

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION REVIEW



HISTORY 12

Vocabulary

Tsar/ Czar: the Russian word for Emperor.

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk: To pull out of WW1, Russia had to give Germany: 26% of its population, 27% of its farm land and 74% of its iron and coal production areas. The treaty was signed in March 1918, but it was cancelled when Germany lost the war.

War Communism: a severe policy where surplus crops were seized to feed the army and peasants/workers were transported to wherever they were needed.

Reds: also known as Bolsheviks; they controlled transport and communication, had good morale and were very determined.

Whites: also known as anti-Bolshevik; jealousy among leadership caused poor attacks on the "reds," and they gave conquered land back to landowners so peasants hated them.

Comintern: An association of Communist parties of the world; established in 1919 by Lenin and dissolved in 1943.

Command Economy (Central Planning): an economic system in which the state owns and controls the means of production (land or factories), and all major economic decisions about production and distribution are made by a small group of planners.

Kolkhoz: a soviet collective farm owned by the communist state

Five Year Plan: Two five year goals were set in Russia: the first five year plan was for Agricultural production and the second five year plan was for industrial production. The goal of these five year plans was to modernize the country and to become a superpower after both plans were complete.

Gulags: A network of forced labor camps in the USSR.

Bourgeois: according to Marx, a socialist class that owns the means of production and is not part of the working class.

Cheka: The first secret police organization set up in Russia after the revolution.

Collectivization: the re-organization and concentration of peasant agriculture into larger production units under government control and supervision.

Kornilov Affair: Kornilov attempted to seize power from Kerensky, but failed and he was arrested along with his 7000 supporters. Kerensky survived the coup, but as a result his government was weakened and the Bolsheviks grew stronger.

Kulak: the richer peasants in the Soviet Union who employed other peasants.

New Economic Policy (NEP): a policy in which peasants gave over a certain percent of their crops to the government as tax. The peasants were able to sell any crops they had left over; this brought about huge harvest increases once Lenin put it into practice.

Gosplan: state planning commission in the USSR; the main agency for the drafting and implementation of economic plans.

Intelligentsia: the intellectual elite of society.

Cadets: middle class liberals who wanted a constitutional government created provisional government

Bolshevik: Member of the left wing majority Lenin's faction of the Social Democratic Party in Russia, and believing in the need for violent revolution to create a Communist society

Menshevik: Member of the liberal minority group that advocated gradual reform and opposed the Bolsheviks before and during the Russian Revolution

October Manifesto: Promised to provide some civil liberties and create a Duma.

Duma: A Russian representative parliament elected in 1906 allowed by Nicholas; but shut it down when criticism about the lack of freedom began.

"Peace, Land Bread!": One of Lenin's slogans that was popular among the people promoting Russia to stop fighting in the war.

Soviet: An elected assembly for a specified area, such as a town, city or province

Social Democrats: The Marxist group that split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks

Socialists: -Led by Kerensky

- Lots of power in the provisional government
- Joined the Social Revolutionaries

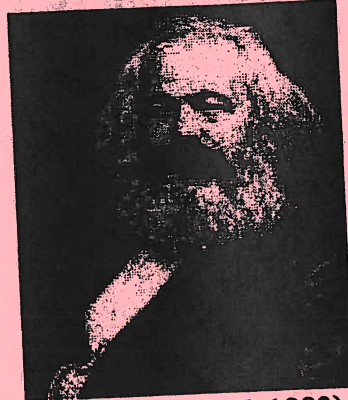
Proletariat: The working class; in Marxist terms the group that would rise to overthrow the bourgeoisie.

Fundamental Laws: Proclaimed in 1906, to put Tsar's October promises into effect. Tsar reneged on most of his promises and retained huge powers for himself. Held the power to call and dismiss the new Duma.

Causes of the Russian Revolution

- **No representation for workers – MANY strikes are result of this unrest**
- **Cities lacking in suitable infrastructure**
 - overcrowding and starvation were prevalent in bigger cities (Petrograd and Moscow in particular)
 - Land in Russia was not used to maximum benefit
- **Ill-equipped and badly managed military**
 - low morale / high losses
 - Tsar was not a suitable leader for the military, yet insisted upon being in control
- **Tsarina in charge of government at home**
 - government became increasingly corrupt
 - Rasputin (the supposed 'Holy Man') was able to influence Tsarina Alexandra in many of her decisions
- **Duma was ineffective as a parliament representing the people – was later disassembled by Tsar**
- **VERY steep food costs**
 - due to inflation / over-taxation
- **inefficient railways favored transportation of soldiers over that of food allowing the food shortages to continue**
- **Rural peasants desired better land distribution as well as the ability to own and/or be in control of the land which they were working**
- **Despite Russia's position as a top 5 industrial country in the world: less than 2% of her population was involved in industrial production**
 - Therefore it became difficult to maintain world market standards in terms of production quotas and quality of product
 - Russia needed this income in order to support her large population

MARXISM



Karl Marx (1818-1883)

“from each according to his ability to each according to his need”

Marxism = Communism

- the idea of putting the economy first
- destruction of class system
- an idea that would naturally develop following economic crisis

Economics

- Economics over politics
- unlimited faith in economic forces = social and economic progresses
- right economic policies = domestic stability and progress

Politics

- destruction of class system
- highly automated and productive society
- no need for administration of people
- fall of capitalism

Basic Beliefs

Karl Marx believed that communism would naturally develop through the daily struggle for economic existence. In the 19th century Russia had a great need for the practice of Marxism due to its economic backwardness, oppression of minorities, social inequality, and its dictators. Marxism promoted the fall of capitalism. He felt that there would be stages of society before his ideal society would function properly. There would first be a Capitalist era, where class systems would be in place, and then a Socialist era, where industry and development would be the primary concern. Marx thought that once his idea was put into practice the true history of man could finally begin.

Problems

- his ideas were very general
 - unlikely to happen
- Marx had an idealistic economic theory, but did not have a practical way of putting it into practice.

LENINISM

- 1) The Socialist Revolution did not happen by itself. The proletariat by itself was too disorganized to bring about the Socialist Revolution. Lenin felt there needed to be a "Vanguard of the Proletariat," or a Communist Party to organize and to lead the working class in their revolution and in the running of the Socialist state until humanity was ready for the communist society. Lenin felt society needed help in tipping over the working class pyramid.
- 2) Small groups of professional revolutionaries were made apart of the Communist Party; very selective group. They were to infiltrate existing social, political, economic circles. Only professional revolutionaries were allowed to join the Communist Party. This introduced a new approach to class war and communist strategy.
- 3) Primacy of politics over economics.
- 4) Lenin had one fixed and limited goal: to seize power in Russia and reshape it according to his communist principals.
- 5) Believed in inevitable victory of communism throughout the world.
- 6) Lenin saw the dictatorship of the Communist party over the working class (proletariat). Lenin had little faith that the working class had the understanding or ability to secure a communist state.
- 7) Took a more activist and worldwide view (first politician to see the world as more than Europe).
- 8) His ideas were a combination of ideology and Russian national interest
- 9) PROACTIVE; he made communist happen did not wait for an economic crisis for it to be naturally implemented.
- 10) His ideas about application were more practical since they were actually going to happen.

Timeline for Russian Revolution

- 1905, 22 January** : Bloody Sunday- Father Gapon and the workers march to the Winter Palace.
- 1906**: Duma elected, but has very little power.
- 1912**: 2000 separate strikes.
- 1914**: 4000 different strikes.
- 1915, August**: Tsar makes himself commander of the armed forces.
- 1916, December**: Rasputin assassinated.
- 1917, 27 February**: Provisional Government established in Russia.
- 1917, 2 March**: Nicholas II abdicated.
- 1917, April**: Lenin comes to Petrograd.
- 1917, May**: First Coalition comes into power, Lvov prime minister and Kerensky minister of war.
- 1917, 3 - 4 July**: July Days- workers and soldiers in Petrograd demand the Soviets take power; Trotsky arrested; Lenin into hiding.
- 1917, 24 July**: Second coalition comes to power, Kerensky is prime minister.
- 1917, August**: Kornilov Affair – Kornilov tries to take power, he fails.
- 1917, September**: Bolsheviks win control of the Petrograd Soviet.
- 1917, 25 October**: Bolshevik Revolution.
- 1917, 12-14 November**: Constituent Assembly elections held: Socialist Revolutionaries are the largest party.
- 1917, December**: Cheka established.
- 1918, Spring**: Russian Civil War begins.
- 1918, 3 March**: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.
- 1918, 9 May**: Bolshevik troops open fire on workers protesting food shortages.

- 1918, 17 July:** Tsar and family murdered.
- 1919:** Third Comintern established.
- 1917-1920:** War Communism in place.
- 1920, End of:** Russian Civil War ends.
- 1921:** New Economic Policy (NEP) put into place.
- 1924, January:** Lenin died.
- 1924:** Petrograd renamed Leningrad.
- 1927:** Stalin takes control.
- 1928:** First Five Year Plan.
- 1929:** Trotsky deported.
- 1929-1933:** Collectivization of agriculture.

Famous Figures

Kerensky – was Prime Minister of Russia from July 1917 till November 1917, succeeded Lvov. His unwillingness to pull out of WW1 caused him to be unpopular among the people which ultimately caused the provisional government to fall.

Stalin – was dictator of U.S.S.R. from 1929 – 1953, was known as the monster of Russia. He was known for implementing 5 year plans that focused on improving industrialization and agriculture.

Tsar Nicolas II – Ruled from 1894 until his abdication in 1917, was last Russian monarch to rule Russia. Because of his unwillingness to pull out of WW1 and his lack of concern for his people, the Tsar was overthrown by a provisional government.

Lenin – was leader of the Bolsheviks and was in power from 1917, when he overthrew provisional government, till his death in 1927. He was responsible for pulling Russia out of WW1. His slogans, “Peace, Land, Bread” and “All power to the Soviets” as well as his New Economic Policy (NEP) made him extremely popular among the people.

Marx – ranked one of the most important thinkers of 1800’s. He was very influential through his books, *The Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital* which helped shape the political and economical system known as Communism. He believed that Capitalism would eventually fall and Communism would rise.



Alexander Kerensky



Karl Marx



Vladimir Lenin



Tsar Nicolas II



Joseph Stalin

FAMOUS FACES



Leon Trotsky

Trotsky became a leader of the Menshevik party in 1903 and was later elected president of the St. Petersburg Soviets (SPS) in 1905. He and other members of the SPS were arrested and deported to Siberia. In 1917 Trotsky escaped and joined the Bolshevik party and later in 1918 he established the red army and led them to victory.



General Lavr Kornilov

Kornilov was the leader of the constitutional democrats. He desired to reconstruct the provisional government. With his plan to reconstruct in mind he sent troops to Petrograd which became known as the "Kornilov Affair." Kerensky feared Kornilov would establish a dictatorship so he dismissed and later arrested him.



Prince Georgi Lvov

Lvov was the first prime minister in the Duma. Lvov believed that Russia must stay firm in all international obligations. Since Lvov's government decided not to withdraw from the war there were many anti-war demonstrations which eventually brought his government down.



Rasputin

Rasputin was a mystic to whom the tsarina, Alexandra went to for healing powers for her hemophiliac son, Alexis. Rasputin manipulated Alexandra and practically controlled the government through her. Rasputin was assassinated in December of 1916.