

Chapter Twenty Seven Terms

Bolsheviks:

Bolsheviks were members of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party, however the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks drifted apart in 1912. Led by Lenin, the Bolsheviks took control of the Russian government in 1917 and became the dominant political power. The Bolsheviks became increasingly popular among urban workers and soldiers in Russia after the February Revolution in 1917. When they overthrew the Provisional Government, the second Congress of Soviets approved the action and formally took control of the government. Immediately after the October Revolution, the Bolsheviks refused to share power with other revolutionary groups. The Bolsheviks are important because they symbolized the first socialist takeover and removed Russia from WWI after they won the civil war and killed the tsar's family.

Duma:

The Duma was the Russian council that set up councils during World War I in order to aid the war effort. The Duma also passed legislation in favor of the upper classes, however were subject to the tsar's veto. Tsar Nicholas II distrusted the Duma and refused to share power; this led to the Duma being critical of his leadership. Some began to demand for a more democratic form of government and soon the tsar temporarily adjourned the Duma as he left to supervise the war front. Leaving Alexandra and her advisor Rasputin (who was soon murdered) to run the country, riots took place as Nicholas II tried to call for order. The Duma called for a provisional government and the tsar soon abdicated. This provisional government was later overthrown in the October Revolution in 1917, and Lenin and the Bolsheviks were granted control. The Duma is important because they forced the tsar to abdicate and allowed for a provisional government to come to power; this change was also a step for democracy for the nation.

Petrograd Soviet:

The Petrograd Soviet was a powerful legislative body of 2,000 that was established in March 1917 after the February Revolution. While St. Petersburg already had the Saint Petersburg City Duma, the Petrograd Soviet represented the city's workers and soldiers. Watching the provisional government, the Petrograd Soviet issued its own radical orders including Army Order No. 1. Army Order No. 1 took power away from army officers and in the hands of committees of common soldiers. Soon, peasants began to use this power for their own good and seized land from others; liberty soon became anarchy and paved the way for radicals like Lenin. The Petrograd Soviet is important because of radical orders like Army Order No. 1 that weakened the provisional government and paved the way for the Bolsheviks

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk:

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed between the Germans and the Russians in the early 1900s after it was determined that the Germans had defeated the Russians. Signed by Lenin, this treaty was at first met with opposition by the Bolsheviks. As part of the treaty, Russia lost many of its western territories and nearly a third of its population. This treaty did, however, pave the way for Lenin to acquire absolute political power. The treaty is important because it allowed the Germans to focus on the Western Front and also allowed the Bolsheviks to consolidate their power.

Alexander Kerensky:

Alexander Kerensky was a Russian socialist leader who was part of the reorganized Russian government in 1917 and served as prime minister. He rejected Marxist ideas of social revolution and refused to give landholdings to peasants as he feared the consequences on the Russian peasant army. The nationalistic Kerensky felt that the war was of the utmost importance and this managed to hurt the power of the provisional government. Alexander Kerensky is important because, as a nationalist socialist he kept Russia in WWI and also showed that not all socialists were Marxist socialists like Lenin.

Vladimir Lenin:

Vladimir Lenin was a Marxist socialist inspired by *The Communist Manifesto* who denounced revisionist theories and believed that capitalism would be destroyed by violent revolution. Believing that certain circumstances would lead to said revolution even in backwards countries like Russia, he thought that the peasants could substitute as the working class. He also believed that a worker's party was a necessity, controlled by revolutionaries like himself that wouldn't stop until power was achieved; thus, revolution was directly dependent on the people to fuel it. The Germans tried to use him in part of their plan to weaken the order in Russia, since Lenin wished to undermine the current war efforts. This plan worked; however, the Germans did not expect Lenin to take control as he did. His followers, Bolsheviks, met opposition from the other socialist group known as the Mensheviks but eventually took power due to the efforts of Lenin's supporter Leon Trotsky. With the help of Trotsky, the provisional government was no more and the Bolsheviks had power. Lenin managed to keep this power by taking advantages of situations outside of his control (such as peasants taking land from wealthier men) and ratified decrees that merely supported what was already going on. He also acknowledged that the Russians had been beaten by the Germans and signed the treaty of Brest-Litovsk that allowed him to pursue absolute political power for the Bolsheviks/Communists. Lenin is important because this strong revolutionary figure symbolized the first communist takeover of a nation and he also set the stage for one-party rule.