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|  | **A2** | **A3** | **N2** | **PG** | **Lenin** | **Stalin -> scale and scope!** | **Khrushchev** |
| **Poland** | 1863 Revolt. Russification | Russification |  | Russo-Polish War -> Fails | N/S Pact. Warsaw rising. Boundaries moved. Lubin Puppets | 56 Gonvlka released, decrease in repression |
| **Finland** | Sejm estSemi independence |  | Pressure from N2 to increase Russian control | Sejm est | Independence with Brest-Litovsk | Winter War -> failedIndependence and neutrality |  |
| **Ukraine** |  | Russification | Rada est | Grain requisitionIndependent  | Post 2WW Russified |
| **Jews** | Increase of movement outside the Pale | RUSSIFICATION + PROGROMS |  | Trotsky | Growing mistrust | Relaxed |
| **Baltic States** |  | Russification |  | IndependenceB – L  | Occupied -> mistrustRussified |
| **Caucasians** |  | Russification |  | Lenin sends Stalin, increased repressionRussifies | Increased intolerance of Islam |
| **Eastern Europe** |  |  |  |  |  | Red Army occupied -> Stalinist regimes1956 Crushing of the Hungary revolt |

**To show that the treatment of minorities was not consistent**

* It’s a very mixed picture but repression was the dominant approach to the minorities across the period
* The groups that were most typically oppressed where the Jews and the Poles
* Repression was at its lowest under the Provisional Government and after the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.
* Greatest under Alexander 3rd and especially the Totalitarian state of Stalin
* An added complication after 1945 was Soviet control of Eastern Europe and this forced even would be reformers like Khrushchev into repression

Analysis on treatment of the minorities

1. The assumption is that the Tsars treat the minorities worse than the communists. This is based on their ideologies. Whilst the communists define the world in terms of class (April Thesis), the Tsars saw themselves as defenders of Russian nationalism.
2. It is certainly correct to suggest that Alexander III and Nicholas II pursued a brutal policy of Russification. Inspired by Popedinovstev, the minorities in general and the Jews in particular were targeted. Non-Russians such as the Poles found that education and employment opportunities were dependent on speaking Russian. Independent movements were brutally repressed by the secret police under Alexander III and Nicholas II, the Okrana, using internal exile to Siberia.
3. Even the relatively liberal Alexander II (Tsar liberator) although generally very tolerant to the minorities followed the policy of Russification to the Poles after the 1863 Polish revolt.
4. In other words, the dominant theme of Romanov treatment of the minorities was repression.
5. However, research by Robert Cervis since the end of the Cold War in 1990 has shown that the Communist autocrats also treated the minorities very poorly. Lenin for exams snuffed out Ukrainian independence in the Civil War, and imposed grain requisitioning which led to the famine of 1921 under the policy of War Communism. Equally, he invaded Poland in 1920 in an attempt to spread world Communism and sent Stalin into Georgia to subdue it. Equally, whilst Khrushchev did relax repression on the minorities in general we should note his brutal crushing of the Hungarian rising in 1956.
6. However, unsurprisingly it was the scale and scope of Stalin’s Totalitarian regime which repressed the minorities the most. We should remember that he increased the boarders of Russian control; First in 1939 (Nazi-Soviet pact, to include the Baltic states and a third of Poland), and then in the late 1940s into central Europe (Iron Curtain). Stalin also invaded Finland in the doomed Winter War, undertook grain requisitioning via collectivisation and russified the Baltic States and the Ukraine (sending Russian people into non-Russian countries) after 1945 for supposed disloyalty in the Great Patriotic War. Stalin brutally crushed independence movements throughout the Soviet empire, and his reign must be seen as the zenith (peak) of attacks on the minorities.
7. Indeed it was only in the 6 months of liberal democracy of the Provisional Government that life got for all minorities, this was typified by the creation of the Sejm in Finland and the Rada in Ukraine and the release of nationalist leaders imprisoned under the Tsars.
8. To conclude, repression of the minorities was endemic to Russian autocracy in the period 1855 to 1964, but it was at its peak under Stalin rather than the policy of Russification of the latter Tsars.