

Revolution, Reform and Social Change

*A Half-Century of Crisis and
Achievement (1900–1945)*



China and Japan

The Russian Revolution

Nationalism and revolution

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the Russian Revolution and be able to answer these key questions:

- What were the causes of the Russian Revolution?
- Who were the Bolsheviks and how did they rise to power?
- How did Russia change during this time, and what was the U.S.S.R.?



Causes of the Russian Revolution



By the early 1900s, Russia had been under the often oppressive control of the **Romanov Dynasty** for 300 years. At this time, discontent with their tsarist leaders grew drastically amongst the Russian people. Press on the buttons to find out more about each cause leading up to the **Russian Revolution**.

Press **start** to begin.

start





The Tsar's abdication



On March 7, 1917, around 100,000 protestors took to the streets in the Russian capital of Petrograd. Initially protesting for bread and higher wages, the demonstrators soon called for the tsar to step down.



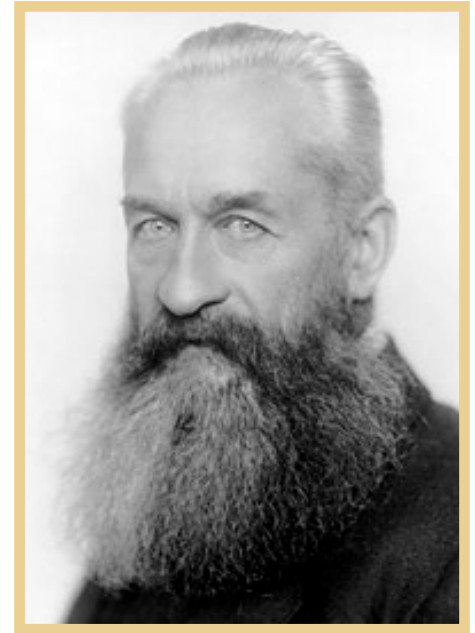
From the front, Nicholas ordered the Cossacks, his premier military outfit, to open fire, but they refused, many joining in the protests. Realizing he had lost control of the military, Nicholas abdicated on March 15, 1917. He and his family were arrested.

What causes of the Russian Revolution are similar to other revolutions you have studied?



Russia's Provisional Government

After the tsar's abdication, a Provisional Government was set up under **Georgii Lvov** and the nation celebrated what seemed to be a revolution without bloodshed.



Made up of members of the Duma and local councils, called **Soviets**, the new government was immediately threatened by the same problems that had faced the tsar.

The economy continued to struggle, exacerbated by the interim government's refusal to pull out of the war. Food shortages remained and the demand for the redistribution of land to the masses grew. **Socialist** groups like the **Bolsheviks** became more popular, despite government efforts to suppress them.





The July Days

Upon their return to Petrograd, Bolshevik leaders **Vladimir Lenin**, **Leon Trotsky** and many other exiled socialist leaders spoke passionately that Russia's revolution had yet to occur.

They called for the overthrow of the Provisional Government and the establishment of a dictatorship of the working class. Lenin adopted the slogan, "Peace! Bread! Land!"



The Provisional Government cracked down on the Bolsheviks, claiming they secretly supported the Germans. During the **July Days**, the government forced Lenin back into exile and arrested many of his political allies.

What do you think Lenin meant by a "dictatorship of the working class" and "Peace! Bread! Land!"?



The Kornilov Affair



Following the July Days, Prime Minister Lvov resigned and **Alexander Kerensky** succeeded him. In September of 1917, an attempt to overthrow the Provisional Government, known as the **Kornilov Affair**, greatly changed the Bolsheviks' role in Russia. Can you sort these events in chronological order?

Press **start** to begin.

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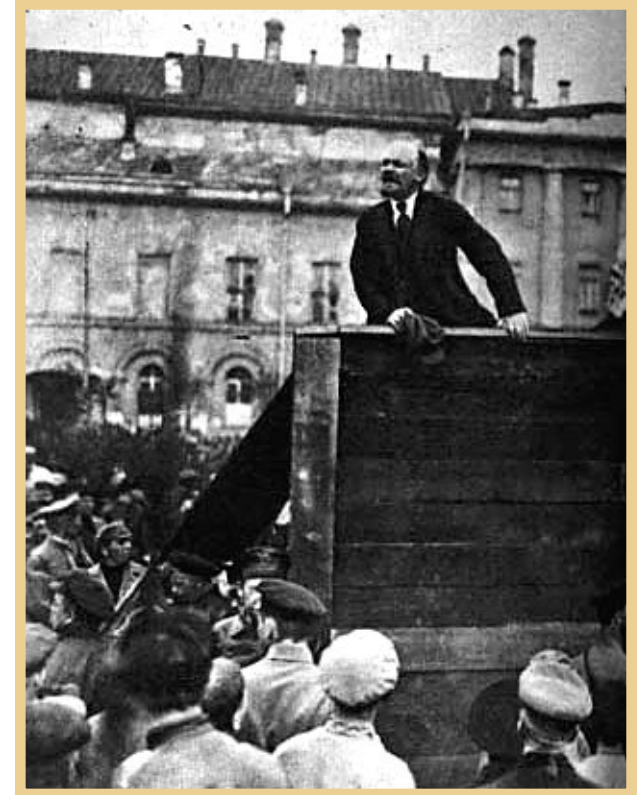


The October Revolution

On October 24, 1917, Bolshevik leaders ordered their soldiers, known as the Red Guard, to take up key positions around Petrograd.

On October 25, they arrested the ministers of the Provisional Government at the Winter Palace.

After some street fighting and skirmishes around the country, Lenin declared the Bolshevik Revolution a success on October 26 and immediately began establishing the new government.



What problems do you think now faced Lenin as the new Bolshevik leader?



With Lenin as their new leader, life for Russians changed greatly under the control of the Bolshevik Party. Can you sort out the achievements and setbacks of the Bolsheviks after they took over in 1917?

Press **start** to begin.

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Stalin's rise to power



Russia was completely under the control of the Communists and Lenin. They renamed the country the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.** – commonly known as the **Soviet Union**).



Between 1922 and 1923, Lenin's health declined and many began to vie for his position. As the General Secretary of the Communist Party, **Joseph Stalin** took advantage of his position and allied himself with powerful leaders in the party.

After Lenin's death in 1924, Stalin had Trotsky banned from the party. Stalin also turned on his allies and expelled them, and soon stood as the sole leader of the U.S.S.R.





There were many individuals who made the Russian Revolution possible. See if you can identify each of the revolutionary leaders by their accomplishments.

Press **start** to begin.

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