




The Russian Revolution Worksheet

Why was there a Revolution in Russia in 1917?	
<p>Tsarist Russia</p> <p>Until 1917, Russia was ruled by a Tsar. Nicholas II had become Tsar in 1894. He was an autocrat (a ruler who has absolute control over the country). People who spoke out against the government were sent to prison. Rioters were attacked by the Cossacks (Russian soldiers).</p> <p>In 1905 there had been a revolution against the rule of the Tsar. In order to keep his position, Nicholas had been forced to accept a Duma (parliament) but nothing really changed, Nicholas kept power and if members of the Duma disagreed with him they were sent away.</p>	 <p>Nicholas II</p>
<p>In 1914 Germany declared war on Russia and in 1915, Nicholas took control of the army. The Russians faced a series of defeats and Nicholas was blamed. While Nicholas was at the front fighting the war his wife Alexandra was left in charge of the country. She was very influenced by the holy man Rasputin. People resented the influence of Rasputin and he was murdered. The Romanoffs were very unpopular. By 1917 there were food and fuel shortages. High unemployment meant that huge numbers of people were living in poverty. People were dying.</p>	
 <p>Karl Marx</p>	<p>Communism</p> <p>Karl Marx (1818-1883) had said that industrialisation had made the middle classes rich and powerful but had made the workers slaves. He said that the workers should rebel and take power away from the rich. He believed that nothing should be privately owned and that everything should be commonly owned. This theory is called communism. A group of people called the Bolsheviks believed that the royal family should be overthrown and communism introduced.</p>
<p>The leader of the Bolsheviks was Vladimir Lenin but he had been forced to leave Russia to avoid being imprisoned. Lenin continued to be leader of the Bolsheviks while in exile – publishing communist leaflets and raising money for their cause. He also spoke against the war.</p>	
<p>The February Revolution</p> <p>In February 1917 people rioted on the streets in Russia. They were joined by soldiers and members of the Duma. Nicholas II was forced to abdicate and a new government called the provisional government took over. Many Bolsheviks, including Joseph Stalin believed that the Russian people would not accept a Socialist government and supported the provisional government led by Alexander Kerensky who became President of Russia. The workers, soldiers and peasants elected their own councils called Soviets. The Soviets were as powerful as the government.</p>	
<p>The October Revolution</p> <p>Kerensky had not ended the war as the people had hoped but had planned a new offensive against the Germans. Soldiers began deserting and returning to their homes. Many of them used their weapons to take land from the rich.</p> <p>In April 1917, Lenin returned from exile. He was angry that Russia was still fighting in the war and that many Bolsheviks supported the provisional government. Joseph Stalin had to decide whether to oppose Lenin or whether to abandon his support for the provisional government.</p>	 <p>Vladimir Ilich Lenin</p>
<p>He chose to support Lenin and on 24th October the Bolsheviks seized the Winter Palace, the headquarters of the provisional government. In December 1917 Lenin signed the treaty of Brest-Litovsk which took Russia out of the war. In 1918, the Russian royal family were murdered by the Bolsheviks.</p>	
<p>Civil War</p> <p>Many Russians did not support the Bolshevik government and tried to oppose the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks were known as the 'reds' those that opposed them were known as the 'whites'. There was civil war between the reds and whites. Armies from Britain, France and America supported the whites but the Bolsheviks were more powerful and by 1922 the Bolsheviks were in charge of Russia.</p>	

The Russian Revolution Worksheet is a valuable educational resource designed to help students understand the complex events that led to the transformation of Russia in the early 20th century. The Russian Revolution, which occurred in 1917, consisted of two major events: the February Revolution and the October Revolution. These revolutions resulted in the overthrow of the Tsarist autocracy and the establishment of the Soviet Union, a significant turning point in world history. This article will explore the causes, key events, major figures, and the consequences of the Russian Revolution, while also providing insights on how to effectively utilize a worksheet for studying this crucial historical moment.

Causes of the Russian Revolution

Understanding the causes of the Russian Revolution is essential to grasping its significance. Various factors contributed to the widespread discontent that sparked the revolution, including:

1. Political Factors

- Autocratic Rule: The Tsar, Nicholas II, ruled with absolute power, which alienated many segments of society.
- Lack of Political Reform: The failure to implement meaningful reforms led to widespread frustration among the populace.
- Ineffective Leadership: Nicholas II's inability to address the needs and demands of the people compounded the unrest.

2. Economic Factors

- Industrialization: Rapid industrial growth led to poor working conditions, low wages, and a burgeoning urban working class that felt exploited.
- Agrarian Distress: The majority of Russians were peasants who faced land shortages, poor harvests, and oppressive taxation.
- World War I: The war strained the economy, leading to food shortages, inflation, and significant loss of life, which intensified public dissatisfaction with the government.

3. Social Factors

- Class Struggle: The divide between the wealthy elite and the impoverished masses created an environment ripe for revolution.

- Rise of Revolutionary Ideologies: Marxism and other revolutionary ideas gained popularity, particularly among intellectuals and workers seeking change.
- Influence of the Intelligentsia: Educated Russians began to advocate for reforms and political change, inspiring revolutionary fervor.

Key Events of the Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution unfolded in two distinct phases, each marked by significant events that shaped the course of history.

1. The February Revolution

The February Revolution (March 1917 in the Gregorian calendar) was the first phase of the Russian Revolution, leading to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II.

- Outbreak of Protests: On International Women's Day (March 8), women in Petrograd (St. Petersburg) led demonstrations demanding bread and peace.
- Escalation of Strikes: Workers joined the protests, leading to widespread strikes and unrest in the city.
- Military Mutiny: Soldiers, initially sent to suppress the protests, began to side with the demonstrators, effectively undermining the Tsar's authority.
- Abdication of the Tsar: On March 15, 1917, Nicholas II abdicated the throne, marking the end of over three centuries of Romanov rule.

2. The October Revolution

The October Revolution (November 1917 in the Gregorian calendar) was the second phase of the

revolution, resulting in the Bolsheviks seizing power.

- Formation of the Provisional Government: After the February Revolution, a provisional government was established but struggled to address key issues like land reform and the continuation of World War I.
- Rise of the Bolsheviks: Led by Vladimir Lenin, the Bolsheviks gained popular support by promising "peace, land, and bread."
- Storming of the Winter Palace: On October 25, 1917, Bolshevik forces stormed the Winter Palace, the seat of the provisional government, effectively taking control of the country.
- Establishment of a Soviet Government: The Bolsheviks quickly moved to consolidate their power, leading to the withdrawal from World War I and the nationalization of land and industries.

Major Figures of the Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution was shaped by several key figures whose ideas and actions influenced the course of events.

1. Tsar Nicholas II

- Last Emperor of Russia: Nicholas II's reign saw the fall of the Romanov dynasty.
- Failure to Adapt: His resistance to political reform and inability to manage the crises of his time led to his downfall.

2. Vladimir Lenin

- Leader of the Bolsheviks: Lenin was a key architect of the October Revolution and played a crucial role in establishing the Soviet state.

- Ideological Influence: His interpretation of Marxism laid the groundwork for Soviet policies and governance.

3. Leon Trotsky

- Military Leader: Trotsky was instrumental in organizing the Bolshevik military forces during the revolution.
- Theoretical Contributions: His theories on permanent revolution and his role in the early Soviet government were significant.

4. Other Notable Figures

- Grigori Rasputin: A mystic who influenced the Romanov family and caused further unrest among the populace.
- Alexander Kerensky: The leader of the provisional government, who struggled to maintain control during the revolutionary upheaval.

Consequences of the Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution had profound and far-reaching consequences, both within Russia and across the globe.

1. Establishment of the Soviet Union

- Formation of a Socialist State: The Bolsheviks established a one-party state, leading to the creation of the Soviet Union in 1922.

- New Economic Policies: Lenin's New Economic Policy (NEP) allowed for some private enterprise while maintaining state control over key industries.

2. Impact on Global Politics

- Spread of Communism: The revolution inspired communist movements worldwide, influencing the political landscape of many countries.
- Cold War Foundations: Tensions between the Soviet Union and Western powers set the stage for the Cold War.

3. Social Changes

- Women's Rights: The revolution led to significant advancements in women's rights and social equality.
- Educational Reforms: The Bolshevik government prioritized education and literacy, transforming the Russian education system.

Using a Russian Revolution Worksheet Effectively

A Russian Revolution worksheet can be an excellent tool for students to deepen their understanding of this historical event. Here are some tips for effective use:

1. Key Terms and Definitions

- Include a section for students to define key terms related to the revolution (e.g., Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, Provisional Government).

2. Timeline of Events

- Create a timeline for students to fill in major events of the February and October revolutions, aiding in the visualization of the sequence of events.

3. Character Analysis

- Provide spaces for students to analyze the motivations, actions, and impacts of key figures involved in the revolution.

4. Discussion Questions

- Include open-ended questions that encourage critical thinking and discussion about the causes and consequences of the revolution.

5. Creative Assignments

- Encourage students to engage in creative projects, such as writing a letter from the perspective of a historical figure or creating a propaganda poster.

In conclusion, the Russian Revolution was a pivotal moment in history that reshaped not only Russia but also had lasting global implications. By utilizing a Russian Revolution worksheet, students can gain a deeper understanding of the events, figures, and consequences of this monumental period, fostering a greater appreciation for its complexity and significance.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were the main causes of the Russian Revolution?

The main causes of the Russian Revolution included widespread dissatisfaction with the Tsarist regime, economic hardships, social inequalities, the impact of World War I, and the influence of revolutionary ideologies.

What were the key events of the Russian Revolution?

Key events include the February Revolution of 1917, which led to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II, and the October Revolution, where the Bolsheviks seized power from the Provisional Government.

Who were the major figures involved in the Russian Revolution?

Major figures included Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and Joseph Stalin, as well as the Tsar Nicholas II and various leaders of the Provisional Government.

What role did propaganda play in the Russian Revolution?

Propaganda was crucial in shaping public opinion, spreading revolutionary ideas, and garnering support for the Bolsheviks, particularly through posters, pamphlets, and speeches.

How did the Russian Revolution impact the global political landscape?

The Russian Revolution inspired a wave of communist movements worldwide, influencing various political ideologies and leading to the establishment of the Soviet Union as a major global power.

What was the significance of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk?

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, signed in 1918, marked Russia's exit from World War I, allowing the Bolsheviks to consolidate power but at the cost of significant territorial losses.

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