

# THE TSARIST STATE

Isabelle Liu

# REGIME

- Autocracy - no accountability
- Restrictions: adherence to the Russian Orthodox Church and the rules of succession
- No constitution, no high court
- Tsar issued decrees, ministers and governors carried them out
- Senate, Holy Synod, Imperial Council of Ministers – no real power, only advisory role
- 34 provinces (guberniya), each administered by a governor

# ECONOMY

- Pre-industrial
  - Agriculture
- Command economy
- Dangerously dependent on foreign capital
- 1893-1896: foreigners invested 144.9 mil roubles compared to 103.7 mil from domestic sources
  - 1896-1899: 450.7 mil / 111.8 mil
- Reduced tsar's power
- Lagged behind West: hindered by money spent fighting the Crimean War, little demand for consumer goods because of heavy taxation

# TSAR NICHOLAS II

- Last tsar before Bolsheviks took over in Russian Revolution
- Reign was marked by violence, revolution, war; extensive use of military and police to destroy revolutionary movement
- Weak-willed, generally incompetent
- Known as Nicholas the Bloody because of how he put down the Revolution of 1905



# IDEOLOGY

- Conservative, even somewhat reactionary; unable to adapt
- Strong believer in autocracy
- "I shall maintain the principal of autocracy just as firmly and unflinchingly as it was preserved by my unforgettable dead father"
- Educated by the reactionary tutor Konstantin Pobenonstev

# SOURCES

- <http://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/tsarist-government/>
- [http://www.russianlegacy.com/russian\\_culture/history/ep\\_tsarist\\_economy.htm](http://www.russianlegacy.com/russian_culture/history/ep_tsarist_economy.htm)
- [http://www.historyorb.com/russia/economic\\_modernisation.php](http://www.historyorb.com/russia/economic_modernisation.php)