Key Events in Pre-Revolutionary History [17.601J/21H.467J]

1581 -- Russian explorers begin pushing into Siberia.

1605-1613 -- The Time of Troubles, civil war in Russia

1613 -- Beginning of the Romanov dynasty which rules until 1917

1649 -- Enserfment of the peasantry

1654 -- annexation of most of Ukraine

1703 -- founding of St. Petersburg

1721 -- Estonia is annexed in the Treaty of Nystad after victory over the Swedes.

1772-1795 -- The partitions of Poland result in the annexation of Latvia, Lithuania, and Belorussia.

1801 -- incorporation of Georgia; 1828 -- annexation of Armenia

1812 -- defeat of Napoleon; Moscow begins to be recognized as a great European power.

1825 -- Decembrist uprising -- beginning of the Russian revolutionary tradition.

1861 -- Emancipation of the serfs. This is followed by other reforms: creation of an independent judiciary, the zemstva (local councils for self-government), reforms of municipal government

1865 -- Russian troops gain control of Tashkent and Kazakhstan

1867 -- Selling of Alaska to the United States

1881 -- Tsar Alexander II is assassinated by revolutionaries.

1891-1904 -- construction of the Trans-Siberian Railroad

1904-1905 -- Russo-Japanese War

1905 -- first Russian Revolution: economic and political upheaval; creation of the soviets; October manifesto; the Duma

1914-1918 -- World War I

February 1917 -- abdication of Tsar Nicholas II. The Provisional Government begins to rule.

October 1917 -- the Bolshevik seizure of power