

Lesson #77 U.S. History

Russian Revolutions

The Russian Revolution began on March 8 / February 23, 1917. Collapse of the Russian Army and government had the Tsar abdicate on March 12, 1917. The Provisional government took power with no single party in a majority between the Mensheviks, Bolsheviks, Anarchist, aristocrats, capitalist, centralist, social democrats, constitutionalist democrats and liberals. Alexander Kerensky was made Minister of War.

The Germans saw an opportunity to remove Russia from the war with Lenin. Lenin was a follower of Marxist theory. Lenin modified the revolution of the proletariat to one of professional revolutionaries. He was approached by the Germans and agreed to have them move him across Germany in a sealed train. He arrived in Russia with funds to win support of the workers with the slogan of "Peace, Bread, Land". He delivered **the April Thesis:**

1. End war
2. No support for Provisional Government
3. Confiscate
4. Nationalize
5. Workers councils
6. Militia instead of police
7. Land centralized

The July coup failed and that sent Lenin off to Finland to hide. After General Kornilov put down the '**Days of July**' he set his sights on the Provisional Government called the Kornilov Affair. Kerensky asked the Bolsheviks for help against Kornilov. This set the stage for the Reds to take power.

Kerensky tried to motivate the army with putting women into combat units. This failed to have the desired effect during the Kerensky Offensive. The Bolsheviks used this to grab control on November 6/7 – October 24/25, 1917 by locking out their opposition parties. October Revolution (November) - Julian calendar 12 days behind Gregorian

Bolsheviks took Power:

First free assembly lasted 12 hours

Bolsheviks polled 24% - SR polled 39% - Mensheviks 3% - Kadets 5%
At protest of students and workers the Red Guard open fire from rooftops

Karl Marx & Frederick Engels – communism

Communist Manifest and Das Kapital

Dialectical Materialism

Thesis = anti-thesis = synthesis = repeat

1. Struggle against bourgeoisie
2. Revolution inevitable
3. Triumph of masses

Stages of Struggle

1. Primitive – slave vs. master
2. Slave – Plebeian vs. Patrician
3. Feudalism – serf vs. Lord
4. Capitalism – Proletariat vs. Bourgeoisie

Marx's system was modified to Lenin's belief in professional revolutionaries.

Marxist Theory

1. workers lead revolution
2. urban areas
3. bourgeois
4. capitalism

Lenin's Theory

1. peasantry
2. temporary dictatorship
3. workers
 - a. conditions
 - b. wages
 - c. 1st strictest secrecy
 - d. 2nd strictest selection of members

The new leaders Lenin, Trotsky, Grigory Zinoviev, Lev Kamenev, Stalin, Grigory Sokolnikov, and Andrei Bubnov

Soviets = worker councils – Petrograd 51% Bolsheviks setup by Leon Trotsky

Order #1 told soldiers not to follow orders of officers

Bolsheviks – majority (actual minority)

Mensheviks – minority (actual majority)

Spreading Revolution

Peace split Bolsheviks

One Nation at a time

Lenin – Stalin and Zinoviev for peace and one country at a time away from World

World Revolution

Trotsky said to just withdraw if Germans attack it would be an act of aggression against a Peaceful nation. Lenin wanted out of War with Germany so that he could fight and win a civil war

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk 1918 gave Germany

- 1.8 sq. kilometer
- 62 million individuals
- 32% of agriculture land
- 54% on industry
- 89% of coalmines

Lenin – supported state terror

Political criminals

- Compulsory work to rehabilitation
- Capital punishment supreme measure
- Punishment became correction
- Prison became a place of detention

Thieves (Criminals) “Thieves in Law”

Criminal not a problem – bourgeois are the enemies of the State – thieves, pickpockets and murders were potential allies

Labor Camps under Tsar were turned into harsh **Gulags** camps

1919 March Decree – legalized labor camps

1919 = 21 camps

1921 established Northern Labor Camps

1920 = 107 camps – 84 camps

1921 = 117 camps

1922 = started force labor camps

1923 = 315 camps

War on Kulaks

Anyone with a good garden, well off, lent money to neighbor – peasants seen as capitalist and kulaks the worst.

Civil War

War Communism

Famine – 20 million

Trotsky used Tsar officers (50,000) to rebuild the Red Army – loyalty insured with families held as hostages – all officers watched by Commissars with a pistol.

Special Order #30

“Let the turncoats relies, that they are at the same time betraying their own... fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, wives, and children.”

Inflation:

Intervention: Western Powers and Japan

1917 printing money was a growth industry with 3,000 employees

1918 there were 13,55 employees printing 225 billion in money

Churchill sent 50,000 poison gas shells to White Armies and 2,717 were used

Red Terror 1918 - Sovnarkom Decree – official start of Terror January 14, 1918.

Lenin’s mistress was one those taken care of first

To stop counter revolutionaries – right to execute on spot

Purge – wiped out whole families 30,000 peasants killed

Lenin order the rich to dig toilets to make them uncomfortable to lose the desire to be bourgeois

War Communism – Army and Factories are first in line – others can starve

Cheka = secret police – Troikas a group of three (Judge, Jury and Executioner) Individual were shot on the spot. Replace the Okhrana Cheka = GPU = OGPU = NKVD = KGB =FSB today

Terror used to turn peasant against each other poorer against better off with Committees of Poor hunting for hidden grain. These groups came from cities and began pillage rural areas which caused rebellion and further attacks. Lenin “scapegoated” Kulaks as “tight-fisted” bourgeois and blamed them for food shortage. The head of Cheka was Felx Dzerzhinsky a ruthless murderer.

“No compromise, No half-way measures are permissible” Lenin wanted total extermination of elite and to wipe out social groups – it did not matter if one agreed or not – if in group – death Lenin said hang individuals for the people to see we are in charge

Lenin told Stalin to be more merciless – Molotov said Lenin was muck more harsher than Stalin

Kronstadt Naval Revolt – They help start revolution and Trotsky crushed with savagery

White Terror made up of individuals that did not work together

Jews suffered from the Okhrana secret police of Tsar *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*

By 1940 the Jews will be all but eliminated from the party.

White Armies – all wanted to control in the end

Gen. Laur Kornilov

Gen. Mikhail Alekseyev

Gen. Anton Denikin – one of the most brutal

Gen. N.N. Yudenich

Admiral A.V. Kolchak

Plus,

Czech Legion trying to get home

Red's = communist

Black = anarchists

Green = Peasants

White = monarchist

German Free Corps

Allied Troops

Lenin used French Revolution as a Model

Lenin became worried and set up NEP (New Economic Policy) in March 1921 Peasants allowed to grow food on a plot of land to sell at market.

COMMON FACTORS OF FRENCH and RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONS

FRENCH Revolution

1. Economic situation
2. Other war
 - Seven Years War
 - American Revolution
3. Corruption of Royals
 - Queen Marie Antoinette
4. Social Conflict – change
5. World Reaction
6. Power Struggle
 - Individuals
 - Groups
7. Impact and Effect
8. Intellectual Ideas
 - Sense of New Community

RUSSIAN Revolution

1. Economic situation
2. Other war
 - Crimean War
 - World War I
3. Corruption of Royals
 - Czarina Alexandra
4. Social Conflict – change
5. World Reaction
6. Power Struggle
 - Individuals
 - Groups
7. Impact and Effect
8. Intellectual Ideas
 - Sense of new Community

The One to the Few to the Many to Chaos to the ONE (Stalin)

The Orthodox Church was a threat to the Soviets of the 48,000 churches in 1917 only 7,000 survived to 1969. The murder of priest was in the 200,000 range and Jewish and Islamic religions suffered the same proportions.