

Socialism in Russia

Political Parties in Russia:

(i) Social Revolutionaries Party (SRP)

- # Represented Peasants interests ∴ Had support base of Peasantry who were masses as Russian Economy was largely Agrarian until Stalin (1928-53)
- # Supported Land Reforms in form of Land redistribution in favor of small peasants. Wanted private ownership of land & equitable land redistribution.
- # Supported investments in Agrarian Economy for prosperity of peasants. ∴ Wanted gradual industrialization & not rapid industrialization.
- # Favored organizing peasants in voluntary cooperatives for reaping benefits of joint production & economies of scale but without loss of private ownership.

(ii) Kadets / Cadets

- # Represented interests of middle class / Bourgeoisie
- # Supported capitalistic economy with private ownership & security of property.

(iii) Social Democrat Labor Party -

- # Got divided into Bolsheviks & Mensheviks
- # Bolsheviks meant majority & mensheviks - minority. Those who got majority in election for editorship of party newspaper ISKRA came to be known as Bolsheviks & those who were in minority " " " " " " Mensheviks.
- # Both were Communists.

Mensheviks

Bolsheviks (Leninism)

On timing
of revolution

Revolution To Be attempted ONLY
When Society is Fully
Industrialized

WANTED Communist Revolution
As Soon As Possible.

On
peasantry

CONSIDERED PEASANTRY CLASS AS
Conservative & ∴ non Revolutionary.

WERE READY TO TRUST/HAVE FAITH
in PEASANTRY ∴ TRIED TO GET SUPPORT
OF PEASANTS FOR Communist Revolution

On Party
membership

Since Revolution NOT TO BE DONE
immediately (since society still
AGRICULTURAL) ∴ PRIMARY CONCERN
WAS EXPANDING PARTY BASE ∴
allowed ANYONE TO JOIN.

ANYONE - PEASANT/WORKER/BOURGEOISIE
WAS ALLOWED MEMBERSHIP IF HE
WAS COMMITTED TO IDEA Communist
Revolution.

∴ WERE MORE MARXIST
(i.e. CLOSER TO THEORETICAL
MARXISM)

WERE MORE REVOLUTIONARY & FOR
Communist Revolution WERE READY
TO BE PRAGMATIC

1st Russian Revolution 1905

WHAT? - A SPONTANEOUS OUTBURST OF PEOPLE WITH GOAL OF OVERTHROWING MONARCHY i.e. RULE OF CZAR / TSAR / ROMANOV DYNASTY.

Long Term : # Grievances of PEASANTRY:

Reasons

- o PEASANTS WERE MASSES i.e. MAJORITY POPULATION.
- o In 1861 SERFDOM WAS ABOLISHED IN RUSSIA TO FREE UP RURAL MASSES SO FACTORIES COULD GET LABOUR. POST MID 19th RUSSIA TRIED TO DO INDUSTRIALIZATION. SERFDOM IS A FEATURE OF FEUDALISM WHERE MASSES ARE TIED TO LAND & FOR LIFE SERVE THE MASTER i.e. OWNER OF LAND & ∴ NOT FREE TO LEAVE THE LAND FOR ANY OTHER OCCUPATION UNLESS THE SERF IS FREED BY MASTER.
- o AFTER ENDING SERFDOM, THE FREED PEASANTS WERE GIVEN SMALL LANDHOLDINGS BUT IN RETURN THEY HAD TO PAY ANNUAL REDEMPTION PAYMENTS. THESE REDEMPTION PAYMENTS FORMED A GRIEVANCE ALONG WITH GRIEVANCE OF CONCENTRATION OF LAND OWNERSHIP IN HANDS OF MINORITY ELITES. (NOBILITY)

Grievances of WORKERS:

- o POOR WAGES
- o OPPRESSION BY EMPLOYERS / FACTORY OWNERS
- o NO SOCIAL SECURITY
- o NO LIMIT ON HOURS OF WORK
- o CHILD LABOUR
- o NO JOB SECURITY.

Political Grievances / Grievance in general especially of Bourgeois

- # No Democracy. There was no Parliament & no Representation of masses in Governance. Czar ruled as an Absolute monarch with nobility.
- # Lack of Freedom of Speech & expression; Lack of Freedom for Press
- # Brutal misuse of Secret Police \leftrightarrow Politicians/Activists (e.g. Elder Brother of Lenin, Alexander Ulyanov was executed \therefore of his Revolutionary ideas & Activism - 1887)

Trigger for RR 1905:

- # Defeat in Russo-Japanese war 1904-05
 - # Economy was hurt due to war - high taxes, inflation
 - # Loss of Prestige for Czar among Nationalist Population

Why RR 1905 Failed?

- # Army stayed loyal to Czar \therefore Protests were crushed
- # Disunity among Political Parties + Spontaneous Outburst \therefore an Unplanned movement
- # Timely Concessions in form of October Manifesto 1905 where Czar Promised:
 - # Democratic Reforms # Better wages & conditions of work for workers
 - # Yes in Landholdings # End of Redemption Payments for small peasants # Jcd use of secret police

FEBRUARY REVOLUTION 1917

WHAT? A REVOLUTION BY RUSSIANS THAT LED TO END OF MONARCHY IN RUSSIA

Reasons: (i) REFORMS PROMISED IN OCTOBER MANIFESTO FAILED.

AGRARIAN REFORMS :

REDEMPTION PAYMENTS WERE ABOLISHED

CZAR ALLOWED PURCHASE OF UNCULTIVATED LANDS OF SIBERIA AT SUBSIDIZED RATES. HOWEVER, RICH LANDLORDS BENEFITTED MORE & THIS LED TO RISE OF CLASS OF KULAKS (BIG LANDLORDS)

POPULATION GROWTH WAS FASTER THAN GROWTH IN AGRICULTURE \therefore REAL EARNINGS OF SMALL PEASANTRY DID NOT RISE AS MUCH.

WORKING CLASS:

FACTORY INSPECTORS WERE APPOINTED TO PREVENT HARASSMENT OF WORKERS

BR-RUSSIA AGREEMENT 1907 INCLUDED A TRADE AGREEMENT THAT IMPROVED ECONOMY & WAGES OF WORKERS

HOWEVER NO SOCIAL SECURITY WAS GIVEN.

IN 3 YRS BEFORE WWI (1914-19) THERE WERE REGULAR STRIKES BY WORKERS. OVERALL NO SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS OF WORKERS.

Democratic Reforms

Czar setup Duma/Parliament with right to vote linked to income/property criteria. Poor peasants & workers didn't get right to vote (middle class did get)

1st Duma (1906): was disbanded/dissolved within one yr when middle class parliamentarians demanded accountability of Czar's ministers to Duma.

2nd Duma (1907): was also disbanded within an yr for same reasons.

3rd & 4th Duma completed their terms as they were manned by loyalists as Czar further tied property criteria for right to vote after 2nd Duma & \therefore only pro-Czar/loyalist elites got elected to Duma.

Brutality of secret police & political activists continued.

Little freedom of speech, expression & press.

\therefore Democratic reforms weren't implemented

Controversies

(a) Rasputin a healer became close to Czar's family as he could heal pain of ailing child of Czar. It's alleged that he began influencing political decisions of Czar. Became a hated figure & popularity of Czar \downarrow ed.

(b) Death of PM Stolypin (1912) - he was a popular figure as implemented reforms after 1905. It was a conspiracy that he was assassinated on orders of Czar

TRIGGER : WWI (1914)

PARTICIPATION IN WWI HURT RUSSIAN economy.

THERE WERE BREAD RIOTS IN RUSSIAN CITIES DUE TO FOOD SHORTAGE

MORALE OF ARMY SUFFERED GREATLY & LED TO DISAFFECTION IN ARMY DUE TO SERIES OF DEFEATS FOR RUSSIAN FORCES AT HANDS OF GERMANS.

CZAR WAS LEADING THE RUSSIAN WAR EFFORT, ∴ HIS POOR LEADERSHIP WAS BLAMED.

IN FEB 1917, PROTESTS LED TO PRESSURE ON CZAR TO ABDICATE THRONE.

A PROVISIONAL GOVT LED BY KADETS FORMED.

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OCTOBER REVOLUTION 1917

WHAT? PROVISIONAL GOVT OVERTHROWN BY BOLSHEVIKS LED BY LENIN.
(PG)

Reasons:

- # PG DID NOT FULFIL DEMANDS OF RUSSIAN PEOPLE
- (a) PG DID NOT WITHDRAW RUSSIA FROM WWI \therefore OF PRESSURE FROM ALLIED POWERS AS THIS WOULD HAVE ENDED 2 FRONT WAR FOR G_R
- (b) PG DID NOT CONDUCT ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, CITING ENGAGEMENT OF RUSSIA IN WWI.
- (c) PG DID NOT DO LAND REDISTRIBUTION AS PG WAS DOMINATED BY PRO LANDLORD, PRO INDUSTRIALIST, PRO CAPITALIST KADETS.

ZIMMERMAN PLAN: G_R HELPED LENIN RETURN TO RUSSIA FROM EXILE IN SWITZERLAND AS G_R WANTED TO WEAKEN RUSSIA INTERNALLY.

SOVIETS i.e. GRASSROOT ORGANIZATIONS OF WORKERS & PEASANTS BEGAN TO ESTABLISHED

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MUTINY BY SOLDIERS BEGAN IN PETROGRAD & TROOPS SIDED WITH BOLSHEVIKS AS WANTED EXIT FROM WWI.

LENIN PROMISED ELECTIONS, WITHDRAWAL FROM WWI & LAND REDISTRIBUTION TO PEASANTS. \therefore GOT SUPPORT.

RESULT: BOLSHEVIKS LED BY LENIN & TROTSKY CAPTURED POWER AFTER VIOLENT STRIKES BY WORKERS.

Russian Civil War (1918-20)

WHAT?: WHITES (SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARIES PARTY, KADERS, MENSHEVIK)
FOUANT \leftrightarrow BOLSHIEVICS, BR, FR, US, JAPAN SENT ARMIES IN FAVOR OF WHITES.

Reasons:

Lenin DISBANDED Constituent Assembly:

AFTER OCT REVOLUTION 1917 Lenin:

(a) WITHDREW RUSSIA FROM WWI BY SIGNING TREATY OF BREST LITOVSK (1917) WITH GR WHERE RUSSIA LOST ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, FINLAND, UKRAINE & GEORGIA.

(b) ALLOWED Land Redistribution as small PEASANTS TOOK OVER LANDS OF Big LANDLORDS.

(c) HELD elections TO A Constituent Assembly

However, SRP GOT TWICE THE SEATS THAN BOLSHIEVICS WHO WERE ISOLATED in Constituent Assembly DEBATES. Lenin REALISED HE CANT BRING COMMUNISM VIA DEMOCRACY.
\therefore Lenin DISBANDED THE Constituent Assembly & BANNED ALL OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES & SETUP ONE PARTY SYSTEM.

RESULT: CIVIL WAR: BOLSHIEVICS & THEIR RED ARMY VS WHITES.

BR, FR, US, JAPAN INVADDED RUSSIA IN SUPPORT OF WHITES (as

(a) THEY WANTED RE-ENTRY OF RUSSIA IN WWI TO REVIVE 2 FRONT WAR \leftrightarrow GR.

(b) DID NOT WANT RUSSIA TO BE A COMMUNIST STATE as COMMUNISM BELIEVED IN END OF CAPITALISM

(c) Lenin HAD SENT SECRET AGENTS TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO INSTIGATE COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONS ACROSS EUROPE.

Bolsheviks won Russian Civil War (1918-20) ∴

(a) WAR Communism (1918-20)

Aim: To GARNER RESOURCES FOR FIGHTING CIVIL WAR

All FACTORIES WERE NATIONALIZED

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All PRIVATE TRADE BANNED SO RED ARMY GETS SUPPLIES

All FOOD GRAINS TO BE SEIZED FROM PEASANTS SO WORKERS
in FACTORIES & SOLDIERS in RED ARMY GET FOOD SUPPLIES,

(b) ABLE MILITARY LEADERSHIP OF TROTSKY

(c) UNIFIED SINGLE LEADERSHIP & ∴ BETTER COMMAND & CONTROL
VS DISUNITED LEADERSHIP AMONG WHITES

(d) BOLSHEVIKS GOT SUPPORT OF MANY SECTIONS AS PERCEIVED
AS NATIONALISTS FIGHTING FOREIGN ARMIES.

(e) ATROCITIES BY ARMIES OF WHITES ON COMMON MAN.

(f) WWI GOT OVER in NOV, 1918

RESULT :

UKRAINE & GEORGIA WERE RECAPTURED BY RED ARMY.

Bolsheviks won & Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
(USSR HAVING 15 SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS) ESTABLISHED (1920)

Russia not invited to TREATIES OF VERSAILLES, not
made member of LEAGUE OF NATIONS & not
DIPLOMATICALLY ISOLATED as USSR GOVT WAS NOT
RECOGNIZED BY MANY FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Lenin in Power (Died in 1924)

New Economic Policy (1921-29)

Context / Reasons:

- # Poor economy due to WWI & Civil War (1918-20) & Harsh Treaty of Brest Litovsk (1917). Also even prior to WWI Russian economy was weak & non industrialized
- # Challenge of Food security: War Communism meant no incentive for peasants ∴ there were food shortages

Strife in society: Bolsheviks were perceived as representatives of working class while masses were peasants. Also due to civil war, society was divided with strife between peasants, workers & middle class.

Features of NEP (1921)

- # Aim: Economic Recovery, Food Security, Reconciliation among peasants, workers & middle class.
- # Trade Agreement with Bn in 1921 to improve economy (* LABOR PARTY - a socialist party was in power in Bn)
- # Private ownership of land was allowed & peasants to pay only taxes & retain surplus that could be sold by them.
- # Private ownership of: small scale industry & trade in goods produced by small scale industry
- # Capitalist measures like bonuses for workers & factories brought back under qualified bourgeois managers
- # Promoted women in workforce e.g. setup creches & public kitchens so women could provide labour outside home.

POLITICAL CHANGES By Lenin / CRITICISM of Lenin

ONE PARTY SYSTEM

WITHIN COMMUNIST PARTY FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CURBED

PURGED THOSE WHO WERE SEEN AS POLITICAL OPPONENTS
WITH HELP OF SECRET POLICE

TRADE UNIONS WERE NOT GIVEN CONTROL OF FACTORIES
& STRIKES BY WORKERS DISCOURAGED TO BOOST GDP.

∴ LAID FOUNDATIONS OF TOTALITARIAN REGIME &
INTRODUCED SUCH INSTRUMENTS (PURGING, SECRET POLICE, OPS
NO VOICE TO TRADE UNIONS) WHICH WOULD BE MISUSED
BY STALIN TO ESTABLISH TOTALITARIAN REGIME

Lenin DIED IN 1924 → POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN PARTY

STALIN CAME TO POWER IN 1928

1929-53 : ERA OF STALINISM

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