At the heart of the Russian Revolution was a personal battle between the Romanov's and the Ulyanov's. The Romanovs feared for their rule, and the Ulyanov's were committed to autocratic rule. Czar Alexander II faced numerous assassination attempts by a sustained terrorist campaign to spark an uprising and revolution. Russia's 9/11 is Czar Alexander II's assassination by a group of the People's Will - the Czar's death seen as a wound inflicted on Russia itself. Czar Alexander III follows his father, but unlike him, he takes a stance on social unrest and severely represses opposition and civil rights - including the middle class - no press freedom or expression. Attempted assassination of Czar Alexander III by Sasha Ulyanov, but plan undone by Okhrana who was tracking terrorist & opposition groups to the Czar - sentenced to death. Lenin tried to organize transport for his mother to see Sasha before his execution, but he is snubbed by the Bourgeois which directly impacted Lenin's politics and interest in revolution.

Lenin picks up where his brother left off in the revolutionary movement - Lenin is tracked by Okhrana across Europe. Heir to the throne Nicholas III sent by his father on a mission to Japan where he is attacked - this shapes his xenophobic & prejudice towards the Japanese as inferior and easily defeated in war. Czar Alexander III suddenly dies leaving a thoroughly unprepared Nicholas II to inherit the throne - where his Czarina Alexandra, a German, and the thousands of Russians crushed as a Carrington celebration undermine his rule from the start. Russia is surrounded by 2 rising powers, GER and JAPAN that are rapidly industrializing - Japan declares war on Japan and suffers a humiliating defeat - this triggers civil unrest, protests and calls for reform. The Romansov's meet Rasputin who helps heal their son's secret disease, but also brings scandal to the Royal Family and severely damages their reputation and discards the Czar's rule. Rasputin seen as a GER agent conspiring with the Czarina against RUS, which is causing RUS to lose a staggering number of lives and territory in WWI. - Rasputin is murdered.

WWI is triggered - RUS soldiers already part of a defeated army who did not see Germany as an enemy - many desertions occur and the Czar takes command of RUS military strategy. Civil unrest explodes as soldiers desert the army and turn to Petrograd - there is hunger, anger, & dissatisfaction and RUS seems on the brink of collapse - the Czar abdicates the throne to "save Russia" and a power vacuum is created. The Soviets and the Provisional Govt (Bogus) try to power share - Lenin returns to RUS via negotiable travel through enemy Germany - Lenin calls for all power to the Soviets - those of the bourgeois. Lenin institutes the Red Terror & orders the assassination of the Royal Family.

Bolsheviks seize power & spark a 3 year civil war. Lenin signs the Brest-Litovsk Treaty and RUS puts the war in exchange for major losses in territory. Lenin institutes the RED TERROR & orders the assassination of the Royal Family. Bolsheviks win the civil war against pro-Russian forces & create the Soviet Union where power gets unchecked - there is no opposition, no independent courts, or freedom of expression.