The Russian Revolution

By 1917 the bond between the Tsar (ruler of Russia) and most of the Russian people had been broken. Governmental corruption and inefficiency were rampant. The tsar’s reactionary policies began the large dissatisfaction of Russian citizens, even among the moderates. The Russian Empire’s many ethnic minorities grew increasingly uneasy under Russian domination.

But it was the government’s inefficient prosecution of **World War I** that finally provided the challenge the old regime could not meet. Ill-equipped and poorly led, Russian armies suffered catastrophic losses in campaign after campaign against German armies. The war made revolution inevitable in two ways: it showed Russia was no longer a military match for the nations of central and western Europe, and it hopelessly disrupted the economy.

**Riots** over the scarcity of food broke out in the capital, **Petrograd** (now St. Petersburg) in early 1905. Peasants and industrial workers went on strike and put on demonstrations throughout the city, including at the Tsar's Winter Palace. On January 22, 1905, a day that became known as **Bloody Sunday**, the Tsar's imperial guards open fired on a crowd of thousands of peaceful protesters. No one knows for certain how many people were killed, but figures range from a hundred into the thousands. The heavy-handed action of the Tsar's imperial guards sparked further rioting and added fuel to the fire of revolution.

Concerned his rule might be toppled, Nicholas II sought to appease revolutionaries by granting reforms. Caving to political pressure, he approved the creation of the Duma, a legislative assembly. The first Duma convened in 1906. The Tsar also agreed to a constitution granting basic civil liberties and transforming his absolute monarchy into more of a limited constitutional monarchy. We need to remember the Tsar absolutely did not want to institute these changes, but given the tide of resentment toward him, he basically had no choice; his hands were tied. On February 24 (March 8), and, when most of the Petrograd garrison joined the revolt, **Tsar Nicholas II** was forced to [**abdicate**](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/abdicate)March 2 (March 15).

**The February Revolution**, which removed Tsar Nicholas II from power, developed spontaneously out of a series of increasingly violent demonstrations and riots on the streets of Petrograd (present day St. Petersburg), during a time when the Tsar was away from the capital visiting troops from the World War I front.

Though the February Revolution was a popular uprising, it did not necessarily express the wishes of the majority of the population, as the event was primarily limited to the city of Petrograd. However, most of those who took power after the February Revolution, in the **provisional government** (the temporary government that replaced the Tsar) and in the **Petrograd Soviet** (an influential local council representing workers and soldiers), generally favored rule that was at least partially democratic.

**The October Revolution** (also called the **Bolshevik Revolution**) overturned the interim provisional government and established the **Soviet Union**. The October Revolution was a much more deliberate event, orchestrated by a small group of people. The Bolsheviks, who led this coup, prepared their coup in only six months. They were generally viewed as an extremist group and had very little popular support when they began serious effort in April 1917. By October, the Bolsheviks popular base was much larger; though still a minority within the country as a whole, they had built up a majority of support within Petrograd and other urban centers.

After October, the Bolsheviks realized that they could not maintain power in an election based system without sharing power with other parties and compromising their principles. As a result, they formally abandoned the democratic process in **January 1918** and declared themselves the **representative of a dictatorship of the proletariat**. In response, the **Russian Civil War** broke out in the summer that year that would last well into 1920.

After the Revolution, **Vladimir Lenin** initiated the New Economic Program (NEP) to help reboot the economy. Eventually a man named **Joseph Stalin** rose to power and maintained a dictator like reign over the Soviet Union until after World War II.

The Fever Model of the Russian Revolution

Above is a brief history of the revolution that took place in Russia that eventually created the Soviet Union in the early 20th century. Your group is going to create the fever model, including all four of the stages of a revolution specific to this event.

**What you need to do:**

* You will be given a copy of the fever model
* You must take the information from the story and place the events, people, and movements onto the model in the stage you believe fits best.
* You must include all bolded and underlined words from the source above into your model.
* You may research additional information on topics to get a clear understanding if needed
* Each event on the stages needs to have an explanation as to WHY it is there.
  + Keep in mind what is included in each stage, and apply that to your specific event.
* The model should be neat, thoughtful planned, and easy to grade.
* You may have slightly different responses than other groups, and that’s okay! As long as you can justify it.