

Revolution in Russia:

Key words: *Bolsheviks, SRs, Kadets, Kerensky, Lenin, October Revolution, Kornilov, Civil War, Reds Vs. Whites, War Communism, Tsarist family killed, Nationalization,*

Terms to define:



Capitalism:



Socialism:

Communism:

Bourgeoisie/Bourgeois:

Proletariat:

Bolshevik:

Soviet:

The Third International (=the Comintern):

Kulak:

Tsarist Russia:

Tsar Nicholas II Romanov (1894 – 1917):

Recall: The Russo–Japanese War (1904–1905), Bloody Sunday 1905 in St. Petersburg, Revolution 1905 – 1907, The October Manifesto (1905)

- the powers of the tsar were
- opposition: wanted system with an elected Parliament
- political groups: 1 – 4:

1. the **Social Revolutionaries** = **SRs** – The program of the SRs was both democratic socialist and agrarian socialist in nature, and gathered much support amongst Russia's rural peasantry. They asked for **division of land to peasant tenants** rather than collectivization in state management. Some of its members used terrorism against government and police officials, in 1881 assassinated Tsar Alexander II.

2. **Kadets** = The **Constitutional Democratic Party** = **Constitutional Democrats**. Russian **liberal** party founded in 1905. Members were mostly: They asked for non-violent democratization of the country.

Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party (RSDLP): established in 1898. RSDLP was a **Marxist Party**. They were in favour of a revolution led by industrial workers and peasants.

Karl Marx: was a German philosopher in the ... century. He asked for the ownership of land and factories (.....) **to be replaced** by the **shared ownership**. In a communist state, which would be brought about by the, all the means of production would be **owned by the community as a whole**.

K. Marx: “*Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. In it the proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. **Working men of all countries unite!***”

In 1903 RSDLP split into hostile 3. (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, alias)
and 4. **Menshevik** (Plechanov) political organizations.

The Mensheviks generally tended to be more moderate/radical (choose the correct one) and were more positive towards the "mainstream" liberal opposition. Bolsheviks were up to revolt (more radical than Mensheviks). Bolsheviks believed that the middle class in Russia was too weak to modernize Russia, because of that they argued that the workers would have to take the power in In 1918, Bolsheviks changed their name to ".....".

Revolutionary times in Russia:

- 1. **February Revolution in 1917:** In March 1917, demonstrations in Petrograd culminated in the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II and the appointment of a weak **Provisional** which shared power with the **Soviet socialists**.

Dual Power of: +

- Provisional Government: allowed free speech and release political prisoners

BUT: Problems of the Provisional Government:

- 1. decided to continue in Russia's involvement in the **war**
- 2. it also said that **land reform would have to wait** until the was over. As a result of this decision, rural soviets and individual peasant themselves began to take over large estates and to divide the land among them.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5. A network of Soviets was established – the **Petrograd Soviet** was an alternative government.



Lenin's April Theses:

- April 1917:** Lenin (on the picture) returned from exile and published his "**April Theses**" with slogans like: "**All power to the Soviets**" and "**Peace, Bread and Land**".
- Theses also urged Bolsheviks to take a **more revolutionary position**.
- At this time many factory workers and soldiers became more revolutionary. As a result, Mensheviks and SRs began to lose their seats to the Bolsheviks.

- The **Provisional Government** under **Alexander Kerensky** insisted on keeping Russia in the war. Opposition tried to overthrow Kerensky, but the effort was unsuccessful. Kerensky then banned the Bolsheviks, many of whom were imprisoned or escaped to Finland.

- **The Kornilov Affair = Kornilov Putsch (1917)**: was an attempted *coup d'état = putsch* by the the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army, General Lavr Kornilov, in August 1917 against the Russian Provisional Government headed by Alexander Kerensky. Kerensky panicked and was forced to release the Bolsheviks and seek support from them.
- The position of the Provisional Government was weakened/strengthened (choose the correct one) now
- This encouraged Lenin to plan the overthrow of Kerensky and his government.
- **Leon Trotsky** set up the **Red Guards** – a Bolshevik military force.
- In summer 1917 the Bolsheviks won control of the Soviets, and **Trotsky** was made Chairman of the **Petrograd Soviet** – main rival center to the Provisional Government

The October Revolution a.k.a. the Great October Socialist Revolution, Red October or the Bolshevik Revolution

- political revolution and a part of the Russian Revolution of 1917. The October Revolution in Petrograd overthrew the Russian Provisional Government and gave **the power to the local soviets dominated by Bolsheviks**.

In November 1917, the Bolsheviks' Red Guards, and about 20 000 workers and soldiers, took control of the main building in Petrograd, and **Kerensky fled**. More serious conflict followed in Moscow.



Course of events in St. Petersburg:

..... in St. Petersburg – seat of the Provisional Government: members of the Provisional government barricaded themselves in the Winter Palace. Cruiser began bombardment of the

Winter Palace as the Government refused an ultimatum to surrender. **In a few hours the Bolsheviks were in control of the palace.**

Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic = Soviet Russia (in Slovak „.....“): name of the country from the October Revolution to the creation of the Soviet Union in 1922

Russian Civil War (1918–1921):

- on the way to the civil war:
Council of People's Commissars: government – was purely Bolshevik with Lenin as a Chairman, Prime Minister.

Constituent Assembly (elections arranged during Kerensky's government): Bolsheviks won only 175 out of 717 seats. This Assembly met in January 1918 and immediately refused to accept the new Soviet government. Some right SRs (SRs divided into right and left earlier) and Kadets had begun taking military action against the Council. Therefore: **Lenin ordered Red Guards to close the Assembly, after one day of its activity.**

- The Bolsheviks became the **Communist Party (change of name in March 1918)**, **the only** legal party in Russia

The civil war: Reds Vs. Whites (the colour of the tsarist state)

The Communists = Reds		Whites
Trotsky created a Red Army from Red Guards, workers and ex-soldiers	X	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

- The Whites were **helped by 14 nations**, including **Britain, France, the USA, Japan, Poland**,...
- **Czechoslovak legion**: took control of the Trans-Siberian Railway and joined White Guards in the east. Members of the legion were afraid, that the Communists were about to hand them over to the Germans, so they **revolted and took over a large part of Asian Russia.**
- **1919 was a critical year**: the Bolsheviks faced many attacks on all fronts, but these attacks were not coordinated and the Red Army was able to defeat each one. **At the end of 1919, most of foreign forces were withdrawn from Russia.**

Why the Communists won in the Civil War?: 1-5:

1.
2.
3. The Reds controlled the ... of Russia: it was easier for them to use the railway to supply their different armies. They also held the main industrial centers.
4. Many nationalist Russians resented the fact that the Whites relied on foreign armies

5. So-called "**War Communism**":

5a. Farms and factories were put under state control – private trade was *allowed/banned* (choose the correct one) = **NATIONALIZATION**

5b. Food was taken for soldiers and industrial workers – peasants who refused to hand it over to the Red Army were or

5c. The **Secret Police – CHEKA** – hunted and executed any enemies of the state. CHEKA was established by Lenin (Lenin also set up labour camps).

5d. Industrial workers were not allowed to strike or be absent from work.

5e. Everyone between 16-60 had to work except for the sick and pregnant women.

Other events:

- **The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, March 1918:**

The Bolsheviks decided to lose some land in order to keep the results of the Revolution alive. Russia lost lots of land under the treaty – 1/3 of its wheat-growing areas, 1/3 of its railways, ¼ of its population and ¾ of its heavy industry.

- **The Russo-Polish War (1920-1921):** Poland invaded Russia to gain more land. The treaty from 1921 gave Poland a large area of Russian land.

- **The Tsar and his family killed:** When and Why?

