

8.3 The RUSSIAN Revolution

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1. 释义

Oh my goodness 天哪，啊呀（用作“上帝”的替代语，表示吃惊或愤怒等），the Russian Revolution is upon 将要发生，马上来临 us. I don't think I'm overselling 过分吹嘘，售出过多；夸张渲染 it /when I say that this is *a massive honking* 按汽车喇叭；巨大的、夸张的 *deal* in European history—a massive honking deal /that's going **to set us up** 为...埋下伏笔 for major consequences /in the rest of this course. So if you're ready to get them brain cows milked Bolshevik 布尔什维克的 style, then let's get to it.

天呐，俄国革命来了！要我说，这绝对是欧洲历史上一个惊天动地的大事件——一个将为后续课程埋下重磅伏笔的超级大事件。

Example 1. 案例

a massive honking deal 惊天动地的大事

"honking": 原指汽车喇叭声（拟声词），俚语中引申为“巨大的、夸张的”（类似中文“哐当一声巨响”的夸张感）。

- a honking big mistake 天大的错误

"deal": 此处非“交易”，而是指“事件/情况”（类似 "It's a big deal." = 这事很重要）。

set us up for major consequences

"set up for": “为...埋下伏笔”（非字面“设置”）

So /as with any revolution we've considered in European history 就像我们在欧洲历史上看到的任何革命一样, the Russian Revolution was preceded (v.)处在.....之前，先于；在.....之前做（或说）by a few glaring 明显的,耀眼的 problems, and **it was** Russia's participation (n.) in World War One /**that** **blew** these problems **up** to massive proportions 规模;比例;大小.

Example 2. 案例

The Russian Revolution was preceded by a few glaring problems.

俄国革命爆发前，已存在若干显著问题。

"Precede"（动词）表示“在时间或顺序上先于...发生”，强调某事件/状态发生在另一事件之前。

First, there was the problem of political stagnation ((一国经济的)不景气，停滞；(水)不流动) 政治停滞. **Remember** from unit six **that** /Russia had experienced the revolution of 1905 /because the people began demanding (v.) liberal reforms 自由主义改革 from *the turd* 粪便；可鄙的人 *tsarist (a.)*俄国帝制的；沙皇式的 *government* 沙皇政府. I won't go into all that

here, but the short version is 主 some liberal reforms 谓 were enacted 颁布, and then they were taken away, and then the revolution of 1905 was largely a failure.

Example 3. 案例

tsar

→ 来自俄罗斯语 czar,来自拉丁语 Caesar,凯撒。俄罗斯语借用该拉丁语词用做皇帝称号。

Now by the time World War One **rolled (v.)使.....转动 around** (时间或事件)再次到来.发生, Nicholas II was the Tsar, and in order to quell (v.)镇压; 平息 further discontent, very much **leaned (v.)倾身; 依靠 on** his military and bureaucracy 官僚机构 /to bolster (v.)支持; 加强 his regime.

And since Russia had **lost** (v.) millions of men **to** the war effort /by this point, Nicholas made the really dumb <非正式>愚蠢的 decision /to go into the field /and lead his armies personally 亲自地, 本人地. I know *that sounds (v.) heroic*, but he was pretty incompetent 无能力的; 不称职的, and that **led to** more discontent with his leadership.

到了第一次世界大战爆发的时候, 尼古拉二世已经成为沙皇。为了平息民众的进一步不满, 他非常倚重自己的军队和官僚机构, 来巩固自己的政权。而此时的俄国已经有数百万士兵因战争而丧生, 尼古拉做出了一个非常愚蠢的决定, 亲自率军出征。我知道这听起来很英勇, 但他其实非常无能, 这导致了人们对他的领导能力更加不满。

Example 4. 案例

by the time World War One rolled around

"Roll around" 表示 " (时间或事件)再次到来/发生", 通常用于描述 周期性或预期中的事件。隐含 "不知不觉中到来" 或 "按预期发生" 的意味。

典型使用场景

- 周期性事件:
"When summer **rolls around**, we go to the beach." (夏天一到, 我们就去海边。)
- 预期中的大事:
"By the time the election **rolled around**, tensions were high." (等到选举来临, 紧张局势已加剧。)

quell

- 词源同 ballistic, kill.

The second problem in Russia was social inequality 社会不平等. Though serfdom 农奴制 was abolished in 1861, 主 the landed (a.)拥有大量土地的 elites 土地贵族 in many places 谓 still maintained (v.) a great deal of power. And then **add to** that *the increasing gap* between the wealthy and the poor, and people were not happy. And all of this, as I mentioned, was only worsened by Russia's involvement in World War One.

这一切只会因为俄罗斯参与第一次世界大战而恶化。

And then /主 the third problem they **were contending 对付; 与.....作斗争 with** 处理; 应对 系 was incomplete (a.) industrialization 不完全的工业化. Though significant 显著的, 相当数量的 gains **had been made** to industrialize (v.) Russia in prior decades, *World War One* showed (v.) how deficient 缺乏的; 不足的 they really were. Russian troops didn't have enough guns

—like not enough ammunition 弹药—and some of them lacked adequate 足够的, 适当的, 合乎需要的 clothing and footwear 鞋类. And these are like the basics /that any state is going to need to do well in a war.

接下来他们面临的第三个问题, 是工业化进程不完整。尽管在过去的几十年里俄罗斯在工业化方面取得了显著进展, 但第一次世界大战表明他们的实际水平是多么的低下。俄罗斯军队没有足够的枪支——比如弹药不足——而且有些士兵缺乏足够的衣物和鞋子。而这些是任何国家在战争中想要取得良好战果, 所必须具备的基本条件。

Example 5. 案例

these are **like** the basics /that any state is going to need to do well in a war.

这里的 "like" 是一个口语化的助词, 没有实际意义, 通常用于:

强调: 让句子听起来更生动, 突出 "这些" 东西的重要性。

表示举例: 暗示这些是基础事物的典型例子。

填充停顿: 说话者在思考或组织语言时, 用来连接句子。

在这句话中, 它相当于说: "这些就是任何一个国家要在战争中表现好所需要的基础。"

"like" 的用法属于 口语中的填充词 (filler word), 主要功能是 缓和语气 或 强调举例, 而非实际表达 "相似" 或 "喜欢" 的含义。

此处 "like" 不改变句子核心意思, 仅用于口语中短暂停顿或强调后文内容, 类似中文的 "就是说" "你看" 。

- "It's, like, really cold today." (今天, 就是说, 特别冷。)
- These are, like, unacceptable!" (这简直不可接受!)

强调 "显而易见" :

通过插入 "like", 暗示后文的 "basics" (基本物资) 是 不言而喻的常识。

And finally, 主 the fourth problem they were enduring in Russia 系 was food and **land distribution** 食物和土地分配. Again, despite the abolition of serfdom, most peasants were landless, and **food shortages** 食物短缺 were common. And **it was** food shortages **that** led to the first rumblings 隆隆声, 轰鸣声;迹象;预兆 of the Russian Revolution in March of 1917 /in an event that **became known as** the March Revolution 二月革命.

The March Revolution: Factory workers, many of whom were women, took to the streets 走上街头 (游行, 抗议) protesting (v.)抗议 the soaring 急剧上升的 cost of their staple (a.)主要的, 常用的 food items 主食, most notably 尤其, 特别 bread. Czar Nicholas was absent 缺席的;不存在的 from events—that is, the domestic turmoil 国内动荡 后定说明 that was unfolding (v.)展开, 打开 (也就是说, 他没有参与正在展开的国内动乱)—while he was busy commanding (v.)指挥;统帅 his own troops in the field of a global war. So he commanded his troops at home /to subdue (v.)镇压;征服 the uprising 起义 /and then told them to go ahead /and start shooting if necessary.

But 主 what Nicholas did not expect 期待;预计 系 was 但尼古拉没想到的是 for many of his troops **to feel sympathetic to** the cause of these women .and actually **join in** their protest, which many of them did. And so /with Nicholas rapidly losing (v.) control, 主 the Russian legislature 立法机构 known as the Duma 杜马 谓 gathered and took control of Russia, and on the same day /Nicholas abdicated 退位, 辞职:放弃 (尤指君主) 的权力 the throne 退位.

Now while this provisional 临时的, 暂时的 government 临时政府 had control (v.), they faced a lot of difficulties, particularly from the lower class. The provisional 临时的, 暂时的 government was largely influenced by the interests of the middle class, but they increasingly 越来越多地, 不断增加地 had to **contend (v.)** 竞争; 争夺. (不得不) 处理问题, 对付困境 **with** councils 委员会 that represented working-class interests known as Soviets 苏维埃, who on the majority were made up of 由.....组成, 由.....构成 socialists 社会主义者.

Now one of the major *movers and shakers* 活跃的人或有影响力的人 among the Soviets were the members of the Marxist Social Democratic party 马克思主义社会民主党, who were not surprisingly **devoted to** the communist ideals 共产主义理想 of Karl Marx.

In 1903, the party effectively split (v.) (使) 分裂 into two factions 派别. The first, known as the Mensheviks 孟什维克, wanted a socialist state, but they were willing to install a parliamentary democracy 议会民主制 in the meantime. The more radical 激进的 faction on the other hand devoted themselves to a violent overthrow 暴力推翻 **not only** of the tsarist 沙皇式的 regime **but also** of Western capitalist values 西方资本主义价值观.

The Bolsheviks 布尔什维克 were led by Marx devotee 信徒 Vladimir Lenin, who in 1917 saw an opportunity for the Bolsheviks to overthrow the provisional government. He publishes (v.) (作家、音乐家等) 发表 (自己的作品) the April Theses (thesis 的复数. 论文; 论题, 论点) 四月提纲, which outlined 概述 the steps for revolution /based on Marxist reasoning 马克思主义推理. Now to be clear, 主 these steps to communism 系 weren't pure Marx, but they were Marx's ideas 后定说明 filtered (v.) through Lenin's own brain 它们是马克思的思想经过列宁自己大脑的过滤.

Lenin essentially 本质上, 根本上; 大体上, 基本上 thought that 主 Marx's *prescribed* 开处方, 规定的 *steps* (n.) toward a socialist state 谓 would take too long, and therefore Lenin thought (v.) /Russia could, you know, skip (v.) a few steps.

Anyway 不管怎样, 无论如何, the three slogans of the April Theses **summed up** 总结, 概括 Lenin's program succinctly (ad.) 简洁地; 言简意赅地: Peace, land, and bread.

By peace /he meant Russia's withdrawal (n.) 撤出 from World War One.

By land /he meant (v.) equal redistribution 重新分配 of land to all.

And by bread /he meant, you know, bread. Worker control (n.) of production **as opposed (a.) to** 与.....相对比 elite and bourgeois 中产阶级的 control 工人对生产的控制, 而不是精英和资产阶级的控制. All power to the Soviets.

Example 6. 案例

Worker control (n.) of production **as opposed to** elite and bourgeois control. 这句好像没有谓语?

确实是一个无谓语的 non-clause. 它不是一个独立的句子, 而是用来详细解释 "bread" (面包) 的含义。"By bread he meant, you know, bread." 这句话是主句。

"Worker control of production as opposed to elite and bourgeois control." 这句话是对前面 "bread" 的更深层、更政治化的阐释。

可以把这个结构理解为: "By bread /he meant (v.) (something like) worker control of production **as opposed to** elite and bourgeois control." 这里的 "something like" 被省略了,

但意思很明确，即“面包”不仅仅是食物，更象征着工人阶级掌握生产资料和分配权，不再受剥削。

所以，这是一种简洁、强调性的表达，用来直接给出解释或定义，而不是遵循完整的主谓宾结构。

类似用例

- No taxation without representation! (无代表不纳税！)
→ 省略动词（如 "There should be no taxation..."）以增强口号力度。

And so in November of 1917, Lenin saw his opportunity and led (v.) Bolshevik forces to overthrow the provisional government, which **turned out to be** a surprisingly bloodless 不流血的 and easy task. And at that point, the Bolsheviks — now renamed (v.) the Communists 共产党员 — were in control of Russia, which later **became known as** the Soviet Union 苏联.

And by March of 1918, Lenin had negotiated (v.)谈判，协商 a settlement /that would remove Russia from World War One /by giving up *a metric buttload* (非正式) 一大堆，大量 *of* Russian territory in Eastern Europe. But that didn' t matter (v.) much to Lenin /because the goal was for Soviet communism to spread (v.)扩散，蔓延；传播 over the entire world 目标是让苏联共产主义遍布全世界, so you know, a small setback 挫折.

So yes, Lenin didn' t **make good** 兑现承诺 on the promise for peace in the April Theses, but that' s about the time Russia itself **got involved** in the Civil War 内战. You didn' t think 主 everybody in Russia 谓 was going to welcome the socialist state /with fists in the air /and smiles on their faces, did you? You' re so crazy. No, remember this was a revolution of the working class, and now *their interests* 利益系 **reign (v.)**统治；当政；为王；为君 **supreme** (a.)最高的，至高无上的. But in case 以防万一 you forgot, the working class wasn' t the only class that existed.

所以，没错，列宁在《四月提纲》中所承诺的和平，并未实现，但就在那个时候，俄国自身也卷入了内战。你难道以为俄罗斯的每个人都会高举拳头、满脸笑容地欢迎这个社会主义国家吗？你真是太疯狂了。不，要知道这是工人阶级的一场革命，而如今他们的利益占据了主导地位。但万一你忘记了的话，工人阶级并非唯一存在的阶级。

Example 7. 案例

The king 系 **reigned(v.)** 表 **supreme** (a.).

reign supreme 是英语中固化搭配 (idiomatic expression)

"reign supreme" = 「至高无上」「独占鳌头」，「处于最高地位」

- "Truth reigns supreme." (真理至高无上)
- "Chaos reigned absolute." (混乱彻底主宰)

此处 "supreme"(a.) 并非修饰动词，而是作为主语补足语 (subject complement)，描述主语 "their interests" 的状态。

And so because of the bitterness 怨恨 后定说明 this new forced arrangement 强制安排 caused (v.)引起；使发生 /among the aristocracy 贵族 and the anti-Leninists, **along with** several other now marginalized groups 被边缘化的群体, Russia **degenerated (v.)**恶化；蜕变；衰退 **into** Civil War.

The anti-communist forces were aided (v.) by several Western powers /who were none too excited (a.) about seeing a communist government installed (v.) in Russia. By all counts 从各

方面来看, this was a force /that probably should have overwhelmed (v.)压倒；击败；征服 the Bolshevik Army 布尔什维克军队.

因此，由于这种新的强制安排，在贵族阶层和反列宁主义者当中，引发了极大的不满，同时也在其他一些如今已被边缘化的群体中，引发了不满情绪，俄罗斯陷入了内战。反共势力得到了几个西方国家的支持，这些国家对于在俄罗斯建立一个共产主义政府，并不太感兴趣。从各方面来看，这个力量本应该能够击败布尔什维克军队的。

However, under the leadership of Lenin' s *right-hand* 得力的；右手的 *man* Leon Trotsky, the Communist Army became phenomenally 了不起地；非凡地；难以置信地,惊人地 disciplined (a.)纪律严明的 and organized. Not only that, Lenin and Trotsky were able to generate (v.)产生，引起 Russian nationalist sentiment 俄罗斯民族主义情绪 against these Western interlopers 闯入者, and that had a way of getting people to fight (这种策略) 总能成功鼓动人们投身战斗. The war ended (v.) in 1922 /with the victory going to Lenin and the Communists, and that' s when we officially get the transformation (彻底或重大的) 改观，变化，转变 of Russia into the Soviet Union.

然而，在列宁的得力助手列夫·托洛茨基的领导下，共产党军队变得非常有纪律和组织性。不仅如此，列宁和托洛茨基还能激起俄罗斯人反对西方入侵者的民族主义情绪，这让人们有了反抗的办法。战争在1922年结束，列宁和共产党取得了胜利，那是俄罗斯正式转变为苏联的时候。

Example 8. 案例

that had a way of getting people to fight

"Have a way of" 表示 "具有某种特定的能力或倾向 (通常指自然而然地达成某种效果)".
中文可译为："总能 (让人) ...", "善于...", "有种办法可以..." (强调方法的有效性)

- Propaganda **had a way of** turning fear into loyalty. 宣传总能把恐惧转化为忠诚。
- "Charismatic leaders **have a way of** inspiring crowds. 魅力型领袖天生善于鼓舞群众。

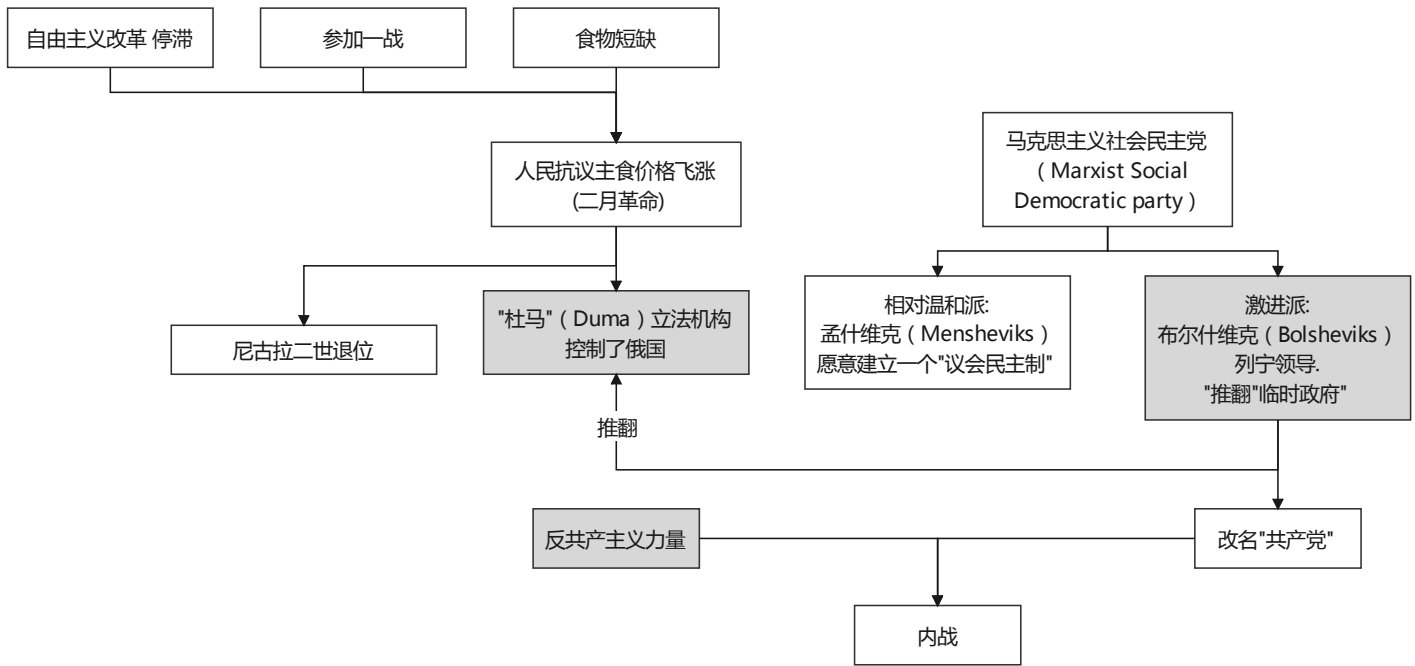
Leon Trotsky



他是 1905 年革命、1917 年十月革命、俄国内战和苏联成立的关键人物，他于 1929 年被流放，1940 年遇刺身亡。

托洛茨基和弗拉基米尔·列宁，被广泛认为是从 1917 年到 1924 年列宁逝世期间，苏联国家最杰出的两位人物。

俄国



Okay, now remember what I said before, namely that Lenin wanted to skip (v.) steps /in order to get a full-on (a.) (表示最大程度) 完全的; 最强烈的 communist state, and the New Economic Policy 新经济政策 was a shining example 光辉示例.

He thought that /by **cutting corners** 走捷径 and introducing (v.) only *a smidge* 少量, 一点点的 of capitalism /in order **to shore up** 支撑; 巩固; 用支撑物 (或梁) 支撑; 支持, 帮助 the economy, that afterward he could chuck (v.) 抛弃 it /and **move** (v.) right **along to** communism. But that did not work (v.), and that's important to understand /because when people say that /communism has never worked (v.) /where it has been tried, the response is, well, you know, it's never actually been tried, and Lenin is *the case in point* 恰当的例子, 恰如其分的例子.

还记得我之前说的吗? 列宁试图跳过历史阶段直接建成完全的共产主义国家, 而新经济政策 (NEP) 就是明证。他原以为, 只需稍加妥协, 引入一丁点儿资本主义来提振经济, 之后便能将其抛弃, 继续向共产主义迈进。但这一计划并未奏效——理解这一点至关重要: 当有人声称“共产主义在实践层面从未成功”时, 反驳的论据恰恰是“真正的共产主义其实从未被实践过”, 而列宁的案例便是铁证。

Example 9. 案例 full-on

(a.) used to say that sth is done to the greatest possible degree (表示最大程度) 完全的; 最强烈的 (informal)

• It was a full-on (a.) night /out with the boys. 这是与男孩们外出玩得最尽兴的一个晚上。

Lenin is the case in point

"Case in point" 是一个习语 (idiom), 表示: "恰如其分的例子", "能直接证明论点的实例", "手边的典型案例"

All right, click [here](#) to grab my AP Euro review pack, which is everything you need to get an A in your class and a five on your exam in May, and click [here](#) to keep reviewing Unit 8 of AP European History. I'll catch you on the flip-flop. I'm out.

2. 中文释义

哦，天哪，俄国革命来临了。我觉得这么说并不过分，这在欧洲历史上是一件极其重大的事情——这一重大事件将为本课程后续内容中带来重大影响。所以，如果你准备好以布尔什维克的方式充实自己的知识，那就开始吧。

就像我们在欧洲历史中探讨过的任何一场革命一样，**俄国革命之前，其国内就已经存在一些明显的问题，而俄国参与第一次世界大战，使这些问题被放大了极其严重的程度。首先是政治停滞问题。**还记得在第六单元中提到，**俄国在1905年经历了一场革命，因为人们开始要求腐朽的沙皇政府进行自由主义改革。**我在这里就不详细阐述了，简而言之，**一些自由主义改革得以实施，但随后又被取消，1905年的革命在很大程度上是失败的。**

当第一次世界大战爆发时，尼古拉二世（Nicholas II）是沙皇，为了平息进一步的不满情绪，他大力依靠军队和官僚机构来巩固自己的政权。**由于俄国在战争中已经损失了数百万人，尼古拉做出了一个非常愚蠢的决定，他亲自到前线指挥军队。**我知道这听起来很英勇，但他相当无能，这导致人们对他的领导更加不满。

俄国的第二个问题是社会不平等。尽管农奴制在1861年被废除，但许多地方的地主精英仍然拥有很大的权力。再加上贫富差距日益加大，人们对此很不满意。正如我提到的，俄国参与第一次世界大战使所有这些问题变得更加严重。

俄国面临的**第三个问题是工业化不完全。**尽管在之前的几十年里，俄国在工业化方面取得了重大进展，但**第一次世界大战暴露了他们的严重不足。**俄国军队没有足够的枪支——比如弹药不足——而且一些士兵缺乏足够的衣物和鞋子。而这些是任何一个国家在战争中取得良好表现所需要的基本条件。

最后，俄国面临的**第四个问题是食物和土地分配问题。**同样，**尽管农奴制被废除，但大多数农民没有土地，食物短缺现象很普遍。食物短缺引发了1917年3月俄国革命的最初动荡，这一事件被称为“二月革命（March Revolution）”。**

二月革命：工厂工人，其中很多是女性，走上街头抗议主食（尤其是面包）价格飞涨。沙皇尼古拉二世不在国内处理这些事件——也就是说，国内正在发生的动荡——因为他忙着在全球战争的战场上指挥自己的军队。所以他命令国内的军队镇压起义，并告诉他们如有必要就开枪。

但尼古拉没有想到的是，他的许多士兵同情这些女性的诉求，实际上还加入了她们的抗议活动，而且很多士兵确实这么做了。**随着尼古拉迅速失去对局势的控制，被称为“杜马”（Duma）的俄国立法机构聚集起来，并控制了俄国，同一天尼古拉二世退位。**

当这个“临时政府”掌权时，他们面临着很多困难，尤其是来自“下层阶级”的压力。临时政府在很大程度上受到“中产阶级”利益的影响，但他们越来越多地不得不对代表“工人阶级”利益的苏维埃（Soviets），苏维埃中的大多数人是社会主义者。

在苏维埃中，主要的推动者和变革者之一，是**马克思主义社会民主党（Marxist Social Democratic party）**的成员，毫不奇怪，他们致力于卡尔·马克思（Karl Marx）的共产主义理想。**1903年，该党实际上分裂成了两个派别。第一个派别被称为孟什维克（Mensheviks），他们想要建立一个社会主**

义国家，但他们愿意在此期间建立一个“议会民主制”。另一方面，更激进的派别致力于不仅推翻沙皇政权，而且推翻西方资本主义价值观。

布尔什维克（Bolsheviks）由马克思的追随者弗拉基米尔·列宁（Vladimir Lenin）领导，1917年，列宁看到了“布尔什维克”推翻“临时政府”的机会。他发表了《四月提纲（April Theses）》，提纲基于马克思主义推理概述了革命的步骤。需要明确的是，这些通往共产主义的步骤，并非纯粹的马克思主义，而是经过列宁思考过滤后的马克思主义思想。列宁基本上认为，马克思所规定的建立“社会主义国家”的步骤耗时太长，所以列宁认为俄国可以跳过一些步骤。（俄国还没经过成熟的资本主义，就想着要跳往社会主义。）

无论如何，《四月提纲》的三个口号简洁地总结了列宁的纲领：和平、土地和面包。他所说的和平，是指俄国退出“第一次世界大战”。土地是指：将土地平等地重新分配给所有人。面包就是字面意义上的面包。工人控制生产，而不是由精英和资产阶级控制。一切权力归苏维埃。

所以在1917年11月，列宁看到了机会，他带领布尔什维克力量推翻了“临时政府”，结果这是一项出奇地没有流血且轻松的任务。从那时起，布尔什维克——后来改名为“共产党”——控制了俄国，俄国后来被称为苏联（Soviet Union）。

1918年3月，列宁通过谈判达成了一项协议，俄国放弃了东欧的大量领土，从而退出了“第一次世界大战”。但这对列宁来说并不重要，因为目标是让苏联共产主义传播到全世界，所以这只是一个小挫折。

是的，列宁没有兑现《四月提纲》中关于和平的承诺，但就在那时俄国陷入了内战。你不会认为俄国的每个人都会高举拳头、面带微笑地欢迎“社会主义”国家的建立吧？别天真了。不，记住这是一场工人阶级的革命，现在他们的利益至高无上。但别忘了，工人阶级并不是俄国唯一存在的阶级。

由于这种新的强制安排，在贵族和反列宁主义者，以及其他几个被边缘化的群体中，引起了不满，俄国陷入了内战。反共产主义力量得到了几个西方大国的支持，这些西方大国对俄国建立共产主义政府可不太高兴。从各方面来看，这股力量本应能够打败布尔什维克军队。

然而，在列宁的得力助手列夫·托洛茨基（Leon Trotsky）的领导下，共产党军队变得纪律严明、组织有序。不仅如此，列宁和托洛茨基还激发了俄罗斯“民族主义”情绪，来对抗这些西方干涉者，这让人们有了战斗的动力。1922年，战争以列宁和共产党的胜利而告终，就在那时，俄国正式转变为苏联。

然而，甚至在内战结束之前，列宁就敏锐地意识到俄国的经济状况很糟糕。为了纠正这些困难，列宁采取了一些有限的资本主义政策，这一政策在1921年被称为“新经济政策”（New Economic Policy）。根据这个计划，农民不再需要把农产品上交给国家，而是可以在公开市场上出售。此外，列宁允许小商业和农场的私有制，同时他保留了对大型商业机构的控制权。

好的，记住我之前说的，列宁想要跳过一些步骤来建立一个全面的共产主义国家，“新经济政策”就是一个明显的例子。他认为通过走捷径并引入一点“资本主义”来支撑经济，之后他就可以抛弃资本主义，直接走向共产主义。但这并没有成功，理解这一点很重要，因为当人们说“共产主义在尝试过的地方都没有成功”时，回应是，嗯，实际上共产主义从未真正得到过尝试，列宁的例子就是如此。

好的，[点击这里](#)获取我的美国大学预修课程欧洲历史复习资料包，它包含了你在课堂上得A以及在五月份的考试中得5分所需要的一切，[点击这里](#)继续复习美国大学预修课程欧洲历史第八单元。我们下

次再见。

3. pure

Oh my goodness, the Russian Revolution is upon us. I don't think I'm overselling it when I say that this is a massive honking deal in European history—a massive honking deal that's going to set us up for major consequences in the rest of this course. So if you're ready to get them brain cows milked Bolshevik style, then let's get to it.

So as with any revolution we've considered in European history, the Russian Revolution was preceded by a few glaring problems, and it was Russia's participation in World War One that blew these problems up to massive proportions. First, there was the problem of political stagnation. Remember from unit six that Russia had experienced the revolution of 1905 because the people began demanding liberal reforms from the turd tsarist government. I won't go into all that here, but the short version is some liberal reforms were enacted, and then they were taken away, and then the revolution of 1905 was largely a failure.

Now by the time World War One rolled around, Nicholas II was the Tsar, and in order to quell further discontent, very much leaned on his military and bureaucracy to bolster his regime. And since Russia had lost millions of men to the war effort by this point, Nicholas made the really dumb decision to go into the field and lead his armies personally. I know that sounds heroic, but he was pretty incompetent, and that led to more discontent with his leadership.

The second problem in Russia was social inequality. Though serfdom was abolished in 1861, the landed elites in many places still maintained a great deal of power. And then add to that the increasing gap between the wealthy and the poor, and people were not happy. And all of this, as I mentioned, was only worsened by Russia's involvement in World War One.

And then the third problem they were contending with was incomplete industrialization. Though significant gains had been made to industrialize Russia in prior decades, World War One showed how deficient they really were. Russian troops didn't have enough guns—like not enough ammunition—and some of them lacked adequate clothing and footwear. And these are like the basics that any state is going to need to do well in a war.

And finally, the fourth problem they were enduring in Russia was food and land distribution. Again, despite the abolition of serfdom, most peasants were landless, and food shortages were common. And it was food shortages that led to the first rumblings of the Russian Revolution in March of 1917 in an event that became known as the March Revolution.

The March Revolution: Factory workers, many of whom were women, took to the streets protesting the soaring cost of their staple food items, most notably bread. Czar Nicholas was absent from events—that is, the domestic turmoil that was unfolding—while he was

busy commanding his own troops in the field of a global war. So he commanded his troops at home to subdue the uprising and then told them to go ahead and start shooting if necessary.

But what Nicholas did not expect was for many of his troops to feel sympathetic to the cause of these women and actually join in their protest, which many of them did. And so with Nicholas rapidly losing control, the Russian legislature known as the Duma gathered and took control of Russia, and on the same day Nicholas abdicated the throne.

Now while this provisional government had control, they faced a lot of difficulties, particularly from the lower class. The provisional government was largely influenced by the interests of the middle class, but they increasingly had to contend with councils that represented working-class interests known as Soviets, who on the majority were made up of socialists.

Now one of the major movers and shakers among the Soviets were the members of the Marxist Social Democratic party, who were not surprisingly devoted to the communist ideals of Karl Marx. In 1903, the party effectively split into two factions. The first, known as the Mensheviks, wanted a socialist state, but they were willing to install a parliamentary democracy in the meantime. The more radical faction on the other hand devoted themselves to a violent overthrow not only of the tsarist regime but also of Western capitalist values.

The Bolsheviks were led by Marx devotee Vladimir Lenin, who in 1917 saw an opportunity for the Bolsheviks to overthrow the provisional government. He publishes the April Theses, which outlined the steps for revolution based on Marxist reasoning. Now to be clear, these steps to communism weren't pure Marx, but they were Marx's ideas filtered through Lenin's own brain. Lenin essentially thought that Marx's prescribed steps toward a socialist state would take too long, and therefore Lenin thought Russia could, you know, skip a few steps.

Anyway, the three slogans of the April Theses summed up Lenin's program succinctly:

Peace, land, and bread. By peace he meant Russia's withdrawal from World War One. By land he meant equal redistribution of land to all. And by bread he meant, you know, bread. Worker control of production as opposed to elite and bourgeois control. All power to the Soviets. And so in November of 1917, Lenin saw his opportunity and led Bolshevik forces to overthrow the provisional government, which turned out to be a surprisingly bloodless and easy task. And at that point, the Bolsheviks—now renamed the Communists—were in control of Russia, which later became known as the Soviet Union.

And by March of 1918, Lenin had negotiated a settlement that would remove Russia from World War One by giving up a metric buttload of Russian territory in Eastern Europe. But that didn't matter much to Lenin because the goal was for Soviet communism to spread over the entire world, so you know, a small setback.

So yes, Lenin didn't make good on the promise for peace in the April Theses, but that's about the time Russia itself got involved in the Civil War. You didn't think everybody in Russia was going to welcome the socialist state with fists in the air and smiles on their faces, did you? You're so crazy. No, remember this was a revolution of the working class, and now their interests reign supreme. But in case you forgot, the working class wasn't the only class that existed.

And so because of the bitterness this new forced arrangement caused among the aristocracy and the anti-Leninists, along with several other now marginalized groups, Russia degenerated into Civil War. The anti-communist forces were aided by several Western powers who were none too excited about seeing a communist government installed in Russia. By all counts, this was a force that probably should have overwhelmed the Bolshevik Army.

However, under the leadership of Lenin's right-hand man Leon Trotsky, the Communist Army became phenomenally disciplined and organized. Not only that, Lenin and Trotsky were able to generate Russian nationalist sentiment against these Western interlopers, and that had a way of getting people to fight. The war ended in 1922 with the victory going to Lenin and the Communists, and that's when we officially get the transformation of Russia into the Soviet Union.

However, even before the war was over, Lenin was smart enough to see that Russia was in a bad way economically. So in order to correct these difficulties, Lenin got down and dirty and engaged in some limited capitalistic policies, which became known as the New Economic Policy in 1921. Under this plan, peasant farmers were no longer required to send their produce to the state but rather could sell them on the open market. Also, Lenin permitted private ownership of small businesses and farms, even while he retained control of larger institutions in business.

Okay, now remember what I said before, namely that Lenin wanted to skip steps in order to get a full-on communist state, and the New Economic Policy was a shining example. He thought that by cutting corners and introducing only a smidge of capitalism in order to shore up the economy, that afterward he could chuck it and move right along to communism. But that did not work, and that's important to understand because when people say that communism has never worked where it has been tried, the response is, well, you know, it's never actually been tried, and Lenin is the case in point.

All right, click [here](#) to grab my AP Euro review pack, which is everything you need to get an A in your class and a five on your exam in May, and click [here](#) to keep reviewing Unit 8 of AP European History. I'll catch you on the flip-flop. I'm out.
