History of Sport and Major Sporting Events in Russia
Sports in the Soviet Union

• The Soviet Union: 1922-1991
• Stalin decided that they needed to be the champions of every sport.
• Physical Culture and Sports Committee
  – Organized sport at all levels from childhood up to the Olympic games
  – In 1980, approximately 57 million people were enrolled in sports clubs and societies

Translation: USSR - a Mighty Sport Power!
Soviet Union at the Olympics

- The Soviet Union accumulated 1010 total Summer Olympic Medals in only 9 Olympic Games from 1952-1988
- The Soviet Union accumulated 194 total Winter Olympic Medals in 9 Games from 1956-1988
Losing the Soviet Way

- The longstanding tradition of the Soviet Union as a powerhouse has declined.
- Infrastructural issues have been cited as a cause of the poor results as well as no longer having the capitalist-communist competition.
Russia As Host for Major International Sporting Events
1980 Summer Olympics
Moscow, USSR

• The first games held in Eastern Europe
• Opening and closing ceremonies hosted at Central Lenin Stadium.

Luzhniki Stadium: Awarded a 5-star stadium rating.
War in Afghanistan

- Russia invaded Kabul in December 1979
- Guerilla Force called Mujahideen declared war against the Russians and Prime Minister Amin
- UN Security Council called for the withdrawal of troops.
  – Russia vetoed this as member of the Security Council
- US put ban on grain exports to Russia and ended proliferation talks
Boycott

- A large number of countries, including the United States, boycotted these games due to the Soviet war in Afghanistan.
- For this reason, many athletes marched under the Olympic Flag as opposed to that of their own respective countries.
Sochi 2014
XXII Olympic Winter Games

February 7 – 23, 2014
Locations

• Coastal Cluster
  – Sochi Olympic Park
  – Hosting: Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Ice Hockey and Skating Events

• Mountain Cluster
  – Krasnaya Polyana
  – Hosting: Skiing and Snowboarding Events

Sochi Olympic Park construction on the Black Sea
2014 Mascots

• The Polar Bear

• The Hare

• The Leopard

Cheburashka

Ded Moroz
New Events Added

• Ski halfpipe (men and women)
• Women’s ski jumping
• Biathlon mixed relay
• Figure skating team event
• Luge team relay
• “The decision was the result of a number of positive factors, including an increase in universality, gender equity and youth appeal.”
  – IOC Website
2018 FIFA World Cup
June 8- July 8, 2018

BIDDING NATION
RUSSIA
World Cup Host Winner

- Russia beat out joint bids by Spain/Portugal and Belgium/Netherlands to be awarded the role of host for this World Cup
- The First World Cup held in Eastern Europe
- Hosted by 13 cities at 16 sporting venues
Russia’s Recent Performance

• Interesting to note that Russia failed to qualify for the most recent World Cup in 2010 as well as the previous in 2006.
  – Will receive an automatic bid as the host nation in 2018

• Euro 2008 competition
  – Russia made it to the semifinals but eventually lost to Spain
How Many Russian Athletes Do You Know?

• Hockey: Alexander Ovechkin, Evgeni Malkin, Pavel Datsyuk

• Tennis: Anna Kournikova, Maria Sharapova

• Soccer: Igor Akinfeev, Andrei Arshavin
For More Information

  - FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia
Sources