

The Russian Revolution of 1917

Chapter 2: Socialism in Europe and the Russian Revolution · Topic 2

Key Concept

The revolution occurred in two main phases - the February Revolution, which overthrew Tsar Nicholas II, and the October Revolution, where the Bolsheviks seized power.

Widespread discontent due to World War I hardships, food shortages, and inequality between wealthy landowners and poor peasants fuelled revolutionary sentiment among the Russian population.

Vladimir Lenin led the Bolsheviks, promising 'Peace, Land, and Bread' to war-weary soldiers, land-hungry peasants, and hungry workers, gaining significant popular support.

The revolution led to the establishment of the Soviet Union, a communist state based on Marxist principles, significantly influencing global politics throughout the 20th century.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Russian Revolution occurred in 1917.
- The February Revolution overthrew Tsar Nicholas II.
- The October Revolution saw the Bolsheviks seize power.
- WWI hardships and inequality fuelled the revolution.
- Vladimir Lenin led the Bolsheviks.
- Lenin promised 'Peace, Land, and Bread'.
- This gained wide popular support.
- The revolution led to the Soviet Union's establishment.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the difference between the February and October Revolutions.
- 2 Discuss what 'Peace, Land, and Bread' meant to different groups.
- 3 Research Vladimir Lenin's role in the revolution.
- 4 Explain how WWI contributed to the revolution.
- 5 Discuss the global impact of the Soviet Union's establishment.
- 6 Create a timeline of the Russian Revolution's key events.