

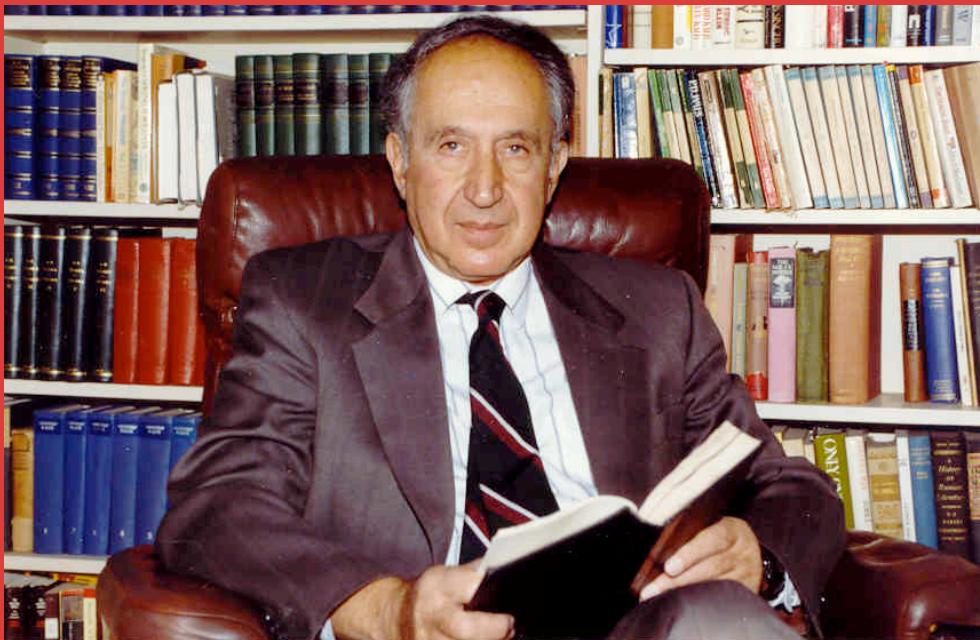
ЛЕНИН -
ЖИЛ,
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БУДЕТ ЖИТЬ!

ЕА МАКСОВСКИЙ

The Russian Revolution

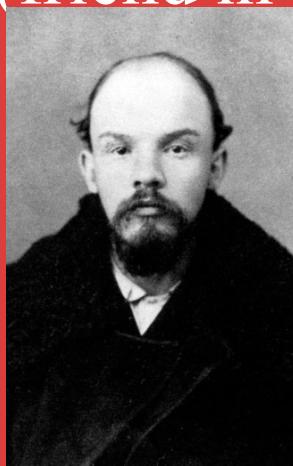
Richard Pipes

- Thesis – Russian Revolution = Lenin
- Leftist, but not Communist
- American from Poland; Jewish
- Early Revisionist often questioned by neo-revisionists for focus on Lenin as the core of the revolution.



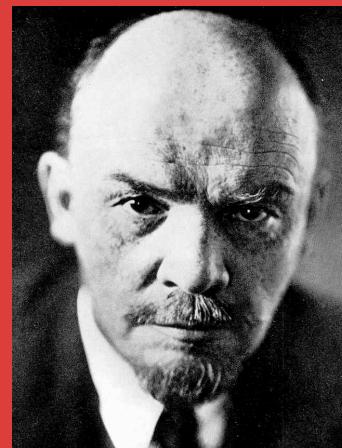
Vladimir Ilitch Ulianov

- Born 1870; Father died and brother executed by Alexander II for an assassination plot in 1886
 - Is this why Lenin became a Communist – Histo says No.
- **University of Kazan** – “reticent and unsociable”
 - Expelled due to a harmless student protest
 - Exposure to radical literature began
 - Hatred for autocracy, lawlessness, police, liberals and bourgeoisie – Struve (friend in 1890s) → personality shift



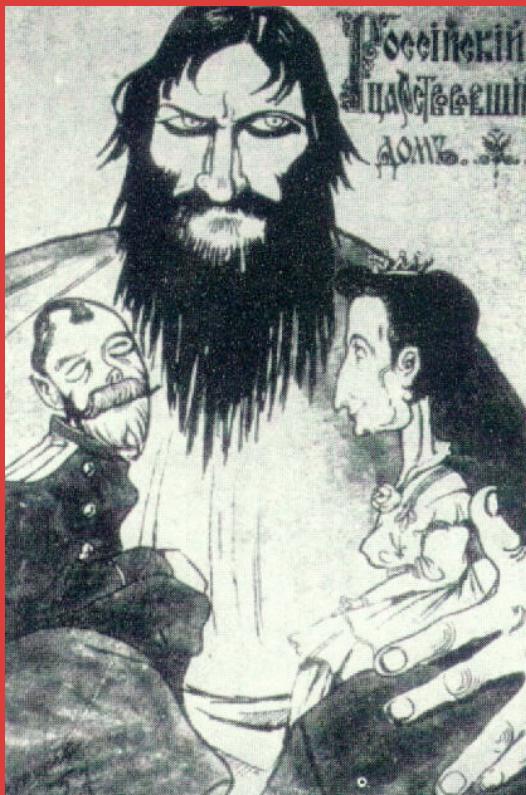
Lenin 2.0

- Wants to mix Marxism with German Social-Democratic philosophies and anarchistic terror
- Two types of people: Friend and Enemy
 - Unable to tolerate dissent; silence and suppress dissenters
 - Seeds of totalitarian mentality
- Inspired fear; cruel, but at no physical risk to himself
- No individuals, just states and parties
 - Could not understand that normal people wanted to live in peace (105)
- Bolsheviks – “pseudo-intellectuals looking for certainty in an uncertain world” (104)



Roots of Bolshevism

- War (Crimea, Russo-Japanese, WWI)
- Nicholas II and weak leadership
- Poor economic conditions
- Agrarian, feudal society (still serfs in late 1800s)



Bolshevism vs. Leninism

- One in the same; “conceived in his own image...”
- Communist Russia does away with opposition
- Lenin had no personal life → dedicated to cause
- Influenced by Lenin’s life experiences with workers, intelligentsia, liberals, absolutism



Bolshevism vs. Marxism

- Marxism + Social Democrats
- “Worker, if left to himself, would not make revolution, but come to terms with the capitalist (105) → workers need to be led by socialist party of professional revolutionaries (don’t betray class)
- Social intelligentsia would lead (not Marx)
- Need clandestine effort to implement → Split w/SD

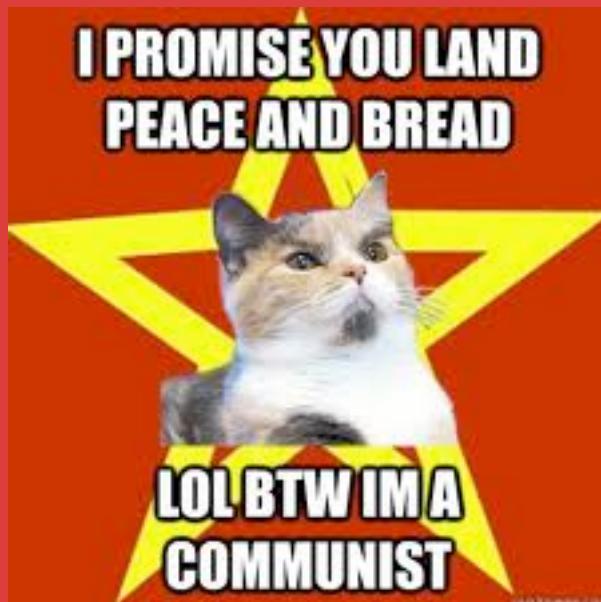


- Mensheviks – Split over way revolution should be handled (now vs. later) in 1906-07
- Bolsheviks join SRs on collectivization and giving land to peasants (win peasant support)
- Supported self-determination for minorities
- Funded by bourgeois and bank robberies (107-08)



WWI (110-12)

- Lenin welcomed war because it would attract peasants to Bolshevism.
- Called for the defeat of Russia as “least evil”
- Provisional Government wanted to win the war



February Revolution

- True Crane Brinton Stage #3
- Spontaneous and gained nationwide acceptance → largely socialist/liberal/intellectual backed, but Bolsheviks prospered from the fall of czar. (113-15)
- April Theses – Renounce war, deny support of Provisional Gov't., nationalization of land and bank, soviet control of production/distribution (117)

Alexander Kerensky



War and Propaganda

- Clausewitz's focus on total destruction (119)
- Avoid Counterrevolutionary backlash
- Tirailleur (skirmishing) – find weak points and attack there
- Gustav le Bon – *Crowd Psychology* → learned how to manipulate large crowds



April-June, 1917 (119-121)

- Bolsheviks still behind SRs and Mensheviks
 - Slogans say others were hypocrites → TRUE revolution
 - World Revolution promised groups everything b/c Russia didn't matter →
 - April Riots – Weak
- Syndicalism – Anti-Marxist – vertical integration of workers; almost Corporatist!? Uses it to gain worker support in 1917 → destroys it in 1920.
- Red Guard – Private army financed by GER →
 - Antiwar propaganda against “bourgeoisie’s war”



June-July, 1917 (125-127)

- June antiwar/anti-Kerensky demonstration cancelled prematurely; people disgruntled by RUS in WWI
- July Revolt – Lenin flees prior to putsch in Finland
- Trotsky & others seize power in name of Soviets
 - Mensheviks and SRs walk out, leaving Bolsheviks
 - Lenin returns to lead coup → loses his nerve → fails →
 - Bolsheviks arrested and Lenin flees back to Finland
 - Lvov resigns and Kerensky takes over



Kornilov Affair (8/17; 132-35)

- Army loses it's strongest general's support →
- Weakening of army key to forming single-party state
- Kornilov Comm-in-Chief by Kerensky who feared right more than left
- Lvov deceives Kerensky into thinking Kornilov was plotting overthrow as revenge over firing → THEN tricks Kornilov into saying he wants to be dictator



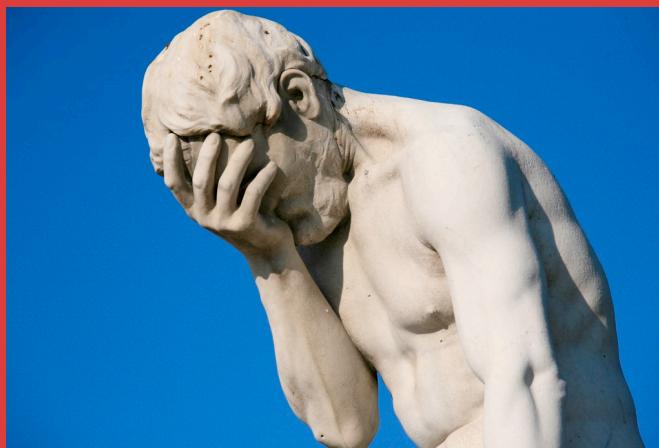
- THEN Lvov tells Kerensky, who demands he puts Kornilov's demands in writing & demands dictatorship in Kornilov's name.
- THEN the misunderstanding on the phone →
- Kerensky dismisses Kornilov



Lvov...Georgy Lvov

Kerensky's Folly

- Kornilov requests martial law in Petrograd, having no clue what's going on (proof of no Korn. putsch)
- Kerensky's telegram firing Kornilov received as a forgery by generals → finds out about Lvov. → Kerensky won't back down even after misunderstanding is discovered →
- Kornilov enraged & *actually rebels*
- **Pipes** – No Kornilov plot, but a real Kerensky plot
 - Failed and achieved exact opposite result for Kerensky
 - Bolshevik gains in popularity (nearly 50% of seats)



Aftermath

- Bolsheviks released from prison, gain power in Soviets (nearly 50%) → Kerensky, to stop Kornilov's imaginary coup gives 40K guns TO BOLSHEVIKS!
- **Pipes** – Pandering to the Left lost Kerensky the army, and they didn't save him in October. Lenin had “fresh hope” due to split (136)



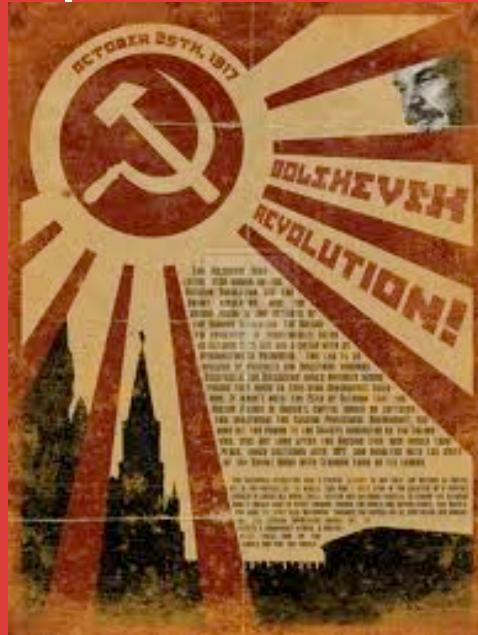
September

- Trotsky takes over Petrograd Soviet & wants to use this power to take over the others
- Coup talk rekindled
 - Zinoviev and Kamenev against it; instead, assume legit power at 2nd Congress of Soviets
 - Lenin thought they were “insane”; only way was armed insurrection in Moscow and Petrograd
 - Everyone in Central Committee disagreed with Lenin
- **Why Now?** Didn’t want to get overruled by SRs wrecking his mandate. Needed to do it before Constituent Assembly met or they’d be striking a gov. run by SRs instead of bourgeois. Ispolkom gives in to Lenin’s demands; fatal mistake (139-140)



Red October

- PG ready to give Petrograd to GER navy → Ispolkom condemns move “capital of revolution”
- Menshevik move to create Committee of Revolutionary defense → goes awry b/c Bolsheviks vote for it and control military LEGALLY →
- Time to strike. Coup on 10/25 & 2nd Congress would ratify it.



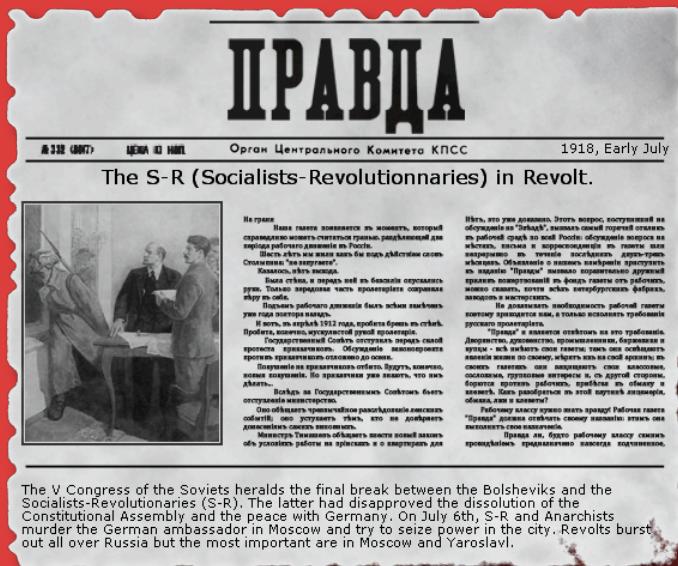
Coup d'Etat

- Trotsky orchestrates control of the army through Milrevkom
- Kerensky didn't arrest them b/c he thought he could permanently crush Bolshevik uprising; still more afraid of Right, so he didn't activate loyal forces
- Milrevkom took businesses and utilities
- Kerensky escapes → Lenin doesn't take Winter Palace, but sends out a declaration as if he had.



The Morning After...

- People had no idea what had happened overnight but, “Petrograd was in the iron grip of armed Bolsheviks and nothing would ever be the same.”
 - Winter Palace taken and PG cabinet arrested at 2am
 - 2nd Congress begins with a Bolshevik/Left SR supermajority at 1am on 10/26



Results

- Lenin is Party Chairman
- All other prominent Bolsheviks are his cabinet in a stacked Sovnarkom
- Moscow and other cities fall to Bolsheviks throughout November/December; countryside follows in Summer 1918.
- People fooled by continuity (stocks didn't move)

