1861 - 1899		
1861	March	Tsar Alexander II passes the Emancipation Edict, ending serfdom in Russia (but keeps peasants tied to the land through continuing labour obligations)
1866		Publication of Fyodor Dostoevsky's Crime & Punishment
1867		Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel invents dynamite. Within a decade, Russian revolutionaries are using dynamite to try to assassinate the Tsar
1867		The first volume of Karl Marx's Das Kapital is published
1868	May	Nicholas II, the last tsar of Russia is born
1870	April	Vladimir Ilyich Lenin is born
1877-1878		Russo-Turkish war
1878		Vera Zasulich, a member of the secret revolutionary organisation Land & Freedom, is acquitted by the jury in her trial for the attempted murder of Dmitrii Trepov, Governor General of St Petersburg
1880	February	Failed attempt (no.5) to assassinated Tsar Alexander II by blowing up his palace dining room kills 11 & wounds 56. The tsar survives through being late to dinner
1881	March	Tsar Alexander II is assassinated by a member of the radical group The People's Will after 5 previously unsuccessful attempts on his life. He is succeeded by his son, Alexander III, who enacts anti-terrorism measures that curb civil rights & freedom of the press
1882		Pogroms against Jews spread across the Russian Empire, leading to mass emigration of the Jewish population
1883		The Emancipation of Labour group, the first Russian Marxist group, is founded in Switzerland

1861 - 1899 (cont)		
1883	March	Karl Marx dies in London
1887	May 20	Lenin's older brother, Alexander, is executed for his involvement in a plot to assassinate Tsar Alexander III
1890		The Zemstvo Act restricts the authority of the zemstvos, rural government councils which were established in 1864
1891-92		Famine in Russian kills between 375,000 & 400,000 & affects millions more
1891		Construction of the Trans-Siberian railway
1894	November 1	Tsar Alexander III dies after a sudden illness; his son Nicholas II assumes the throne
1894	November 26	Tsar Nicholas II marries Princess Alexandra Fedorovna, Queen Victoria's granddaughter
1895	December 20	Lenin is arrested to be kept in solitary confinement for 13 months & then exiled to Siberia for 3 years
1896	May 26	Coronation of Tsar Nicholas II
1896	May 30	The Khodynka Tragedy - a stampede in Moscow occurs during festivities following Nicholas II's coronation, & results in the deaths of over 1,300 people
1897		Sergei Witte, Russian Minister of Finance, undertakes a major currency reform & puts the Russian rouble on the Gold Standard
1897		According to census records, the overall literacy rate in the Russian Empire (excluding Finland) is 21.1 percent (29.3 percent for men & 13.1 percent for women)
1898		The Russian Social Democratic Labour Party is founded in Minsk

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1900 - 1916		
1900		The average life expectancy at birth in Russia is 29.4 years for boys & 31.4 years for girls
1901		Queen Victoria dies
1901-02		The Socialist Revolutionary Party (SR) is established
1901-05		Economic downturn in Russia creates discontent
1902	April	Lenin enters the British Museum's round Reading Room for the first time under the pseudonym Jacob Richter
1902		First publication of Mrs Craddock, one of the first novels by William Somerset Maugham, who in 1917 travelled to Russia as a British Secret Intelligence Service agent
1903	July-August	The Russian Social Democratic Labour Party meets for its Second Congress in London & splits into 2 factions: Mensheviks ('minority') & the more radical Bolsheviks ('majority')
1904		The first part of the Trans-Siberian Railway is completed between Moscow & Vladivostok. The entire railway was completed in 1916
1904	February	The Russo-Japanese war starts. The Japanese fleet launches a surprise attack & siege on the Russian naval squadron at Port Arthur
1904	May - December	The Russian army suffers defeats at the battles of Fu-hsien & Liao-yang
1904	August 12	After having 4 daughters, Tsarina Alexandra gives birth to a son, Alexei
1905	January	The Russian commander of Port Arthur surrenders the port to the Japanese without consulting his officers

1900 - 1916 (cont)		
1905	January 22	Bloody Sunday. Troops & Police open fire on a peaceful demonstration outside the Winter Palace & elsewhere in St Petersburg, killing between 200 & 1000 people. The liberal press argued that Nicholas II was responsible for the bloodshed
1905	February - March	The Russian army is defeated at the Battle of Mukden. Loses in the battle amount to approx 89,000 Russian & 71,000 Japanese casualties
1905	April - May	The Third Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party meets in London
1905	June	Sailors mutiny on the battleship Potemkin, part of the Black Sea fleet. The mutiny triggers riots in Odessa, which are quashed by troops on the tsar's orders
1905	Summer	Strikes, unrest & peasant uprisings continue, culminating in a general strike in October
1905	August - September	Following Russia's defeat in the naval battle of Tsushima in May 1905, Russia & Japan sign the Treaty of Portsmouth, ending the Russo--Japanese war
1905	October	The St Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies holds is first session
1905	October	The Constitutional Democratic Party (Kadets) is formed
1905	October 30	Tsar Nicholas II issues the October Manifesto, promising civil liberties & an elected parliament (Duma)

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1900 - 1916 (cont)

1905	December	In response to the suppression of the St Petersburg Soviet, the Moscow Soviet launches a disastrous attempt to seize power. The government quashes the insurrection after 5 days
1906	May 6	Tsar Nicholas II issues the Fundamental Laws, a 124 point de facto constitution
1906	May 10	The first Russian Duma meets
1906	November	Prime Minister Petr Stolypin's Agrarian Reform Act, a series of measures aimed at ending the communal system of landholding is implemented
1908	June 30	The Tunguska event. A giant, mysterious explosion shakes Siberia, levelling an estimated 80 million trees over an area of 830 square miles
1910	November	Leo Tolstoy dies
1910		Artists & poets form a group that marks the start of the Russian futurist movement
1913	March 6	Nicholas II celebrates 300 years of Romanov rule in Russia
1913		Andrei Bely's novel Petersburg, recognised as the most significant work of Russian symbolism & modernism, is published. The novel tells a story of a young revolutionary who is ordered to assassinate his father in autumn 1905, during the period of social & political unrest
1913	May 29	Igor Stravinsky's ballet The Rite of Spring premieres in Paris, where it is met with outrage from the audiene
1913		Between 1908 & 1913 industrial production increases by almost 50 percent in Russia, but working conditions remain almost the same

1900 - 1916 (cont)

1913		Natalia Goncharova, a prominent member of the Russian futurist movement, completes her futurist painting The Cyclist
1914	June 28	Assassination of Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary
1914	July 28	Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
1914	August 1	Germany declares war on Russia & Russia enters WWI. 3 days later on 4 August Britain declares war on Germany
1914		At the beginning of WWI, the number of urban workers in Russia is estimated at between 12 & 22 million (approx 10 percent of the population). Only 0.5 to 0.8 percent of this industrial workforce were members of either the Bolshevik or Menshevik factions of the Social Democrats. The population of the Russian Empire in 1914 is approx 170 million
1914		Women comprise one third of the industrial labour force in Russia, but receive significantly lower wages than their male counterparts
1914		St Petersburg is renamed Petrograd to make it sound less German
1914	August 26-30	Russia's 2nd army suffers defeat at the battle of Tannenberg, the first major battle on the eastern front. Over 30,000 Russian soldiers are killed or wounded, & more than 90,000 are taken prisoner by the Germans
1915	January	The first use of gas warfare by the German forces
1915	September	Tsar Nicholas II becomes supreme commander of the Russian army

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1900 - 1916 (cont)

1915		By the middle of 1915, the German army controls all of Russian Poland & Lithuania, & most of Latvia
1916	December 30	Grigorii Rasputin, the controversial 'holy man' & close friend of Tsar Nicholas II's family, is murdered after several failed attempts
1916		By 1916 Russia's war casualties total 1.7 million military dead & 5 million wounded

1917

1917		The overall literacy rate in Russia is approx 43 percent
1917	January	A Russian pound (or funt) of sugar in Moscow costs 28 kopecks, compared to 15 kopecks before the war
1917	March 8	On International Women's Day, demonstrators & striking workers - many of whom are women - take to the streets to protest against food shortages & the war
1917	March 10	Strikes spread across Petrograd
1917	March 12	The Duma meets against the Tsar's wishes
1917	March 12	The Petrograd Soviet of Workers' & Soldiers' Deputies forms & holds its first meeting
1917	March 12	The death penalty is abolished
1917	March 14	Order Number 1, the first official decree of the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' & Soldiers' Deputies is issued
1917	March 14	Tsar Nicholas II abdicates & also removes his son from the succession. The following day Nicholas's brother Mikhail announces his refusal to accept the throne
1917	March 15	The Provisional Committee (government) of the State Duma is formed & replaces the tsarist government
1917	March 15	Prince Lvov becomes leader of the Provisional Government

1917 (cont)

1917	April	Lenin returns from exile, travelling to Petrograd in a sealed train from Switzerland via Germany & Finland
1917	May 1	The 'Miliukov note'. A telegram sent to the Allied Powers by Foreign Minister (& member of the Kadet Party) Pavel Miliukov states the Provisional Government's intention to continue the war. The note is leaked, resulting in protests & increased support for the Bolsheviks
1917	May	Miliukov resigns & members of the Socialist Revolutionaries & Mensheviks join the government
1917	June	The first All-Russia Congress of Workers' & Soldiers' Deputies opens
1917	July	Russia launches an offensive against Austria-Hungary
1917	July	The death penalty is reintroduced at the front
1917	July 16-20	The July Days begin in Petrograd. A new Provisional Government is set up with Alexander Kerensky at its head. Lenin goes into hiding
1917	July	The Provisional Government grants women the right to vote & hold office
1917	July 24	Alexander Kerensky becomes Prime Minister of the Provisional Government
1917	August	A Russian pound (funt) of sugar costs 2.25 roubles in Moscow & is being sold on the black market
1917	August	Trotsky joins the Bolshevik Party. He had previously been a member of the Menshevik faction & later was head of the Mezhraiontsy - a small independent faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party
1917	September 4-9	The Kornilov affair, a failed coup by General Kornilov, commander of the Russian army, takes place
1917	September	Russia is officially declared a republic, several months after the de facto end of the monarchy

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1917 (cont)

1917	November 7	The October revolution; the Bolsheviks seize control of Petrograd
1917	November 8	The Bolsheviks take control of the Winter Palace, the last remaining holdout of the Provisional Government
1917	November 8	The decrees on land & peace are issued by the new government
1917	November 8	Subsequent workers' decrees outline measures for an 8 hour working day, minimum wage & the running of factories
1917	November 8	The death penalty is abolished once again
1917	November 9	The Decree on the Press, the first Bolshevik censorship decree, abolishes the 'bourgeois' press
1917	November 15	The Bolsheviks gain control of Moscow after a week of bitter street fighting
1917	November	The Central Rada (parliament) takes power in Kyiv
1917	November 25	Elections to the Constituent Assembly takes place. The Socialist Revolutionaries win the largest number of seats, while the Bolsheviks win less than one quarter of the vote
1917	December 6	Finland declares its independence from Russia
1917	December	A Russian pound (funt) of sugar costs 6 roubles in Moscow. Each person receives 1/4 pound of bread per day. Bread & flour are still being sold openly, but for extortionate prices
1917	December	Lenin appoints Felix Dzerzhinsky as Communist for Internal Affairs & head of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-Revolution & Sabotage (Cheka)
1917	December 15	An armistice between Russia & the Central Powers is signed & fighting stops
1917	December 22	Russian-German peace negotiations begin at Brest-Litovsk

1917 (cont)

1917	December 23	Orthographic reform is introduced by the People's Commissariat for Education. However, the reform does not take effect until October 10 1918

1918 - 1924

1918	January 18-19	The Constituent Assembly meets but is dissolved by the Bolsheviks
1918	January	Alexander Blok completes his poem The Twelve
1918	January	The Russian delegation, led by Leon Trotsky, denounces the German Peace Terms as unacceptable & walks out of the peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk
1918	January 28	The Council of People's Commissars (Sovnarkom) issues a decree forming the Workers' & Peasants' Red Army
1918	February	A Russian pound (punt) of sugar in Moscow costs 10 roubles
1918	February 14	Russia adopts the Western (Gregorian) calendar
1918	March 3	The Brest-Litovsk Treaty ends Russia's participation in WWI. Russia accepts territorial losses
1918	March 6-8	At the 7th Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party, the Bolsheviks change the name of their party to the Russian Communist Party
1918		Spanish flu pandemic kills 50 to 100 million people worldwide
1918	March	British troops land in Murmansk
1918	March	The Russian capital is moved from Petrograd to Moscow
1918	April	For an 8 hour day, skilled male workers receive 18 roubles & women workers of the same category receive 15 roubles 30 kopecks. Unskilled workers receive 10.65 roubles & 9.35 roubles
1918	May	Czechoslovak legionnaires storm Chelyabinsk railway station & occupy the city

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1918 - 1924 (cont)		
1918	July 6	Wilhelm von Mirbach, the German ambassador to Soviet Russia, is assassinated in Moscow by members of the Left Socialist Revolutionary Party
1918	July 10	The first constitution of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic grants equal rights to men & women
1918	July 16	Gorky's Novaia zhizn' (New Life), the last opposition newspaper is banned
1918	July 16-17	Tsar Nicholas II & his family are executed by the Bolsheviks in Yekaterinburg
1918	July	US president Woodrow Wilson approves a 5,000 strong American force to support the White Army in northern Russia
1918	August 11	Lenin sends a telegram to communists in Penza, Central Russia complaining about uprisings in the area & calling for the public execution of 100 kulaks
1918	August 30	Moisei Uritskii, head of the Bolshevik secret police (Cheka) in Petrograd is assassinated
1918	August 30	An assassination attempt on Lenin by the Socialist Revolutionary Fanny Kaplan leaved him seriously wounded. The attempt, together with the murder of Uritskii, sparks a period of mass arrests & executions known as the 'Red Terror'
1918	October	A Russian pound (funt) of sugar in Moscow costs 35 roubles
1918	October	The Bolshevik Family Law clarifies & expands earlier reforms on the legal status of marriage, divorce & parenthood

1918 - 1924 (cont)		
1918	November 7-8	Revolution breaks out in a number of German cities, including the capital, Berlin. Uprisings continue over the following months until the final suppression of the Munich Soviet in May 1919
1918	November 11	WWI ends
1918	November 11	Poland declares its independence
1918	November 19	The first All-Russian Congress of Women meets. The congress results in the foundation of the Zhenotdel, the world's first government department exclusively concerned with the affairs of women in 1919
1918	December	Perm (in central Siberia) falls to the White Army, led by Admiral Kolchak
1919	January 15	German communist leaders Rosa Luxemburg & Karl Liebknecht are murdered in Berlin
1919	January 18	Paris Peace Conference convenes, resulting in the Treaty of Versailles
1919	January	The Sovnarkom formally announces the beginning of Prodrazverstka (compulsory grain requisitioning), which leads to peasant revolts
1919-1921		Polish-Soviet war
1919	March	American journalist & social John Reed's Ten Days that Shook the World is published in New York
1919	March	The Hungarian Soviet Republic, led by Béla Kun is established; it lasts until August before being dispersed
1919	March	The Comintern (or Third International) is formed in Moscow, with the aim of spreading revolution all over the world
1919	July	Finland becomes a republic
1920		Communist parties form across the world

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1918 - 1924 (cont)		
1920	January 10	The League of Nations is established
1920	August	Peasant insurrection in Tambov (300 miles south-east of Moscow) begins
1920	November	The Red Army invades & occupies Crimea & the White Army is force to withdraw
1920	November	Abortion is legalised
1920		Evgenii Zamyatin completes his dystopian novel We. It is the first work to be banned by the Goskomizdat (State Committee for Publishing) & is first published in English in New York in 1924
1921		The population of Petrograd has fallen from 2.5 million in 1917 to 600,000 in 1920
1921		By the beginning of 1921 the rouble has lost 96 percent of its pre war value; industrial production has fallen to 10 percent of its 1913 level
1921	March	The Kronstadt mutiny, an unsuccessful uprising against the Bolsheviks, takes place
1921	March	End of 'War Communism' & the introduction of the 'New Economic Policy' (NEP)
1921	March 18	The Peace of Riga ends the Polish-Soviet war
1921-1922		Between 6 & 7 million children are living on the streets, with a further 540,000 living in orphanages
1922	April 3	Stalin is appointed General Secretary of the Communist Party
1922	April 16	Soviet Russia & Germany sign the Treaty of Rapallo, renouncing all territorial & financial claims against each other following the Brest--Litovsk Treaty & WWI
1922	December	Creation of the Soviet Union
1922		5 million people have died as a result of 2 years of famine

1918 - 1924 (cont)		
1923	October 23-25	The Hamburg uprising, an attempted communist coup, is crushed within 24 hours
1923	January 21	Lenin dies, leading to a power struggle within the party. Stalin emerges as party leader. His rival Leon Trotsky is dismissed, then exiled & finally murdered in 1940
1924	January 31	Constitution of the USSR that legitimises its creation is ratified
1924	February 1	Britain, led by its first Labour government, recognises the Soviet Union. Several other countries, including Italy & China, quickly follow
1924		The majority of Western countries close their border to immigrants from Eastern Europe following almost 40 years of mass migration

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