**Chapter 15: Russia**

**Section 2 Vocabulary**

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| **New Word** | **Definition** |
| czar | a title for the rulers of Russia from the mid-15—‘s to the early 1900’s |
| serf | a peasant who is bound to the land |
| Peter the Great | a czar who ruled Russia from 1682 to 1725 and tried to make Russia more European |
| Bolsheviks | a group of revolutionaries who took control of the Russian government in 1917 |
| communism | a government and economic system in which nearly all political power and means of production are held by the government in the name of the people |
| Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  (USSR or Soviet Union) | a new nation with a Communist government created by the Bolsheviks in 1922; dissolved in 1991 |
| Joseph Stalin | a cruel 20th century dictator who had millions of his political enemies executed |
| totalitarian | a government that controls public and private life |
| Cold War | a conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II that never developed into open warfare |

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| Mikhail Gorbachev | a Soviet leader from 1985 to 1991 who increased freedoms for the Russia people |