.
Western-style schools and newspapers.
Decentralization: 1864-1875

After 1850s:
Expenses of wars
Indemnities to western governments
Qing: impossible to get out of debt
Result: Great Britain and France became major participants in recovery of China called ‘Tongzhi Restoration’
Zeng Guofan and other provincial governors – real work of recovery
Modeled after United States
Restored agriculture, military reform, industrialization of military
Reforms: supported by Qing aristocrats – especially Empress Dowager Ci Xi
Unable to stop Qing from becoming a bunch of power zones where provincial governors had the real authority

*sphere of influence* – area of a country which a foreign nation has special economic privileges, such as the right to build railroads and factories.
   Great Britain, Japan, Russia, France, and Germany divided up regions in China.

Comparisons:
Ottomans, Russians, Qing – did not consider European economic pressure a challenge in first-half of 19th Century
By 1870s – European pressure was realized by empires:
Ottomans and Russians – during Crimean War
Qing – during Opium War

Historians believe European economic pressure weakened empires
Rulers of Ottoman, Russian, and Qing Empires – felt greatest threat was military superiority of Europe
China’s geographical distance protected itself from political tension between the British and Russians

Ottoman Empire left out deliberations with other European powers that included Russia
Reason: European leaders felt Ottoman Empire was going to end soon (it actually did in 1922)