



# ***RUSSIAN REVOLUTION***

## INDEX

- Russian Revolution
- Tsars and emperors
- Bloody Sunday
- February Revolution
- October Revolution
- Consequences of the revolution
- Economic reforms
- Wartime communism
- New Economic Policy
- Civil War
- Because
- The rise of the Soviet Union
- First International

## Russian Revolution

- The Russian Revolution occurred during World War I.
- This was the world's first successful communist revolution (socialist revolution).
- Also known as the Bolshevik Revolution.
- This was a revolution against the corrupt rule of the Tsars who ruled Russia.

## Tsars and emperors

- Russia was ruled by Tsars (Tzars) from the Romanov dynasty.
- Ivan IV Vasilyevich (Ivan the Terrible) was the first Russian emperor to assume the title of Tsar.
- Michael Romanov is the founder of the Romanov dynasty.
- The first female ruler to rule Russia - Catherine I (1725-1727)
- The autocratic tsars tried to strengthen their country.
- The Tsars who ruled Russia were great dictators.
- They firmly believed in God-given authority and generally adopted a policy of repression.
- Under the totalitarian rule of the Tsars, workers and peasants lived a miserable life.
- The kulaks were a class of wealthy peasants in Russia who severely oppressed the peasantry.
- The working class in Russia, which emerged with industrialization, lacked freedom of organization and political rights.
- The factory owners brutally exploited the workers.
- 'Mother' is a novel written by Maxim Gorky, describing the conditions of peasants in Russia at the beginning of the 20th century.
- Leo Tolstoy, Maxim Gorky, Ivan Turgenev, and Anton Chekhov also wrote about the miserable lives of workers and peasants in Russia.
- Marxist ideas also had a great influence on the Russian people at that time.

- Leo Tolstoy is known as the prophet of the Russian Revolution
- Lenin described Tolstoy's works as a mirror of the Russian Revolution.
- Peasants and workers rallied against the ruling class, which supported all these exploitations.
- This led to the formation of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party, based on Marxist ideas, in 1898.
- The Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party split in two in 1903.

- Mensheviks (minority)
- Bolsheviks (majority)

- The Bolsheviks advocated the development of revolutionary thought among the workers and the adoption of strikes and revolution as means.
- The Mensheviks argued that reform and elections were sufficient instead of revolution and strikes.



## Bloody Sunday

- In 1905, a war broke out between Russia and Japan.
- Japan defeated Russia in this war.
- Workers, led by Father George Gapon, demonstrated in Petrograd, demanding political rights, economic reforms, and workers' rights.
- The emperor sent the army to suppress the demonstration, which opened fire on the demonstration, killing several workers (1905 Jan 9/1905 Jan 22).
- This event is known as Bloody Sunday.
- This incident led to several riots in Russia.
- Following the strong workers' strike in Russia, the Tsar established a legislative assembly called the Duma.
- Soviets were formed in Russia during the 1905 revolution. Soviets were councils of workers' representatives formed to organize strikes.

- Later, peasant and soldiers' soviets were established.
- But the police brutally suppressed the Soviets.
- Lenin went into hiding in Switzerland.

## February Revolution

- Nicholas II was the Tsar during the Russian Revolution.
- Nicholas II was a weak ruler, dominated by corrupt ministers.
- Nicholas II was under the influence of a pseudo-monk named Rasputin.
- He is known as the Rogue Monk, the Black Monk, and the Mad Monk.
- The February Revolution was one of the first revolutions that took place as part of the Russian Revolution.
- This event takes place in March 1917 (February according to the Julian calendar).
- Russia followed the Julian calendar until February 1, 1918.
- Russia has been following the Gregorian calendar since then.
- The Gregorian calendar is 13 days ahead of the Julian calendar.
- When World War I began in 1914, the Tsar entered the war, despite Dumas's opposition.
- Russia suffered successive defeats in the war.
- The war also severely affected Russia's economic system.
- Strikes began throughout Russia as famine spread during World War I.
- On March 8, 1917, thousands of hungry working women who had come to buy bread demonstrated in the streets, marking the beginning of the revolution (February 23 according to the Julian calendar).
- March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day to commemorate this one day.
- The riots spread to other places as well.
- The protesters demanded that Russia withdraw from World War I and end Tsarist rule.
- On February 25, 1917, the Russian government suspended the Duma.
- On March 12, several regiments of the army joined the striking workers.

- They freed political prisoners and captured the capital city of Petrograd
- Tsar Nicholas II of Russia abdicated, and a provisional government was established in Russia under the leadership of Menshevik leader Alexander Kerensky.
- This event is known as the February Revolution.
- The Mensheviks, who led the Provisional Government, and their leader Kerensky failed to find a solution to the people's problems.
- The Bolsheviks opposed their decision to continue participating in World War I.

## October Revolution

- A section of the Soviets in Russia did not recognize the Provisional Government.
- Lenin (real name: Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov), who was in Switzerland during the February Revolution, secretly returned to Russia and, a strike was declared against the Provisional Government in Petrograd.
- Lenin demanded an end to the war and the transfer of land to the peasants.
- He raised the slogan "All power to the Soviets."
- Land for the peasants, food for the hungry, power for the workers, and peace for all were one of the main slogans of the Russian Revolution.
- Lenin spread the slogan "Peace, Bread, and Land" throughout Russia.
- In November 1917 (October according to the Russian calendar), the Bolsheviks launched an armed uprising against the Provisional Government.
- On November 7, 1917, as a result of a joint advance by workers, soldiers, and Soviets, the Bolsheviks captured all of the strategic cities, including Petrograd.
- Following the uprising, Menshevik leader Kerensky fled the country.
- After this, the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia.
- Following the October Revolution, a conference of Soviets convened and a cabinet was formed with Lenin as its chairman.

- In 1918, new government authority was established throughout the country.
- The Bolshevik Party adopted the name Russian Communist Party.
- Ten Days That Shook the World is a work by John Reed based on the October Revolution.

## Consequences of the revolution

- The first decision taken by the new government was to withdraw from World War I.
- Russia withdrew from World War I in 1918 by signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.
- The new government also introduced a land law that ended private ownership of land, making land the public property of the nation.
- All the land was distributed among the farmers to cultivate for the welfare of the nation.
- Russia became a one-party state, comprised only of the Russian Communist Party.
- Trade unions came under party control.

## Economic reforms

- The revolution, World War I, and civil wars further worsened Russia's economic structure.
- Following this, Lenin took some drastic measures to improve the economy.
- One such measure was war communism.

## Wartime communism

- Agricultural land and estates were confiscated and distributed to farmers.
- After taking the produce for the farmers' needs, the government took over the remaining produce and distributed it to other sections of the population.

- Everything produced in industrial plants was given to the workers themselves in exchange for wages.

## New Economic Policy

- War communism caused widespread discontent among the people.
- In 1921, Lenin implemented a new economic policy in Russia.
- This gave farmers the freedom to grow the grains of their choice and sell their products in the public market.
- Workers were paid wages in cash.
- Some industries were allowed in the private sector.
- The NEP was abolished in 1928 with the implementation of the Five-Year Plan by Stalin.
- The Soviet Union was the first country in the world to start five-year plans.

## Civil War

- After the revolution, the Bolshevik government faced a brutal civil war.
- In April 1918, loyalists to the Tsarist regime, military officers, and enemies of the Bolsheviks revolted against the government.
- They were known as White Russians.

## Because

- Opposition to the Bolsheviks: Various groups - Tsarists, Liberals, and Social Revolutionaries - opposed Lenin's power and one-party rule.
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- World War I
- Foreign intervention: Fearing the spread of communism, Britain, France, the US, and Japan sent troops to support the rebels.
- They also received assistance from allied powers including England, France, and the United States.
- The Red Army, led by Trotsky, defeated the White Russian army.

- This ended the civil war.
- During the Civil War, the Bolsheviks nationalized industry and banks.

## The rise of the Soviet Union

- On December 30, 1922, the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was formed by unifying all the regions of Russia.
- With this, the Russian Communist Party became the Soviet Communist Party.
- In 1924, a new constitution came into effect in Russia.
- The USSR dissolved in 1991.

## First International

- The International Working Men's Association was formed on September 28, 1864.
- Also known as the First International.
- It was formed in 1864 at a workers' meeting held at St. Martin's Hall in London.
- The first general conference of the First International was held in Geneva in 1866.
- The First International was officially dissolved in 1876.
- The Second International was formed in Paris in 1889.
- It was at this conference that the decision to observe May 1 as International Workers' Day was made.
- The Third International was held in Moscow in 1919.
- It is also known as the Communist International.
- It was Lenin who convened the Third International.
- It was Stalin who dissolved the Third International in 1943.
- The Fourth International (1938) was an international organization formed in opposition to the Third International.
- Leon Trotsky led the Fourth International