

Name:

Date:

Class:

Block #:

### Russian Revolution

EQ: How did Russia change politically and economically during the World War I era?

#### Czars Resist Change; Russia Industrializes:

In 1881, Czar Alexander II was killed by radical students. The new czar, Alexander III, stopped reforms. He cracked down on anyone who seemed to threaten his government. He also mistreated non-Russian peoples who lived within the Russian empire, especially Jews. Nicholas II, the son of Alexander III, continued his father's firm rule.

In the late 1800s, Russia started a buildup of industry. It quickly became a leading producer of steel. Russia also built the Trans-Siberian Railway—the longest continuous rail line in the world.

Working conditions were poor, wages were low, and children were forced to work. Workers, called the **proletariat** by revolutionaries, grew angry. Some revolutionary groups wanted to overthrow the government. Some followed the teachings of Karl Marx. One group—the **Bolsheviks**—was led by Lenin. He fled Russia a few years later to wait to put forth his ideas.

1. How would you describe the Czar's rule?
2. What is the proletariat?
3. Who are the Bolsheviks?
4. What was life like in Russia?

#### Crisis at Home and Abroad:

In early 1905, the Russian army killed hundreds of hungry workers who had peacefully gathered to ask for relief. Strikes spread in protest. Nicholas was forced to allow some reforms to take place. He approved the creation of the Duma, Russia's first parliament.

The suffering of World War I was the final blow against the czar. As the war worsened, the czar lost control. Soldiers refused to fight, prices shot sky high, and people starved. Meanwhile, his wife fell under the influence of an odd monk named **Rasputin**. He spread corruption throughout the government.

5. What is the Duma?
6. Who is Rasputin?
7. What crisis did Russia face?

#### The March Revolution; The Bolshevik Revolution

In March 1917, the czar was forced to step down. A year later, he and his family were executed. A **provisional government** led by Alexander Kerensky was formed. Kerensky hoped to keep Russia in the war. The decision cost him the support of soldiers who no longer wanted to fight. He also lost the support of workers and peasants who wanted an end to food shortages. Across the country, these forces formed local councils called **soviets**. In the middle of all this, Lenin returned to Russia.

Lenin's slogan "Peace, Land, and Bread" was soon taken up by many people. In November 1917, armed workers took control of government offices. Kerensky's power ended.

To win the peasants' support, Lenin ordered all farmland be given to them. Workers were given control of the factories. Soon, Lenin agreed to a peace treaty with Germany. The treaty gave away large amounts of Russian land, but it ended the war. Then, forces opposed to Lenin's revolution tried to defeat the Bolshevik army. The civil war lasted two years. The fighting and the famine that followed killed about 14 million Russians. In the end, Lenin's Red Army won.

8. Who led the provisional government?
9. What is a soviet?
10. Why do you think Lenin chose this slogan?
11. What crisis did Russia face?
12. Who led the Bolsheviks?

Lenin restores order: Stalin becomes Dictator

In 1921, Lenin started a new plan to rebuild the Russian economy. It allowed for some private ownership of property. He also changed the government to form a new nation—the Soviet Union. It would be run by the leaders of the Communist Party. By the late 1920s, the Soviet economy had recovered. Farms and factories were producing as much as they had before World War I. After Lenin’s death, Joseph Stalin took power.

- 13. What is Russia’s new name?
- 14. Who ran the new government?
- 15. Who took over after Lenin died?

Pulse Check Questions:

16. How did each of the following help to ignite the full-scale revolution?	
a. Policies of the czars	
b. World War I	
c. The March Revolution	

17. How did each of the following help the Bolsheviks gain and hold political control?	
a. November 1917 Revolution	
b. Civil War in Russia	

18. What role did each of the following play in the Russian Revolution?	
a. Karl Marx	
b. Vladimir Lenin	

Timeline:

**Directions:** Put the below events in chronological order.

- 1894 Czar Nicholas II crowned
- 1905 Bloody Sunday
- 1905 Creation of the Duma
- 1914-1918 World War I
- March 1917 Czar abdicates/March Revolution
- November 1917 Start of Bolshevik Revolution
- March 1918 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- 1918 Creation of the Communist Party
- 1922 USSR established
- 1924 Joseph Stalin takes power

