



**Class 9 2022-23**

# **SOCIALISM IN EUROPE & THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION**

Ch 2 | Class 9 S.St. (History)

**Handwritten Notes & Imp Questions**



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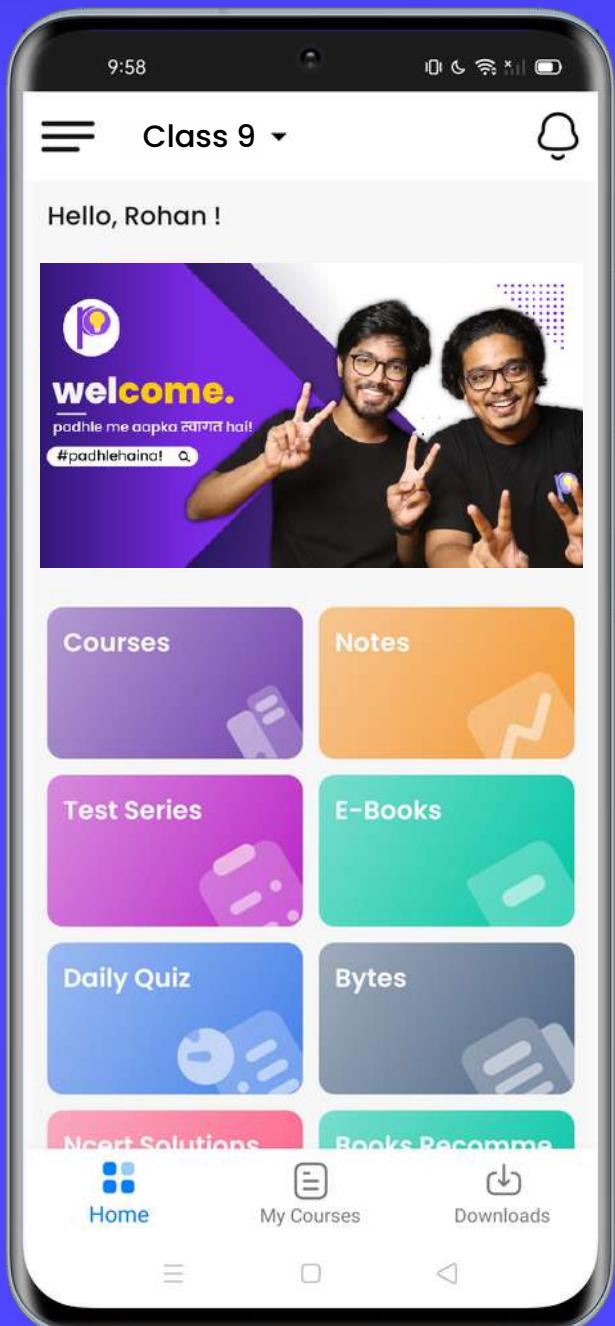
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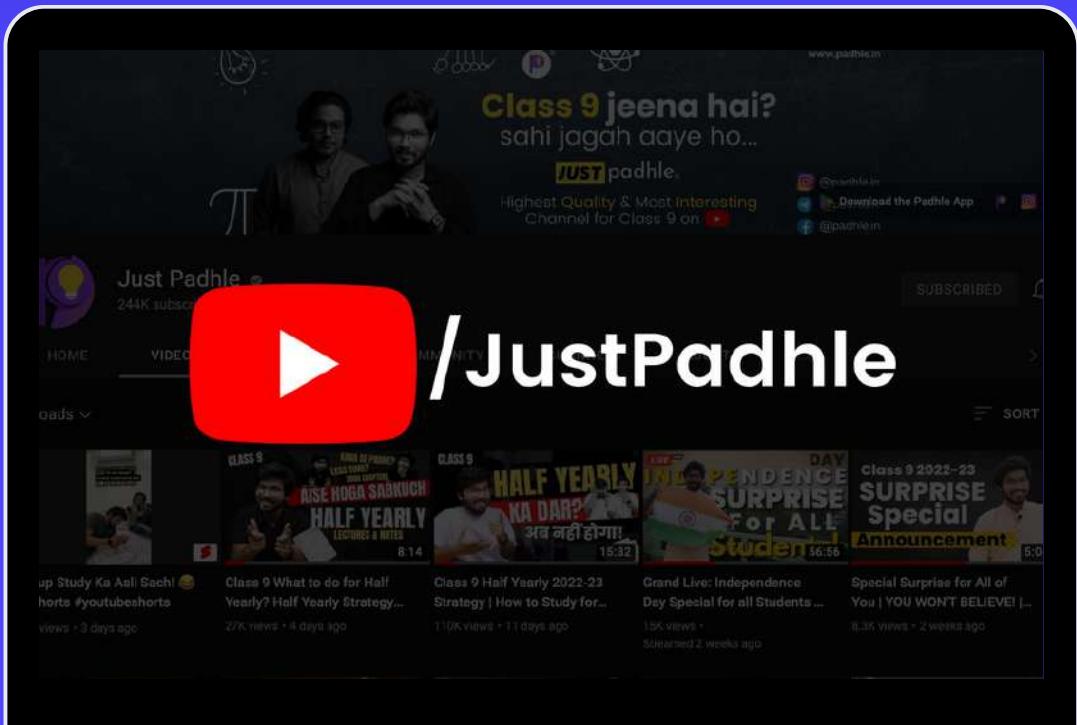
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# SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

- The French Revolution opened up the possibility of creating a dramatic change in the way in which society was structured.
- I.e., earlier only Nobles and church controlled economic and social power.
- Suddenly, after the revolution, it seemed possible to change this.
- In many parts of the world including Europe and Asia, new ideas about individual rights and who controlled social power began to be discussed.

## \* Thoughts of European about French Revolution :

- Not everyone in Europe, however, wanted a complete transformation of society.
- Some people accepted that some change was necessary but wished for a gradual shift.
- Some wanted to restructure society radically.
- Some were 'conservatives' others were 'liberals' or 'radicals'.

These terms do  
not mean the same  
thing in all contexts or  
at all times...



## \* Liberals, Radicals and Conservatives :

### - Liberals :

- One of the groups which looked to change society were the liberals.
- They also opposed the uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers.
- They argued for a representative, elected parliamentary government.
- They did not believe in universal adult franchise.
- They felt men of property mainly should have the vote.

## - Radicals :

- They wanted a nation in which government was based on the majority of a country's population.
- They also supported women's suffragette movements.
- Unlike liberals, they opposed the privileges of great landowners and wealthy factory owners.
- They were not against the existence of private property but disliked concentration of property in the hands of a few.

## \* Difference between Liberals and Radicals :

L i b e r a l s	R a d i c a l s
a) Liberals favoured a secular country, where all regions would be respected.	The radicals were the group of people who believed that the government should be based on the majority of the population of a country.
b) Liberals did not support the concept of universal adult franchise.	Radicals were active supporters of the concept of universal adult franchise.
c) Liberals were the supporters of private property ownership.	Radicals were extremely against the concept of private property ownership.
d) Liberals were against granting the right to vote for women.	Radicals, on the other hand, supported the women's suffragette movement.

## \* Conservatives :

- ❖ Conservatives were opposed to radicals and liberals.
- ❖ Before French Revolution they generally opposed the idea of any change.
- ❖ After the French Revolution, however, even conservatives had opened their minds to the need for change.
- ❖ By the nineteenth century, they accepted that some change was inevitable.
- ❖ But they believed that the past had to be respected and change had to be brought about through a slow process.

\* Such differing ideas about societal change clashed during the social and political turmoil that followed the French Revolution.

\* The various attempts at revolution and national transformation in the nineteenth century helped define both the limits and potential of these political tendencies.

## \* Industrial Society and Social Change :

- ① These political trends were signs of a new time.
- ② New cities came up and new industrialised regions developed.
- ③ It was a time when new cities came up.
- ④ Railways expanded and the Industrial Revolution occurred.

## \* Problems faced by people :

- Industrialization brought men, women and children to factories.
- Work hours were often long and wages were poor.
- Unemployment was common.
- Housing and sanitation were problems.

→ Liberals and radicals searched for solutions to these issues.

## \* Role of Liberals and Radicals :

- Almost all industries were the property of individuals.
- Liberals and radicals themselves were often property owners and employers.
- Having made their wealth through trade or industrial ventures, they felt that such effort should be encouraged.
- Many working men and women who wanted changes in the world rallied around liberal and radical groups and parties in the early nineteenth century.

## \* **Revolutionaries** :

- Wanted revolutions to put an end to the kind of governments established in Europe in 1815.
- France, Italy, Germany and Russia, they became revolutionaries and worked to overthrow existing monarchs.
- After 1815, Giuseppe Mazzini, an Italian nationalist, conspired with others to achieve this in Italy.

## \* **The Coming of Socialism to Europe** :

By the mid-nineteenth century in Europe, socialism was a well-known body of ideas that attracted widespread attention.

## \* **What is Socialism ?**

- ❖ A system of society in which means of production are owned and controlled by state.
- ❖ Socialists were against private property, and saw it as the root of all social ills of the time.

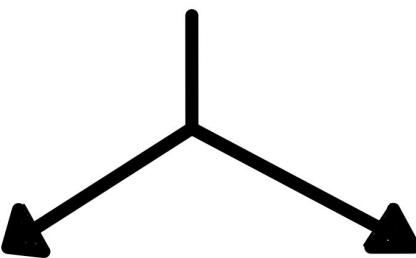


Why

Individuals owned the property that gave employment but the propertied were concerned only with personal gain and not with the welfare of those who made the property productive.

- ❖ They wanted that all the property should be owned and controlled by society.
- ❖ For this purpose, they also encouraged the concept of cooperatives.
- ❖ Thus, more attention would be paid to collective social interests.
- ❖ Socialists wanted this change and campaigned for it.

Socialists had different visions of the future :



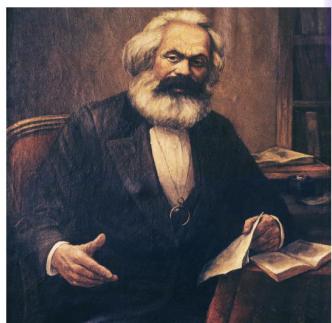
Some believed in the idea of cooperatives.

→ Robert Owen (1771 - 1858), a leading English manufacturer, sought to build a cooperative community called New Harmony in Indiana (USA).

Other socialists felt that cooperatives could not be built on a wide scale only through individual initiative: they demanded that governments encourage cooperatives.

→ In France, for instance, Louis Blanc (1813 - 1882) wanted the government to encourage cooperatives and replace capitalist enterprises.

## \* Communalism :



- † Karl Marx (1818 - 1883) and Friedrich Engels added other ideas to this body of arguments.
- † They believed that to free themselves from capitalist exploitation, workers had to construct a socialist society where all property was socially controlled.

† This would be a communist society.

## \* Support for Socialism :

- † By the 1870s, socialist ideas spread through Europe.
- † To coordinate their efforts, socialists formed an international body - namely, the Second International.
- † Workers in England and Germany began forming associations to fight for better living and working conditions.

- They set up funds to help members working in hours and times of the distress right and demanded a reduction of working hours.
- By 1905, socialists and trade unionists formed a Labour Party in Britain and a Socialist Party in France.
- Represented by strong figures in Parliamentary politics, their ideas did shape legislation.
- But governments continued to be run by conservatives, liberals and radicals. (till 1914)

## \* The Russian Revolution :

- In one of the least industrialised states of Europe this situation was reversed.
- Socialists took over the government in Russia through the October Revolution of 1917.
- The fall of monarchy in February 1917 and the events of October are normally called the Russian Revolution.

## \* The Russian Empire in 1914

- In 1914, Tsar Nicholas II ruled Russia and its huge empire.
- Majority population was Russian Orthodox Christianity.
- But the empire also included Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and Buddhists.

## \* Economy and Society

### ♦ Agriculture :

- Majority of Russian population — Agriculturists
- About 85% of the Russian empire's population earned their living from agriculture.
- Cultivators produced for the market and their own needs.
- Russia was a major exporter of grain.

## ❖ Industries found in the pockets :

- Prominent industrial areas - St. Petersburg and Moscow.
- Craftsmen were also present.
- 1890s - Many factories were set up.
  - Foreign investment increased.
- Railway network was extended.
- Coal production doubled and iron and steel output quadrupled.
- Most industry was the private property of industrialists.
- Government supervised them to ensure minimum wages and limited hours of work.
- Yet, factory inspectors could not prevent rules being broken.

## \* Working Hours :

- Crafts units and small workshops - 15 hours
- Factories - 10-12 hours
- Workers were divided social group.
- Some had strong links with the villages and others had settled in cities permanently.
- Workers divided by skill.
- Women made up 31% of the factory labour force, but they were paid less than men.
- Divisions among workers showed themselves in dress and manners too.
- Some workers formed associations to help members in times of unemployment.
- Despite disagreements, workers united to stop dismissals or work when work conditions.
- Strikes took place frequently in the textile industry (1896-1897) and in the metal industry (1902).

## \* Division of Labour :

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## \* Workers Association :

- Some workers formed association to help members in times in unemployment.
- Despite divisions, workers united to stop work when they disagreed with employers about dismissals or work conditions.
- Strikes took place frequently in textile industry (1896 - 1896), and in the metal industry (1902).

## \* Russian Peasants were different from European peasants :

- Produced together and divided the profit (commune - mir).
- Disrespected nobility.
- Divided like workers.
- Wanted the land of the nobles.
- Refused to pay rent and murdered landlords.
- 1905s, murders were common in Russia.

## \* Socialism in Russia :

1.

- All political parties were illegal in Russia before 1914.

2.

- In 1898, socialists founded the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party who respected Marx's ideas.

3.

- However, because of government policing, it had to operate as an illegal organisation.

4.

- It set up a newspaper, mobilised workers and organised strikes.

Russian socialist felt  
Russian peasant custom  
of dividing land periodically  
made them natural socialist.

Social Democrats disagreed  
with socialist Revolutionaries  
about peasants.

Socialist were active formed  
the Socialist Revolutionary  
Party in 1900.

Party struggled for peasants' rights and demanded that land belonging to noble to transferred to peasants.

## \* **Vladimir Lenin :**

- Some labours were poor and others rich, some worked as employed as workers.
- In a repressive society like Tsarist Russia the party should be disciplined and quality of its members.

B o l s h e v i k s	M e n s h e v i k s
→ Bolsheviks (majority group)	→ Mensheviks (minority group)
→ Led by Lenin .	→ Led by Martov .
→ Committed Marxists .	→ Compete at elections .
→ Waiting for the revolution	→ Campaign for reforms now .
→ Believed in a group of revolutionaries .	→ Believed in a large group of activists .

## \* **A Tribulant Time : The 1905 Revolution**

- 20th Century - Russia was not subject to parliament. was an autocracy, as the Tsar
- Liberals in Russia, together with Socialists and Revolutionaries - worked with peasants during the revolution.
- In 1905 to demand a constitution.
- It was supported by nationalists of Poland and Jadidists .

## → Did you know ?

### Jadidists :

- Muslim reformers within the Russian empire .

### ◊ Reasons for 1905 Revolution :

- 1904 - Particularly bad one for Russian workers .
- Prices of essential goods rose so quickly that real wages declined by 20% .
- The membership of workers' associations rose dramatically .

110,000 in  
St Petersburg  
went on strike.

Series of events  
started - became  
known as the  
1905 Revolution .

Bloody Sunday  
1905 Revolution

Led Gapon Winter delegate by Father reached Palace with to Tsar .

Attacked Cossacks, by police and the  
about 300 killing 100 workers and wounded .

### \* Aftermath

- Strikes took place all over the country and universities closed down .
- Lawyers, doctors, engineers and other middle-class workers established the Union of Unions .
- Demanded a Constituent Assembly .

Tsar allowed creation of  
an elected consultative  
**Parliament** or **Duma**

Changed voting laws and packed the third Duma with conservative politicians.

### Dismissal of Duma

After 1905 : most committees and unions declared illegal.

The Tsar dismissed the first Duma within 75 days and the re-elected second Duma.

Did not want questioning of authority.

## \* The First World War and The Russian Empire

◊ 1914 - First World War broke out :

Central Powers	Allied Powers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• German Empire</li> <li>• Austro-Hungarian Empire</li> <li>• Bulgaria</li> <li>• Ottoman Empire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russian Empire</li> <li>• Romania</li> <li>• France</li> <li>• Portugal</li> <li>• Italy</li> <li>• Greece</li> <li>• Serbia</li> <li>• Great Britain</li> <li>• U.S. joined in 1917</li> </ul>

## \* Russia -

→ The war was initially popular and people rallied around Tsar Nicholas II.

→ Tsar refused to consult the main parties in the Duma.

\* Anti-German sentiments ran high, renamed

St. Petersburg - a German name - as Petrograd.

→ The Tsarina Alexandra's German origins and poor advisers, especially a monk called Rasputin, made the autocracy unpopular.

\* The First World War on the 'eastern front' differed from that on the 'western front'.

◇ West - Armies fought from trenches stretched along eastern France.

◇ East - Armies battles moved leaving a large good deal casualties. and fought

Defeats were shocking and demoralising.

## \* Russia's Condition

► Russia's armies lost badly in Germany and Austria between 1914 and 1916.

► Destruction lead to 3 million refugees in Russia.

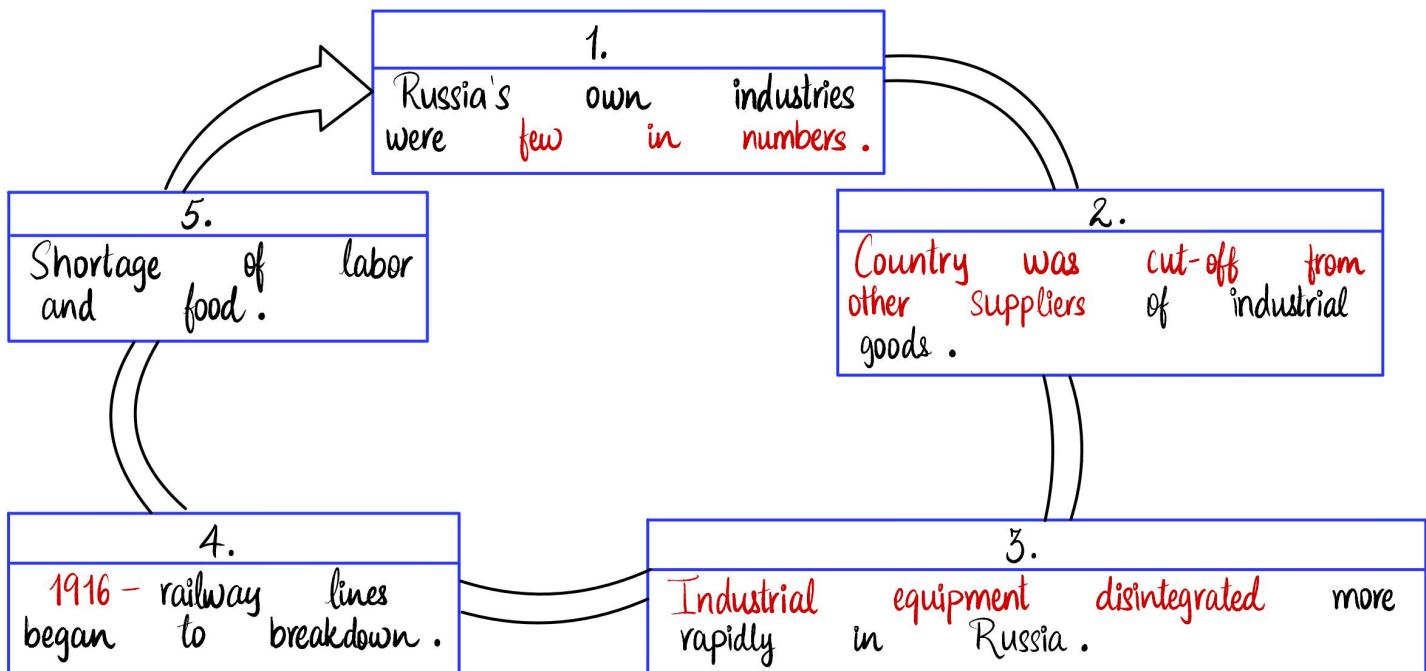
► Over 7 million casualties by 1917.

► Russia's army destroyed crops and buildings to prevent the enemy from being able to live off the land.

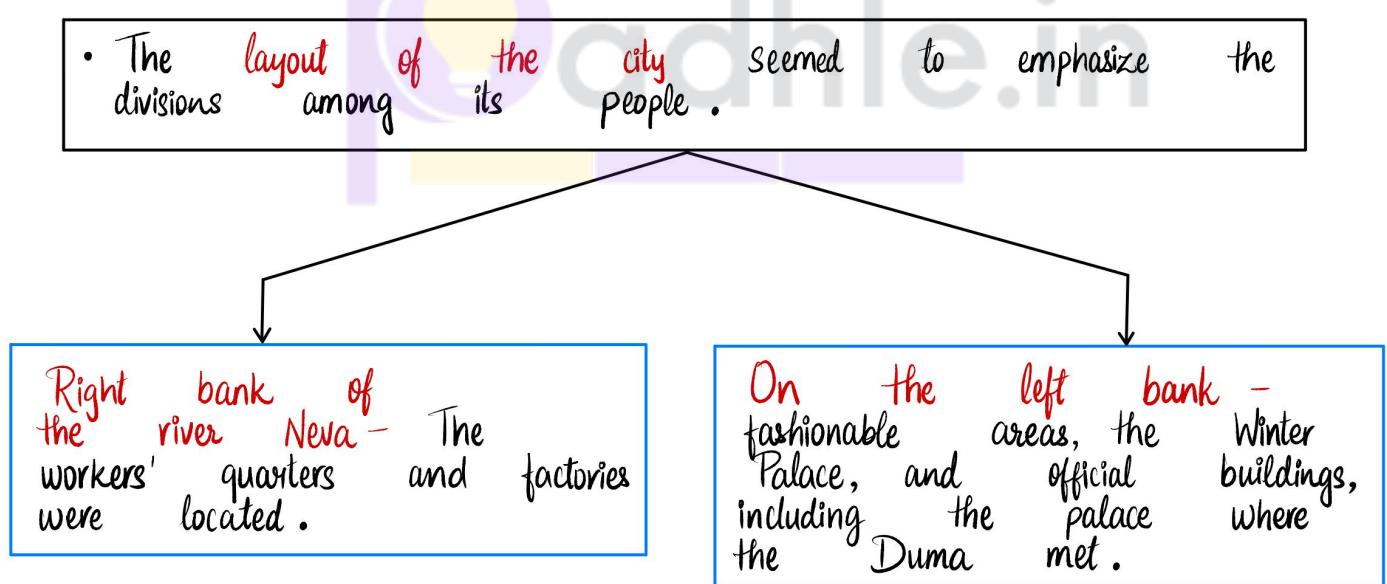
► Situation discredited the government and Tsar.

► Soldiers did not wish to fight such a war.

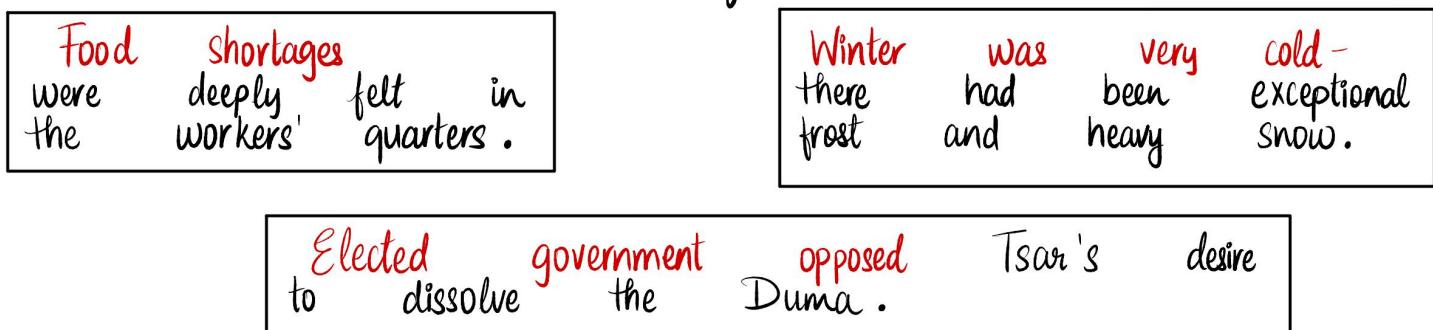
## \* Severe Impact on Industries



- In the winter of 1917, conditions in the capital, Petrograd, were grim.



## Problems - February 1917



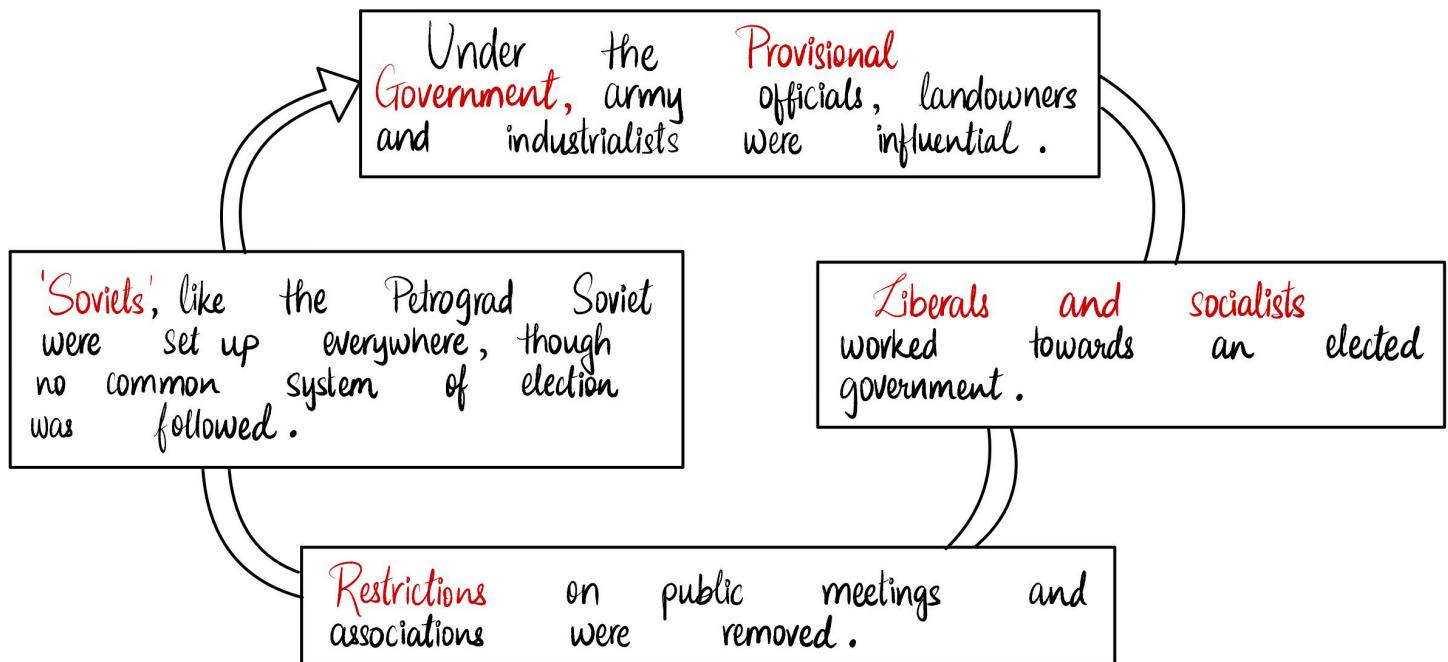
22nd February	Lock led took the place at factories (women strikes)
23rd February	Curfew was imposed and demonstrators dispersed
24th February	Demonstrators came back for agitation
25th February	Government suspended Duma
26th February	Demonstrators of the streets returned left in force to the Bank
27th February	Police Headquarters - ransacked

- People raised slogans - about bread, wages, better house and democracy.
- Government tried to control the situation and called out the cavalry once again.
- Cavalry refused to fire on the demonstrators.

### \* Formation of Petrograd Soviet

- Soldiers and striking workers gathered to form a 'soviet' or 'council' (Petrograd Soviet).
- Tsar abdicated on 2nd March.
- Soviet leaders and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government to run the country.
- Petrograd brought down the monarchy in February 1917.

## \* After February



## \* Vladimir Lenin

- ♦ April 1917 - the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia from his exile.
- ♦ He and the Bolsheviks had opposed the war since 1914.
- ♦ He felt it was time for soviets to take over power.

## \* April Thesis (3 demands)

- Declare that the war be brought to a close.
- Land be transferred to the peasants.
- Banks be nationalised.
- Lenin argued to rename Bolshevik Party as the Communist Party to indicate its new radical aims.
- Others in the Bolshevik Party thought that the time was not yet ripe for a socialist revolution.
- But the developments of the subsequent months changed their attitude.

## \* Workers Movement

- It spread through the summer and Trade Unions grew in number.
  - Formation of factory committees - which began questioning the way industrialists ran their factories.
  - Soldiers' committees were formed in the army.
  - In June - 500 Soviets representatives sent to an All Russian Congress of Soviets.
  - Provisional Government power reduced and Bolshevik influence grew.
  - It resisted attempts of workers.
  - Popular demonstrations staged by the Bolsheviks in July 1917 were sternly repressed.
  - Many Bolshevik leaders had to go into hiding or flee.
- Countryside : Peasants demanded and for Socialist redistribution Revolutionary leaders of land.
- Land Committees were formed.
- Peasants seized land between July and September 1917.

## \* The Revolution of October 1917

- ▷ Conflict between the Provisional Government and the Bolsheviks grew.
- ▷ Lenin feared the Provisional Government would set up a dictatorship.
- ▷ In September discussions began - for an uprising against the government.
- ▷ Bolshevik supporters in the army, Soviets and factories were brought together.

## \* 16 October 1917

- ▷ Lenin persuaded the Socialist Petrograd Soviet of power. and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a seizure

- A Military Revolutionary Committee (MRC) was appointed by the Soviet under Leon Trotsky.
- The date of the event was kept a secret.

## Uprising 24 October

- Prime Minister Kerenskii had left the city to summon troops.
- Military men loyal to the government seized the buildings of two Bolshevik newspapers.
- Pro-government troops and were sent to Winter Palace to take over telephone and telegraph offices and protect the city.
- Response
  - The MRC ordered its supporters to seize government offices and arrest ministers.
  - By nightfall, the ministers had surrendered. The city was under the committee's control and the ministers had surrendered.

### \* The Bolshevik Action

- All Russian Congress approved the Bolshevik action.
- Uprisings took place in other cities.
- There was heavy fighting – especially in Moscow.
- But by December, the Bolsheviks controlled the Moscow-Petrograd area.
- Most industries and banks were nationalized in November 1917.
- Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.
- In cities – Bolsheviks enforced the partition of large houses according to family requirements.
- Banned the use of the old titles of aristocracy.
- New uniforms were designed for the army and officials, following a clothing competition in 1918 – when the Soviet hat was introduced.

(budenovka) was chosen.

\* The Bolshevik Party renamed - Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik)

♦ Major Setback to Bolsheviks :

1] November 1917 : The Bolsheviks conducted the elections to the Constituent Assembly, but they failed.

2] January 1918 : The Assembly rejected Bolshevik measures and Lenin dismissed the Assembly.

3] March 1918 : Bolsheviks made peace with Germany at Brest Litovsk.

## \* Russia Became One-Party State

- Bolsheviks became the only party to participate in the elections.
- All Russian Congress of Soviets became the Parliament of the Country.
- Trade unions were kept under party control.

♦ Lack of Individual Freedom under Bolsheviks

- The secret police (called NKVD) punished those who criticised the Bolsheviks.
- Many young writers and artists rallied to the Party because it stood for socialism and for change.

## \* The Civil War

- When the Bolsheviks ordered land redistribution, the Russian army began to break up.
- Soldiers (mostly peasants), wished to go home for the redistribution and deserted.
- Non-Bolshevik Socialists, liberals and supporters of autocracy condemned the Bolshevik uprising.

### 3 Main Groups

Bolsheviks  
(Red)

Socialist  
Revolutionaries  
(Greens)

Pro-Tsarists  
(Whites)

- ▷ During 1918 and 1919 most of the Russian Army was controlled by Greens and Whites.
- ▷ French, American, British and Japanese troops - were worried at the growth of socialism in Russia, so they supported the Greens and Whites.
- ▷ A civil war took place between Reds and Whites army - looting banditry and famine became common.
- ▷ Supporters with peasants who had seized private property among 'whites' took harsh steps land.
- ▷ Such actions led to the loss of popular support for the non-Bolsheviks.

#### \* Bolsheviks Victory

- By January 1920 - the former Russian Bolsheviks controlled most of the empire.
- Succeeded due to - cooperation with non-Russian nationalities and Muslim jadists.
- Non-Russian Nationalists diverted from socialism.
- In Khiva, in Central Asia, Bolshevik colonists in local nationalists in the name of defending brutally massacred socialism.

#### \* Formation of USSR

- Most non-Russian nationalists in the Soviet Union (USSR) were given political autonomy.
- The state in December 1922 the Bolsheviks created from the Russian empire.

## \* Making a Socialist Society

- ❖ A process of centralised planning was introduced.
- Officials worked on how the economy will work and set targets for a five-year period.
- On this basis they made the Five Year Plans.
- The government first fixed all prices to promote industrial growth during the first two 'Plans' (1927 - 1932 and 1933 - 1938).

## \* Centralised planning led to economic growth

- Industrial production increased (1929 and 1933)

- New factory cities came into being

- An extended schooling system developed

- Crèches established in factories for the children

- Cheap public health care was provided

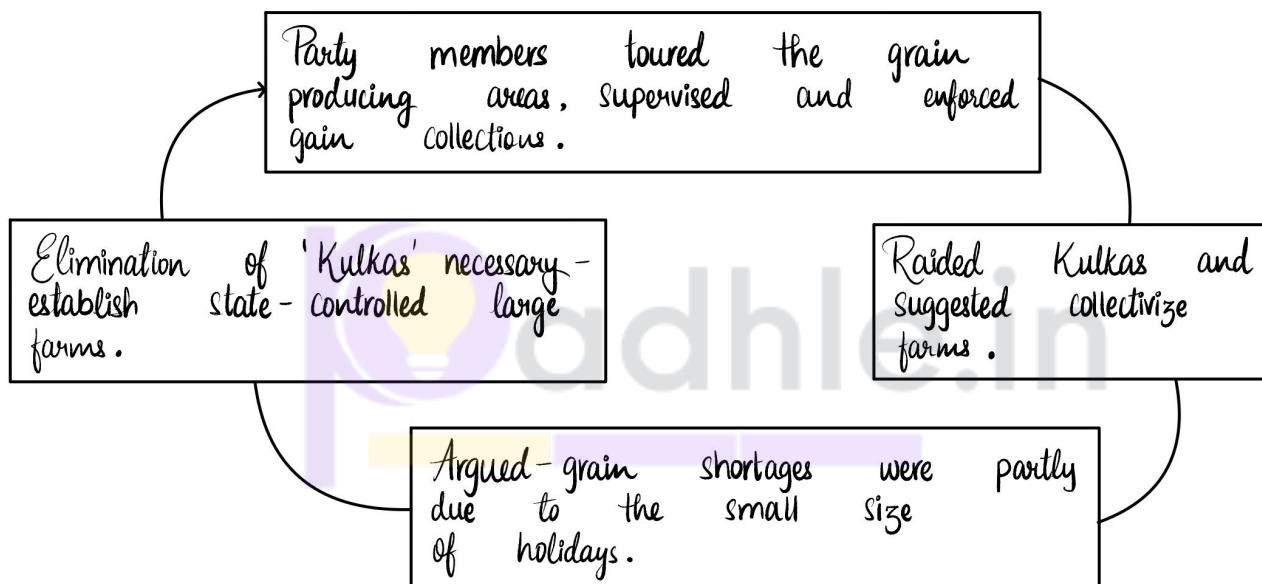
## \* Poor Working Condition

- Rapid construction led to poor working conditions.
- In the city of Magnitogorsk, the construction of a steel plant was achieved in 3 years.
- Workers lived in hard lives and the result was 550 stoppages of work in the first year alone.

## \* Stalinism and Collectivisation

- ❖ Agricultural Reforms
- Collectivisation of agriculture.

- By 1927 - 1928 : the towns in Soviet Russia faced an acute problems of grain supplies.
- The government fixed prices at which grain must be sold.
- The peasants refused to sell their grain to government buyers at these prices.
- Headed the party after the death of Lenin.
- Introduced firm emergency measures.
- Believed :
  - Rich peasants holding stocks in the hope of higher prices.
  - Speculation had to be stopped and supplies confiscated.



### Did you know ?

#### Kulaks :

- The name for well-to-do peasants.

#### Kolkhoz :

- Collective Farms.

#### Stalin's Collectivization Programme :

- Forced all peasants to cultivate in collective farms (Kolkhoz)

- Kolkhoz profit was shared.
- Enraged peasants resisted the authorities and destroyed their livestock.
- 1929 and 1931 - the number of cattle fell by  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd.
- Those who resisted Collectivisation were severely punished.
  - Many were deported and exiled.
- Peasants argued - they merely did not want to work in collective farms.
- Stalin's government allowed some independent cultivation.
- In spite of Collectivisation, production did not increase immediately.
- 1930-33 : Bad harvest led to one of most devastating famines in Soviet history when over 4 million died.

### \* Criticism

- Stalin's own government criticised the Collectivisation programme.
- Stalin and his sympathisers charged these critics with conspiracy against socialism.
- Accusations were made : By 1939 - over 2 million were in prisons or labour camps.
- A large number were forced to make false confessions under torture and were executed.

### \* The Global Influence of the Russian Revolution and the USSR

- In many countries, Communist parties were formed, like the Communist Party of Great Britain.

### \* Spread of Socialism by Bolsheviks

- Encouraged colonial peoples to follow their experiment.
- Non-Russians from outside the USSR participated in the Conference of People of East (1920).

→ The Bolsheviks - founded Comintern (an international union of pro-Bolshevik socialist parties).

## \* World's View on USSR

- ▷ In the world socialist movement too it was recognised that all was not well in the Soviet Union.
- ▷ A backward country had become a great power.
- ▷ It had denied the essential freedoms to its citizens and carried out its developmental projects through repressive policies.
- ▷ By the end of 20th century — the international reputation of USSR as a socialist country and declined.
- ▷ But in each country ideas of socialism were rethought in a variety of different ways.

