

Russian Revolution

When Russia entered World War I, it was completely unprepared for what was to come. Its military leaders were weak, and its factories could not make enough weapons and supplies. In the first years of the war, more than two million Russian soldiers were killed. Czar Nicholas II, the Russian monarch, went to the battlefield. Czar Nicholas thought it would help his country if he went and personally led the troops. Czar Nicholas left his wife, Alexandra, in charge of the government while he was gone.

By March 1917, the Russian people were angry, because millions of soldiers were dying in the war. At home, there were food and fuel shortages. The government had started rationing bread, or limiting the amount of people that could buy bread. Angry workers, led by the working-class women, went on strike. Thousands marched through the streets of Petrograd, Russia, yelling, "Bread! Bread!"

Alexandra wrote to Czar Nicholas at the battlefield and told him what was going on. She told him, "This is a hooligan movement. Young people run around and shout that there is no bread, simply to create excitement. If the weather were very cold, they would all probably stay at home." The czar ordered troops to stop the protests by shooting into the crowd if necessary. But the soldiers refused to follow his orders. Many joined the demonstrators. The czar had lost his power. Nicholas was forced to step down as czar of Russia.

Russia's temporary government decided to stay in World War I to protect its honor. People were not happy with this decision. They were tired of fighting, starving, and suffering. Groups called soviets formed across the country in towns and rural areas. The soviets were local councils made up of workers, peasants, and soldiers who wanted change. Some of the soviets had more power in their areas than the temporary government.

A political party called the Bolsheviks became powerful by gaining the support of soviets around the country. Under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin, the Bolsheviks promised an end to the war. They also said that land would be given to the peasants. Their slogans were "Peace, Land, Bread" and "All Power to the Soviets." The Bolsheviks overthrew the temporary government and seized power. Soon, they renamed themselves the Communists.

Not everyone was happy with the Communists. A civil war broke out in Russia. However, by 1921, the Communists had total control of Russia. Lenin organized Russia into several self-governing republics that all answered to the central government in Moscow. In 1922, the country was renamed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or USSR.

On the back of this paper, you will need to create a comic strip explaining the events of the Russian Revolution. Make sure to include your illustrations in chronological order. You will need to include a title, picture, and description for each event.