

Matrix Comparing the French, American, and Russian Revolutions

	Type of Government	Reasons for Conflict	Characteristics of People	Actions & Events Leading to Revolution
French	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absolute monarchy: one in which all sovereign powers are executed exclusively by the king - Louis XVI - These powers were not arbitrary or tyrannical ones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subjects wanted equality before the law - Bad economy: low wages, high taxes, high cost of food - Monarchy's lavish spending - Government unable to balance its income and its expenses - Enlightenment Ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - French social order: 1st Estate: Aristocracy 2nd Estate: Clergy 3rd Estate: Everyone else - Third Estate comprised of 97% of the population - Most people were very poor and illiterate - Fr. not independent minded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taxes imposed, usually weighted heaviest on the poor - May 1789 meeting of the Estates Generals: elections - 1788 hail storm damaged grain crops: high prices - Third Estate established the National Assembly - Storming the Bastille
American	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absentee English Monarchial and Parliamentary Rule: power shared - George III - America established as a colony with an appointed English Governor - Colonies allowed to have the right of an assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Britain dependent on colonial raw materials and cash products (draining \$ from colonies) - Subjects wanted equality before the law - Enlightenment Ideas - Colonists wanted to limit the authority of the state (UK) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No legal social class structure - People were characterized mainly by profession not class order - Educated and non-educated - Colonists had experience with "self-governing" - Independent minded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taxes passed to reduce Br.'s war debt - Acts passed: Stamp, Declaratory, Quartering, Sugar, etc. - Boston Massacre - Boston Tea Party - 1773 - 2nd Continental Cong. - 1775 - Battle of Ft. Ticonderoga - '75 - Common Sense - 1776
Russian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autocracy: one in which a government is ruled by a single person having unlimited power - Nicholas II - Government ruled by an autocratic and orthodox monarchy called Czarism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bad economy - Bad leadership - Subjects not happy with how Czar handled the war (strategies in WWI) - 2 mil. killed & 5 mil. wounded in WWI - Social unrest about gov.'s ability to handle situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russian social order: Czar, ruling class, peasants - <u>Extremely</u> poor citizens (the peasant class - most of popu.) - Illiterate and in some cases living in total social darkness to the world around - Mass of people were laborers, farmers, or bus. people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Czar Alexander II gave serfs freedom: 1861 - Revolutionary radicals divide into 2: Social Rev. & Democ. - Russo-Japanese war - Strikes - 1000 petitioners were killed - Negative influence - Rasputin - WWI