



Rethinking the Russian Revolution: The Rights and Responsibilities of the Soviet Citizen

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Abstract

For this year's project, I was interested in investigating eras of massive change in the modern era, particularly revolutions or movements that led to a new world order. After deliberating for a few weeks, I chose the Bolshevik Revolution because I thought that it would be interesting to research Marxist communism, as I currently live in Hong Kong, now part of the People's Republic of China. I found that this topic was a perfect match for the theme, as the Russian Revolution wasn't just about instituting a new governmental order. It created new rights for Soviet citizens—especially for the working class—as well as new responsibilities of Soviet citizenship. The Revolution underscores how the new rights that Soviets enjoyed compared favourably to those under Imperial Russia with its rigid social class system.

In my research I worked hard to find primary sources that explore different viewpoints from key actors and critics of the Bolshevik Revolution. I used multiple translated sources and DeepL's translation software to convert a few primary sources from Russian into English. This included a letter in Russian from Pavel Axelrod to Julius Martov.

While examining these sources, I noticed recurring references to Enlightenment ideals of equality and human rights. This led me to explore how Enlightenment philosophy influenced Leninism. Through reading works by Lenin and other revolutionary leaders, I found direct connections between Enlightenment concepts of natural rights and the Bolshevik vision for a more fair society.

After organising my research into sections of secondary and primary sources, I decided to divide my paper into three main sections, including, first, an explanation of key ideas involved, such as the Enlightenment and Marxism. Second, I described the historical context surrounding the events that led to the demise of the Russian Empire and, ultimately, to the Bolshevik Revolution. Finally, I discussed how rights and responsibilities arose out of and impacted the revolution.

Living in Hong Kong has given me a unique perspective on how communist ideology has evolved from its revolutionary roots in Russia to its modern application in China. I've gained a deeper understanding of how the Chinese Communist Party has adapted Marxist principles to create what they call "socialism with Chinese characteristics." This has helped me better understand the complex relationship between Hong Kong and mainland China, particularly regarding different interpretations of rights and citizenship responsibilities connected to the Enlightenment and traditional Marxism. The historical context of the Russian Revolution has provided valuable insights into how revolutionary movements can reshape societies, something particularly relevant to understanding Hong Kong's transformation under Chinese governance.

INTRODUCTION

You are in Petrograd, Russia, in 1917. The streets are filled with filth, and the clanging of factory gear rings out above the thousands of protesters marching around you demanding peace. The pristine but empty halls of the Winter Palace stand in stark contrast to the cold, dark, dirty streets surrounding it. You are witnessing the start of the Russian Revolution.

The Russian, or Bolshevik, Revolution ended two centuries of imperial rule in Russia, with widespread discontent leading

to Tsar Nicholas II's abdication and the Bolsheviks' rise. This event inaugurated the Russian empire's fall and the USSR's establishment. Although historians remember the Russian Revolution as an experiment in Marxist communism, the revolution was driven by both Enlightenment and Marxist values. The ideals of the Enlightenment – the sovereignty of people, self-determination, and the abolition of exploitative labour practices—provided rights for all Soviets. Marxism provided a bare chassis for a classless society and the basis for the responsibilities of citizenship in the Soviet Union.

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PHILOSOPHICAL CONTEXT: THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND MARXISM COMMUNISM

The Enlightenment occurred during Europe's seventeenth and eighteenth centuries when intellectuals integrated ideas about religion, reason, nature, and humanity into a general worldview that refashioned art, philosophy and politics. The Enlightenment provided the first modern theories in philosophy, such as John Locke's theory that humans are born as 'blank slates', subsequently shaped by their collective life experiences. Key Enlightenment values included the sovereignty of people, first explored by English philosophers, including the Levellers and Locke,¹ and the abolition of exploitative labour processes and religious privileges. These principles closely aligned with the rights articulated in the Russian Revolution, which emphasised equality, social justice, and limiting exploitation.²

Influenced by the Enlightenment and the new industrial age, Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels published their *Communist Manifesto* in London on February 21, 1841. Their manifesto fixated on the idea that political emancipation is inefficient and insufficient for people to be free.³ Marx and Engels believed that the working class, in particular, experienced systemic alienation greater in capitalist nations than in non-capitalist societies because of class conflict and religion, which maintained the upper class's stranglehold on wealth and power.⁴ The *Communist Manifesto* became the intellectual foundation for achieving a classless society with atheist beliefs, which would, according to Marx, end the systemic alienation of mankind from their labour.⁵

The *Communist Manifesto's* economic policy was designed for a country with significantly developed capitalism forged through industrialisation.⁶ Marx defines capitalism as exchanging commodities, advancing capital to generate profit, and transforming capital into commodities that can yield a profit—thus generating more capital.⁷ Marx believed that capitalism led to the exploitation of the working class (the proletariat) and that the benefit of capital-owning or management classes (the bourgeoisie) was unjust.⁸

1 John Locke. "Second Treatise of Government." Last modified 1690. pdf.

2 Brian Duignan.. "Enlightenment." Encyclopedia Britannica, October 28, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Enlightenment-European-history>.

3 "Karl Marx." In Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2nd ed. Last modified December 20, 2020. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/marx/>.

4 Stanford, "Karl Marx"

5 Karl Marx. *The Communist Manifesto : with an Introduction* by A.J.P. Taylor. New York: Penguin Books, 1967.

6 Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Leninism." Encyclopedia Britannica, October 8, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Leninism>.

7 Stanford, "Karl Marx"

8 Stanford, "Karl Marx"

Marx argued that all capitalist profit comes from exploiting the worker, where the bourgeoisie and aristocratic classes systematically extract profit from the proletariat.⁹ Marx's ideology aimed to reform capitalist nations as their current means of production would be enough to maintain the economy if a communist revolution occurred¹⁰.

However, Marx's ideology could not be fully implemented in Russia in 1917, as Russia was underdeveloped and lagged behind the rest of Europe. This divided the Mensheviks, who wanted a period of economic reform, and the Bolsheviks, who wanted to dive head-first into Marxism.¹¹ Julius Martov, a Russian politician, offered a perspective on the Bolshevik revolution and the Soviet regime when he identified how political organisations could emancipate the proletariat.¹² Martov concluded that there was no perfect political form applicable to all societies and, in turn, he warned against a minority dictatorship arising under the guise of the rule of the proletariat.¹³

THE 1905 REVOLUTIONS AND WORLD WAR I

The 1917 October Revolution was not the only challenge to the Tsar's rule. A decade before, Japan annihilated Russia in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904.¹⁴ For Russia, things then went from bad to worse: mass political unrest spread across the nation, beginning with worker strikes and then unrest from serfs. Finally, military mutinies initiated the 1905 Revolution. Strike one.

During the turmoil, Sergei Witte, a government official, persuaded Tsar Nicholas II to establish the October Manifesto to save the nation from further chaos. The October Manifesto proposed the formation of the Duma – Russia's elected parliament, and it also loosened censorship and gave Russian citizens union rights. But in 1906, Nicholas II decreed the Fundamental Laws, which gave him control over the Duma, rendering it useless as an independent branch of government. The Russian people lost their voice in the government. Strike two.

World War I was the proverbial final nail in the coffin of the Russian Empire. Russia joined the fight against Austria-Hungary in support of its ally, Serbia. The outbreak of war caught Russia heavily underprepared. Logistics were a mess; Russian soldiers had to travel an average of 1290 km to reach their front, while the Germans travelled less than a quarter of the distance.¹⁵ With the Dardanelles and the Baltic Sea

9 Stanford, "Karl Marx"

10 Stanford, "Karl Marx"

11 Britannica "Leninism"

12 Julius Martov. "The State and the Socialist Revolution." Last modified January 1, 1938. pdf.

13 Martov, "The State and the Socialist Revolution."

14 Trotsky, Leon. 1905. New York: Random House, 1971.

15 Showalter, D. E. and Royde-Smith, John Graham. "World War I." Encyclopedia Britannica, November 11, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I>.

occupied by the enemy, Russia had to rely on Arkhangelsk – which was inoperable during winter—or Vladivostok, in the nation’s far east. The ill-equipped Russians were defeated by the Germans on the eastern front and incurred astonishing casualties. Strike three. Game over.

THE 1917 REVOLUTION

The Russian Revolution was a series of events defining modern Russia. It began in January 1917, when over 145,000 workers went on strike. Next, on February 23, a massive textile-worker strike in solidarity seized Petrograd. The cracks in the Tsar’s rule widened, and public sentiment quickly soured. Daily protests continued, and rioters brought public transport to a halt. Shops and restaurants closed. Over half of Petrograd’s population went on strike, and the city halted to a standstill. On February 26, over 200 marchers were massacred, and on March 3, Tsar Nicholas II abdicated.

During the few short months between the abdication and the Soviet revolution, a provisional government ruled, though it lost support as World War I’s casualties grew. On the night of October 24, Bolshevik Red Guards stormed the Winter Palace, the seat of the provisional government. Over the next three years, the state descended into chaos. The Bolsheviks were in a civil war with the Mensheviks. Eventually, the Bolsheviks won, and they outlawed all other political factions. Pavel Axelrod, in his letter to Julius Martov, discusses the Soviet takeover from the Menshevik perspective. He emphasises that the Bolshevik regime was a dictatorial power that betrayed the true Russian Revolution by enforcing a brutal regime contrary to socialist ideals and undermining the working class’s interests.¹⁶ After five tumultuous years, starting in 1917, the Soviet State was born.

BOLSHEVIK AND MENSHEVIK COMMUNISM

The Bolsheviks were a political faction led by Vladimir Lenin, who espoused a blend of Leninist-Marxist Communism. Lenin insisted on a “proletariat dictatorship” after seizing power, but party leaders held the government’s power rather than the working class. The roots of Leninism lay in the conviction that if left alone, historical events would not create desired outcomes. To Lenin, communism needed to be engineered, and the working class ushered into their communist revolution.¹⁷ He thus departed from the original Marxism, which predicted that material conditions would be enough to make workers conscious of the need for revolution.¹⁸

16 Axelrod, Pavel to Julius Martov, “ПИСЬМО П.Б. АКСЕЛЬРОДА Ю.О. МАРТОВУ (сентябрь 1920 года): Первая полная публикация,” n.d. Accessed January 24, 2025. <https://www.alexanderyakovlev.org/almanah/inside/almanah-doc/1006541>.

17 Albert Resis. “Vladimir Lenin.” Encyclopedia Britannica, October 25, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vladimir-Lenin>.

18 Jacob O. Gavoronsky Letter to Charles William Bowerman, “The Bolshevik and Menshevik Governments in Russia,” January 1, 1918. Accessed December 15, 2024. <https://wdc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/russian/id/951>.

A common misconception is that the working class drove the Marxist revolution forward, but this is untrue. The Workers Vanguard, a group of communist elites, was the primary catalyst for revolutionary change during the Bolshevik Revolution.¹⁹ Lenin’s ideology also fixated on abolishing private ownership of the means of production because if anyone still owned the means of production, there would never be total socialism. One of the key differences between the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks was their disagreement over who should lead after the revolution.²⁰ The Bolsheviks believed that the only way Russia could achieve communism was through a complete proletariat revolution. In contrast, the Mensheviks believed in a bourgeoisie revolution to create a capitalist boom, develop the nation, and switch to communism.

The Mensheviks, or ‘the minority,’ were formed when a dispute occurred between the two factions in the social-democratic congress in 1903. The Mensheviks were the Anti-Leninist left wing of Russian politics at the time of the revolution and were the primary political opponents of the Bolsheviks.²¹ Julius Martov and Pavel Axelrod led the Mensheviks, and their political ideology was based on first developing bourgeoisie capitalism, which would then allow Russia’s transition to traditional Marxism. The Mensheviks denounced the Bolshevik Revolution as a coup d’etat; in 1921, after the failed Kronstadt rebellion, Lenin outlawed the party.

Critics, then and now, view communism as a dictatorship, but at its core, Marxist communism is radically democratic, eschewing the state altogether for self-governing communes. However, the state needed to control the means of production and property for a genuine communist utopia to form. Dictatorship might be the most efficient or straightforward in this interim stage, but communism, as described by Marx and Engels, is inherently democratic. *The Civil War in France*, written by Marx, reveals communism’s core of radical democracy: “The Commune was formed of the municipal councillors, chosen by universal suffrage in the various wards of the town, responsible and revocable at any time.”²²

CONSEQUENCES OF THE REVOLUTION: THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOVIET CITIZENS

The Cold War’s tensions and propaganda obscured the fact that the Russian Revolution attempted to improve the condition of the common man and woman. This impulse

19 Britanica, “Leninism”

20 Jacob O. Gavoronsky to Charles William Bowerman, “The Bolshevik and Menshevik Governments in Russia,” January 1, 1918. Accessed December 15, 2024. <https://wdc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/russian/id/951>.

21 Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Menshevik.”

22 Karl Marx, *The Civil War in France* (Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Selected Works, Vol. 2, Moscow, 1973, pp. 217-21).

was later buried under the horrors of Stalin and the terror of nuclear stand-offs. Still, the evidence for the Russian Revolution as a revolution in the rights and the concomitant responsibilities of a newly empowered Soviet citizenry are found in the era's founding documents.

The mainframe of Lenin's policies regarding rights ensured general rights for the Soviet people, particularly rights for workers. Like the popular sovereignty of the American Republic, the early Soviet Union sought to establish the equality and sovereignty of the Russian people.²³ Lenin also declared the right of Russian people to enjoy self-determination—that is, agency over their destinies and actions—as well as the abolition of former national or religious privileges and disabilities authorised under the Tsar.²⁴ These rights reflected the Enlightenment's emphasis on individuals' inherent equality and autonomy, its preference for rationalism, and its rejection of inherited status or caste. The equality and sovereignty of the Soviets refers to the principle that all members of the Soviet Union were considered equal in terms of their rights, status, and representation within the broader Soviet system. In contrast, sovereignty pertains to the idea of self-governance and autonomy for the different Soviet republics within the Soviet Union.

In the context of the Russian Revolution, the right to self-determination, while not encompassing a robust idea of self-expression through political speech, meant cultural and religious freedoms for the people and "extensive fraternisation with the workers and peasants of the armies in the war, and achieving at all costs, by revolutionary means, a democratic peace between the nations, without annexations and indemnities and based on the free self-determination of nations."²⁵ This decree establishes the concrete self-determination of nations within the Soviet Union.

The Soviet founding decrees, reflecting the influence of the Enlightenment, also addressed the religious alienation plaguing Russia during the Tsar's regime. The Russian Orthodox church was tied to the monarchy pre-revolution.²⁶ The church had noteworthy influence over the education system, the legal system, and Russian culture as well, and it was also one of the wealthiest landowners in the nation.

23 Vladimir Lenin, and Josef Stalin. "Declaration of the Rights of the People of Russia." Marxists.org. Last modified November 2, 1917. <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/government/1917/11/02.htm>.

24 Lenin, Vladimir. "Declaration of Rights of the Working and Exploited People." Translated and edited by Yuri Sdobnikov and George Hanna. Marxists.org. Last modified January 3, 1918. Accessed October 27, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/jan/03.htm>.

25 Lenin, Vladimir. "Declaration of Rights of the Working and Exploited People."

26 Freeze, Gregory L. "Subversive Piety: Religion and the Political Crisis in Late Imperial Russia." *The Journal of Modern History* 68, no. 2 (1996): 308–50. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2124666>.

The church's power declined, and it lost control over Russian society when the Bolsheviks came into power, seized its property, and oppressed its clergy.

For Marxist-Leninist rights, the Soviet Union implemented decrees primarily for workers, abolished private property, and handed over the means of production and capital to the government, including factories and banks. The idea of abolishing private property was mandated in the first clause of the second article in the "Declaration Of Rights Of The Working And Exploited People." It states: "All land together with all buildings, farm implements and other appurtenances of agricultural production, is proclaimed the property of the entire working people."²⁷ This means that all property was collectively owned by the people of Russia. The rights decreed for workers primarily aimed at preventing the exploitation of the working class by ensuring that workers and peasants were empowered over the nobility. Ownership of capital transferred to the government because it was "one of the conditions for the emancipation of the working people from the yoke of capital."²⁸ It could free the working people from the pull of capital, and it, yet again, protected the workers, which Lenin was trying to achieve with these reforms.

Soviet citizens' responsibilities also formed a crucial part of the Soviet state, though these responsibilities constitute the "big government" criticisms of socialism. The Soviet Union required its citizens to tolerate constant monitoring and surveillance, for example. Notable responsibilities include administering the law as a citizen, which included helping the community and reporting violations of the law; citizens must also report to the central government about local events for state intelligence gathering. Article 3 of the Decree on the Rights and Duties of Soviets declares, "In the field of administration, the Soviets must carry out all decrees and decisions of the central government ... which incite active opposition or the overthrow of the Soviet Government,"²⁹ while Article 64 of the 1936 Russian Constitution demands that: "Citizens of the USSR are obliged to safeguard the interests of the Soviet state and to enhance its power and prestige."³⁰ These articles show the key responsibilities Soviet

27 Lenin, Vladimir. "Declaration of Rights of the Working and Exploited People." Translated and edited by Yuri Sdobnikov and George Hanna. Marxists.org. Last modified January 3, 1918. Accessed October 27, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/jan/03.htm>.

28 Vladimir Lenin, "Declaration of Rights of the Working and Exploited People."

29 Aronsberg, Emanuel, trans. "Decree on the Rights and Duties of Soviets." Marxists.org. Last modified December 25, 1917. Accessed October 27, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/events/revolution/documents/1917/12/25.htm>.

30 "Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics." Bucknell. Accessed December 6, 2024. <http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/const/77cons02.html#:~:text=Article%2062.,of%20 crimes%20against%20 the%20 people.>

citizens had to obey. Generally, there was more paranoia of the central state, and after the government implemented these reforms, the revolution brought about not Marxist communism but Leninist state socialism.

CONCLUSION: RETHINKING THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

In the West, we only remember that Lenin's Russia created the first superpower dictatorship. The Russian Revolution led to war, the establishment of a world power, and the Cold War, which, with its nuclear standoffs, very nearly killed us all. In April 1922, just a year after the Kronstadt revolution failed, Josef Dzhugashvili, more commonly known as Stalin, rose to power. From then until Lenin's death in 1924, Lenin strongly condemned Stalin as he thought him to be "not sure that he always knows how to use that power with sufficient caution", while Stalin believed that Trotsky was "the most able man in the present Central Committee," because "his struggle against the Central Committee in connection with the question of the People's Commissariat of Ways and Communications" proved his capability.³¹ With Lenin deceased, Trotsky was left isolated, while Stalin had the support of Kamenev and Zinoviev; the Congress ultimately re-elected Stalin as general secretary after Lenin's death.

Lenin's government might have been a hardline dictatorship, but the rights that Lenin propagated suggest a promise for an alternate ending to the Soviet Union, an outcome that didn't end in a dictatorship, an outcome without constant oppression instead, an outcome where democracy reigned in Russia. It suggests the possibility of a world where the Russian Revolution brought lasting Enlightenment reform to modern Russia.

REFERENCES

Primary Sources

1. Aronsberg, Emanuel, translator. "Resolution on the Right of Sovnarkom to Issue Decrees." *Marxists.org*, 4 Nov. 1917, Accessed 27 Oct. 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/events/revolution/documents/1917/11/4.htm>

This is a primary source from 1917 titled the "Resolution on the Right of Sovnarkom to Issue Decrees," which, as the name suggests, gives Soviet lawmakers the right to issue decrees. I used this to gain an understanding of how the Soviet government operated in its early years.

2. Aronsberg, Emanuel, trans. "Decree on the Rights and Duties of Soviets." *Marxists.org*. Last modified December 25, 1917. Accessed October 27, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/events/revolution/documents/1917/12/25.htm>.

31 Lenin, Vladimir. "The Testament of Lenin." Translated by Einde O'Callahan. *Marxists*. Last modified January 1922. Accessed December 6, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/ni/vol02/no01/lenin.htm>.

This "Decree on the Rights and Duties of Soviets" is a list of laws implemented by the Soviet government that outline the responsibilities and rights of Soviet citizens. This was an important source for me to identify the responsibilities expected of Soviet citizens.

3. ———, trans. "Decree on the Right to Call for Re-Elections." *Marxists.org*. Last modified November 23, 1917. Accessed October 27, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/events/revolution/documents/1917/11/23.htm>.

The "Decree on the Right to Call for Re-Elections" allows Russian government officials to call for elections. I used this source to build my understanding of the rights that influenced the process of electing new leaders and then carrying out re-elections.

4. Axelrod, Pavel. Letter to Julius Martov, "Письмо П.Б. Аксельрода Ю.О. Мартову (сентябрь 1920 года): Первая полная публикация," n.d. Accessed January 24, 2025. <https://www.alexanderyakovlev.org/almanah/inside/almanah-doc/1006541>.

This is a letter from Pavel Axelrod to Julius Martov after the Mensheviks' loss in the civil war to the Bolsheviks. This letter discusses their thoughts on the Bolshevik's win and the Menshevik perspective on the Bolsheviks taking control. I translated this source using the DeepL translator.

5. "Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics." Bucknell. Accessed December 6, 2024. <https://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/const/77cons02.html#:~:text=Article%2062.,of%20crimes%20against%20the%20people>.

The constitution of the USSR was enacted in 1936. I used it to identify the obligations of Russian citizens, such as the responsibility to "safeguard the interests of the Soviet state and to enhance its power and prestige". I also engaged with this source in order to emphasize the responsibilities imposed on citizens by the USSR.

6. Gavronsky, Jacob O. Letter to Charles William Bowerman, "The Bolshevik and Menshevik Governments in Russia," January 1, 1918. Accessed December 15, 2024. <https://wdc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/russian/id/951>.

This is a letter from Jacob Gavronsky to Charles William Bowerman discussing the hypothetical differences between the Bolshevik and Menshevik governments in Russia if one were to come to power. I used this source to understand the key differences between the Mensheviks and the Bolsheviks.

7. Larin, Yuri. "Sovnarkom Decree on the Hours of Labor." *Marxists.org*. Last modified October 10, 1917. Accessed October 27, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/events/revolution/documents/1917/10/29.htm>.

This is the “Sovnarkom Decree on the Hours of Labor,” a document that detailed workers’ rights. It states the rights workers have to work reasonable hours, and it includes some basic human rights not limited to but including “Boys and girls under sixteen years of age are not to be employed for night work” and “The total amount of time spent in recesses should not exceed two hours a day.”

8. Lenin, Vladimir. “Declaration of Rights of the Working and Exploited People.” Translated and edited by Yuri Sdobnikov and George Hanna. Marxists.org. Last modified January 3, 1918. Accessed October 27, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/jan/03.htm>.

This is the “Declaration of Rights of the Working and Exploited People,” a document that detailed workers’ rights. It abolishes private property and seeks “To ensure the sovereign power of the working people, and to eliminate all possibility of the restoration of the power of the exploiters”. I used this source to build an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the new Soviet working class.

9. Lenin, Vladimir. “The Testament of Lenin.” Translated by Einde O’Callahan. Marxists. Last modified January 1922. Accessed December 6, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/ni/vol02/no01/lenin.htm>.

This was the testament of Lenin that showed his distrust of a Stalinist government among his thoughts of the Soviet Union when created. I used this to see why Lenin did not trust Stalin when he came into power and he preferred Trotsky.

10. Locke, John. “Second Treatise of Government.” Last modified 1690. pdf.

This famous treatise by John Locke, an English philosopher, discusses his enlightenment ideals and also his thoughts on government and human rights. I used this to deepen my understanding of the Enlightenment ideals and how they influenced Russia.

11. Martov, Julius. “The State and the Socialist Revolution.” Last modified January 1, 1938. pdf.

This is “The State and the Socialist Revolution”, written by Julius Martov, about the Russian Revolution. It gives a new perspective from Martov’s perspective twenty years after the Russian Revolution. I used it to compare and contrast perspectives between Bolsheviks and Menshevik, since this was after the

12. Marx, Karl. *The Communist Manifesto: with an Introduction by A.J.P. Taylor*. New York: Penguin Books, 1967.

This is the famous call to workers to unite, as written by Karl Marx. It was my baseline for understanding

Marx’s view on communism and the ideology of sharing property. It was a key text in my understanding of the Russian Revolution, as Communism was a key ideology, and I used it to deepen my understanding of communism and relate Marxism to Leninism.

13. Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *The Civil War in France*. London: Electric Book, 2001.

This history, written by Karl Marx and Engels, explores the struggles surrounding the Franco-Prussian war and the implementation of a Communist government and how it would function. I used this to learn more about suffrage in the Communist sense, which is ‘democratic’.

14. Trotsky, Leon. 1905. New York: Random House, 1971.

This is Leon Trotsky’s account of the events of 1905, especially the protests that broke out after Russia’s failed invasion of Japanese Manchuko and his opinion on it. I used Trotsky’s account to understand the turmoil that caused the first uprising from an insider’s view of the situation.

15. Ulianov, Vladimir. “Sovnarkom Decree on the Right to Issue Laws.” Marxists.org. Last modified October 10, 1917. Accessed October 27, 2024. <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/events/revolution/documents/1917/10/30.htm>.

This decree is primarily concerned with the Russian government’s power to issue laws and the checks and balances put in place to protect the Soviet people. I used this source to build an understanding of the politics of the Soviet Union.

16. Ulianov, Vladimir, and Josef Dzhughashvili. “Declaration of the Rights of the People of Russia.” Marxists.org. Last modified November 2, 1917. <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/government/1917/11/02.htm>.

This is the “Declaration of the Rights of the People of Russia.” written by Lenin and Stalin. This primary source discusses the fundamental rights of the Russian people. I used this to understand the fundamental rights Russian people had and compared it to the Romanov era.

Secondary Sources

17. Britannica, Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Menshevik.” Encyclopedia Britannica, October 8, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/menshevik>.

This is a Britannica entry about the Menshevik ideology. It explains the Menshevik ideology and how it differs from the Leninist ideology. I used this source to compare and contrast the two ideologies and to build my understanding of different forms of Communism.

18. Britannica, Editors of Encyclopædia. “Leninism.” Encyclopedia Britannica, October 8, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Leninism>.

This source is a secondary source written by the editors of Britannica to explain the concept of Leninism and its associated ideas. I used this source in footnotes 6, 11, and 16, and I also used it to build my understanding of Lenin's ideas and how Leninism worked.

19. Duignan, B.. "Enlightenment." Encyclopedia Britannica, October 28, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Enlightenment-European-history>.

This article about the Enlightenment helped me to better understand the events and effects of the Enlightenment era. I used this to learn more about the Enlightenment, a key period of ideas that influenced the Russian Revolution.

20. "Karl Marx." In Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2nd ed. Last modified December 20, 2020. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/marx/>.

This is an entry in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy about Karl Marx, whose brainchild was communism. This article describes how Marx's life influenced his view of the world through the critical lens of the economy and social class. I used this source to understand Marxism.

21. Freeze, Gregory L. "Subversive Piety: Religion and the Political Crisis in Late Imperial Russia." *The Journal of Modern History* 68, no. 2 (1996): 308–50. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2124666>.

Freeze's article analyses how dissent and unorthodox spiritual movements undermined the tsarist state's authority in imperial Russia. I used this source to demonstrate how the Russian Revolution came into being after religious and political activism contributed to the Bolsheviks' rise.

22. Massie, Robert K. Nicholas and Alexandra : The Classic Account of the Fall of the Romanov Dynasty. New York: Modern Library, 2012.

This book explores the fall of the Romanovs and how their removal led to the rise of the Bolsheviks and the Soviet Union. I used this source to understand how the dynamics of the ruling Romanovs influenced Russia, especially Alexandra's reliance on Rasputin and Nicholas's weak leadership.

23. Pipes, Richard. Three 'Whys' of the Russian Revolution. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 1995.

This scholarship addresses three fundamental questions about why the Russian Revolution occurred, why the

Bolsheviks emerged victorious, and why their rule turned totalitarian. I use this source to understand the structural causes of the revolution and to explain the specific conditions that led to the rise of the Bolsheviks and the consolidation of their power.

24. Resis, A.. "Vladimir Lenin." Encyclopedia Britannica, October 25, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vladimir-Lenin>.

This short biography of Lenin offered me a sketch of the leader's life. As one of the key figures, it was crucial for me to know a lot about him, and I used this to learn about his ideologies and his background.

25. Showalter, D. E. and Royde-Smith, . John Graham. "World War I." Encyclopedia Britannica, November 11, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I>.

As WWI played a major part in the collapse of imperial Russia, I researched it for crucial context surrounding my topic. I used this article to understand WWI and the failures of Russia during that period.

26. Stone, David R. The Russian Army in the Great War: the Eastern Front, 1914-1917. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2015.

This is a book about Russian involvement, specifically in WWI, and it goes into depth about Russian failures to mobilise during the war as well as strategic mistakes made by the Russian army.

27. Todd, Allan. History for the Ib Diploma: The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe 1924 2000. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

This book outlines the history of the Soviet Union and Russia from 1924 to 2000. I used this in tandem with the book by Sally Waller to understand what formed the Bolshevik's core after the civil war between them and the Mensheviks and what led to the rise of Stalin.

28. Waller, Sally. Imperial Russia, Revolutions and the Emergence of the Soviet State 1853-1924. Cambridge UP, 2012.

I used this book, which was recommended to me by my Social Studies teacher at school, Mr Knoflick, to learn more about the social, political, and economic problems that led to the fall of Imperial Russia and the rise of the Bolsheviks. It dives deeply into how imperial Russia walls cracked throughout both the late 19th and the early 20th centuries. I used it to build my understanding of how the Romanovs's rule crumbled.