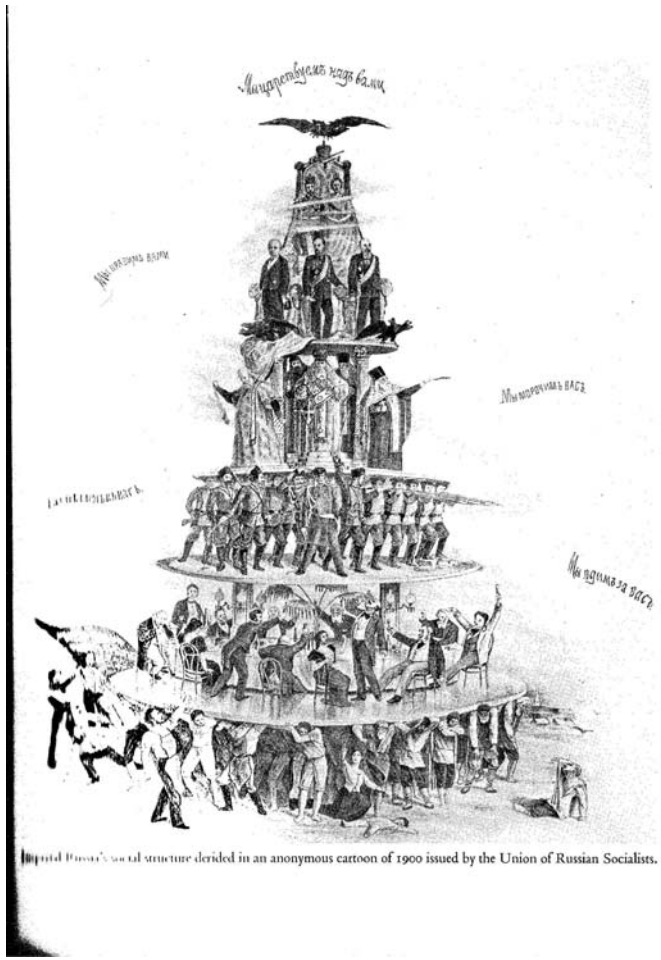
From 1905 to 1917: The Bolshevik Seizure of Power

October 22, 2007

Tsarist Russian Society



[illegible] social structure derided in an anonymous cartoon of 1900 issued by the Union of Russian Socialists.

Nicholas II: Family Man



The Fall of Tsarist Russia

- 1890s: Rise of Civil Society: Industrialization, zemstvos, and socialists
- The Russo-Japanese War 1904-05: World War Zero?
- January 9, 1905: Bloody Sunday in St. Petersburg
- Odessa: The Resort and the Battleship

The Russian View: Little Japanese



Куда-же ты? Куда бѣжишь, желтолицый? Мьетя хватить вгьлъ за рукавицей! Не глядя, что подвинесла кришасова; а кшо хватчу мужицкихъ пулаколь, забудешь, косолапый, воевать—и до кошачьи почью нападать!.. Вишь, поганый расходилея, знить у Янки научилея брандерской науки!.. Стюрьи, братъ, штуки!.. „Дай ему, льмиску, Корею!“ Подставляй-ка свою шею; коль-ты не въ жьру—пьюнь, а насъмью съ эпиълокъ,—курносый дурачище... Не то аигуну аа голенище!.. Не тревожь жатушку Русь: Русскій вьдь—тоже не трусъ!.. Постоить аа себя!!!

Russia Protects Korea



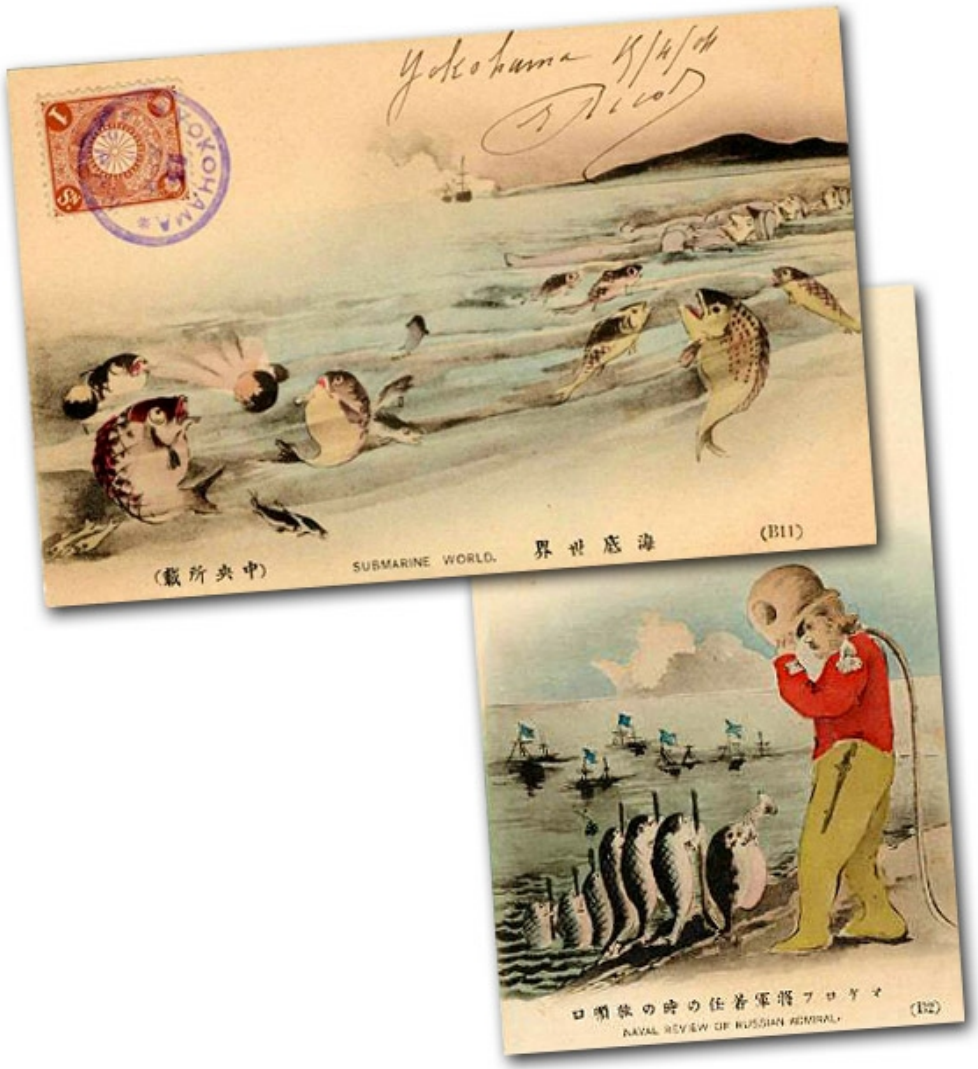
The Japanese View: Admiral Togo



Japan’s Rising Sun Strikes the Russian Bear



Russians as Fish



Japanese Mercy toward Russian Captives



Odessa: The Spa



Odessa: The Port



Odessa: The Potemkin Steps



Constitutional Government, 1905-1917

- General strike and the formation of Soviets
- Lenin tries an insurrection and fails
- 1906-1917: What Hope for the Duma?
- Stolypin and the Wager on the Strong (kulaks)

World War I: Why did Russia join?

- Pan-Slavism and Patriotism
- Imperial Geopolitics
- Optimism about the Offensive
- Technology's Unexpected Impact
  - The machine gun
  - The Railroad
- Nicholas' Final blunder

February, 1917

- Where are the revolutionaries?
  - Supporting the war
  - Lenin on Imperialism
- The Tsar Abdicates
- Formation of Soviets: Dual Sovereignty
  - The tyranny of the past: 1789, 1848, 1870
  - Could liberalism survive?
  - The Russian Marseillaise

Alexander Kerensky: Leader of the Provisional Government



Marching for Liberty, Equality, Fraternity



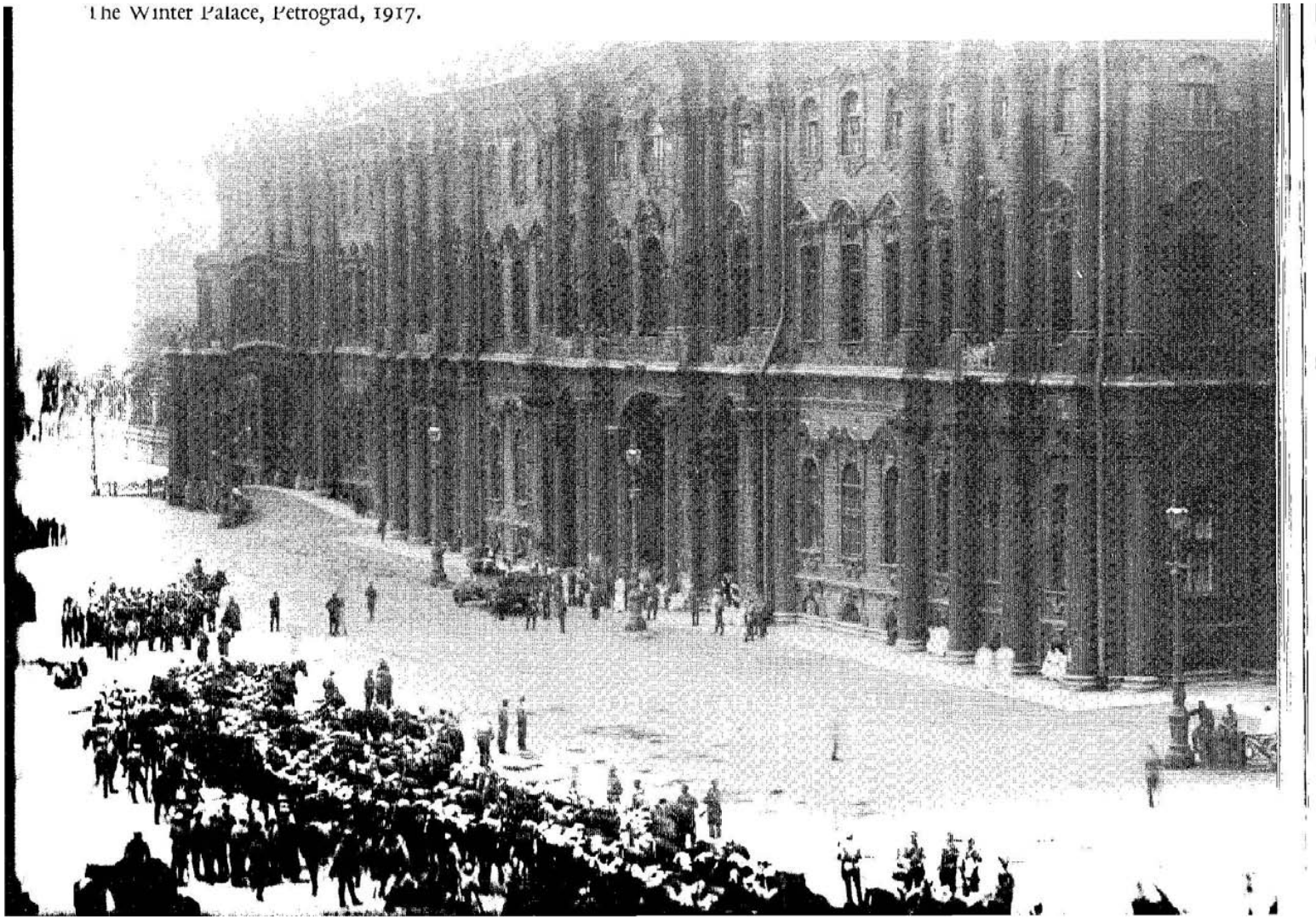
From February to October

- Kerensky supports the war
- Lenin's return by sealed train through Germany
  - Lenin's April theses
  - Lenin loves a fight
- The July days: near disaster for the Bolsheviks
- August: right wing coup attempt by Kornilov

Revolutionary October

- Oct. 20: Convening of Soviet Congress
- Oct. 10: Bolsheviks decide on military coup
- Oct. 24: Military Revolutionary Committee takes the Winter Palace
- Oct. 25: Bolsheviks declare the proletarian dictatorship

The Winter Palace


The Winter Palace, Petrograd, 1917.