**NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, KENGERI**

**SUBJECT: HISTORY**

**CHAP 2 – SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND RUSSIAN REVOLUTION**

GRADE 9

**1. What were the social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905?**

        Social Condition:

Workers were a divided group. Some had strong links with the villages, others had settled permanently in cities. Workers were divided based upon their skills. The division among workers also reflected in their dress and manners too.

        Economic Condition:

Most industries were the private property of industrialists. Government supervised large factories. The industry was found in pockets. Many factories were set up in the 1890s, when Russia’s railway network was extended, foreign investment in industry increased, coal production had doubled and iron and steel output quadrupled. Most industries were the private property of industrialists.

        Political condition:

Russia was an autocracy. Unlike other European countries, The Tsar was not subject to a Parliament. Liberals in Russia campaigned to end this state of affairs. Socialist Revolutionary Party struggled for Peasants rights

   
**2. In what ways was the working population in Russia different from other countries in Europe, before 1917?**   
   
**\* The working population in European countries were more united than in Russia. Workers in England and Germany formed associations and fought for better living and working conditions.**

      \*Funds were set up by these Associations to help workers in distress. The workers in European countries were united in their demand for reduction of working hours and the right to vote.

     \*Workers association also supported political parties and ultimately formed political parties themselves. The Labour Party in Britain and a Socialist Party in France are examples of political parties formed by socialists and trade unionists.

        \*In total contrast to the working population in Europe the Russian workers were not united. Workers were divided on the basis of their occupation. Workers whose jobs needed skill and training considered themselves on a higher place than the untrained workers.

       \* Workers had strong links to the villages they came from and this also caused a social divide among workers. Workers’ associations rose dramatically in Russia also, as in Europe. They demanded reduced working hours and higher wages. The workers were suppressed by the government.

 

**3. Why did the Tsarist autocracy collapse in 1917?**

      \* During the winter of 1917, factory workers faced acute food shortage and extreme cold climate. Dissatisfaction was raging high among the workers.   
A factory lockout on the right bank of the river Neva, triggered a strike in the month of February, 1917. 50 other factories joined in the strike. In many factories women led the strike.

     \*The government tried many measures to contain the strike. Curfew was imposed, the cavalry and police were called out to suppress the workers. The dissatisfied worker could not be contained. On the 27th of February, the Police Head Quarters’ were ransacked.   
 

     \*The turning point of this revolt was when the government regiments joined the striking workers. They formed the ‘ Soviet’ or ‘Council’. The Tsar was advised to abdicate. Thus the February Revolution brought down the monarchy in 1917.

**4. Make two lists: one with the main events and the effects of the February Revolution and the other with the main events and effects of the October Revolution. Write a paragraph on who was involved in each, who were the leaders and what was the impact of each on Soviet history.**   
   
**Main events of February Revolution:**

1.     In February 1917, there was a shortage of food items in workers quarters.

2.     On Feb 22, a lockout took place at a factory on the right bank. The workers in fifty factories called a strike and women played a very critical role in these strikes. This day went on to be named as International Women’s Day.

3.     On 25th Feb, the government suspended the Duma.

4.     On 27th Feb, Police headquarters was ransacked, people were demonstrating and raising slogans about bread, wages, better hours and democracy.

5.     Petrograd Soviet was formed.

6.     Tsar abdicated on March 2, Monarchy was formed in Feb 1917.

7.     Soviet leaders and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government to run the country.

**Effects of the February Revolution:**

1.     Restrictions on public meetings and associations were removed.

2.     ‘Soviets’ like the Petrograd Soviet, were set up everywhere, though no common system of election was followed.

3.     The number of trade unions increased.

4.     In Industrial areas, factory committees were formed to question the way industrialists ran their factories.

5.     Soldiers committees were formed in the Army

6.     The Bolsheviks’ influence kept growing and the provisional government saw its power reducing.

7.     Land committees were formed to handle redistribution of land, which was a popular demand for peasants and their socialist revolutionary leaders in the countryside.

**Main events of the October Revolution:**

As the conflict between the provisional government and the Bolsheviks grew, Lenin feared the Provisional Government would set up a dictatorship. Lenin began discussions for an uprising against the government. Bolshevik supporters in the Army, Soviets and factories were brought together.

1. On 16th October 1917, Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power. A military revolutionary committee was appointed by the Soviet under Leon Trotsky to organize the seizure.

2. The uprising began on 24th October 1917. Military men who were loyal to the government seized the buildings of two Bolshevik newspapers. Pro-Government troops were sent to take over telephone and telegraph offices and protect the Winter Palace.

3. In retaliation, the Military Revolutionary Committee ordered its supporters to seize government offices and arrest ministers. A ship named Aurora shelled the Winter Palace, other ships sailed down the Neva and took over various military positions.

4. By nightfall, the city was under the control of committee and ministers had surrendered. By December, Bolsheviks controlled the Moscow-Petrograd area.

**Effects of the October Revolution.**

1.     Industries and banks were nationalised by November 1917, Government took over ownership and management.

2.     The land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.

3.     In the cities, The Bolsheviks enforced the partition of large houses according to family requirements.

4.     Old titles of the aristocracy were banned.

5.     New uniforms were designed for the army and officials.

6.     Bolshevik Party was renamed as the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik)

7.     Bolsheviks conducted elections to the constituent assembly, however, they failed to attain the majority. The assembly rejected the Bolshevik measures and Lenin dismissed the assembly.

8.     All Russian Congress of Soviets became the Parliament of the country. Russia became an one-party state.

9.     Trade unions were kept under party control. The Secret Police punished those who criticised the Bolsheviks. Many young artists and writers continued to support the Party, as it stood for Socialism.

10.  Many experiments were done in Arts and Architecture. But many were unhappy because of the censorship.

**5. What were the main changes brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution?**

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**6.   Distinguish between the ideas of liberals and the radicals.**   
 

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| **Liberals** | **Radicals** |
| (i) They argued for, representative, elected parliamentary government, but did not believe  in universal adult franchise. | They also argued for a representative elected parliamentary government, but believed in universal adult franchise. |
| (ii) They felt men of property should have the right to vote. | They felt all citizens should have the right to vote |
| (iii) They were in favour of giving privileges to the rich or the men of property. | They opposed the privileges of the rich or the men of property. |

**7. Write a few lines to show what you know about:**   
(i) Kulaks   
(ii) The Duma   
(iii) Women workers between 1900 and 1930.   
(iv) The Liberals.   
(v) Stalin’s collectivization programme.   
 

(i) Kulaks   
Well-to-do peasants were called ‘kulaks’ during Stalin’s leadership. As food shortage continued Stalin decided to introduce the Collectivisation Programme. Under this programme, ‘kulaks’ were eliminated. That is, land from these well-to-do peasants was forcibly taken and large state- controlled farms were established. This was done to modernize farming and increase production.

(ii) The Duma   
The Duma is an elected consultative Parliament, which was set up during the 1905 Revolution. Though the Duma was accepted by the Tsar, they were constantly dismissed by the Tsar and new ones were set up. After the February Revolution when the Monarchy was over thrown, Duma leaders and Soviet leaders formed a Provisional Government in Russia.

(iii)Women workers between 1900 and 1930   
Women workers made up 31% of the factory labour in the 1900s. They were paid only half or three quarters of the men’s wages. During the February Revolution in 1917, many women workers led the strikes. The condition of the women workers continued to be grim until the 1930s. Slowly conditions improved and crèches were set up in factories for the children of women workers.

(iv) The Liberals   
After the French Revolution people wanted a transformation in the society. Many groups were formed with this intention. One such group was the ‘Liberals’. The Liberals wanted a nation with religious tolerance and individual rights. Though they wanted an elected parliamentary government, they wanted only men of property to have the right to vote. They were against women voting.

(v) Stalin’s collectivization programme   
Stalin believed that collectivization of agriculture would help in improving grains supplies in Russia. He began collectivization in 1929. All peasants were forced to cultivate in collective farms (kolkhoz). The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of the collective farm. Many peasants protested such attempts and destroyed livestock to show their anger. Collectivization did not bring the desired results in the food supply situation turned even worse in subsequent years.