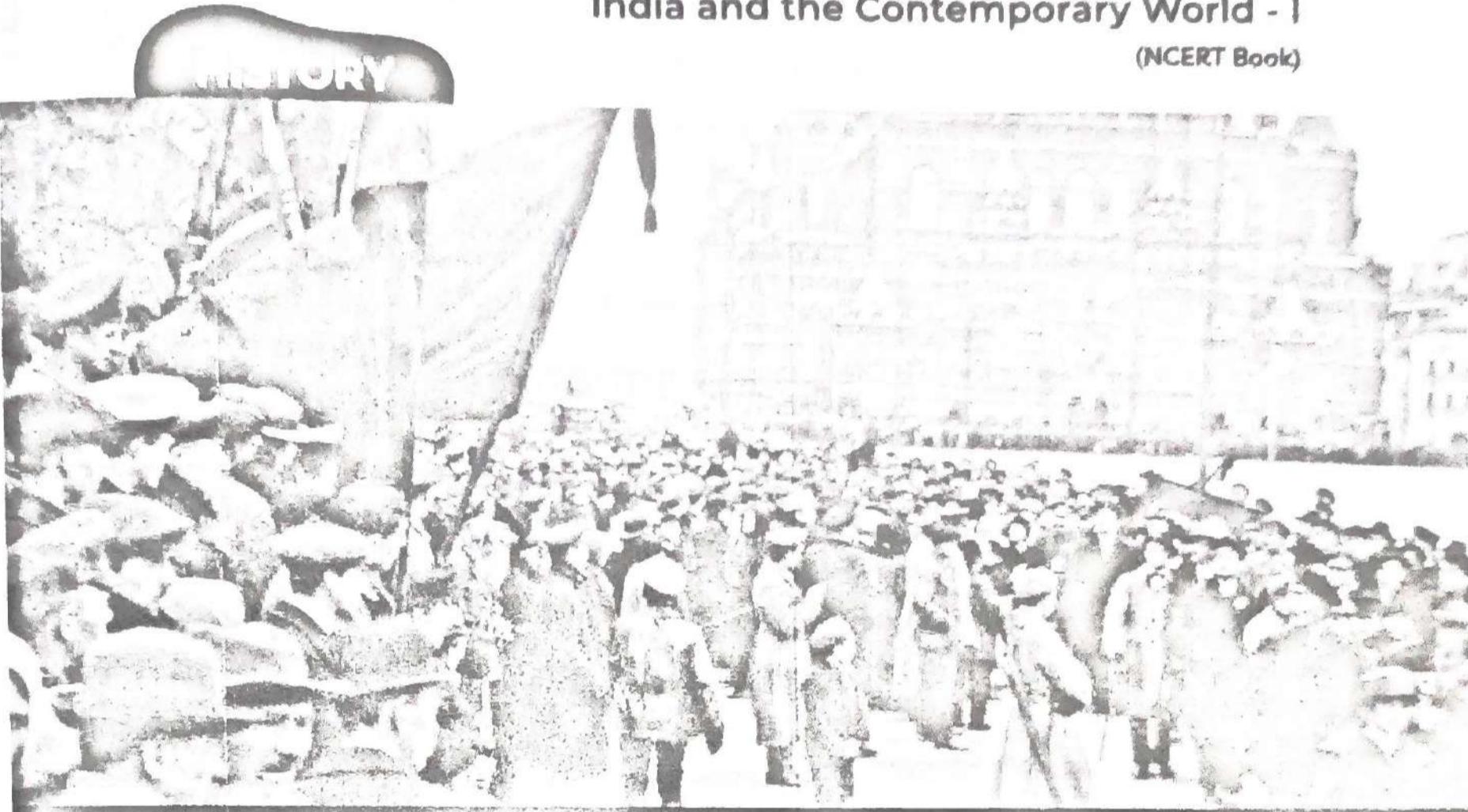


# 2

# Socialism in Europe and the Russian Revolution

India and the Contemporary World - I

(NCERT Book)



The Russian Revolution was a time of political and social upheaval in the former Russian Empire which was started during World War I. Russia dissolved its monarchy and introduced a socialist system of governance during this time after two successive revolutions and a brutal civil war. The other European revolutions that took place during or after World War I, such as the German Revolution of 1918, can also be seen as having their roots in the Russian Revolution.

## Topic Notes

- The Age of Social Change
- The Russian Revolution
- The February Revolution in Petrograd
- What Changed after October?
- The Global Influence of the Russian Revolution and the USSR

This chapter details the rise of socialism in Europe and the impact it had on the Russian and neighbouring societies. The Russian Revolution was a product of various political and social factors and causes. It was also instigated by various communities with different political opinions and thoughts.

## TOPIC 1

# THE AGE OF SOCIAL CHANGE

### Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the impact of the French Revolution upon various nations in nineteenth-century Europe.
- Students will learn about different political and social groups like the liberals, the radicals and the conservatives- their beliefs and opinions.
- Students will learn about the birth of socialism.
- Students will read more about the industrial revolution and the genesis, and features of an industrial society.
- Students will read about various philosophers of the time - their opinions on socialism and a socialist society.
- Students will also learn about the state of socialism in other countries of Europe.

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to recall the names of philosophers mentioned in the chapter and enlist their opinions on socialism.
- Students will be able to distinguish between advocates of liberal, conservative and radical thinkers.
- Students will be able to delineate the influence of the French Revolution on the Indian revolutionaries.
- Students will be able to define the ideology of Socialism and enlist its basic tenets.

The French Revolution caused a dramatic change in the existing social order. It gave a glimmer of hope to all the nations about the possibility of creating an everlasting change in the societal structures.

Before the French Revolution, society was divided into estates and orders. After the revolution, the ideas of individual rights and power arose across the world.

In India, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Henry Vivian Derozio talked about the significance of the French Revolution. Various political developments in colonies reshaped these ideas.

However, there was a debate among different sections of society about the reception of these ideas and the possibility of social change. These sections or groups were 'Liberals', 'Radicals' and 'Conservatives' groups.

### Liberals, Radicals and Conservatives

The liberals wanted a free and tolerant society with equal and similar regard for all races and religions. They had an individualistic vision about society. They argued for a representative, elected parliamentary government, with justice and independence.

However, it must be clarified that these so-called liberals were no 'democrats'. They believed in giving voting rights only to propertied men.

### Important

- European states usually discriminated amongst people of different religions and races. Britain favoured the Church of England, Austria and Spain favoured the Catholic Church.
- Liberals didn't want the right to vote for women.

Radicals envisioned a majoritarian government. Many of them supported women's suffrage rights. They criticised the aristocratic privileges given to factory owners. They disliked the concentration of property in the hands of a few. However, they supported individual rights and wanted a more open and liberal society.

Conservatives were opposed to the ideas of Radicals and Liberals. However, the French Revolution had an impact on the Conservatives. They began to accept that some change was inevitable but still asserted that the past must be respected. They advocated bringing change by a gradual process.

Various attempts at revolution and national transformation in the nineteenth century added dimension to these political tendencies.

### Industrial Society and Social Change

Many social and economic changes were at the societal level. Cities were emerging and industrial areas and railways were expanding.



At last, after several revolutionary independence movements across different parts of the world, most women gained suffrage in the 20th century.



### Related Theory

- Liberals felt that men of property mainly should have the right to vote.

- (E) (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

**Explanation:** Xavier is a radicalist, as supported by his opinions on women's suffrage and individual property. The reason however is insufficient to explain why he is a radicalist. Radicalists do not oppose individual property but they do not become radicalists only because of this opinion.

## The Coming of Socialism to Europe

After the Industrial Revolution started showing its fallbacks, a new improved vision of society emerged. This came to be known as Socialism.

Socialists were against private property and termed it the root cause of all societal evil. They believed that if society as a whole controlled property rather than individuals, more attention would be paid to collective social interests. This is because the propertied were concerned only with personal gain.

Different socialist thinkers had different visions of society.

Robert Owen (1771-1858) believed in the idea of cooperatives and sought to build a cooperative community called New Harmony in Indiana (USA).

Some socialists thought that the scalability of such cooperatives would not be achieved by individual initiative and demanded the government to show support.



### Important

- The cooperatives were to be associations of people who produced goods together and divided the profits according to the work done by members.

Louis Blanc (1813-1882) wanted the government to encourage cooperatives and replace capitalist enterprises.

Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) formulated these ideas more thoroughly. Marx argued that an industrial society was 'capitalist'. He said that the conditions of the workers could not be improved if wealth accumulation by capitalists did not stop.

He devised a social theory of communism, in which he advocated that workers would overthrow capitalists and triumph in their conflict by constructing a radically socialist society where all property will be socially controlled. He was affirmative that the natural society of the future is the communist society.

## The Support for Socialism

An international body called the Second International was formed by the socialists.

A sociological change developed in England and Germany. Worker associations were formed to fight for better living and working conditions. Funds were set up to assist a new set of demands like a reduction in working hours and the right to vote.

In Germany, the associations worked closely with the Social Democratic Party (SPD) which won the elections. By 1905, Socialists and Trade Unionists formed a Labour Party in Britain and a Socialist Party in France.

Even though the socialists never won parliamentary elections in Europe till 1914, their ideas reshaped several legislations. The governments in Europe, however have always been run by the Conservatives, Liberals and Radicals.



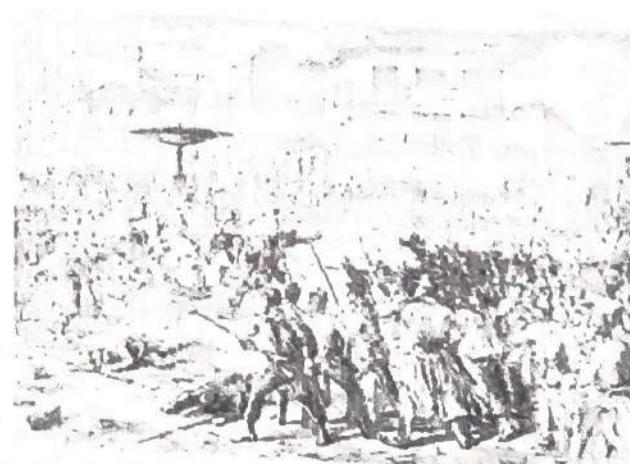
### Important

- During 1871, the town council (commune) of Paris was taken over by a 'peoples' government' including workers, ordinary people, professionals, and political activists.

- The 'Paris Commune' was ultimately crushed by government troops but it was celebrated by Socialists of the world as a prelude to a socialist revolution.

- The Paris Commune has been popular for its association:

- (1) with the workers' red flag - that was the flag adopted by the communards (revolutionaries) in Paris.
- (2) with the anthem 'Marseillaise' which was originally written as a war song in 1792.



Paris Commune of 1871

## TOPIC 2

# THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

### Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the birth of the Russian Revolution.
- Students will learn about the Russian empire (before and after 1915).
- Students will learn more about the state of the Russian economy - its features, prevalent ills and customs.
- Students will also read about the first world war and its impact on Russian society and economy.

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to recall the events that caused the Revolution of 1905.
- Students will be able to understand the integration of socialist ideals with the ideas of revolution carried forward by the Bolsheviks.
- Students will be able to learn about the political and social turmoil (a division of citizens into groups based on economic status) in Russia during the second decade of the twentieth century.

Unlike Europe, the Socialist government took over governance in Russia after 1917.

The fall of the Monarchy in Russia in February 1917 and the October Revolution in 1917 together are called the Russian Revolution.

### The Russian Empire in 1914

The Russian Empire, in 1914, was ruled by Tsar Nicholas II. It included Finland, Latvia, Lithuania,

Estonia, and parts of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus. It also consisted of states as Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Which are central Asian countries today.

Most of the Russian population followed Russian Orthodox Christianity which rose out of the Greek Orthodox Church. However, the empire also had Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and Buddhists.



Map of Europe in 1914

## Economy and Society

Russia was an agrarian society when the twentieth century began. About 85% of the population earned their living from agriculture. This was one of the highest proportions in Europe. The people produced for the market as well as for their personal consumption, making Russia the major exporter of grain.

Industries were scattered. Some of the prominent industrial areas were St. Petersburg and Moscow. Large factories existed for production but were not common. During the 1890s, with the Russian railway network expanding, foreign investment increased in the industry and many factories started to be set up. Coal production doubled and iron and steel production quadrupled.

Most industries were private properties. There were rules in place for minimum wage and work hours but the implementation was poor, hence the working days were sometimes 15 hours, compared with 10 or 12 hours in factories. The accommodation also varied from rooms to dormitories.

Workers were a diverse and divided social group on the basis of skill and manner of dress. The metal worker would consider themselves superior as their work demanded more skill and training than average labour. Women were paid less than men for equal amount of work. Few worker associations emerged to help the workers in need.

Occasionally, they united to strike against unfair dismissals and terrible work conditions. Textiles Industry witnessed most of these strikes during 1896-1897 and metal industry in 1902.

The majority of the land was owned by the Orthodox Church and the Crown in the countryside and was cultivated by the peasants. Peasants were religious but (in some cases) had no respect for nobility unlike the situation in France where the peasants fought for the Nobles. Nobility provided services to the Tsar and earned their credit.

In Russia, peasants wanted the ownership of nobles' land and often refused to pay rent and even murdered landlords. These events were restricted to south Russia in 1902 but by 1905, were taking place all over the country.

Another line of difference between the European and Russian peasants was that the latter pooled their land together periodically and their commune (*mir*) used to divide the money according to their needs.

**Example 2. What were the social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905? (Remember) [NCERT]**

**Ans.** The social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905 were underdeveloped.

- (1) Approximately 85% of the Russian population was agriculturist. The industry which existed was privately owned and the workers were divided on the basis of their occupation.
- (2) Economically as well, Russia was going through a bad period. There was high inflation and real wages decreased by 20% which led to a strike in St. Petersburg.
- (3) Political conditions were not promising either. Russia was an autocratic state. Political parties were illegal before 1914.

## Socialism in Russia

Before 1914, all political parties were illegal in Russia. The 'Russian Social Democratic Workers Party' was founded in 1898 but it has to work as an illegal organisation. The party set up a newspaper, mobilised workers and organised strikes.

### Important

→ Russian Social Democratic Workers Party founded members respected Marx's ideas.

Russian socialists had a theory about peasants being the driver of the socialist revolution in Russia. The Socialists were active in the countryside. The Socialist Revolutionary Party was founded in 1900, which struggled for peasants' rights and demanded land belonging to nobles be transferred to peasants.

Lenin felt peasants were not a united group and given the 'differentiation' within them, they couldn't be a part of the socialist movement.

There was a division in the organisation of the party. Vladimir Lenin (who led the Bolshevik group) believed that there must be discipline and that the number and quality of members should be controlled. Meanwhile, the Mensheviks thought that the party should be open to all.

## A Turbulent Time: The 1905 Revolution

Russia was an autocracy. Liberals in Russia campaigned to end autocratic rule. A Socialist Revolution emerged. With the help of workers and peasants in 1905, the liberals raised a demand for a Constitution. This demand was supported by Muslim-dominated areas by Jadidists and the Nationalists in Poland. The Jadidists wanted modernised Islam to lead their societies.

The year 1904 brought hardships for Russian workers, the real wages declined by 20% and inflation hit the markets. Workers in St. Petersburg went on strikes in the retrospective demanding a reduction in working hours and an increase in wages, along with improved working conditions.

## Bloody Sunday and the 1905 Revolution

A procession led by Father Gapon reached the winter palace and was attacked by the police which led to the killing of 100 workers and left 300 wounded. This particular event was called Bloody Sunday.

After these events of riots took place, unions were formed and a harsh demand for the Constitution was formed, which was called the 1905 Revolution.

This revolution resulted in the formation of the Parliament called the Duma. After this, the unions which were formed, worked unofficially as they were declared illegal and political activity was restricted.

As the Tsar did not want any questions on his authority, the Duma was dissolved 3 times after the formation and Liberals and Revolutionaries were kept out. The Duma was packed with Conservative politicians.

## The First World War and the Russian Empire

In 1914, the World War broke out in which two European alliances — Germany, Austria and Turkey (The Central Powers) and France, Britain and Russia (later Italy and Romans) participated in the war.

In the Russian perspective, initially, the war was popular, people would rally around Tsar Nicholas II. However, the Tsar refused to consult the main parties and the Parliament as the war continued.

There were anti-German sentiments. This was evident from the renaming of St. Petersburg (which was a German name) to Petrograd.



### Frequently Asked

- Tsarina Alexandra was German. Her advisers, especially a monk called Rasputin made the autocracy unpopular in Russia.

Russian armies lost badly in Germany and Austria between 1914 and 1916. As they retreated, they destroyed crops and buildings to prevent the enemy from being able to live off the remaining land. This situation discredited the government as there were adverse impacts on Russians. There were around 3 million refugees. There was a severe impact on the industry as well. Due to the German occupation of the Baltic Sea, the supplies to Russia were cut off. By 1916, railway lines began to fall back. There were labour and food shortages due to the war and by the winter of 1916, riots at bread shops became very common.

## TOPIC 3

# THE FEBRUARY REVOLUTION IN PETROGRAD

### Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the February Revolution.
- Students will learn about the state of the Russian empire after 1917 with the provisional government in power.
- Students will trace the events which led to an overthrow of power by the Bolsheviks.

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to recall facts about Lenin and his contributions to the revolution that caused the overthrowing of power.
- Students will be able to understand the socialist ideals which led to the February Revolution.
- Students will be able to learn about Petrograd.

The Russian capital Petrograd saw a grim winter in 1917. There were various societal divisions highlighted by a stark division of residences, etc.—on the right bank of river Neva were the workers and their quarters while on the left bank were the fashionable areas such as the Winter Palace and official buildings, including the Duma. By February 1917, food shortages were deeply felt and the winter was exceptional.

### The First International Women's Day

Women workers led the strikes in many factories. 23 February, 1917, came to be celebrated as the first International Women's Day. Without any leader, demonstrations by workers were still rising and moving forward.

On Sunday, February 25, the Duma was suspended and another set of protests and demonstrations took place. The government tried to control the situation



and called out the cavalry once again. However, the cavalry refused to fire on the demonstrators. The regiments at this point mutinied and voted to join the striking workers.

By the evening of 25 February, soldiers and workers had formed a 'Soviet' or 'Council' in the building where the Duma met. This came to be known as Petrograd Soviet.

The Tsar, by this time, had abdicated and the Soviet leaders along with Duma leaders had formed a provisional government to run the country.

Petrograd had led the February Revolution which brought down the monarchy in February 1917.

**Example 3. Case Based:**

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Women workers, often ... inspired their male co-workers .. At the Lorenz telephone factory, ... Marfa Vasileva almost single-handedly called a successful strike. Already that morning, in celebration of Women's Day, women workers had presented red bows to the men .. Then Marfa Vasileva, a milling machine operator stopped work and declared an impromptu strike. The workers on the floor were ready to support her .. The foreman informed the management and sent her a loaf of bread. She took the bread but refused to go back to work. The administrator asked her again why she refused to work and she replied, "I cannot be the only one who is satiated when others are hungry". Women workers from another section of the factory gathered around Marfa in support and gradually all the other women ceased working.



- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.

(d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct. (Analyse)

Why were the women revolting? (Understand)

**Ans. - (A) (b) Choi Chatterjee**

**Explanation:** Choi Chatterjee wrote the given source in her book *Celebrating Women* (2002). She mentions the heroic participation of women in the strikes organised in the USSR at the cusp of the February revolution of 1917.

- (B) (b) Women led the strikes against the government.

**Explanation:** On 22 February, a lockout took place at a factory on the right bank which was where the workers were forced to live despite the cold winter and insufferable conditions. The next day, workers in fifty factories called a strike in sympathy. In many factories, women led the way to strikes. This came to be called as International Women's Day.

- (C) The February Revolution of 1917 saw this incident occur due to the miserable treatment meted out to the workers.

## Related Theory

→ Workers were made to live away from the fashionable parts of the Petrograd and had to endure tough winter conditions.

- (D) (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.

**Explanation:** The layout of Petrograd seemed to emphasise the divisions among its people. This was because the workers were living separately while the fashionable, high society areas along with the Winter Palace was on the left bank of river Neva. They were isolated and forced to exist alone.

- (E) The workers revolted because:

- (1) In February 1917, food shortages were deeply felt in the workers' quarters which were away from the rest of the citizens who were rich and in power.
  - (2) The winter was very cold and insufferable. Their miserable conditions frustrated not just the men workers but also the women employees. Together, men and women workers revolted against the authorities and the government to achieve respect and recognition in society.

## After February

The provisional government consisted of influential army officials, landowners and industrialists. Among them, the liberals worked towards an elected government.

Restrictions on public meetings and associations were lifted, and 'Soviets' like the Petrograd Soviet was set up everywhere. However, no common election system was formed yet.

The Bolshevik leader, Lenin returned in April 1917 from exile and thought that it was time for the soviets to take over power. His April theses demanded 3 things:

- (1) War should be ended.
- (2) Land should be transferred to peasants.
- (3) Banks must be nationalised.

He also demanded that the Bolshevik party be renamed as the Communist Party, indicating its radical aims. The Bolsheviks were surprised by the urgency of his demands.

The workers' movement spread through the summer; many trade unions were formed and eventually the power of the Soviet government began reducing and the Bolsheviks started gaining popularity. However, popular demonstrations staged by the Bolsheviks in July 1917 were sternly repressed. Many Bolshevik leaders had to go into hiding or had to flee.

In the countryside, the demand for land redistribution was still high. Land committees were formed. Eventually, the peasants seized land between July and September 1917.

## The Revolution of October 1917

Due to fear of a dictatorship by the Provisional Government, Lenin began the discussions for an uprising against the government. Support was gathered. Bolsheviks in the army, soviets and factories were brought together.

A Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soviets under Leon Trotsky to organise the seizure. On 16 October, 1917 Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and Bolsheviks for the seizure of power. The uprising against the government began on 24 October, when Prime Minister Kerenski left to summon troops. Military men loyal to the government seized the buildings of two Bolshevik newspapers. The Winter Palace was guarded.

The Military Revolutionary Committee in the middle of the chaos ordered its supporters to seize government offices and arrest ministers. The ship Aurora shelled the Winter Palace.

There was heavy fighting, especially in Moscow, but by December, the Bolsheviks established control over the Moscow-Petrograd area.

### Important

→ Russia followed the Julian calendar until 1st February, 1918 which was 13 days ahead of the usual Gregorian Calendar that it began following later. Based on the latter calendar, the 'February' Revolution took place on 12th March and the 'October Revolution' took place on 7th November.

## TOPIC 4

### WHAT CHANGED AFTER OCTOBER?

#### Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the October Revolution.
- Students will learn about the changes in the Russian administration caused due to changes in leadership.
- Students will learn about the civil war which was waged between Bolsheviks and non-Bolsheviks and the associated deterioration.
- Students will be introduced to Stalin.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to learn more about the changes brought about by the Bolsheviks.
- Students will be able to write the collectivisation programme of Stalin- its merits and demerits.
- Students will be able to enlist details about the state of socialism and its practical ideas implemented in the new Russian society.



The Bolsheviks opposed private property. They nationalised banks and industry in November 1917. Management was taken over by the government.

**Example 4.** Mention three changes brought by the Bolsheviks after October Revolution.

(Understand)

**Ans.** The changes brought by the Bolsheviks were as follows:

- (1) The government took over management and ownership.
- (2) Land was declared a social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of nobility.
- (3) Bolsheviks banned the use of titles of Aristocracy.
- (4) New uniforms were designed for the Army and officials. (*Budeonovka* was chosen as a uniform.)



A Soldier in Budeonovka Uniform

The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik). In 1917, the party lost elections to the Constituent Assembly, as they failed to gain majority support.

In March 1918, the Bolsheviks made peace with Germany at Brest Litovsk, despite the opposition from their political allies. In the following year, the Bolsheviks became the only party to participate in the elections to the All Russian Congress of Soviets, which became the Parliament of the country, making Russia a one-party state.

### Important

- Dissent was not tolerated in the USSR after the Bolsheviks came to power.  
(1) Trade unions were kept under party control.  
(2) The secret police (Cheka, later called NKVD) punished the critics of the Bolsheviks.  
(3) Young writers and artists rallied to the Party because it stood for socialism and for change. This led to experiments in the arts and architecture.
- Disillusionment was rampant because of strict censorship.

### The Civil War

The Bolsheviks ordered land distribution as they got into power. The army which consisted of peasants broke up and deserted. Critics of the Bolsheviks

condemned the uprising and rebelled. They formed groups to fight the Bolsheviks - the Reds. The Socialist Revolutionaries — the Greens and the pro-Tsarists called Whites controlled the Russian empire in 1918. They were backed by the French, the American, the British and the Japanese troops. A war was waged causing banditry and famine as its consequences.

Private property supporters who were pro-Tsarists took harsh steps against peasants and lost the popular support of the common people. The Bolsheviks acquired control on most of the former Russian Empire and succeeded with the help of non-Russian nationalities and Muslim Jadidists.

In Khiva, in Central Asia, Bolshevik colonists brutally massacred local nationalists in the name of defending socialism. The Bolshevik name was soiled. To make up for this, the non-Russian nationalities were given political autonomy in the Soviet Union (USSR), the state which was created in December 1922. They could not succeed as they were adamant to follow unpopular policies strictly.

### Making a Socialist Society

A centralised planning system was devised in order to take the first step to forming a socialist society. Five Year Plans were formed with set targets; prices of commodities were fixed to promote industrial growth, during the first two plans of 1927-1932 and 1933-1938. The planning and system worked and economic growth was recorded. New factory cities came into being. Peasants were permitted to cultivate the socialised land.

Factories came to be known as the symbol of socialism in Russia. Rapid construction of factories was done, but the working conditions remained difficult and inconvenient.



### Frequently Asked

→ Many steps were taken to make life easier for factory workers such as an extended schooling system, and open universities. Crèches were established and cheap public health was provided, however, the effect of all these remained uneven.

**Example 5.** Which of the following statements is true about Russian society after 1917?

- (a) During the civil war, the Bolsheviks privatised nationalised banks.
- (b) Bolsheviks permitted peasants to cultivate the land that had been socialised.
- (c) Bolsheviks opposed collectivisation.
- (d) A process of decentralised planning was introduced.

(Evaluate)

**Ans.** (b) Bolsheviks permitted peasants to cultivate the land that had been socialised.

**Explanation:** They permitted peasants to cultivate the land that had been socialised for the welfare of the peasants who had helped them during the overthrow of power and authority.



### Related Theory

- During the civil war, the Bolsheviks let the nationalised banks continue as they were to establish a socialist society. Bolsheviks supported collectivisation.
- A process of centralised planning was introduced.

## Stalinism and Collectivisation

Stalin headed the Russian Socialist Party (Bolshevik) after the death of Lenin and he introduced firm emergency measures.



File photo of Joseph Stalin

The early period of the planned economy was directly connected with the collectivisation of agriculture and its impact. There was an acute grain shortage. The government fixed a price for grain, on which the peasants refused to sell their produce. There were issues of hoarding of grain stock. These speculations had to be stopped so the government ordered the

confiscation of the hoarded grain. In 1928, raids were conducted and a supervised grain collection drive was organised and the Kulaks who were the well-to-do peasants were raided. The small size of land holdings was recognised as a factor responsible for the hoarding of grains.

### Important

→ Stalin, who headed the party after the death of Lenin, introduced firm emergency measures. He believed that rich peasants and traders in the countryside were holding stocks in the hope of higher prices. Speculation had to be stopped and supplies confiscated.

After 1917, the land was given back to peasants. To develop modern farms, state control was thought to be necessary and Kulaks were to be eliminated. This led to collectivisation.

**Collectivisation Programme of Stalin:** Under this programme, small landholdings of many peasants were combined into one collective large farm (Kolkhoz). All large collectivised farms were cultivated by the farmers with the help of tools pooled together. The profits of the farms were then shared among the cultivators. The peasants opposed this move and in resistance, destroyed their livestock. However, those who resisted were severely punished. Many peasants got deported and exiled. Furthermore, even after the collectivisation programme, production did not increase. On the other hand, it resulted in bad harvests and a devastating famine. Over 400 million people died.

There were many critics within the Party, who pointed out low industrial production under the planned economy and the results of Stalin's Collectivisation Programme. These critiques met harsh ends. They were forced to make false confessions under torture and executed. Many among them were talented professionals.

## TOPIC 5

# THE GLOBAL INFLUENCE OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND THE USSR

### Learning Objectives

- Students will read more about the birth of communist parties across the world as a reaction to the capture of power by the Bolsheviks.
- Students will read about the spread of socialism across the world - its facilitation by USSR's universities.
- Students will also learn about the state of socialism after the Second World War in Russia and across the world.

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to recall why the reputation of the then USSR was falling.
- Students will be able to define terms like Comintern, capitalism, communist parties.
- Students will be able to mention the views of some spectators about the Russian Revolution and its impact on the world.

The Russian Revolution and the power capture by the Bolsheviks, provoked and caused many reactions across the world. The European countries did not approve of it. In many countries, Communist Parties were formed.

Conference of People of East (1920) was organised by the USSR and Bolshevik-founded Comintern, which was an international union of pro-Bolshevik socialist parties as a reaction to the formation of these parties.

A global face had been achieved by socialism by 1945 because of the steps taken by the Bolshevik party. This included educating people from all over the world in communist universities. The world was now divided into two basic ideologies of Capitalism and Socialism.

By the 1950s, people in the USSR had started to emphasise upon some basic but severe problems, that the USSR was facing. A poor country had become a world power and brought forced development and repressive policies, but its citizens were deprived of the essential freedom and other developmental opportunities. By the end of the twentieth century, the ideas of socialism were being rethought because of the USSR's now failing reputation.

### **Important**

- Indian political and cultural figures also took an interest in the Soviet experiment and visited Russia. Jawaharlal Nehru and Rabindranath Tagore wrote about Soviet Socialism.
- In India and across the world, various philosophers and travellers wrote about Russian society after the revolution. These writings gave various impressions of Soviet Russia.



### **Chronology**

- (1) **1850s -1880s:** Debates over socialism in Russia.
- (2) **1898:** Formation of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party.
- (3) **1905:** The Bloody Sunday and the Revolution of 1905.
- (4) **2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1917:** Abdication of the Tsar.
- (5) **24<sup>th</sup> October, 1917:** Bolshevik uprising in Petrograd.
- (6) **1918-20:** The Civil War.
- (7) **1919:** Formation of Comintern.
- (8) **1929:** Beginning of Collectivisation.



### **Who's Who?**

- (1) **Rabindranath Tagore:** Rabindranath Tagore was an Indian philosopher, poet and nationalist. He influenced the Indian social fabric during the Independence Movement and popularised the idea of Nationalism. He wrote Indian National Anthem.
- (2) **Henry Vivian Derozio:** Henry Vivian Derozio was an influential leader in the Bengal presidency. He was a radical thinker and the first Indian educator to disseminate Western learning.
- (3) **Giuseppe Mazzini:** Giuseppe Mazzini was an Italian nationalist in the historical radical tradition and a proponent of social-democratic republicanism. He helped define the modern European movement for popular democracy in a Republican State.
- (4) **Tsar Nicholas II:** Tsar Nicholas II was the Emperor of the Russian Empire during the time of the Russian Revolution. He belonged to the Romanov family.
- (5) **Rasputin:** Rasputin was a monk in the court of Tsar Nicholas II. He had a certain influence as a monk and had a negative image among the people.
- (6) **Karl Marx:** Karl Marx was a German philosopher and a social reformer. He popularised the Communist and Socialist philosophy in the region through his writings. He authored two most compelling books of the time, the first was *The Communist Manifesto* and the other was *Das Kapital*.
- (7) **Friedrich Engels:** Friedrich Engels was a German philosopher, a critic of political economy and a revolutionary Socialist. Engels developed the theory of Marxism along with Karl Marx. He published *The Condition of the Working Class in England* and co-authored *The Communist Manifesto* with Marx.

(8) **Vladimir Lenin:** Lenin was a Russian revolutionary, politician and political theorist. He was the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution in the October Revolution in Russia. He served as the first and founding head of the Government of Soviet Russia.

(9) **Joseph Stalin:** Joseph Stalin was a socialist revolutionary and a soviet political leader. He took Russian command after the death of Lenin. He introduced the collectivisation programme and the five-year plans in the USSR.

## A Z **Glossary**

- (1) **Budeonovka:** It was a part of the Russian uniform, particularly a hat.
- (2) **Comintern:** Comintern is an international union of pro-Bolshevik socialist parties.
- (3) **Duma:** The Russian parliament was called Duma.
- (4) **Jadidist:** Jadidists were Muslim reformers within the Russian empire who wanted modernised Islam to lead their societies.
- (5) **Kolkhoz:** The collective farms, as a part of the Collectivisation programme of Stalin.
- (6) **Kulaks:** Well-to-do peasants.

## **OBJECTIVE Type Questions**

[ 1 mark ]

### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Why did St. Petersburg was renamed as Petrograd?  
(a) Love for German sentiments were high.  
(b) In the memory of WW1.  
(c) Anti-German sentiments.  
(d) It is the part of revolutionary plan.

**Ans.** (c) Anti-German sentiments.

**Explanation:** St. Petersburg was renamed Petrograd because of the anti-German sentiment during the course of the war.



#### **Related Theory**

→ St Petersburg was a German name. In 1914, war broke out between two European alliances: Germany, Austria and Turkey (the Central Powers) and France, Britain and Russia (later Italy and Romania). Due to this contradictory stance in the war, St. Petersburg had to be renamed.

2. Which among the following is the name of a socialist party in Russia?

- (I) Bolshevik
- (II) Menshevik
- (III) Petrograd Soviet
- (IV) Social Democratic Party

Options:

- (a) (I) and (II)
- (b) (II), (III) and (IV)
- (c) (I), (III) and (IV)
- (d) (I), (II), (III) and (IV)

**Ans.** (d) (I), (II), (III) and (IV)

**Explanation:** Some of the famous socialist parties were Bolshevik, Menshevik, Petrograd Soviet, Socialist Democratic Party of Russia, etc.

3. Consider the statements given below and choose the correct answer.

**Statement (I):** Bolshevik Party rename itself the Communist Party, representing its conservative aims.

**Statement (II):** April theses was represented by Vladimir Lenin.

- (a) Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- (b) Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- (c) Both (I) and (II) are incorrect.
- (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct.

**Ans.** (b) Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.

**Explanation:** Vladimir Lenin presented the 'April Theses' after coming back from exile in 1917. It was just after the February Revolution of 1917. April Theses raised some important issues and popularised the Bolshevik party, eventually leading to the October Revolution, 1917.





### Related Theory

- There were three demands in Lenin's 'April Theses'.
  - (1) Lenin wanted soviets to take over power.
  - (2) He declared that the war be brought to a close, land be transferred to the peasants, and banks be nationalised.
  - (3) He wanted the Bolshevik Party to rename itself the Communist Party to indicate its new radical aims.

**4. What was the reason behind the celebration of the first International Women's Day?**

- (a) Women of Russia were given suffrage rights.
- (b) Women led a protest on the right bank of the river Neva.
- (c) Women started participating in the First World War.
- (d) Women were given educational rights.

**Ans.** (b) Women led a protest on the right bank of the river Neva.

**Explanation:** The first International Women's Day commemorated the participation of women in a protest against the capitalistic structures on socialistic lines. It was on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1917.



### Related Theory

- On 22 February, a lockout took place at a factory on the right bank. The next day, workers in fifty factories called a strike in sympathy. In many factories, women led the way to strikes.

**5. Nikolai, a young factory worker in Russia, eagerly listened as his elder brother, a political activist, spoke about the newly formed Duma. Many workers had hoped it would bring change, but Nikolai soon realised that the real power remained in the hands of the wealthy. Based on Nikolai's experience, which social group dominated the Tsar-appointed Duma?**

- (a) The Liberals
- (b) The Conservatives
- (c) The Communists
- (d) The Revolutionaries

**Ans.** (b) The Conservatives

**Explanation:** Tsar Nicholas II was the king of Russia, and he did not want any authority over his power. Hence, even after the formation of Duma, the Russian parliament, he interfered in its working. To aid this, he changed the voting laws and packed the third Duma with conservative politicians and liberals while revolutionaries were kept out.

**6. Identify the correct option that describes the country given below:**

- (I) The country had fought the First World War (1914-1918) against the central powers.
- (II) In the beginning of the twentieth century about 80 percent of the population was dependent upon agriculture.
- (III) Tsar Nicolas I had ruled in 1914.

**Options:**

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| (a) England | (b) France |
| (c) Germany | (d) Russia |

[Delhi Gov. QB 2024]

**Ans.** (d) Russia

**Explanation:** In 1914, Tsar Nicholas II ruled Russia and its empire. Besides the territory around Moscow, the Russian empire included current-day Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and parts of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus. It stretched to the Pacific and comprised current central Asian states, as well as Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The majority religion was Russian Orthodox Christianity, which had grown out of the Greek Orthodox Church. The empire also included Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and Buddhists.



### Related Theory

- The ruler of the Russian Empire in 1914 was Tsar Nicholas II. He was the last Tsar of the Russian Empire, who ruled between 1894 and 1917 under the official title of 'Emperor and Autocrat of All the Russias'.

**7. Who among the following sought to build a cooperative community called 'New Harmony'?**

- (a) Louis Blanc
- (b) Vladimir Lenin
- (c) Robert Owen
- (d) Karl Marx

**Ans.** (c) Robert Owen

**Explanation:** Robert Owen was a Welsh textile manufacturer, and a founder of utopian socialism and the cooperative movement. He strove to improve factory working conditions, promoted experimental socialist communities, and sought a more collective approach to child-rearing, including government control of education.

**8. After the Russian revolution in many countries, communist parties were formed. Name the party that was formed in Britain.**

- (a) The Communist Party of Great Britain
- (b) Socialist Workers Party
- (c) New Communist Party of Britain
- (d) Socialist Resistance

[DIKSHA]

**Ans.** (a) The Communist Party of Great Britain

**Explanation:** The way Bolsheviks took power does not like by very much but inspired people's views across the world. Many communist parties were formed after this in many parts of the world like, the Communist Party of Great Britain.

9. Arrange in chronological order.

- (I) The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party was founded.
- (II) The Tsar allowed the creation of an elected consultative parliament, or Duma.
- (III) Petrograd had led the February Revolution that brought down the monarchy.
- (IV) The Bolsheviks caused most industries and banks to nationalise.

**Options:**

- (a) (II), (III), (I), (IV)
- (b) (I), (III), (IV), (II)
- (c) (II), (I), (IV), (III)
- (d) (I), (II), (III), (IV)

**Ans.** (d) (I), (II), (III), (IV)

**Explanation:** (1) The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party was founded in 1898.

- (2) The Tsar allowed the creation of an elected consultative parliament, or Duma, in 1905.
- (3) Petrograd had led the February Revolution that brought down the monarchy in February 1917.
- (4) The Bolsheviks caused most industries and banks to nationalise in November 1917.



### Related Theory

- The Bolsheviks were totally opposed to private property. After they assumed power, the industry and banks were nationalised in November 1917. This meant that the government took over ownership and management.



### Caution

- It is important for the students to pay attention to the chronology table given in the chapter. Students can also form similar tables on their own for this purpose.

10. Identify the personality through the given hints.



He was a monk in the court of Tsar Nicholas II during 1917.

- (a) Kerensky
- (b) Trotsky
- (c) Rasputin
- (d) Machiavelli

**Ans.** (c) Rasputin

**Explanation:** Rasputin was an estranged monk in the court of Tsar Nicholas II during the time of the Russian Revolution. He influenced the order of the court, as speculated.

11. The new ideology of Socialism was emerging in the early nineties in Europe. Which of the following ideologies was opposed by the ideology of socialism?

- (a) Ban of private property
- (b) Anarchy
- (c) Liberalism
- (d) Capitalism

**Ans.** (d) Capitalism

**Explanation:** The capitalism ideology states that there should be a free market with no state intervention. On the other hand, socialism says that the state should interfere in the market and private property should be banned.

12. Russia was getting industrialised after the October Revolution. Which of the following is NOT a problem related to rapid industrialisation?

- (I) Poor wages
- (II) Long hours of work
- (III) Development of new industrialised regions
- (IV) Liberalism

**Options:**

- (a) Only (I)
- (b) Only (II) and (III)
- (c) Only (III)
- (d) Only (IV)

**Ans.** (d) Only (IV)

**Explanation:** Rapid industrialisation led to poor wages and bad working conditions among the labour. There were long working hours and a minuscule real wage. Industrialisation did not cause the birth of liberalism. It pre-existed. Liberalism is a tenet of both a capitalistic and a liberal society.



**13. Choose the incorrectly matched pair.**

- (a) Comintern - An International Union
- (b) Kolkhoz - Russian currency
- (c) Kulaks - Peasants
- (d) Jaddidists - Reformers

**Ans. (b) Kolkhoz - Russian currency**

**Explanation:** Kolkhoz is the name given to collective farms that were created due to Stalin's programme.



### Related Theory

- The Comintern was an international union of pro-Bolshevik socialist parties founded by the Bolshevik Party.
- Many non-Russians from outside the USSR participated in a conference in 1920, of which the Comintern was a part.
- Jaddidist is the name given to Muslim reformers within the Russian empire.

**14. "We shall strike at the Kulak working for the decrease in cultivation" was the slogan of which social movement in Russia?**

- (a) 1905 Russian Revolution
- (b) Agriculture Collectivisation
- (c) Forage Collectivisation
- (d) Society Collectivisation

**Ans. (b) Agriculture Collectivisation**

**Explanation:** Agriculture Collectivisation was a part of the planned economy by Stalin. Agriculture collectivisation was a scheme of Stalin in which the party forced all the peasants to perform collective farming. One important aspect of collectivisation in agriculture was the elimination of Kulaks.

**15. Which of the following reformers called for the creation of cooperatives to create better employment opportunities for the youth?**

- (a) Vladimir Lenin (b) Stalin
- (c) Louis Blanc (d) Robert Owen

[Mod. Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans. (c) Louis Blanc**

**Explanation:** Louis Jean Joseph Charles Blanc was a French politician and historian who favoured reforms and called for the creation of cooperatives in order to guarantee employment for the urban poor.

**16. Which of the following is not a social change introduced by the Bolsheviks in Russia?**

- (a) There was a free market.
- (b) Nationalisation of banks.
- (c) Partition of large houses according to family requirements.
- (d) Land was declared as social property.

**Ans. (a) There was a free market.**

**Explanation:** The Bolsheviks took control of Russia by October 1917. They opposed the idea of private property and increased state control over common commodities. Industry and banks were nationalised in November 1917. Their ideology was not consistent with a free market.

**17. Which element of the given image has most importance back then?**



- (a) A Soviet bank
- (b) A Soviet uniform
- (c) A Soviet hat
- (d) A Soviet religious symbol

**Ans. (c) A Soviet hat**

**Explanation:** A Budeonovka was a part of the Soviet uniform. It is a Soviet hat.

### Caution

- Students must read every term in the chapter and note down new terms along with their definitions.

**18. In 1917, Ivan, a young factory worker in Petrograd, listened to heated discussions about the future of Russia. Many spoke of Kerenskii and some praised him for his work. Ivan asked his fellow workers: "Who is Kerenskii?"**

- (a) A member of the Bolshevik party, who was responsible for the collectivisation programme.
- (b) Head of the military revolutionary committee.
- (c) Prime Minister of Russia during the October Revolution of 1917.
- (d) President of the provisional government formed after the February revolution.

**Ans. (c) Prime Minister of Russia during the October Revolution of 1917.**

**Explanation:** Kerenskii was the Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Russia, which was established after the February Revolution.

### Caution

- Students must make a short table with basic information about every name mentioned in the chapter to avoid confusion.

19. Look at the map of Europe and identify the shaded countries. To which power did they belong during World War I?



- (a) Central Power
  - (b) Allied Power
  - (c) Neutral States
  - (d) Neutral States that later joined the war

**Ans. (b) Allied Power**

**Explanation:** During World War I, the Allied Powers included major countries like Britain, France, Russia, Italy, and later the United States. These nations fought against the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire). The shaded countries on the map likely represent members of the Allied Powers, who opposed the Central Powers in the war.

**20.** In order to organise the socialist seizure of power, a Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soviets under:

- (a) Kerensky      (b) Leon Trotsky  
(c) Stalin      (d) Lenin [DIKSHA]

**Ans. (b) Leon Trotsky**

**Explanation:** The Military Revolutionary Committee was created by the Bolsheviks under the preparation of the launch of the October Revolution. It was headed by Leon Trotsky.

## Related Theory

- As the conflict between the Provisional Government and the Bolsheviks grew, Lenin feared the Provisional Government would set up a dictatorship.
  - On 16 October 1917, Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power.

21. The Winter Palace was situated on the left bank of the .....

- (a) River Reva      (b) River Neva  
(c) River Oxiana    (d) Black Sea

**Ans. (b) River Neva**

**Explanation:** The River Neva was situated in the capital city of Petrograd. The river divided the city. The worker's quarters and factories were located on the right bank of the River Neva and fashionable areas, like the Winter Palace and official buildings were located on the left.

22. .... became the symbol of socialism in Russia.

- (a) A sword
  - (b) Husk and grain
  - (c) Factories
  - (d) A loaf of bread

**Ans. (c) Factories**

**Explanation:** After the Bolshevik Revolution, as the socialist ideology was holding a firm grip in Russia, large-scale industrialisation was undertaken by the government. Hence, factories came to be seen as a symbol of socialism in Russia.

23. Stalin headed the party after the death of Lenin, introduced firm emergency measures. Identify the correct information about him:

- (I) He introduced the collectivisation programme in Russia.
  - (II) He was a Soviet political leader.
  - (III) He supported Kulaks.
  - (IV) He believed that grain shortages were partly due to the small size of holdings.

### **Options:**

- (a) Only (I), (II) and (III) are correct.
  - (b) Only (I), (III) and (IV) are correct.
  - (c) Only (II), (III) and (IV) are correct.
  - (d) Only (I), (II) and (IV) are correct.

**Ans.** (d), (I), (II) and (IV) are correct

**Explanation:** Joseph Stalin, born in Georgia, Russia, was the secretary-general of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1922-53) and premier of the Soviet state (1941-53), who for a quarter of a century dictatorially ruled the Soviet Union and transformed it into a major world power.

## Related Theory

- Stalin industrialised the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, forcibly collectivised its agriculture, consolidated his position by intensive police terror, helped to defeat Germany in 1941–45, and extended Soviet controls to include a belt of eastern European states



**29. Assertion (A):** Tsar Nicholas II was not subject to Parliament.

**Reason (R):** Russia was a socialist state after the 1905 Revolution.

**Ans.** (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

**Explanation:** Tsar Nicholas II was not subjected to the Parliament as Russia was an autocracy during the time. However, with the rise in socialist ideology and sentiments, a demand to institute a Parliament rose and after the Revolution of 1905, Duma, the Russian Parliament came into existence.



### Related Theory

→ Autocracy is a system of government. In this system, the absolute power over a state is concentrated in the hands of one influential person, who is the ultimate authority of the state. His decisions are subject neither to external legal restraints nor to the regularised mechanisms of popular control like in a democracy.

**30. Assertion (A):** There was speculation that in 1917, the provisional government would establish a dictatorship.

**Reason (R):** The Bolsheviks gained importance as soon as Lenin returned from exile in 1917.

**Ans.** (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

**Explanation:** As soon as Lenin came back from exile, he wanted to establish socialism in Russia and the Bolsheviks started to work for the attainment of this goal. This ignited the spark of tension between the provisional government and the Bolsheviks. There were rumours that due to this conflict, a dictatorship by the provisional government would be established. Lenin feared dictatorship by the government.

**31. Assertion (A):** Workers lived difficult lives in Soviet Russia during the industrialisation of the state.

**Reason (R):** The workers were paid excellent real wages.

**Ans.** (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.

**Explanation:** During the time of industrialisation in Russia, the Russian labourers had to face a harsh life. They were paid minimal wages, the living conditions were poor and the situation of basic sanitation was also poor.

**32. Assertion (A):** The Soviet government developed a schooling system, creches were established in factories and cheap public health care was provided to the labourers in Russia.

**Reason (R):** The effect of public spending by the government resulted in the large-scale development of the Soviet Union.

**Ans.** (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.

**Explanation:** The Soviet government, during the phase of industrialisation developed schools and arranged university education for labourers. Creches were installed and cheap public health care was provided. However, the effect of these policies was uneven as the resources were limited.

**33. Assertion (A):** Workers in England and Germany began forming associations.

**Reason (R):** They wanted new machinery to be installed in factories.

**Ans.** (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.

**Explanation:** The workers in England and Germany started to form associations to fight for the cause of better living and working conditions and for that purpose they set up funds to help members in times of distress and demanded a reduction in working hours.

## CASE BASED Questions (CBQs)

[ 4 marks ]

Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

**34.** Marx and Engels were principally concerned with the anatomy and dynamics of capitalism. The political praxis of the move to socialism, the vehicle of change, was undeveloped in their thinking. It was assumed that workers' parties,

the social-democratic party, in particular, would be the instrument of change. However, Russia lacked a civil society in which political parties could form and challenge political power.

Lenin called for a centralised party of committed Socialist Revolutionaries. In his



Path-breaking pamphlet, *What is to be done?*, he contended that 'Class consciousness can be brought to the workers only from outside. The history of all countries shows that the working class exclusively by its own effort is able to develop trade union consciousness. That is, the conviction that it is necessary to combine in unions, fight the employers and strive to compel the government to pass the necessary legislation. Lenin here called for the formation of a revolutionary Marxist party to lead the working class.

The most innovative feature of Lenin's approach is the way he combined theory and praxis on national and international levels. Lenin was primarily concerned with 'changing the world' rather than interpreting it. As the influential French philosopher, Louis Althusser, has cogently put it: in Lenin's political and economic works, 'we can study Marxist philosophy at work... in the "practical" state, Marxist philosophy which has become politics, political action, analysis and decision.'

- (A) Define the political ideology of Socialism.
- (B) Name the leader of a Socialist group called Bolsheviks in Russia.
- (C) There was a social disruption in a chaotic society with internal and external conflicts. How did the socialists ideas help with these emerging conflicts?

**Ans.** (A) The ideology of socialism is based on the belief that all people are equal and that money and property must be equally divided among everyone in society. It discourages private property. It is contradictory to the ideology of capitalism.

(B) Vladimir Lenin

**Explanation:** Vladimir Lenin was the founder of the Russian Communist Party, the inspiration and leader of the Bolshevik Revolution (1917), and the architect, builder, and first leader of the Soviet state (1917–24).



### Related Theory

- Friedrich Engels was a German philosopher who worked alongside Karl Marx to define modern communism. Plato was a Greek philosopher who was born in Athens during the Classical period of Greek antiquity.
- (C) Socialistic ideas emerged in the early nineties in Europe and gave birth to the vision of a welfare society and liberty in the true sense in the Russian empire.
- (1) During the period following the World War and the depression of 1919–1920s, the idea of socialism had a firm grip on the chaotic society as it raised questions about the quality of life and the suffering of people.

- (2) The socialistic society gave freedom and power in the hands of the weak, and attempted to make it an egalitarian society.

35. As is well known, the forced collectivisation torpedoed all the plans. It was based in the winter of 1929–30 on the massive use of force against the peasants. Collectivisation is no longer aimed at creating well-structured large-scale agrarian enterprises. Rather, with the "struggle for grain," it sought solely to subjugate the peasants, who supposedly were sabotaging Socialist construction. The "dwarf kolkhozes" that arose in the transition to the 1930s usually brought together only a small number of peasant communities, and with approximately 400 hectares of land, had only one-tenth of the minimal land area originally planned for the large-scale enterprises at their disposal. In addition, the kolkhozes only possessed equipment for small-scale farming, since mechanised technology from 1930 on was supplied exclusively to state farms or machine-tractor stations. The ambitious projects of individual planners such as Nikulikhin thus came to nought. In view of the striking lack of agricultural technology and the necessity of concentrating the available means for investment in industry, beginnings were made locally to establish some "kolkhoz giants" and to sell off the inventory of the peasants. But since the state did not provide any funding, the enterprises existed solely on paper, and already in the spring of 1930 they reverted once more into individual farmsteads.

- (A) Who among the following introduced the Collectivisation of Agriculture?
  - (a) Joseph Lenin
  - (b) Joseph Stalin
  - (c) Vladimir Putin
  - (d) Fyodor Dostoevsky
- (B) What is the meaning of the word 'Kolkhoz'?
  - (a) Rents due to the state
  - (b) Big farm owner
  - (c) A Soviet conference
  - (d) A collectivised farm
- (C) Which of the following is not a requirement of a Kolkhoz?
  - (a) Investment
  - (b) Machinery
  - (c) Labourers
  - (d) Livestock
- (D) Kolkhoz had equipment for .....
  - (a) Collective farming
  - (b) Large-scale farming
  - (c) Kitchen farming
  - (d) Small-scale farming

**Ans. (A) (b) Joseph Stalin**

**Explanation:** The second leader of the Bolsheviks, Joseph Stalin introduced the scheme of the collectivisation of Kolkhoz.

**(B) (d) A collectivised farm**

**Explanation:** The word Kolkhoz means a collective farm in former Soviet Russia, while a Kolok is actually a big farm owner in the former Russian empire.

**(C) (d) Livestock**

**Explanation:** A collective farm has certain needs, the first of which is investment, to function, it needs machinery and the collective efforts of labour. However, livestock is not needed for a collective farm.

**(D) (d) Small-scale farming**

**Explanation:** Due to a lack of investment, there was a lack of specialised equipment for large-scale farms and the availability was only for small-scale farming.

**36. Nehru's socialism was evolutionary, not revolutionary, and it was inclusive, not based on class. It was democratic and comfortable with heterogeneity, egalitarian without levelling, committed to the welfare and affirmative action, cooperative to contain destructive competition, oriented to rational planning to overcome anarchic individualism, stressed the need for the government to lead through an advanced public sector, valued local democracy and local management of utilities, and mobilised local initiative in every way. Globally, he viewed it as a movement rather than as a military bloc. In all these respects, if it was to prevail, it would be by democratic recognition rather than by bureaucratic imposition. Above all, he saw it as providing direction, momentum, and a value system rather than a final goal.**

As a social democrat or socialist, he was liberal at his fingertips and opposed both Communism and the Soviet system. During the agony of liberal Europe in the 1930s, when fascism blanketed the continent, communism seemed the only hope, and the Soviet Union the dawn of a new civilisation, as he declared at the Lucknow Congress in 1936. Thereafter, he drew the line clearly; and while the Soviet Union fascinated him for its shortcut to industrialisation, its methods were appalling and the human cost hideous. He could not accept them for India.

**(A) What was Nehru's vision as a Socialist leader?**

**(B) A Socialist nation bases its success on the welfare of people. In this context, define welfare socialism.**

**(C) Define cooperative as understood under Socialism.**

**Ans. (A)** Nehru was a balanced socialist. He emphasised upon welfare, keeping in mind freedom and liberal structure. He maintained a free market along with government support.

**(B)** Welfare socialism can be defined as an ideology in which government support is promised to the citizens in order to maintain equity or equality of resources in a country.

**(C)** Cooperatives are a group of people or companies, which join together and work on a project.

They divide the profits into equal amounts, hence maintaining order in a liberal society.

**37. 'Moscow appears much less lean than the other European Capitals. None of those hurrying along the streets looks smart. The whole place belongs to the workers. Here the masses have not in the least been put in the shade by the gentlemen ..... those who lived in the background for ages have come forward in the open today. I thought of the peasants and workers in my own country. It all seemed like the work of Genii in the Arabian Nights. (Here) Only a decade ago they were as illiterate, helpless and hungry as our masses who could be more astonished than an unfortunate Indian like myself to see how they had removed mountain of ignorance and helplessness in these few years. (Rabindranath Tagore Wrote from Russia in 1930)**

**(A) To which time does this description belong?**

- (a) Before the Russian revolution**
- (b) During the Russian revolution**
- (c) After the Russian revolution**
- (d) Present Time**

**(B) Who lived in the background for ages:**

- (a) Tsar**
- (b) Nobels**
- (c) An owner of an estate**
- (d) Peasants and workers**

**(C) Which incident changed the lives of people only a decade ago?**

- (a) The Russian Revolution**
- (b) The French Revolution**
- (c) The Revolution of 1857**
- (d) The American Revolution**



- (D) What does 'hurrying along the streets' mean?  
 (a) A running competition  
 (b) All are scared  
 (c) All are busy in their works  
 (d) The masses are in the shade by the gentlemen [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** (A) (c) After Russian Revolution

**Explanation:** Russian Revolution led to the establishment of a socialist government where the workers now have better living conditions, sufficient food, and overall better health.

Lenin declared after the revolution, that the war be brought to a close, land be transferred to the peasants, and banks be nationalised. This caused a change in the previous and present scenario.

- (B) (d) Peasants and workers

**Explanation:** Before the revolution, in the countryside, peasants cultivated most of the land but the nobility, the crown and the Orthodox Church owned large properties. Peasants and workers did not have much influence in Russian society.



#### Related Theory

- After the revolution, leaders understood the Russian peasant custom of dividing land periodically, made

them natural socialists. So peasants would be the main force of the revolution. After the revolution, both peasants and workers were given a major place in Russian society. The lands of nobles were transferred to them.

- (C) (a) The Russian Revolution

**Explanation:** This was written by Rabindranath Tagore in 1930. A life-altering revolution which took place a decade before this was written is the Russian Revolution (1917).



#### Related Theory

- The French Revolution took place in 1789. The Revolution of 1857, as the name suggests, occurred in 1857.  
 → The American Revolution took place in 1776.

- (D) (c) All are busy in their works

**Explanation:** The phrase "hurrying along the streets" suggests that people are moving quickly with a purpose. In the given passage, Rabindranath Tagore describes Moscow as a city where the workers dominate public life, implying that they are actively engaged in their daily tasks. The passage does not indicate fear or a competition but rather highlights the productivity and engagement of the common people.

## SHORT ANSWER Type-I Questions (SA-I)

[ 2 marks ]

**38. Mention any two reason for the February Revolution.**

- Ans.** (1) There were distorted social conditions, with a shortage of food grains, which became one of the reasons for the ignition of the February Revolution.  
 (2) Tsar wants to dissolve the Duma once again but the Parliamentarians were opposed to it.

**39. Tsar Nicholas II did not want his authority to be questioned and as a result, filled the Duma with the conservatives. In this context, enlist what is Duma and two features of conservatives.**

**Ans.** The Russian parliament is called Duma. It was formed as a result of the October 1905 Revolution. The conservatives abhorred the

thought of change in society. They were the followers of traditional and orthodox notions. Conservatives respected historical instructions and defied liberal principles.

**40. 'Marx's ideas have shaped Russian Socialism.' Substantiate the statement with example.**

**Ans.** Marx believed that profit was earned by workers but accumulated by capitalists. So, to improve the conditions of workers, accumulation of wealth by capitalist needs to be stopped, this can only be happened by constructing a radically socialist society where all property was socially controlled. This would be a communist society. The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party was founded in 1898. It was formed by the socialists who respected Marx.

**41. The First World War had a huge impact on the Russian Empire. With respect to this, name the group of countries which formed the central powers and allied power.**

**Ans.** Germany, Austria and Turkey were the central powers. Later joined by Bulgaria and Ottoman Empire. Russia, United Kingdom, Serbia, France and Belgium were Allied Power. They were later joined by Italy, Portugal, Greece and Romania.

**42. Assess the ideology of cooperatives as put forward by Louis Blanc.**

**Ans.** Louis Blanc was a socialist thinker at the time of the evolution of socialism as an ideology.

- (1) He emphasised upon the idea of cooperative societies. He wanted the government to encourage the cooperatives and provide employment to urban poor.
- (2) The cooperative society supports the idea of abolition of private property and represents the philosophy of working in collaboration.

**43. Stalin's Party forced all peasants to cultivate in collective farms (kolkhoz). Enraged peasants resisted the authorities and destroyed their livestock. Analyse the given statement.**

**Ans.** The enterprises established by the distribution of land among farmers fail. Due to a lack of economic support the enterprises which got established under the collectivisation programme failed miserably.

They existed on paper but as soon as implementation machinery lacked, the kolkhoze giants dispersed.

**44. Karl Marx had an imprint on Russian Socialism. Justify the given statement with suitable arguments.**

**OR**

**\*Name any socialist thinker and emphasise their ideals.**

**Ans.** Karl Marx was a social and political thinker and he was the pioneer of the Marxism ideology.

(1) His Ideology explains the ills of private property and presents a theory of alienation in which a representation of the evils of capitalism is explained.

(2) Karl Marx believed that capitalism is evil and wrote *Das Kapital* in order to explain how private property can demolish the welfarism in society and work only for profit.

**45. Examine the global influence of the Russian Revolution.** [DIKSHA]

**OR**

**\*Write down any two points about how the Russian Revolution impacted the world.**

**Ans.** The global influences of the Russian Revolution were:

- (1) Communist parties were formed in different countries of the world.
- (2) Comintern, an international union of pro-Bolshevik Socialist Parties was formed.
- (3) It encouraged the colonised people to use socialistic ideals and values in their fight against imperialism. (Any two points)

**46. Bring out any three demands of Lenin's 'April Thesis'?** [DIKSHA]

**Ans.** Lenin's April Thesis brought the following demands to the surface:

- (1) He demanded that the war be brought to an end.
- (2) He wanted that the land is transferred to the peasants.
- (3) He wanted the banks to be nationalised. (Any two points)

**47. What was the impact of the Russian Revolution on the colonies of the east?**

**Ans.** The Russian Revolution worked as a firestarter in the colonies.

- (1) It inspired many revolutionaries to stand against the imperial power.
- (2) It systematically demolished the structures made by power-hungry, imperialistic and capitalistic people.

**\*Same answer, different question style**



## SHORT ANSWER Type-II Questions (SA-II)

[ 3 marks ]

- 48. Compare the ideologies of the Liberals and the Radicals.** [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans.	Liberals	Radicals
	(1) They believed in the rights and interests of individuals over collective rights.	They believe in fundamental rights above societal rights too.
	(2) They wanted a representative, elected parliamentary government, subject to laws interpreted by a well-trained judiciary that was independent of rulers and officials.	They also believe in a representative government which is elected and works to the pleasure of the will of the people.
	(3) They didn't ascribe to the values of the universal adult franchise.	They believed every human should get an opportunity to choose their leader and hence believed in universal suffrage.

- 49. Describe briefly the demands of the liberals of 18th-19th centuries Europe.**

**Ans.** The liberals of the 18th-19th centuries of Europe opposed the uncontrolled power and absolutism of dynastic rulers. Some of their demands were:

- (1) They wanted to safeguard the rights of individuals against the government.
- (2) They argued for a representative, elected parliamentary government, subject to laws interpreted by a well-trained judiciary that was independent of rulers and officials.
- (3) They felt men of property should have the vote. They did not want the vote for women.

- 50. Marc, a young newspaper printer in Paris, often listened to heated debates at the local café, where a group of revolutionaries passionately discussed their vision for France. These men, known as radicals. As Marc listened, he wondered why these revolutionaries were so determined to**

reshape France. Based on his observations, explain who the radicals were and what they wanted.

**Ans.** The radicals were those who advocated fundamental changes in the social and political systems of 18th-19th centuries Europe.

- (1) The radicals wanted a nation in which the government was based on the majority of a country's population.
- (2) Unlike liberals, they opposed the privileges of great landowners and wealthy factory owners.
- (3) They were not against the existence of private property but disliked the concentration of property in the hands of a few.

- 51. What was Lenin's perception of the Russian peasants?**

**Ans.** (1) Lenin felt that the peasants were not one united group. Some were poor and others were rich, some worked as labourers while others were capitalists who employed workers.

- (2) Given this 'differentiation' within them, they could not all be part of a socialist movement.
- (3) He wanted to have the peasants in the second line of defence, workers being the first line.

- 52. Analyse the impact of World War I on the Russian economy.**

**Ans.** World War I also had a severe impact on the industry.

- (1) Russia's own industries were few in number and the country was cut off from other supplies of industrial goods by German control of the Baltic Sea.
- (2) Industrial equipment disintegrated more rapidly in Russia than elsewhere in Europe. By 1916, railway lines began to break down. Able-bodied men were called up to the war.
- (3) There were labour shortages and small workshops producing essentials were shut down. Large supplies of grain were sent to feed the army. For the people in the cities, bread and flour became scarce.

**53. Why were the socialists against private property? Give three reasons.**

**Ans.** According to the socialists, the capitalist structure was just about personal gain and it destroyed society. They also believed in the following:

- (1) Individuals who owned property and had the power to offer employment, were only concerned with profits and personal gains.
- (2) The idea of socialism talked about welfarism. The welfare of society was a vital concern with socialistic ideas.
- (3) Socialists wanted that society as a whole should control property so that more attention could be paid to collective social interests.

**54. There were three social groups emerging in the Russian empire. Name those groups and explain any one of them.**

**Ans.** Three social groups called the Liberals, the Conservatives and the Revolutionary emerged and were functioning in the Russian empire:

- (1) A Russian society community that wanted to reform Russia and wanted a secular country that accepted all religions.

(2) They did not consider the universal adult franchise and claimed that the right to vote must mainly be held by men of property. Individual liberty, consent of the governed, and legal equality are central to liberalism's political and moral ideology.

(3) Liberals promote individual rights, democracy, secularism, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and a market economy, depending on how these values are defined.

**55. Describe the economic conditions of the workers at the time of the Industrialisation of Russia, after the Bolshevik Revolution.**

**Ans.** The economic conditions of workers during the industrialisation of Russia were:

- (1) Majority of the workers had to work long hours about 10 to 12 hours on a daily basis.
- (2) The working conditions were shabby and poor, with poor sanitation and resources.
- (3) Women workers were paid less for the same amount of work.

## LONG ANSWER Type Questions (LA)

[ 5 marks ]

**56. What were the economic, social and political causes of the October 1917 Revolution in Russia?**

**Ans.** The main causes of the October 1917 Revolution in Russia were:

- (1) Russia's outdated economy and the Tsar's failure to modernise it is one of the greatest cause of the Russian Revolution.
- (2) Russia's agricultural economy still resembled that of medieval Europe, with peasants bound to an inefficiently managed village commune, and they used outdated farming methods. The revenue earned by them was insufficient for their growing population.
- (3) Another cause of the Russian Revolution was the mistreatment and centuries of oppression meted out to the lower classes by the Tsarist regime and Nicholas's failures in World War I.
- (4) While rural agrarian peasants had been emancipated from serfdom in 1861, they still resented paying redemption payments to the state, and demanded land ownership of the land.

(5) Politically, most areas of Russian society had no representation in government, and the Tsar remained out of touch with the people's problems.

Dissatisfaction with Russian autocracy culminated in the 'Bloody Sunday Massacre'. The response to the massacre crippled the nation with strikes.

**57. 'The 1905 Revolution changed the Russian empire in a drastic way.' Examine the events that happened in the 1905 Revolution.**

**Ans.** The Russian Revolution of 1905 was sparked after the events of Bloody Sunday. The events that followed up were as:

- (1) The attack of police on the procession of workers at the Winter Palace started a series of events that became known as the 1905 Revolution.
- (2) Strikes took place all over the country and universities closed down when student bodies staged walkouts, complaining about the lack of civil liberties.



- (3) Lawyers, doctors and other middle-class workers established the 'Union of Unions' and demanded a democratic representation.
- (4) The 1905 Revolution changed the social, political as well as economic conditions of Russia and influenced the society in the future.

**58. How was Stalin's collectivisation programme implemented in Russia?**

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** Implementation of Stalin's collectivisation programme can be described as:

- (1) The peasants were forced to cultivate in collective farms (kolkhoz) from 1929.
- (2) The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of collective farms.
- (3) Peasants worked on the land, and the kolkhoz profit was shared.
- (4) Enraged peasants resisted the authorities and destroyed their livestock. The number

of cattle fell by one-third between 1929 and 1931.

- (5) Those who resisted were severely punished. Many of them were deported and exiled.

**59. Explain the main ideas of Karl Marx.**

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** Karl Marx added other ideas to the socialist ideas.

- (1) Socialists considered private property as the root of all social ills.
- (2) Marx argued that industrial society was 'capitalist'. Capitalists owned the capital invested in factories, and the profit of capitalists was produced by workers.
- (3) The workers had to overthrow capitalism and the rule of private property.
- (4) After overthrowing capitalism, a radically socialist society would be constructed where all property was socially controlled.
- (5) Further, this would be a communist society and a communist society was the natural society of the future.

# **SELF ASSESSMENT**

## **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Who among the following was the brain behind the programme which is described in the table?

Column A	Column B
In 1928	Introduced firm emergency measures
In 1929	Party forced all peasants to cultivate in collective farms



- (I) Banishment of private property and unification of labour.
  - (II) Collectivisation of agriculture.
  - (III) Struggle for grain.
  - (IV) Leninism

#### **Options:**



3. In 19th-century Europe, Alex, a young factory owner, often discussed politics with his friend Victor, a school teacher. Both were frustrated with the old aristocracy, where power was inherited rather than earned. They believed that hard work and education should determine a person's success, not birthright. One evening, they joined a gathering where people debated the need for a revolution to overthrow the governments established in 1815, which still favored the nobility and monarchy.

Based on this situation, which of the following groups wanted revolutions to put an end to the kind of governments established in Europe in 1815?

- (I) Conservatives (II) Liberals  
 (III) Internationalists (IV) Radicals

#### **Options:**

- (a) (I) and (IV)  
 (c) (I) and (III)

(b) (II) and (IV)  
 (d) (I), (II) and (IV)

4. Read the table and fill in the blank.

Column A	Column B
1898	Formation of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party
1905	Bloody Sunday
1919	.....
1929	Collectivisation programme

- (a) Russian Revolution
  - (b) Sunday Revolution
  - (c) Comintern was formed
  - (d) Memoir by M.N. Roy was written

## **Assertion-Reason (A-R)**

In the following questions, two statements in the form of an Assertion (A) and a Reason (R) have been put forward. Read both statements carefully and choose the most appropriate option:

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
  - (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
  - (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
  - (d) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

5. Assertion (A): By the 1950, it was acknowledged within the country that the style of government in the USSR was not in keeping with the ideals of the Russian Revolution.

**Reason (R):** It had denied essential freedoms to its citizens and carried out its developmental projects through repressive policies. **(Analyse)** 1

6. Assertion (A): The greater part of the peasant insurrections had been linked with outright demands for the return of collectivised stocks of grain.

**Reason (R):** Stalin's collectivisation programme was a boon for the farmers of the USSR.



## Case Based Question

7. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

In February 1917, food shortages were deeply felt in the workers' quarters. The winter was very cold—there had been an exceptional frost and heavy snow. Parliamentarians wishing to preserve the elected government were opposed to the Tsar's desire to dissolve the Duma. On 22 February, a lockout took place at a factory on the right bank. The next day, workers in fifty factories called a strike in sympathy. In many factories, women led the way to strikes.

This came to be called International Women's Day. Demonstrating workers crossed from the factory quarters to the centre of the capital—the Nevskii Prospekt. At this stage, no political party was actively organising the movement. As the fashionable quarters and official buildings were surrounded by workers, the government imposed a curfew. Demonstrators dispersed by the evening, but they came back on the 24th and 25th. The government called out the cavalry and police to keep an eye on them. On Sunday, 25 February, the government suspended the Duma. Politicians spoke out against the measure. Demonstrators returned in force to the streets of the left bank on the 26th.

(A) Where were the workers' quarters located? (Remember) 1

(B) Who formed the Petrograd Soviet?  
(Remember) 1

(C) Highlight any two consequences of this revolution. (Understand) 2

## Short Answer Type-I Questions

8. What is meant by a Commune? Mention two points. (Understand) 2

9. 'Socialists were against private property.' Justify the statement using two points. (Evaluate) 2

## Short Answer Type-II Questions

10. Underline different visions of the future held by various socialists. (Understand) 3

11. Highlight the state of the Russian economy at the beginning of the twentieth century. (Understand) 3

## Long Answer Type Question

12. Ivan, a factory worker in St. Petersburg, was not happy with the working conditions. Frustrated, he joined thousands of workers in a peaceful march to the Tsar's palace in January 1905. However, soldiers opened fire on the crowd, killing many. Outraged, workers, peasants, and soldiers across Russia rose in revolt, demanding reforms.

Why was the 1905 Revolution organised? Mention three consequences of this revolution. (Analyse) 5



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