Revision points for National 4 and 5 –Russia

***February 1917- causes of the February Revolution***

* Tsarist government was in chaos and there was great discontent due to WW1 with the Tsar being blamed for the military defeats.
* The war also had causes huge economic problems
* Food and fuel prices increased but wages decreased. Trains were used for the war and not to bring food to the cities.
* In February 1917 there were uprisings through Russia and the Tsar then abdicated.

*Events* – 40,000 workers from Putilov engineering works on strike for higher wages and because of food and fuel shortages. The Petrograd garrison refused to fire upon the protestors and a mutiny began. The Tsar did try to return to Petrograd by train but was stopped by revolutionary rail workers.

***Aftermath –***abdication left a power vacuum filled by Dual Power (Alliance between Provisional Government and Petrograd Soviet (see class notes)

In early months of Dual Power the Provisional Government did introduce some reforms, mainly aimed at increasing Civil Rights. However, the main problems in Russia still remained unresolved

***Lenin’s April Thesis*** – demanded worldwide revolution, immediate end to war, end to coop with Provisional Government, Soviets to take power, land for peasants.

***Issues for Provisional Government*** –war, land, national minority demands, economic distress.

***October Revolution (see also additional sheet – for events leading to and events of***

The Provisional Government led by Alexander Kerensky who had ruled Russia form February to October was eventually overthrown by a Bolshevik revolution who would now rule Russia. Lenin believed this Revolution should be followed by a ‘dictatorship of the proletariat’. The Cheka (secret police) were created and began a policy of ‘Red terror ‘and all other political parties were banned.

* ***Why were the Bolsheviks able to maintain power?*** – terror –use of Chaka , political parties banned, legal system abolished, Sovnarkom, incentives for Russian workers ‘ peace Land was redistributed as landlord’s right to property was abolished.Factories put under control of the workers. Tyranny of factory owners was ended by revolution .An 8 hour working day and an insurance for unemployment and injury.Signed armistice with Germany Censorship of media. Women declared legally equal to men

***Lenin introduced War Communism 1918-21***

When the Bolsheviks finally took control, Lenin brought in a number of new rules and measures to help ensure that Russia would remain under his control. Here are just a few of Lenin’s new rules:

* Tsar and family executed in July 1918
* Taking grain by force off peasants; resulting in peasants starving
* Private trade banned & all industry became state controlled
* Work place discipline introduced e.g. fines for being late
* Lenin hung 100 Kulaks (richer peasant’s) and 1000s more were arrested
* which led to peasants hiding grain & not planting which led to a bad harvest & famine
* Bolsheviks set up concentration & labour camps for those who opposed War Communism
* A police state was created to keep everybody in check!