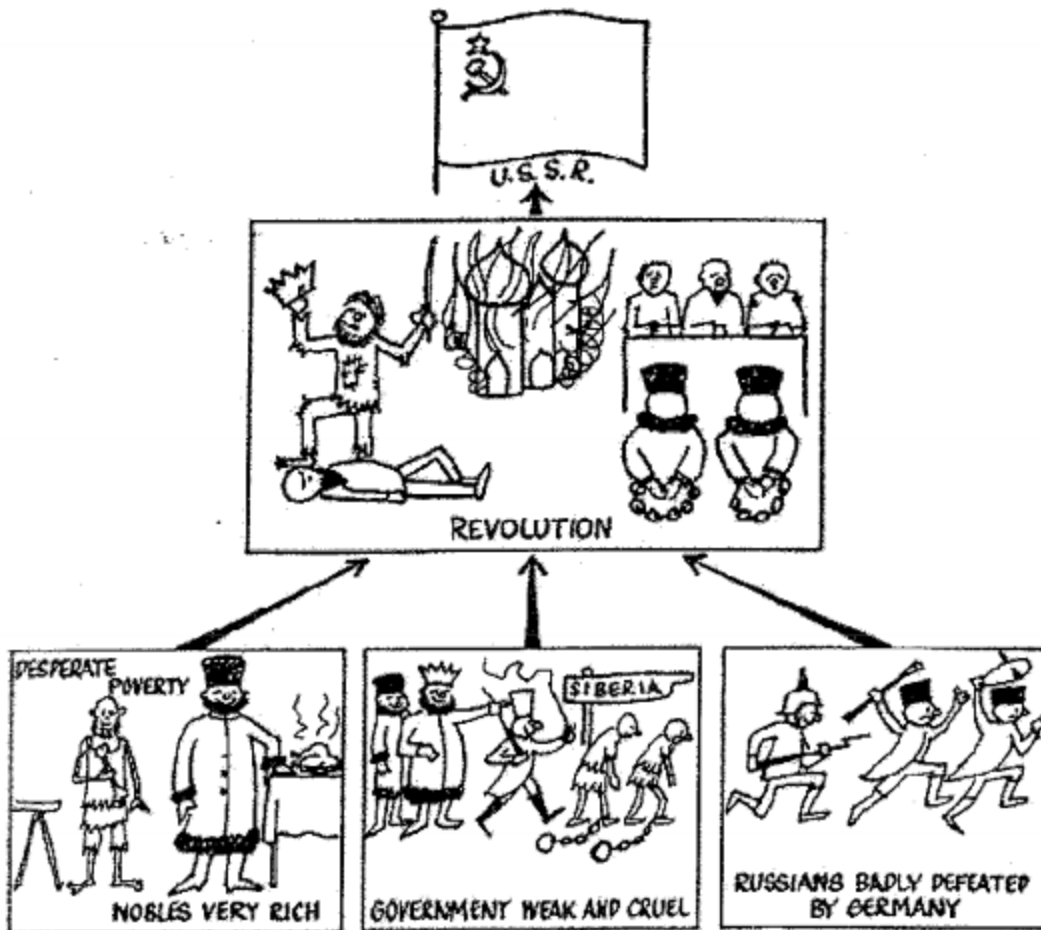




Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION



CHAPTER
14
SECTION 5

Section Summary
REVOLUTION AND CIVIL WAR IN RUSSIA

READING CHECK

What was the name of the new Communist nation?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *withdrawal* mean in the underlined sentence? What clues or examples can you find in the surrounding words, phrases, or sentences that hint at its meaning? Circle the words in the paragraph that could help you learn what *withdrawal* means.

READING SKILL

Summarize Describe the events that led to Communist control of Russia.

At the beginning of the 1900s, Russia had many political, economic, and social problems. Tsar Nicholas II resisted change. Marxists tried to ignite revolution among the proletariat. World War I quickly strained Russian resources. By March 1917, disasters on the battlefield and shortages at home brought the monarchy to collapse, and the tsar abdicated. While politicians set up a temporary government, revolutionary socialists set up soviets, or councils of workers and soldiers. These radical socialists were called Bolsheviks and were led by V. I. Lenin.

Lenin believed revolution could bring change. Leon Trotsky, another Marxist leader, helped Lenin lead the fight. To the weary Russian people, Lenin promised "Peace, Land, and Bread." In November 1917, Lenin and the Bolsheviks, renamed Communists, overthrew the government and seized power.

After the Bolshevik Revolution, events in Russia led to the nation's withdrawal from World War I. After the withdrawal, civil war raged for three years between the Communist "Reds" and the "White" armies of tsarist imperial officers. The Russians now fought only among themselves.

The Communists shot the former tsar and his family. They organized the Cheka, a brutal secret police force, to control their own people. Trotsky kept Red Army officers under the close watch of commissars—Communist Party officials. The Reds' position in the center of Russia gave them a strategic advantage, and they defeated the White armies.

After the civil war, Lenin had to rebuild a shattered state and economy. The new nation was called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or Soviet Union. The Communist constitution set up an elected legislature. All political power, resources, and means of production would now belong to workers and peasants. In reality, however, the Communist Party, not the people, had all the power. Lenin did, however, allow some capitalist ventures that helped the Soviet economy recover. After Lenin's death, party leader Joseph Stalin took ruthless steps to win total control of the nation.

Review Questions

1. What brought about the tsar's abdication and the end of the monarchy in Russia?

2. Why did Lenin want revolution?

Czar Nicholas II

Was he a good ruler for Russia?

Directions: In the chart below, organize the various quotes about czar. List the attributes the czar possessed that made him a good leader and list the attributes he possessed that made him a poor leader. Write the number of the source under the proper column headings.

Good Leader	Poor Leader

In your opinion, based on the chart, was Czar Nicholas II a good or bad ruler for Russia?

Sources on Tsar Nicholas II: Was he a good ruler for Russia? Skill: Interpretations

<p>Source 1: "The daily work of a monarch he found intolerably boring. He could not stand listening long or seriously to ministers' reports, or reading them." Written by Kerensky, the leader of the government which took over from the Tsar in 1917, in his memoirs in 1934.</p>	<p>Source 2: "His ancestors did not pass on to him one quality which would have made him capable of governing an empire." Written by Trotsky, one of the leaders of the revolutionaries who opposed the Tsar, in 1932.</p>
<p>Source 3: "Nicholas II was not fit to run a village post office." Said by an unknown cabinet minister</p>	<p>Source 4: "He never had an opinion of his own ... always agreeing with the judgement of the last person he spoke to." By Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich</p>
<p>Source 5: Nicholas was "kind to those around him and deeply religious. ... He believed wholeheartedly in autocracy. ... He genuinely wanted to bring happiness and prosperity to his people". From a modern GCSE school textbook.</p>	<p>Source 6: "He has a quick mind and learns easily. In this respect he is far superior to his father." By Sergei Witte, chief minister under Nicholas, in his memoirs. Even though he disliked the Tsar, he said this of Nicholas.</p>
<p>Source 7: "There is no doubt that Nicholas was a kind, well-meaning person, with a deep affection for his family. He was devoted to his wife, Alexandra, his son, Alexis, and his four daughters. Family photographs were in every room of the palace, including the lavatory." From a modern GCSE school textbook.</p>	<p>Source 8: "Nicholas would sooner spend time with his family than deal with governmental affairs. [He] could be cruel and merciless. He would not stand for opposition. His answer was always the same - violence." From a modern GCSE school textbook.</p>
<p>Source 9: "He kept saying ... that he was wholly unfit to reign ... And yet Nicky's unfitness was by no means his fault. He had intelligence, he had faith and courage and he was wholly ignorant about governmental matters. Nicky had been trained as a soldier. He should have been taught statesmanship, and he was not." From the diary of the Tsar's sister, the Grand Duchess Olga.</p>	<p>Source 10: "Nicholas believed wholeheartedly in autocracy. He thought that democracy with elections and parliaments would lead to the collapse of Russia. Nicholas knew very little about the [Russian] people. He did not visit factories or villages, or go on tours. His information about what was going on came from a small number of people, who were quite happy to protect him from the realities of life in Russia." From a modern GCSE school textbook.</p>
<p>Source 11: Nicholas was "even more poorly prepared than his father for the burdens of kingship. Nicholas had no knowledge of the world of men, of politics or government to help him make the weighty decisions that in the Russian system the Tsar alone must make." From H. Rogger, <i>Russia in the Age of Modernisation and Revolution</i>, 1983</p>	<p>Source 12: "Nicholas was not a stupid man ... The problems Russia faced were very great ... Nicholas II loved his country and served it loyally and to the best of his ability. He had not sought power ... He was very kind, sensitive, generous. ... [The situation] would probably have destroyed any man who sat on the throne." From <i>Nicholas II, Emperor of All the Russians</i>, by Dominic Lieven, 1994.</p>
<p>Source 13: "Nicholas' problem was that he could understand many points of view and wavered between them ... his personality meant that he was not very good at exercising it." From <i>Nicholas II, Emperor of All the Russians</i>, by Dominic Lieven, 1994.</p>	<p>Source 14: Nicholas' wife, "Alexandra, was clearly very much in love with Nicholas. In the evenings, she demanded that he spend time with the family. She encouraged the Tsar to withdraw from public events to a private family world." From a modern GCSE school textbook.</p>

Name: _____

Date: _____

HISTORYMAKERS - Vladimir Lenin *Russian Revolutionary*

“There is no other man who is absorbed by the revolution twenty-four hours a day, who has no other thoughts but the thought of revolution, and who even when he sleeps, dreams of nothing but revolution. “—another Communist speaking of Lenin

Vladimir Lenin was one of the century’s most important leaders. Unhappy and disillusioned with the Russian monarchy, he led a group called the Bolsheviks in a revolution that gave him control of the largest nation in the world.

Born in 1870, Lenin was raised by two educated parents in a happy family. He showed intelligence and skill with classical languages. While in his teens, two shocks jolted his world. First, his father was threatened with losing his job by the government. Second, Lenin’s older brother was hanged for conspiring against the czar. Within two years, Lenin had read the work of Karl Marx and believed that Russia needed a Communist revolution.

Lenin then began to write and to recruit new followers. He was arrested and served 15 months in prison followed by three years of exile in Siberia. When that ended in 1900, he traveled abroad, where he spent much of the next 17 years. During this time, he sharpened his ideas about Marxism.

Marxism said that industrial workers, called the proletariat, were in a struggle against capitalists, the people that owned businesses. Eventually, Marx said, the workers would overthrow the capitalists and form a new society called communism. However, Russia consisted mainly of peasants and only had a small number of industrial workers. Marxists wondered how a workers’ revolution could occur,

Lenin saw the role of the party as essential, and his group became known as the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks, he said, would lead the people to the revolution they needed. However, many Marxists found it difficult to accept Lenin’s iron rule. In 1912, he forced those who disagreed with him out of the party.

World War I brought another crisis. Communists all over Europe ignored class loyalty and chose to fight for their country instead. They joined their nations’ armies to fight each other—not the capitalists. Lenin said that the war would help capitalists profit while workers suffered. He urged that Communists “transform the imperialist war into a civil war.”

As the war continued, the Russian people suffered terribly. In March 1917, hungry, angry workers and soldiers overthrew the czar. Lenin and his supporters won permission from Germany to travel through German lands back to Russia.

Lenin accepted the new temporary government but said that it was not revolutionary enough. He urged that power go to the soviets, which were councils of workers set up in many cities. His position grew dangerous. He was branded a German agent and was forced to live in hiding in Finland. From that base, he issued a stream of writings urging immediate Russian withdrawal from the war and for the government to give land and bread to the people. These cries gained popularity. In late October, he returned to Russia, disguised for his safety. He persuaded the party’s leaders that it was time to overthrow the provisional government but watched with alarm as no steps were taken. Finally, on November 7, 1917, the Bolsheviks overthrew the temporary government. The soviets chose the 47-year-old Lenin as their leader.

Lenin quickly made peace with Germany, giving up large chunks of Russian territory. A civil war, though, still raged in Russia between the Bolsheviks and their opponents. However, Lenin’s leadership ensured that the new government would survive.

With peace came the question of how to rule the new state. The country was named the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Bolsheviks renamed themselves the Communist Party. In Lenin’s last years, he struggled to prevent Stalin from gaining power. Lenin became ill and died in 1924.

Questions

1. Drawing Conclusions - What is the danger of Lenin’s idea of party leadership?
2. Making Inferences - Why did the Germans allow Lenin and his associates to return to Russia?
3. Recognizing Facts and Details - What obstacles did Lenin have to overcome to achieve his revolution?

Russian Revolution

Review Sheet

Reasons for Revolution

- World War I created conditions in Russia that helped trigger the Russian Revolution.
- Another major cause of the revolution was the abuse of power by Czar Nicholas II
- Revolutionaries led by Vladimir Lenin offered peace (out of WWI), land (land for the peasants), break (food) for the masses
- The events of Bloody Sunday, the heavy casualties during World War I, and the ineffective leadership of the czar led to the revolution of 1917
- World War I led to the revolution in (Bolshevik) revolution in Russia, the signing of the Treaty of Versailles and the rise of fascism in Europe

Effects of Revolution

- Russia became the first country with a communist government
- Lenin based his rule on the ideas of Marx and Engels