

Socialism in Russia: Social Revolutionaries, Bolsheviks and Mensheviks

- **Social Revolutionaries Party:**
 - Ideology: Pro Peasantry
 - Goal: Agrarian Economy based on Cooperatives
- **Bolsheviks Vs Mensheviks**
 - emerged from Social Democrat Labor Party:
 - Workers vs Peasants
 - Who to be members & Party Organization
 - Timing of revolution

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- **Russian Revolution**

- Situation in early 1900s: Nicholas II autocratic. No Parliament
- Public Grievances
 - Payment of Redemption, Poor Wages, No Democracy
- 1905 Revolution & contribution of Russo Japanese War.
 - Why failed: Army, OM, Lack of Unity among opposition, spontaneous w/o planning
- October Manifesto [OM]
- Implementation of OM
- Feb 1917 Revolution
 - Fate of Duma/Democracy
 - why no revolution between 1905 & 1917
- LTM Reasons for revolution
 - OM
 - Land Reform failure by 1911
 - Worker welfare not good enough
 - Use of Secret Police
 - Revolutionary parties joined hands
 - Royal family lost credibility due to scandals
- STM Reasons for Revolution
 - WW1 participation

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- **October Revolution 1917**

- Failures of Provisional Govt
 - WW1
 - Non fulfilment of promises of Land Redistribution & Immediate election
 - Rise of Soviets
 - Germany helped Lenin return from exile
 - Troops sided with Soviet

- **Consolidation of Power by Bolsheviks 1917-24**

- Events
- Civil war 1918-20
 - Bolsheviks vs Whites
 - Ukraine Georgia forced to Reunite
- Why Bolsheviks won
 - Leadership
 - Peasant support
 - Nationalist image
 - War Communism

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- **Lenin and Marxism:**

- Question of when to start the communist revolution:
- Pragmatism
- Capitalism

- **War Communism (1918-20):**

- Aim: garner more resources to fight war
- All factories nationalised
- All Private trade banned so resources come directly to party
- All grains seized from peasants
- Impact was food shortage since no incentive with peasant

- **New Economic Policy (1921) of Lenin:**

- Reasons: Treaty of Brest Litovsk
- Aim:
 - Economic recovery & reconciliation b/w Workers & Peasants
- Trade agreement 1921 with Br
- Pvt ownership of land + retain surplus food after payment of tax
- Pvt ownership of Small Scale Industry & Trade in goods by SSI
- Capitalist measures like bonus, piece wage rate & brought back old managers

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- **Political Changes introduced by Lenin:**

- banned factionalism
- introduced purging
- trade unions were prevented from running factories & thus were not totally free

- **Criticism of Lenin:**

- disbanded Constituent Assembly
- Red Terror
- Left wrong precedents
 - One Party State
 - ban on factionalism
 - use of secret police
 - decreased power & voice of Trade Unions

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Debate after death of Lenin in 1924

- Rapid Industrialisation:
- Socialism in One Country:
 - Prosperity of Peasants to consolidate power of soviets by allowing pvt ownership of property
 - Gradual & not rapid Industrialisation:
- Permanent Revolution:

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Stalinism 1929-53

- Challenges before Stalin
 - food shortages
 - poor military
 - poor industry
 - strong capitalist West
- Solution: Stalin's version of Socialism in One Country
 - 5 yr plans
 - Nationalisation of Industry
 - Ending NEP
 - Collectivisation
 - Introducing Totalitarian regime
 - Remilitarisation
 - S&T
 - Aggressive foreign policy
- Why Stalin focused upon Heavy Industrialisation?
 - War Inevitable + Proletariat
- Introduction of the Five Year Plans:
- Collectivisation of Agriculture (1929): By 1937 90% land collectivised. Took 2 Plans to become a success.

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Result of Stalinism:

- Purges
- No freedom of speech and expression
- Social Services:
- Forced Labor: Gulag, an agency, managed forced labor camps of Soviet Regime
- Clampdown on Orthodox Church
- Zero tolerance against separatism:
- Economic front:
- Cold War:

De-Stalinization:

- 1956 speech,
- Political reforms:
- Industry
- Technology
- Agriculture
- Revisionism

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Brezhnev Era (1964-82):

- Brezhnev Doctrine:
 - USSR would intervene in internal affairs of communist country if socialism is threatened.
 - Afghanistan 1979 and Poland (1981) where Solidarity Trade Union protests for multi-party democracy.
 - Increased aid to Cuba & Africans
 - Ethiopia, Mozambique & Angola

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Mikhail Gorbachev(1985-91):

- MG became GSec in 1985 & USSR disintegrated in Dec 1991 and ended 74 yr old Soviet Union
- Domino Effect
 - Started with Po 1989 in East EU
 - **Poland**: 1988 Solidarity TU huge anti-govt protests led to free elections in which Communists were defeated
 - This led to protests in all Soviet satellites
 - **Hungary**: free elections-communists defeated
 - **East Germany**:
 - 1989 Communist govt was forced to resign & Berlin wall (1961) was breached
 - 1990 MG agreed to united Germany in return of aid & investment into USSR by West Gr.
 - 1989 **Cz, Bulgaria, Romania**- Communist govts overthrown
 - Free elections in **Yugoslavia**(1990) & **Albania** (1991) and Dec 1991 **USSR** disintegrated.

- Economic failure of communism in East EU
 - inefficiency in eco coz of over-centralisation
 - No competition for PSUs
 - e.g. wages did not depend on output.
 - Quality control or Audit was under factory management (conflict of interest)
 - Production/Procurement/Sales were not functions Market Demand but of instructions from govt.
 - State had all burden of employment
 - Pvt MSMEs like family restaurants, family business, private tuitions, car repairing, selling paintings etc was not allowed
 - shortages in Agri sector & Light Industry esp Basic Consumer Goods
 - even social indicators of health, education & housing were better in capitalist west and thus communism failed the workers
 - Trade restrictions on satellites
 - In 1980s greater contact b/w the ppl of the west and the east led to dissonance & disenchantment among the easterners who blamed communism & communists
 - USSR economy bled due to
 - arms race, space race, failure of agrarian reforms of Nikita, entanglement in foreign wars, pressure to give aid to satellites,
 - over-centralisation, State Monopoly, neglect of light industry & inflation in basic consumer goods.

- MG inherited a failing economy & took following measures:
 - Exit Afghanistan & signalled that he won't intervene militarily in satellite states if & when protests for political reforms
 - **Glasnost** (Openness) in Politics, human rights & cultural affairs with aim to mobilise public support for reforms
 - Politics
 - Amnesty to political opponents e.g. allowed to return from exile.
 - more transparency in party functioning e.g. party proceedings televised.
 - 1988 Law to prevent political oppn to be sent to mental hospitals
 - HoDs of cultural institution changed from radical to liberal
 - Lifting of ban on anti-stalin movies/novels
 - Freedom in media reporting eg Chernobyl disaster of 1986 covered by media

- Perestroika (Socio-Economic reforms)
 - Economic Changes
 - 1987 declared as year of New Economic Management
 - Competition amongst PSUs
 - create alternative emp so mkt could share the employment burden with the state
 - Pvt MSMEs & services allowed
 - Quality control function given to independent bodies as <> factory management
 - 1987 law: mkt demand to decide how much & what to produce

- Perestroika (Socio-Economic reforms)
 - Political Changes
 - Democracy within local Soviets ie choice of candidates now though not of Party.
 - Democracy in factories via elections for factory management posts
 - Changes in Supreme Soviet (Parliament) so it is a smaller body which meets more frequently and Chair of SS was to be Head of State.

How MG contributed ?

- Oppn from radicals & liberals
 - increased due to Glasnost
 - when a repressive regime starts reforms, it is the most dangerous time for the regime
- Boris Yeltsin:
 - leader of party in Russia
 - wanted western style market economy
 - took advantage of Glasnost to demand more radical reforms & engaged in public criticism of radicals

How MG contributed ?

- Economic reforms didnt give quick results
 - 1980s depression in USSR
 - -ves of 1987 Law on State Enterprises
 - wages were function of value of goods produced & thus basic consumer goods again neglected
- this led to **Siberian Coal Miners Strike 1989** who were joined by miners of Kazakhstan, Ukraine & rest of Serbia (half a million protested)
 - MG agreed to full control of factories to workers
 - rejected major demand of multi party system. Miners wanted a party of own on lines of Solidarity Union of Poland.

How MG contributed ?

- Nationalist sentiments of Soviet Republics
 - coz of Glasnost, Soviet Republics demanded more autonomy e.g. more power to their Parliaments
 - MG was sympathetic but concessions led to a domino effect & SRs went out of control
 - Azerbaijan & Armenia:
 - Christians in Az wanted transfer of territory to Ar. Conservatives opposed & MG sided with them which led to war & Moscow seemed to have lost control
 - Estonia Latvia Lithuania: 1990 USSR sent troops when declared independence
 - Boris became President of SR of Russia & t/a voluntary union

How MG contributed ?

- Rivalry b/w Boris & MG
 - Boris wanted Shock Therapy
 - immediate Multi party system
 - immediate market economy
- 1991 coup
 - Boris resigned from party in 1990
 - MG t/a idea of multi-party system
 - SRs were demanding secession
 - Georgia 1991 declared independence
 - MG proposed voluntary union -> coup by LW
 - Boris started street protests->resignation by coup leaders & their arrest
 - Boris banned Communist party in Russia & floated voluntary union Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to coordinate defence & economic policies.
 - MG resigned on Christmas 1991

Communism after 1991

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Chinese Communism (Maoism) vs Russian Communism:

- Problems of China in 1949:
- Why shift from the Russian model ?
 - 100 Flowers Campaign (1957)
 - focus on Heavy Industrialisation--> Class Conflict
- basic differences between Russian Model and the Chinese Model of communism :

- **Similarity with the Russian Model till 1958:**
 - Russia like Agricultural Changes (1950-56)
 - Land Redistribution & Cooperatives
 - Russia like Industrial Changes (1953-8)
- **Differences with Russian approach under Krushchev:-**
 - <> Peaceful Co-existence & revisionism
 - Great Leap Forward (1958):
 - Evaluation of the Great leap Forward

Cultural Revolution (1966-9):

- To protect the communist revolution & to keep GLF on Marxist lines-
- To garner support for Great leap Forward-
- Features of the Cultural revolution:
- Criticism of Cultural revolution:
- Positive Impact of Cultural revolution:

Communism in China after Mao's death in 1976:

- Power Struggle:
- Dramatic Policy Changes under Deng:
- 4 Modernizations
- Decentralization was increased
- Measures taken to stimulate efficiency and factory output:-

- Deng Xiaoping's goals for the future:
- Result of Deng's policies
- Democracy Wall (1978):
- Market Socialism:-
- Tienanmen Square (1989):
 - Background
 - The Dilemma

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Tienanmen Square (1989) events:-

- Why?
- Demands?
- Crushed?

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Why Communism survived in China and failed in USSR?

- China implemented the economic reforms before going for the political reforms
- Left-Right split
- Deng Xiaoping Vs Mikhail Gorbachev
- 100 Flowers Campaign (1957).
- “contact with the masses”
- Chinese Communism was flexible