



# Russian Revolution

History 12

By Mj Cournoyer

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# Introduction

- The **Russian Revolution** took place in 1917 when the peasants and working people of **Russia** revolted against the government of Tsar Nicholas II. They were led by Vladimir Lenin and a group called the Bolsheviks. The new communist government created the country of the Soviet Union.





# Timeline Of Russian Revolution

Important Events!



# Communists In Russia Formed The Social Democratic Party ( 1900)

- Due to the turmoil and exploitation of workers, communists in Russia formed this party
- This party helped promote the idea of a new government ( Communism). Promotion of communism causes influence for some citizens, which could therefore lead to action to obtain this idea ( revolution)
- In 1903 this party would split into two groups called the Mensheviks and the Bolsheviks that are key groups in events following the March Revolution that is soon to come



## Russia Loses War To Japan ( 1904-1905)

- In Russia's involvement in the Russo-Japanese War, Russia lost the battle with terrible casualties.
- This demonstrated incompetence in Russia's leadership and undermined regimes' political authority. As a result, Russian citizens started to demand for political change which increased support for a revolution and change.
- The war happened because the Russian Empire and Japanese Empire disagreed over who should get parts of Manchuria and Korea. It was fought mostly on the Liaodong Peninsula and Mukden, the seas around Korea, Japan, and the Yellow Sea.





## Bloody Sunday (1905)

- In January 22, 1905 a priest named father George Gapon (who formed the assembly of Russian workers) led many starving dissatisfied workers to the winter palace to beg the tsar to help. As a result, the tsar ordered his troops to shoot them resulting in 130 killed and 100 wounded.
- 'Bloody Sunday' began as a protest by Russian industrial workers, who endured low wages, poor conditions and appalling treatment from employers. 2. Their conditions worsened in 1904 due to the Russo-Japanese War and an economic recession. This led to the formation of workers' sections.
- This event led to more strikes taking place following it, middle class workers establishing the cadet (constitutional Democratic Party), the creation of a legislative assembly called the Duma.



# Following Strikes ( 1910-1914)

- From 1910 to 1914 there had been numerous strikes ( around 4000 strikes)
- These strikes influenced many into wanting change especially the middle class people as the lack of freedom angered them as well as their chances of rising to significant posts in government were extremely slim.
- Simply put, these strikes promoted change, the idea of communism and revolution

# Russia Involved in WW1 (1914)

- Russia entered World War I in August 1914, drawn into the conflict by the alliance system and its promises of support to Serbia.
- Minor victories were won at the start, but ensued were numerous defeats with Russian armies suffering terrible casualties. Demoralization soon followed yet again.
- From these losses and demoralization of the troops, Russian citizens started to grow anti-war feelings (again)
- Support for change in government grew and indirectly revolution was slightly implied and prompted





# Russia Involved in WW1 Cont...(1915)

- During all this chaos, Russia suffered a decline in industrial output ( around a 50% decline). Inflation of products ( this took place between 1914-1917), and the “ indigenous” Tsar foolishly making himself the supreme commander of the armed forces.
- In being the commander of the armed forces, the Tsar was held responsible for the string of defeats which further increased support for change in government as this displayed/reminded to many Russian citizens that the Tsar is very incompetent in making beneficial decisions for his country.
- Inflation and decreased industrial output also increased support for change, revolution and a communist government.

# Russia Involved in WW1 Cont... (1916)

- Rasputin caused more criticism for the Tsar and his family as his influence in government greatly angered the court nobility, He was murdered in December 1916
- This damage from Rasputin on the Tsar and his image further increased influence amongst the people for change by any means such as revolution which soon develops.



# March Revolution (1917)

- On March 8 1917, a significant unplanned revolution was taking place. It began with 90000 textile workers protesting about shortage of supplies that led to more workers striking ( around 400,000 strikers) and troops shooting their officers. Ultimately, it led to the abdication of the Tsar on March 15, 1917.
- It was these series of protests and strikes during this one week which pushed the Tsar into abdicating the throne and ending Tsarist Government control.
- From the Tsar abdication and surrender of the throne, the Duma stepped in with several leading members of the Duma to become a Provisional Government and ending the Romanov dynasty.



# Mensheviks and the socialist revolutionaries (SRs) (1917)

- At a time after the March Revolution, both parties the Mensheviks and the SRs, won a majority of the delegates to the Petrograd Soviet.
- This event helped lead to another revolution (a bolshevik revolution) as Stalin, leader of the Bolsheviks, was angry with the Mensheviks and SRs. This angered Lenin which would cause him to take matters into his own hands and impose Bolshevik ideals and a Bolshevik revolution.







# April Theses (1917)

- In April 1917, Lenin returned to Russia from Germany and outlined a set of new policies that they should follow called the “April Theses”. Its goals can be summarized by Lenin’s slogan of “Peace, Bread, and Land” and “All Power to the Soviets”.
- It was Lenin’s return as well as his influential and inspirational words that greatly influenced the people into supporting Bolshevik’s ideals.
- Theses were mostly aimed at fellow Bolsheviks in Russia and returning to Russia from exile.
- Support was gained for the Bolsheviks which helps a revolution become successful and develop.

# Provisional Government Makes Mistakes (1917)

- The main mistake the provisional government made was the offensive they launched at the end of June. It setback the government as desertions were increasing by the thousands. As a result more criticism of the government increased as their disliked decisions caused a great loss in support.
- With the Bolshevik support increasing as a result from the provisional government's actions chances for a successful revolution increased as with more support the more demonstrators and aid the people can supply during the revolution.



# Kornilov Affair (1917)

- In September 1917, General Kornilov, commander of the Russian armies, ordered his troops to crush the soviet and the government of socialists. Kerensky then released Bolsheviks from goal to help defend the government. They managed to persuade Kornilov's army to desert.
- Kornilov attempted to gain control of the Russian Provisional Government, which was headed by Alexander Kerensky. The coup began in late August when Vladimir Lvov told Kornilov about Kerensky's proposed strategies to fortify the government.
- With the Bolshevik support increasing as a result from the provisional government's actions chances for a successful revolution increased as with more support the more demonstrators and aid the people can supply during the revolution.



# November Revolution (1917)



- The **revolution of November 1918** was a consequence of the military defeat of the German Empire in the First World War and was triggered by the naval mutiny at the beginning of **November 1918**.
- On the night of November 6-7, 1917 the Reds ( Bolshevik Red Guards) seized the telegraph office, stations, bridges and government building in Petrograd. In Moscow it took a week of fighting with 200 killed until the city was taken and Lenin controlled the heartland of Russia
- After most of European Russia was under bolshevik control Lenin announced two decrees that basically state that land would be given to the peasants and that Russia be pulled out of the Great War on the eastern front.
- Trotsky who had joined in 1917 planned out the details for the revolution making it certain to occur and succeed



# The Ending Of The Revolution

- The white army represented a large group of loosely allied forces, including monarchists, capitalists and supporters of democratic socialism. On July 16th, 1918, the Romanovs were executed by the Bolsheviks. The Russian civil war ended in 1923 when Lenin's Red Army claimed victory and established the Soviet Union.



# Impact of The Russian Revolution

- After the revolution, Russia exited World War I by signing a peace treaty with Germany called the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The new government took control of all industry and moved the Russian economy from a rural one to an industrial one. It also seized farmland from landholders and distributed it among the peasants. Women were given equal rights to those of men and religion was banned from many aspects of society.
- The Russian Revolution paved the way for the rise of communism as an influential political belief system around the world. It set the stage for the rise of the Soviet Union as a world power that would go head-to-head with the United States during the Cold War.
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# Interesting Facts About The Revolution

- For 303 years the Russian Tsar came from the House of Romanov. Although the February Revolution began on March 8 according to our calendar, it was February 23 on the Russian (Julian) calendar. Sometimes the Bolshevik Revolution is referred to as the October Revolution. The main leaders of the Bolsheviks were Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, and Leon Trotsky. After Lenin died in 1924, Stalin consolidated power and forced Trotsky out. Tsar Nicholas II and his entire family were executed by the Bolsheviks on July 17, 1918.

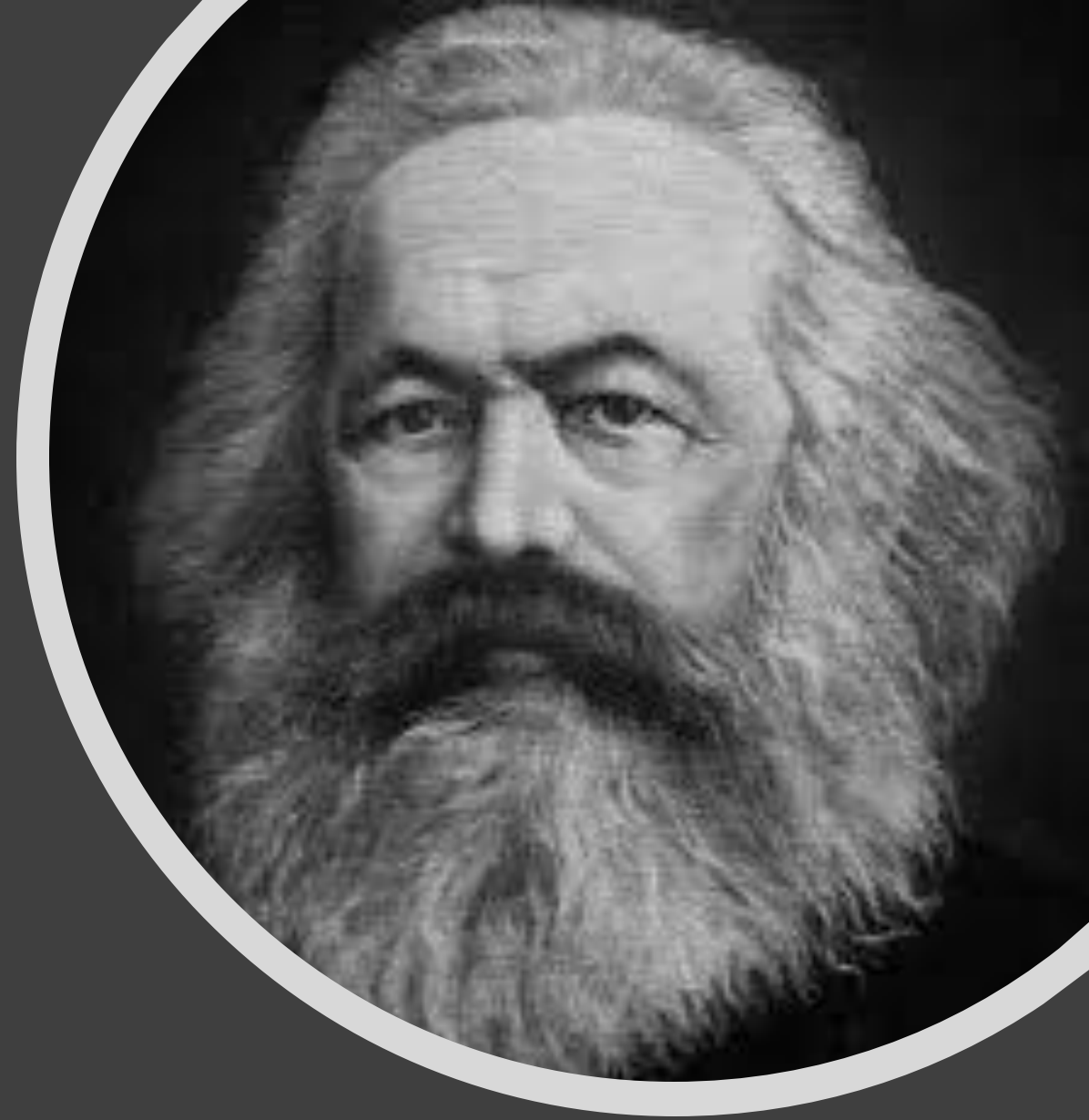


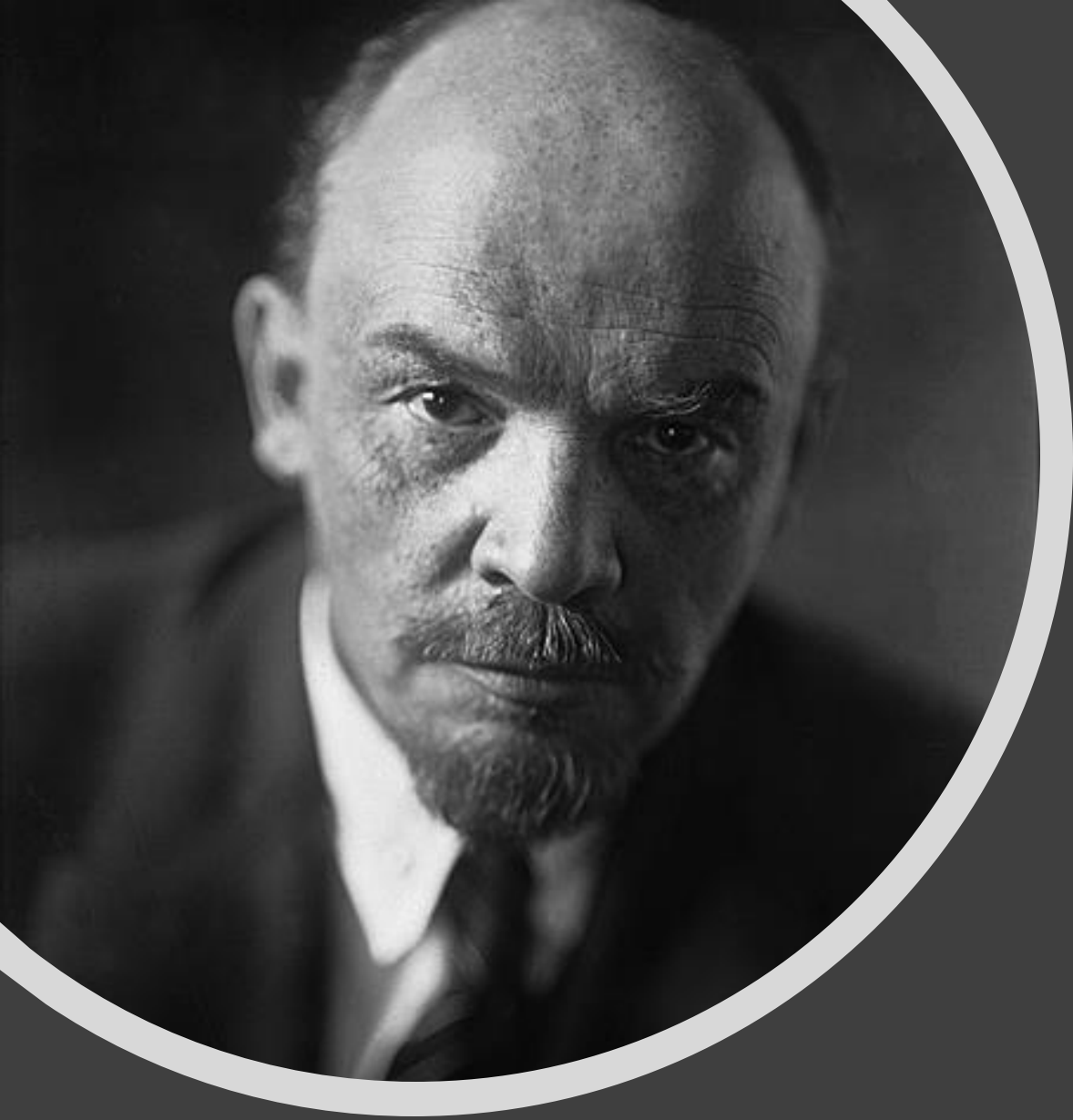
# Important People During The Revolution



# Karl Marx (1848)

- Karl Marx born, May 5th 1818 and died March 14th 1883, began exploring sociopolitical theories at university among the Young Hegelians. He became a journalist, and his socialist writings would get him expelled from Germany and France. In 1848, he published *The Communist Manifesto* with Friedrich Engels and was exiled to London, where he wrote the first volume of *Das Kapital* and lived the remainder of his life.
- In 1848 Karl Marx, wrote this book named the “communist” manifesto and it was published in 1867. the *Manifesto* was later recognised as one of the world's most influential political documents.
- This helped lead to the revolution as it promoted the idea of communism and demonstrated a new way of being governed it also promoted overall change for the better ( in Karl Marx's perspective)





# Vladimir Lenin

Vladimir Lenin, born April 22, 1870 and died January 21, 1924 founded the Russian Communist Party, led the Bolshevik Revolution and was the architect of the Soviet state. He was the posthumous source of "Leninism," the doctrine codified and conjoined with Marx's works by Lenin's successors to form Marxism-Leninism, which became the Communist worldview. He has been regarded as the greatest revolutionary leader and thinker since Marx.



# Joseph Stalin

- Joseph Stalin born December 18th, 1878 and died March 5th 1953 ruled the Soviet Union for more than two decades, instituting a reign of death and terror while modernizing Russia and helping to defeat Nazism.
- Joseph Stalin rose to power as General Secretary of the Communist Party in Russia, becoming a Soviet dictator after the death of Vladimir Lenin. Stalin forced rapid industrialization and the collectivization of agricultural land, resulting in millions dying from famine while others were sent to labor camps. His Red Army helped defeat Nazi Germany during World War II.





# Grigori Rasputin

- Rasputin born January 21st, 1869 and assassinated December 30th 1916 is best known for his role as a mystical adviser in the court of Czar Nicholas II of Russia.
- After failing to become a monk, Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin became a wanderer and eventually entered the court of Czar Nicholas II because of his alleged healing abilities. Known for his prophetic powers, he became a favorite of the Nicholas's wife, Alexandra Feodorovna, but his political influence was minor. Rasputin became swept up in the events of the Russian Revolution and met a brutal death at the hands of assassins in 1916.

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# Nicholas II of Russia

- Nicholas II born May 18th, 1868 and assassinated on July 17th 1918 was the last tsar of Russia under Romanov rule. His poor handling of Bloody Sunday and Russia's role in World War I led to his abdication and execution.
- Nicholas II inherited the throne when his father, Alexander III, died in 1894. Although he believed in an autocracy, he was eventually forced to create an elected legislature. Nicholas II's handling of Bloody Sunday and World War I incensed his subjects and led to his abdication. Bolsheviks executed him and his family on the night of July 16-17, 1918, in Yekaterinburg, Russia.







**Thanks For Watching!**

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