

# A peoples tragedy the russian revolution

## 1891 1924 orlando figes

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The Russian Revolution: A People's Tragedy\*\*

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a pivotal event in world history, marking a profound turning point for the people of Russia and the global political landscape. Spanning from 1891 to 1924, it was a complex and multifaceted conflict that ultimately led to the rise of the Soviet Union.

#### **A People's Tragedy**

The Russian Revolution is often referred to as "a people's tragedy" due to its devastating consequences for the Russian people. The conflict resulted in the loss of millions of lives, widespread famine, and the destruction of centuries-old social and political structures. The people of Russia suffered immense hardship and upheaval, leaving an enduring mark on their collective memory.

#### **Orlando Figes: A Historian of Revolutionary Russia**

Orlando Figes is a renowned British historian who has dedicated his scholarship to the study of Russian history. His works, including his seminal book "Revolutionary Russia" (2008), are regarded as authoritative accounts of the Russian Revolution. Figes is known for his balanced and insightful approach to the complex events of the period.

#### **End of the Revolution: 1924**

The year 1924 marked a significant turning point in the Russian Revolution. It was the year that Joseph Stalin, having consolidated his power after the death of Vladimir

Lenin, introduced a series of repressive policies that effectively ended the revolutionary period. This marked the beginning of the Stalinist era, characterized by authoritarian rule and suppression of opposition.

## Causes of the 1917 Revolution

The Russian Revolution of 1917 had two major underlying causes:

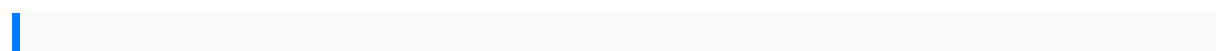
1. **Economic inequality and social injustice:** The vast majority of the Russian population lived in poverty and oppression, while a small elite enjoyed vast wealth and privilege.
2. **Political repression:** The Tsarist regime was autocratic and intolerant of any form of dissent. This led to widespread resentment and a desire for change among the population.

## Theme of "The Historian"

"The Historian," published in 2017, is Orlando Figes's latest book. It explores the nature of historical writing and the ways in which historians shape our understanding of the past. The book argues that the past is inherently uncertain and that historians must approach their work with humility and a willingness to engage with differing perspectives.

## Mensheviks' Goals

The Mensheviks, a moderate faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party, wanted to achieve socialism in Russia through gradual reforms rather than violent revolution. They sought to build a democratic republic and improve the lives of the working class through constitutional means.



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