An Exploration into political dynamics of Pre-Revolution Russia*

Iz Leitch

20 April 2023

This paper explores the legacy of different political groups in pre-revolution Russia. By looking at number of members and length of membership we can discover the different strengths and lasting powers of minor political affiliations prior to the USSR to get a better understanding of their material impact on the Revolution and post-Revolution political landscape.

1 Introduction

What do we really know about the Russian Revolutions?

In this paper, using the UCLA Soviet Data Bank and crossing referencing the party ids with the party membership dataset, a deeper understanding of the complex social and political dynamics of Pre and Early-Revolution Russia can be gained beyond the simple Reds vs Whites, and Bolsheviks vs Mensheviks narratives that are so often called on when aiming to explain the political climate.@sec-background gives us the foundation to understand the major and minor players as is traditionally understood in Slavic Studies, such that we can validate or invalidate these narratives with the data presented. In **?@sec-data**, this paper looks at all the listed parties inside the dataset as a whole, comparing the amount of people in each party, and the average duration they spend with it. In the discussion of the data, we explore the limitations of the data, and the political implications. Section 6 looks toward the future and what else can be done with this information and data.

You can and should cross-reference sections and sub-sections. For instance, **?@sec-data** and **?@sec-first-point**.

---

2 Background

The formation of the Soviet Union is often portrayed in simplistic ways to cater to different narratives, and misunderstands the many nuanced perspectives going into the early days. Basically, there are two major revolutions the October and march(?) revolutions. (look into this because it is hard to explain simply) These revolutions take place in response to the mishandling of the first world war, the lack of rights, and more. This leads to the overthrow of the tsar and the dawn of the soviet era which itself is fraught with internal conflicts.

Two parties are considered important to the retelling of the revolution, the more centrist menshevik party, and the more radical bolshevik party.

2.1 timeline(#sec-timeline)}

this explains the timeline, and the reds vs whites

2.2 Mensheviks and Bolsheviks

This explains the high level split in the revolutionary party between the mensheviks and Bolsheviks.

notes for future self: get amount of people for each party length of time in each party would be interesting discuss politics of pre-revolution russia/soviet union, bolsheviks vs mensheviks being the major one but the factionalism at play is also very interesting

include a more complete history of the revolution with regards to political identities in early 1900 era russia

missing parties, we lack ukrainian representation in the data set

new understandings of 1900s russian politics, mezhduraionsty party does not have significant information about it

the general absence of information

some people are in multiple parties understanding early 1900 era political surveillance # Data {#sec-data}

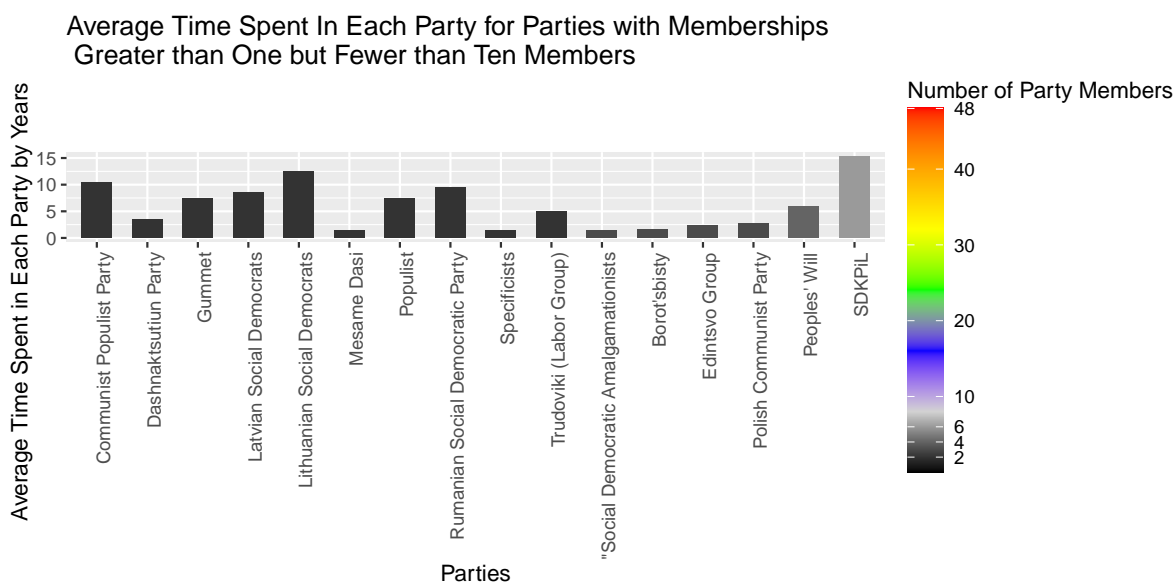Talk more about it.

Talk way more about it.

Figure 1: Average Time Spent In Each Party for Parties with Greater than One but Fewer than Ten Members
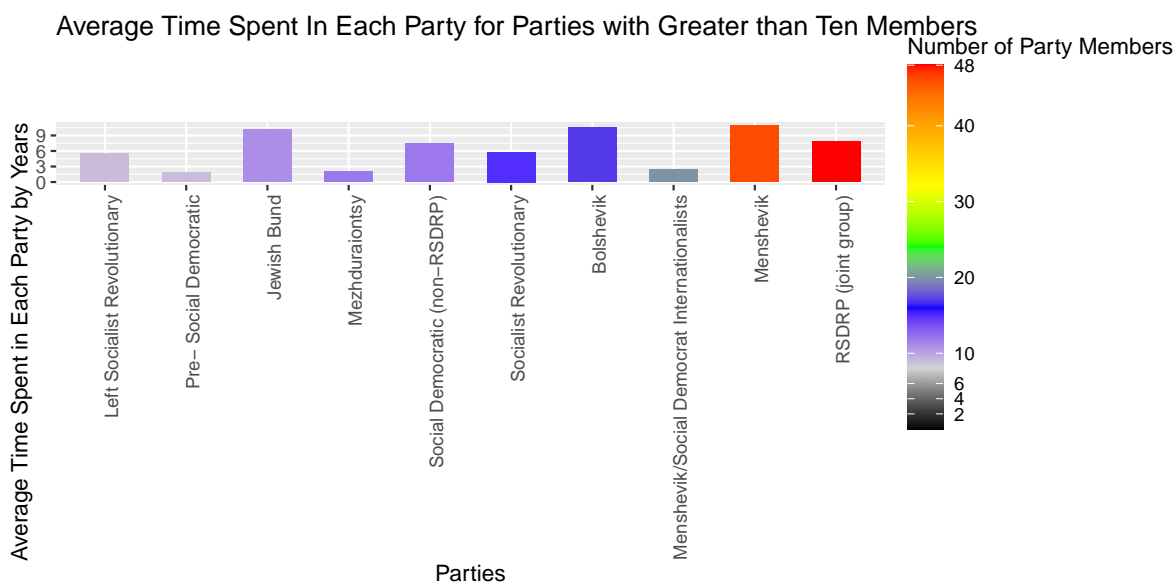

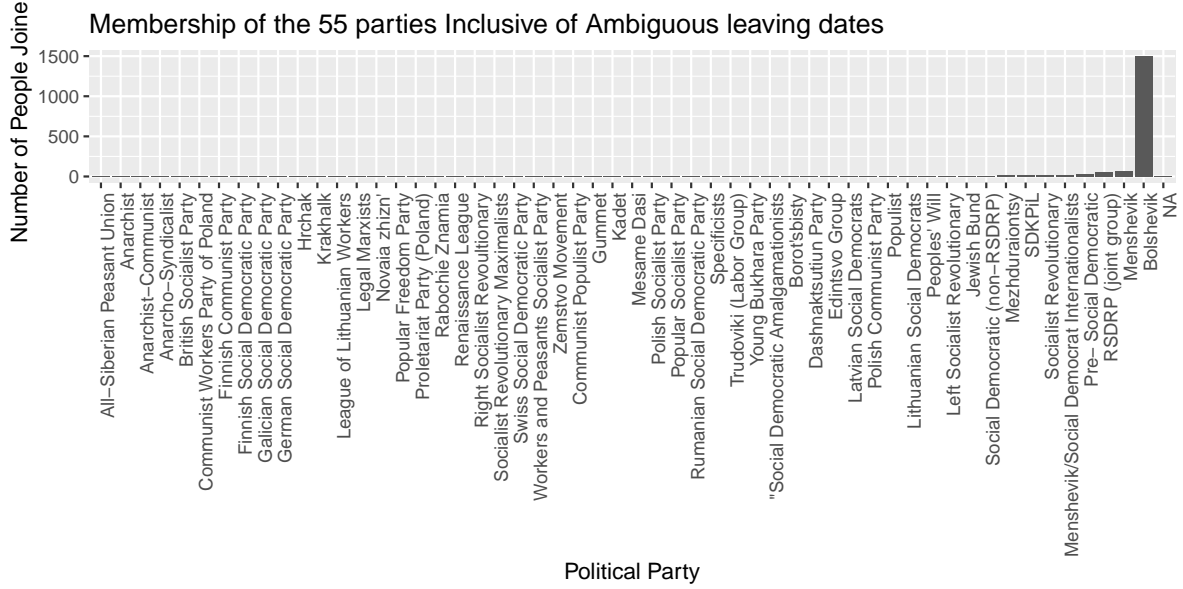Figure 2: Average Time Spent In Each Party for Parties with Greater than Ten Members

Figure 3: Membership of the 55 parties Inclusive of Ambiguous leaving dates

3 Model

$$Pr(\theta|y) = \frac{Pr(y|\theta)Pr(\theta)}{Pr(y)} \tag{1}$$

Equation 1 seems useful, eh?

Here's a dumb example of how to use some references: In paper we run our analysis in R (R Core Team 2020). We also use the `tidyverse` which was written by (**thereferencecanbewhatever?**) If we were interested in baseball data then (**citeLahman?**) could be useful.

We can use maths by including latex between dollar signs, for instance θ.

4 Results

5 Discussion

5.1 Data Limitations

this discusses the limitations of the dataset

5.1.1 Missing Data {?@sec-miss-data}

5.1.2 Bias in Sample {?@sec-sample-bias}

5.1.3 Political Repression {?@sec-pol-repress}

5.2 Nationalism

5.3 Longevity

5.4 Major Players

5.5 Minor Players

6 Next steps

Weaknesses and next steps should also be included. # Conclusion

7 Acknowledgements

Appendix

A Additional details

References

R Core Team. 2020. *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing.* Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. https://www.R-project.org/.