

# Revolutions in Russia

## Czars Resist Change--*How did Alexander III rule?*

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

### 1. How did Alexander and Nicholas rule?

## Russia Industrializes--*What changes did*

*industrialization cause?* 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.

Although there was progress, working conditions were poor, wages were low, and children were forced to work. Workers grew angry. 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 await a better time to put forth his ideas.

### 2. Who were the Bolsheviks?

## Crises at Home and Abroad--*What crises did Russia face?*

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 caused by World War I was the final blow against the czar's rule. As the war worsened, the czar lost control of Russia. 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.

### 3. What developments helped lead up to the revolution?

## The March Revolution--*What was the provisional government?*

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 some cities, the soviets had more real power than the government. In the middle of all this change, Lenin returned to Russia.

### 4. How did Kerensky lose support?

## The Bolshevik Revolution--*Who led the Bolshevik Revolution?*

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 came to an end.

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. It 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 15 million Russians. In the end, Lenin's Red Army won.

### 5. Who fought the civil war?

## Lenin Restores Order; Stalin Becomes Dictator--*How did Lenin bring back order?*

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.

### 6. What changes did Lenin make?

#### TERMS AND NAMES

**Proletariat** The workers

**Bolsheviks** Group of revolutionaries led by Lenin

**Lenin** Leader of the Bolsheviks and first ruler of the Soviet Union

**Rasputin** Eccentric monk assassinated because of his corrupt influence on the Russian royal family

**provisional government**

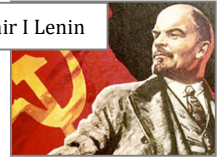
Temporary government led by Alexander Kerensky

**soviet** Local governing council

**Communist Party** A political party practicing the ideas of Karl Marx and Lenin

**Joseph Stalin** Revolutionary leader who took control of the Communist Party after Lenin

Vladimir I Lenin



Joseph Stalin

# Case Study: Stalinist Russia

## A Government of Total Control--*What is*

### *totalitarianism?*

The term **totalitarianism** describes a government that takes control of almost all parts of people's lives. A very powerful leader leads this type of government. Usually the leader brings security to the nation. The government stays in power by using different ways to keep control.

The weapons of totalitarianism include using police terror. Police may spy on people, use brutal force, or even murder them. The government might also control schools and use them to mold students' minds. Another weapon is *propaganda*.

This is false information that is spread by the government to make people believe the government is working for their best interests. At other times the government will censor, that is block, certain information from becoming public.

Totalitarian rulers might also choose some people to persecute. The group may be blamed for things that go wrong in the country. Often these are people from a certain ethnic group or religion. They may be forced to live in certain areas or have rules that apply only to them.

### 1. What are two weapons of totalitarianism?

### Stalin Builds a Totalitarian State--*How did Stalin control the country?*

Stalin kept tight control on the Soviet Union. He did this by creating a powerful secret police. In the mid-1930s, he turned against enemies—both real and imagined—within the Communist Party. Thousands were arrested. Many were sent to exile or killed. This was known as the **Great Purge**.

Stalin also used propaganda to keep control. He controlled newspapers, radio, and other sources of information. He also used the arts to promote his ideas. Stalin's government also moved against religion. Churches were destroyed.

Church leaders were killed or sent into exile.

### 2. Who died in the Great Purge?

## Stalin Seizes Control of the Economy--*How did Stalin change the economy?*

Stalin built a **command economy**. This is an economy in which the government makes all the decisions about economic life. He tried to make the economy fully industrial. All resources went to this effort. As a result, there were shortages of food, housing, and clothing for many years.

Stalin also began a farming revolution. The government took control of people's farms. It put them together into large, government-owned farms called **collective farms**. Wealthy peasants called kulaks resisted. Millions were killed, and millions more were exiled to Siberia. Stalin got farm output to rise by using these brutal methods.

### 3. How did Stalin's economic changes result in suffering?

## Daily Life under Stalin; Total Control Achieved--*How did Stalin change*

### *Soviet society?*

Stalin completely changed Soviet society. Women enjoyed equal rights. They filled all kinds of jobs on farms and in factories. They studied for careers that before had been closed to them. People in general were more educated.

By the mid-1930s Stalin was in complete control of all economic and political affairs in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union had been transformed into a major political and economic world power.

### 4. What benefits did Stalin's rule bring to women?

# Imperial China Collapses

## Nationalists Overthrow Qing Dynasty--*Who was Sun*

### *Yixian?*

The early 20th century was a time of change in China. Many Chinese resented the great control that foreign nations had over their economy. Some wanted to modernize China. They hoped it could regain power.

One of the leaders of this push was **Sun Yixian**. His group was called the

#### TERMS AND NAMES

**totalitarianism** Government that has total control over people's lives

**Great Purge** Arrest, exile, or killing of thousands of suspected enemies of the Communist Party

**command economy** Economy in which the government makes all the economic decisions

**Five-Year Plans** Plans to develop the Soviet Union's economy

**collective farm** Large, government-owned farm.

#### TERMS AND NAMES

**Sun Yixian** One of the first leaders of the Kuomintang; "father of modern China"

**Kuomintang** Nationalist Party of China, it overthrew the Qing Dynasty

**May Fourth Movement** Chinese nationalist protest against China's fate as decided by the Treaty of Versailles

**Mao Zedong** Leader of the Communist revolution in China

**Jiang Jieshi** Leader of the Chinese Nationalist Party

**Long March** Escape of Communists

**Kuomintang**, or Nationalist Party. In 1912, he led a revolt that over- threw the Qing Dynasty. A republic was established, and he was made the president. Sun wanted political and economic rights for all Chinese people. He also wanted an end to the foreign control of China. But Sun did not have the support of the military. Six weeks later, he turned over his presidency to Yuan Shikai, a powerful general. Yuan became a military dictator. After he died in 1916, civil war broke out. The people suffered terribly from famine and brutal attacks. China's leaders hoped to win the support of the Allies during World War I. They declared war on Germany. When the war ended, though, they were disappointed. The Treaty of Versailles did not give China freedom from foreign influence. It only changed masters. The parts of China that had been controlled by Germany were handed over to Japan.



Angry Chinese protested during the **May Fourth Movement**. Protesters included **Mao Zedong**. He later became the leader of China's Communist revolution.

### 1. What did China's Nationalists want?

## The Communist Party in China--*What happened to the Communist Party?*

In the 1920s, revolutionaries began to look to Marxism and the Russian Revolution for a solution to China's problems. Meanwhile, Sun Yixian became disappointed in the Western democracies. They refused to support his struggling government. He decided to become allies with the newly formed Communist Party. Sun sought Soviet help, too. He died in 1925. **Jiang Jieshi** became leader of the Kuomintang.

At first, Jiang Jieshi joined with the Communists to try to defeat the warlords. These warlords ruled as much of the Chinese countryside as their armies could conquer. Together the Nationalists and Communists successfully fought the warlords.

Many in the Kuomintang were business people. They now feared Communist ideas about government control of economic life. In 1927, Jiang began fighting the Communists. The Communists were forced into hiding. In 1928, Jiang became president of China. Soon China was torn by a civil war between the remaining Communists and Jiang's forces.

### 2. What role did Jiang Jieshi play in creating the civil war?

## Civil War Rages in China--*Who fought the civil war?*

Jiang had promised democracy and political rights to all Chinese. But his government had become less democratic and more corrupt. Nothing was done to improve the life of the rural peasants. Many of them gave their support to the Chinese Communist Party. Communist leader, **Mao Zedong**, built an army of peasants. In 1933, Jiang's army surrounded them. But the Communists got away. They began the famous **Long March** of 6,000 miles to the north. Thousands died. The Communists settled in caves in Northwest China.



At the same time, China had other problems. In 1931, Japan *invaded* the part of China called Manchuria. Japan took control there and six years later began invading other areas. With this new threat, Jiang and the Communists agreed to unite temporarily to fight the Japanese.

### 3. What finally united Communist and non-Communist forces?

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