

The Bolshevik Revolution

I. Background

A. Problems in Russia

- Rigid class system and absolute monarch autocratic government
- Failure to modernize and industrialize
- Pogroms- violent attacks on Jewish communities
- Sunday, January 22, 1905 - peaceful protestors led by a priest petition the tsar. The tsar orders his troops to shoot = Bloody Sunday

II. March Revolution

A. In March 1917, Russians defeats in WWI combined with shortages of food, oil and housing sparked a revolt.

B. Rioters in the streets demanded food and the czar's troops refused to shoot them.



C. Czar Nicholas abdicates (gave up his rule in) in March 1917

II. Failure of the Provisional ~~Temporary~~ Government

A. Middle class liberals planned to write a constitution and promised legal reforms

B. It continued to wage war against Germany

C. It implemented only moderate reforms which did little to end the problems facing peasants and workers.

III. Lenin Gains Support

A. The provisional government sets up soviets or councils of workers and soldiers which are soon taken over by Communists

B. Lenin gains support of the people by making promises of "Peace", Bread, Land, and Communists

C. November 1917 - the Bolsheviks lead the soldiers, sailors and factory workers in an uprising that overthrew the provisional govt

- Bolsheviks (now called Communists) distribute land to peasants and give workers control of the factories and mines.

- Communists still face a struggle to fix Russia.

IV. Russia Under Lenin

A. Treaty of Brest-Litovsk - ends war with Germany but Russia loses land

B. Russia's Civil War



1. From 19¹⁸ to 19²¹, Lenin's ^{RED} Army battles the forces of the czar called the ^{WHITES}
2. Both sides use ^{brutal} tactics including the execution of ^{Czar + the family}
3. ^{Britain, France, & USA} send troops to help the ^{czar} which increases Russian ^{nationalism}
4. An effective Red Army led by Leon Trotsky ^{defeat} its enemies in 1921.

C. One Party Government

1. The government has a ^{constitution} and an ^{elected} legislature.
2. The ^{Communist} Party is the only ^{legal} party and only its ^{members} could run for office.

* D. New Economic Policy (NEP)

1. During the civil war the Bolshevik leaders had taken over ^{banks, mines, & factories} which resulted in ^{economic crisis}
2. 1921 Lenin adopts the NEP in which some ^{private} business was allowed. These helped the economy ^{recover}

RR - command economy

E. The Soviet Union

1. By 1922 Lenin and the Communists control much of the old Russian empire which they called the ^{Union} of ^{Soviet Socialist Republics}
2. Russian controlled the other states in the Union.

USSR

*****In 1924 Lenin ^{dies}*****



Karl

Differences between Marx and Lenin

Marx	Lenin (and Trotsky)
• ^{Factory / Urban} workers will rise up and overthrow the ^{capitalists} ^{factory owners}	• Russian didn't have a large ^{population of workers} so an elite group called Bolsheviks would guide the revolution. ↳ world made revolution