

## The Bolshevik Revolution

### I. Background

#### A. Problems in Russia

- a. Rigid class system and autocratic government
- b. Failure to modernize and industrialize
- c. Pogroms- violent attacks on Jewish communities
- d. 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 defeat 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 Government

A. Middle class 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 " Bread, Land, and Peace.

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

1. Bolsheviks (now called communist) distribute land to peasants, and give workers control of the factories and mines.
2. 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

- From 19<sup>18</sup> to 19<sup>21</sup>, Lenin's <sup>RED</sup> Army battles the forces of the czar called the <sup>WHTITES</sup>
- Both sides use <sup>BNTL</sup> tactics including the execution of <sup>CZAR + THE FAMILY</sup>
- <sup>BRITAIN FRANCE USA</sup> send troops to help the <sup>CZAR</sup> which increases Russian <sup>NATIONALISM</sup>
- An effective Red Army led by Leon Trotsky <sup>defeat</sup> its enemies in 1921.

#### C. One Party Government

- The government has a <sup>constitution</sup> and an <sup>elected</sup> legislature.
- The <sup>COMMUNISTS</sup> Party is the only <sup>legal</sup> party and only its <sup>members</sup> could run for office.

#### D. New Economic Policy (NEP)

- During the civil war the Bolshevik leaders had taken over <sup>banks mines</sup> and <sup>factories</sup> which resulted in <sup>ECONOMIC CRISIS</sup>
- 1921 Lenin adopts the NEP in which some <sup>private</sup> business was allowed. These helped the economy <sup>recover</sup>.

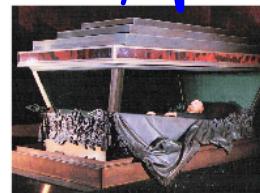
RR - command economy

#### E. The Soviet Union

USSR

- By 1922 Lenin and the Communists control much of the old Russian empire which they called the <sup>Union</sup> of <sup>Soviet Socialist Republics</sup> or Soviet Union.
- Russia controlled the other states in the Union.

\*\*\*\*\* In 1924 Lenin dies \*\*\*\*\*



Karl

#### Differences between Marx and Lenin

Marx	Lenin (and Trotsky)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factory / Urban workers will rise up and overthrow the Capitalists</li> <li>Factory owners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Russia didn't have a large population of workers so an elite group called Bolsheviks would guide the revolution.</li> </ul> <p>→ World wide revolution</p>