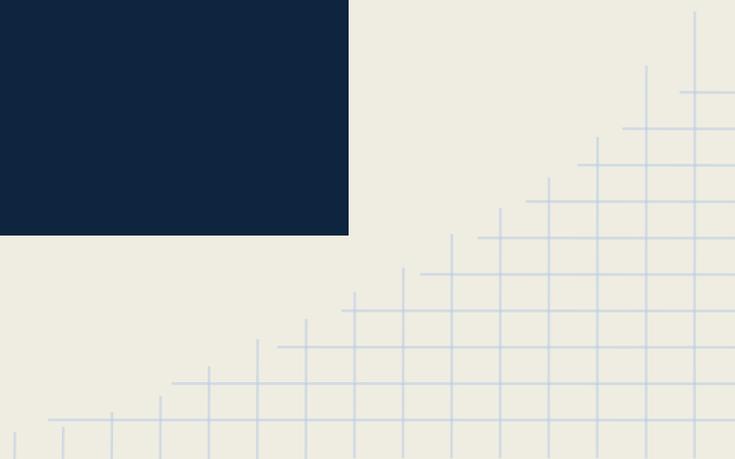




Russian Revolution

Chapter 8 Section 3



Focus Questions #15

- What are some of the major reasons for the Russian Revolution?
- What important event leads to the Czar's collapse?
- What mistake does the provisional government make that leads to challenges from the Soviets?
- What is socialism and what major groups play a huge role in the revolution?

Reasons for Revolution

- Czar Nicholas II insisted on taking charge of the armed forces despite his lack of training, which led to disastrous leadership in World War I.
- Russia was also unprepared militarily and technologically. Troops trained using broomsticks because Russian industry was unable to produce the necessary weapons.
- Soldiers were sent to the front without rifles and told to pick one up from a dead comrade.
- Russian losses were also a factor that led to revolution. Between 1914 and 1916 two million soldiers were killed and another four to six million were wounded or captured.
- By 1917 the Russian will to fight had vanished.

Reasons for Revolution

- At home poor decision making by the Czar's wife Alexandra led to economic disasters, and a series of military mistakes.
- In March of 1917 a series of strikes led by working-class women broke out in the capital city.
- The Russian government started rationing bread and bread prices skyrocketed.
- A general strike led by the working women shut down factories and production. The Czar responded by shooting at the crowds if necessary.

The Czar's Collapse

- The military refuses to fire on the protesting crowds and joined the demonstrators to protest against the Czar.
- Then on March 12, the Duma (legislative body) established a provisional government and urged the Czar to step down.
- Nicholas II had lost the support of the military, the legislator, and the aristocrats.
- On March 15, Nicholas II step down ending the 300 year old Romanov Dynasty.

Provisional Government

- The new provisional government was led by Alexander Kerensky.
- Kerensky was a lawyer and major political leader. He belonged to a moderate socialist party, called [Trudoviks](#).
- Kerensky decided to remain in the war to preserve Russia's honor. This decision was a major mistake in his part.
- It did not satisfy either the working class, the peasants or aristocrats.
- The provisional government also faced challenges to its authority from the soviets.

The Soviets

- The Soviets were councils composed of representatives from the workers and soldiers.
- The Soviets formed in 1917 and spread their ideas into army units, factory towns and rural areas.
- The Soviets were largely made up of socialist and represented the more radical interest of the lower classes.
- Socialism is a social and economic system characterised by social ownership of the means of production and co-operative management of the economy. (Co-ownership of the economy)
- The Soviet group known as the Bolsheviks played a crucial role in the Russian Revolution.