



NGMUN V

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Secretaries-General

Under-Secretary-General

JCC: Bolshevik Revolution

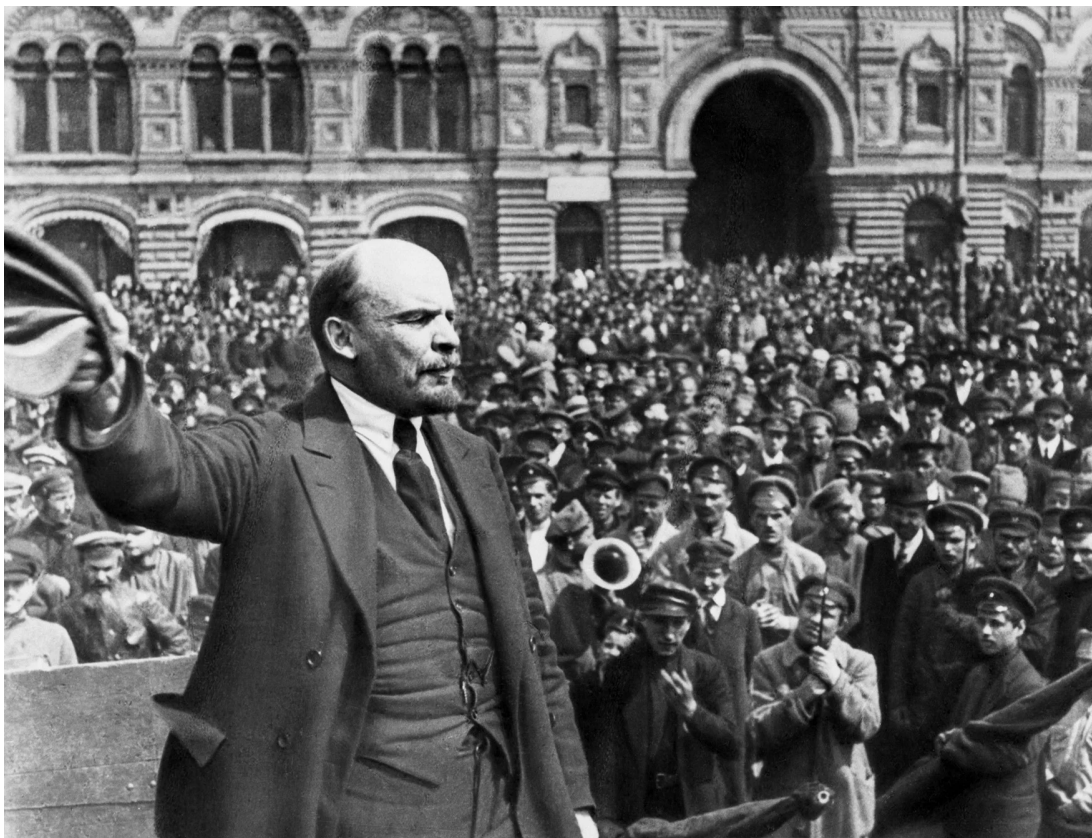


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Letter from the Co-Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to NGMUN V! As we prepare to open our fifth season of debate, we are grateful to finally welcome delegates back to campus. After three years of virtual committees, it is our honor and pleasure to host what we hope will be a diverse and thoughtful debate. When delegates begin their conference day in person (which may feel new to some), we urge all to remember the spirit of debate and the challenge of immersing oneself in the perspective and interests of one's country or character, rather than relying on personal tendencies. Debate craves healthy controversy. Delegates should present the imperatives of their country or character respectfully and thoughtfully. We look forward to and expect the utmost diplomacy.

The Nobles Model UN club has an extensive and impressive legacy, with recent accolades including Best Large Delegation at Harvard MUN 2021. Club successes in conferences across the nation have solidified Nobles as a leader in independent school Model UN. NGMUN began as an idea between two dedicated members of the club, Will Whalen (N' 19) and Julia Temple (N' 20). The first NGMUN was held in the spring of 2019. Since then, though NGMUN's leadership has separated from the MUN club's leadership, our secretariat and daises have grown significantly in experience, skill, and creativity. This year's staff have a wealth of experience both as delegates and as staff members. Your chairs and co-chairs have spent months preparing committees full of robust debates, critical problem-solving, and international intrigue. They are driven, intelligent, and enthusiastic. You should approach your committee with trust and respect for the forces that be – they are just as excited as you are.

Regarding our expectations for the conference, we look forward to a commitment from delegates to enable successful committees. First of all, position papers will be required for any delegate seeking an award and are highly encouraged for all. Not only will position papers expand your own knowledge of the issue and your delegation's stance, but they also show your chair and co-chair(s) that you take your position at this conference seriously. Secondly, while you should be excited to debate and resolve conflicts, if the discourse between you and other delegates gets too heated, remember that this conference is a simulation. You should exhibit diplomacy, not hostility. Even if you are assigned to a committee where fights and arguments are in the description, there will be no tolerance for directly disrespecting the character of any of your fellow delegates, or any personal attacks. Should issues beyond committee jurisdiction arise, delegates jeopardize their privilege to continue in the debate. We look forward to a day of intellectual growth, diplomacy, and thoughtful discourse. On behalf of your very excited secretariat, thank you for joining us for a weekend!

Sincerely,

Katie Cheung & Oona Lundgren

Secretaries-General

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Sensitivity Statement

You are assuming the roles and responsibilities of diplomats, and therefore will be held to the ethical standards of the role. During NGMUN, we expect all delegate behavior to reflect the gravity and sensitivity of the international and individual impact of the topics being addressed, just as such topics would be addressed by professional diplomats. While the issues you debate are on the world stage and may seem distant from your lived experience, we ask that you approach debate with a high level of respect and sensitivity for others. Absolutely no racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, or any other forms of discrimination will be tolerated in or out of committee. This includes any such harmful rhetoric that can be attributed to the country or character you are representing. Any discriminatory language or ideas in speeches, resolutions, or at any other point in the conference is prohibited.

Letter From The Chair

Welcome Delegates! My name is Chris Tillen and I am beyond excited to be your chair for JCC: Bolshevik Revolution alongside my excellent co-chair Arthi Vithiananthan. I cannot wait to meet all of you in committee and I hope to make our session captivating and fun. I am currently a senior at the Noble and Greenough School and I enjoy playing the piano, running cross country, and performing theater. While I do not have a fun pet that I could talk about in this letter, I do have three younger brothers who feel pretty similar to golden retrievers.

I attended my first Model UN conference my freshman year and immediately fell in love with it. I was drawn to all the unique and creative solutions that delegates put forward, and I was equally enthusiastic about making new friends. I've participated in both general assembly and crisis committees, and while both are amazing for different reasons, I am extremely excited to chair this crisis committee. I think crisis is uniquely important because it teaches delegates to think on their feet as they hurdle through a constantly changing situation, and I've witnessed some extremely creative ideas, such as George Washington turning into the Hulk. In either GA or Crisis, I believe that the best part about MUN is learning and growing with your peers, and I am looking forward to seeing how you all learn from each other and grow throughout this conference.

This joint crisis committee will focus on the Bolshevik Revolution, specifically at the start of the February Revolution (March 8th, 1917). We will work in tandem with the JCC: Romanovs committee which will center around the changing landscape of Russia's tsarist regime. For both committees, Russia's identity is in turmoil facing external pressures due to WWI and internal pressures due to shortcomings of the Tsar and inequities between Russia's classes. In JCC Bolshevik Revolution, we will focus on actions taken by Lenin and his revolutionaries that changed Russia forever. You all might rewrite some history. This background guide will include substantial historical context on the issues facing Russia, as well as a comprehensive description of the course of the Bolshevik Revolution. However, we ask that you don't simply recreate the real Bolshevik Revolution. This committee begins on March 8th, before the Tsar abdicates and the Bolsheviks take power, allowing all of you to shape a new history for Russia. Be creative! While this background guide is designed to be as helpful as possible, I strongly encourage you to do additional research in order to jump-start your preparation. I also urge you all to think outside the box! The historical context is important, but your unique ideas will make this committee vibrant and fun!

I would also like to stress that MUN is a privilege that not all people get to enjoy. As we all have this opportunity, I ask that you all are extremely respectful and kind in committee. While bringing your own ideas to the table is a huge part of MUN, listening to your peers and working together is equally important.

Lastly, please reach out with any questions! Please send position papers to ctillen23@nobles.edu. I'm looking forward to meeting you all, good luck with your preparation!

Sincerely,
Chris Tillen
ctillen23@nobles.edu

Committee Overview

Committee Outline

Spurred by injustices facing the Russian people, delegates are meeting on March 8th, 1917 to debate the future of Russia's government and nation. Delegates will be taking on the roles of key figures throughout 20th century Russia, namely those who heavily impacted the Bolshevik Revolution. As you do your research on your specific character, search for the character's goals regarding communism and reforming Russia's government.

General Procedure

Committee will follow traditional parliamentary procedure, meaning that it will mainly consist of moderated caucuses, unmoderated caucuses, and directives. Meanwhile, each delegate will write crisis notes throughout the committee (see below for more specifics on crisis notes). In order to succeed, a delegate must be a leader in both the general flow of committee and in the backroom.

Directives

Directives are one of the most essential parts of the flow of debate as they address problems head-on. Delegates will work to pass many directives, with varying themes that will follow the changing circumstances. Delegates are encouraged to work collaboratively on each directive. Unlike resolutions, directives are shorter and do not require preambulatory clauses. That being said, they should still be written in clause format. The committee as a whole will vote on directives, and for one to pass, a simple majority is required. The exact number of sponsors and signatories, and what a simple majority is will be determined at the start of the conference.

Crisis Updates

Crisis updates will strongly influence the flow of debate, and they will often prompt the writing of directives. Crisis updates are influenced by the crisis notes that delegates themselves write, as well as outside factors decided by our Crisis Director and Crisis Staff.

Crisis Notes

Crisis notes are the heart and soul of the backroom, and they are instrumental in each delegate's crisis arc. While directives are designed to address the larger issue as a team, crisis notes should be utilized to accomplish a personal goal. Each crisis note should be formatted as a letter written from the point of view of a delegate. When writing crisis notes, make sure to be specific so that the crisis staff knows best how to execute your wishes. Additionally, crisis notes should employ each delegate's portfolio powers. These are powers that your character has based on their unique position or occupation. Moreover, joint crisis notes can be passed. Joint crisis notes are written by two or more delegates and should employ the portfolio powers of all parties.

Communiques

Communiques are a way for delegates to address institutions or entities not present in the committee. They can request special information, individual meetings with bodies outside of the committee room, or certain resources. These must be within the realm of a delegate's portfolio powers and written as a formal letter. Write them with as much specificity as possible, otherwise the backroom will make up any detail that is not included.

Press Releases

Press releases allow the committee to express sentiments or inform the public, they are similar in procedure to directives. Keep in mind that they are not very impactful in the flow of committee.

Key Terms and Definitions

- Communism: a theory proposed by Karl Marx that advocates for a classless society where private property is nonexistent and means of production are communal
- Proletariat: The working class, referenced in Kar Marx's communist manifesto as the engine behind a communist revolution.
- Bourgeoisie: The middle, capitalist, class. Marx identifies the bourgeoisie as the possessors of capital and the target of a communist revolution.
- Tsar/tsarism: Russia's emperor and system of aristocracy, controlled by the Romanov family.
- Duma: The parliament implemented by Tsar Nicholas II as a response to unrest. Ultimately, Tsar Nicholas would frequently override the Duma.
- Zemstvos: A system of elected councils designed to manage the fallout of abolishing serfdom.
- Serfdom: Indentured servitude where Russians were forced to perform unpaid agricultural labor, owned by a lord of the land.
- Bolshevik: Russian for 'the majority.' The name that Lenin gave his faction of the Russian Social Democratic Party. Would later be known as Communists.
- Menshevik" Russian for 'the minority.' The name of the more conservative faction leftover in the Russian Social Democratic Party after Lenin split with the Bolsheviks.

Contextual History

The Romanov Monarchy

The Romanovs were the rulers of Russia from 1613 until the Russian Revolution in February 1917.¹ The Romanov rulers were known as Tzars/Czars, which were autocratic leaders with complete control in Russia.² Peter I, also known as Peter the Great, helped transform Russia into a powerful empire, rivaling even the Ottomans, from 1682 until his death in 1725.³ During the reign of Catherine II (1762–1796), the Russian Empire continued to grow and thrive; this period is known as the Golden Age of the Russian Empire. However, the empire had a rapid decline starting with the Crimean War. Alexander II, who began ruling in 1855 immediately after his father's death, came into power in the midst of the Crimean War. After realizing Russia's detrimental lack of development during the war, Alexander enacted reforms to both suppress a revolution and catch up with other nations, including implementation of Zemstvos.⁴ Zemstvos were councils that had the ability to provide roads, schools, and medical services to each district. Another one of Alexander's Great Reforms was the abolishment of Serfdom.

The Role of Serfs & the Abolishment of Serfdom

Serfdom was a modified form of slavery used in European countries; serfs were bought and sold in relation to the land they worked on. They would only change landlords when a new lord took over the land they worked on. Serfs did not have the will to marry, pursue a different occupation, or even move to new land without the permission of their lords.⁵ The rise of peasant protests and uprisings led to the political necessity for Alexander II to abolish serfdom to keep the peace in 1861. Russian citizens linked serfdom to essentially all of Russia's downfalls, such as over-population and industrial inhibitions. Serfdom was a representation of all of Russia's mistakes.⁶

The abolishment of serfdom was also one of the major turning points of the Russian revolution. As neighboring European nations watched the French Revolution unfold, it became imperative that personal freedom was secured as a basic human right in all countries, including Russia. However, the actual process of emancipation was difficult. Alexander II was tasked with

¹The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Romanov Dynasty | Definition, History, Significance, & Facts," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Romanov-dynasty>.

²"The Russian Revolution," Students of History, 2022, Accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.studentsofhistory.com/the-russian-revolution>.

³Matt Young, "Research Guides: Peter the Great: Primary and Secondary Resources at the Library of Congress," Library of Congress, January 21, 2021, Accessed January 3, 2023, <https://guides.loc.gov/peter-the-great>.

⁴John Simkin, "Tsar Alexander II," Spartacus Educational, 2016, Accessed January 3, 2023, <https://spartacus-educational.com/RUSalexander2.htm>.

⁵The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Serfdom Summary," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/summary/serfdom>.

⁶Michael Lynch, "The Emancipation of the Russian Serfs, 1861 | History Today," History Today, December 2003, Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/emancipation-russian-serfs-1861>.

appeasing both the landlords and the peasants, yet he did not deliver. When the Emancipation Manifesto was signed on February 19, 1861, it released serfs without providing them any land, therefore putting them at a major financial disadvantage. The emancipation led to many peasant protests due to the document's disingenuous nature. Both sides of emancipation, the landlords and ex-serfs alike, suffered from the abolishment of serfdom, creating a perfect breeding ground for communism.⁷

The End of Alexander II's Regime

As Tsar Alexander II continued to reform Russia for the sake of retaining his autocracy, he became a target of multiple rebel groups, such as Land & Liberty and People's Will. In 1876, the Land & Liberty group was established. Members of the group wanted the same democratic rights that other European countries guaranteed their citizens. Then, in October 1879, the People's Will group decided that they were going to assassinate Alexander II so that they could end Tsarism in Russia.⁸ There were multiple failed attempts at regicide, but the group did end up killing several of Alexander II's senior officials. In January of 1880, the People's Will group contacted the Russian government and claimed that they would call off their terror campaign if the government implemented a constitution that provided free elections and an end to censorship. On February 25th of that same year, Alexander II stated he was considering creating a constitution for Russia. On March 1st, 1881, there was no solid information from Alexander II regarding the supposed constitution, so Ignatei Grinevitski carried out the assassination. Alexander II was succeeded by his son, Tsar Alexander III, who carried out religious persecution and enforced a policy of Russification of the national minorities.

Bloody Sunday & 1905 Revolution

Nicholas II, son of Tsar Alexander III, came into power in 1894. There was already very little public support for him due to his image of a weak, unprepared leader, but after his failure in the Russo-Japanese war, Tsarism lost all public support. During this time, communist leaders such as Vladimir Lenin began to organize a rebellion against the tsar.⁹ The start of the 1905 revolution, and the hasty decline of the Romanov Empire, occurs when a peaceful protest asking for better working conditions was met by military fire, known as Bloody Sunday. After the massive slaughter, strikes began to break out all over Russia, forcing Nicholas II to take on a Duma. The Duma attempted to enact the political reforms protesters requested and called to stop the punishment of participants of

⁷Georgy Manaev, "How Abolishing Serfdom Led to the Russian Revolution," Russia Beyond, October 10, 2019, Accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.rbth.com/history/331117-how-abolishing-serfdom-led-to-revolution>.

⁸R.N Morris, "The Enemy Within: The Assassination Attempt on Alexander II," Aspects of History, August 8, 2021, Accessed January 3, 2023, <https://aspectsofhistory.com/the-enemy-within-the-assassination-attempt-on-alexander-ii/>.

⁹History.com Editors, "Bloody Sunday Massacre in Russia," History, August 21, 2018, Accessed January 3, 2023, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/bloody-sunday-massacre-in-russia>.

the 1905 Revolution, but Tsar Nicholas II still retained almost all power in the government and there were no significant changes in favor of the general public during this time.¹⁰

Russian Politics

In the periods previously described leading up to the Russian Revolution, political groups in Russia were beginning to form due to the issues that the Russian government was overlooking, especially those that only affected the working class. In the next few sections, we have summarized a few of the different political ideologies in Russia's general public pre-Revolution.

Soviet Marxism

Marxism is an ideology that was created by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels that creates the foundation of communism. The basic summary of this complex theory is that all people, both the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, should be able to receive the benefits of their own labor in a way that a capitalist society does not allow.¹¹ This requires a complete social and economic reform in society, starting with overthrowing the bourgeoisie. Vladimir Illych Lenin was the communist leader who adjusted Marxism to work for Russia.¹² Lenin, along with Leon Trotsky, spread communist ideas around Russia through Marx's work.¹³

Socialist Revolutionary Party

The Socialist Revolutionary Party was the only real opposition to the Social Democrats. Members of this party called for a more socialist approach to governing the country with a federal government structure. Members such as Alexander Kerensky and Viktor Chernov held important political positions between February and October 1917.¹⁴

The Social Democrats: The Original Communist Party

The Social Democrat group, one that the Marxism creators paid close attention to, was the predecessor to the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. Although most members of the original congress were persecuted by the law, the second congress played a major role in the revolution. Even though history remembers two distinct communist parties, the Mensheviks and the

¹⁰"History of the State Duma." 2011. The State Duma. 2011. Accessed January 3, 2023.
<http://duma.gov.ru/en/duma/about/history/information/>.

¹¹The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Marxism Summary." Encyclopedia Britannica. Accessed January 3, 2023.
<https://www.britannica.com/summary/Marxism>.

¹²The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Marxism - Russian and Soviet Marxism." Encyclopedia Britannica. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Marxism/Russian-and-Soviet-Marxism>.

¹³Markey, Dell. "The Spread of Marxism & Its Influence on Russian Communism." The Classroom | Empowering Students in Their College Journey. June 25, 2018. Accessed January 3, 2023.
<https://www.theclassroom.com/spread-marxism-its-influence-russian-communism-8058.html>.

¹⁴The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Socialist Revolutionary Party | Political Party, Russia." Encyclopedia Britannica. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Socialist-Revolutionary-Party>.

Bolsheviks, both of these parties were originally one, yet Vladimir Lenin caused a split because he wanted a more radical faction.¹⁵

The Mensheviks

One of the branches of the original Social Democrats party were the Mensheviks, which translates to “one in the minority.” The party split due to disagreements between Vladimir Lenin and leaders of opposing plans within the party. One of the main ideas that the Mensheviks continued to support was the idea that the working class could not, and should not, overthrow the bourgeoisie because of the Marxist belief of needing a capitalist rule prior to the revolution.¹⁶

The Bolsheviks

The other, more successful branch of the Social Democrats party was the Bolsheviks, or the “one in the majority,” Vladimir Lenin led this branch, and he believed that a more radical approach to communism was the best option for Russia. Members of the party wanted democratic centralism for their country. They founded the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, also known as the Soviet Union.¹⁷

¹⁵The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Russian Social-Democratic Workers’ Party | Political Party, Russia | Britannica.” In *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Russian-Social-Democratic-Workers-Party>.

¹⁶ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Menshevik.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Accessed January 4, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Menshevik>.

¹⁷Who Were the Bolsheviks and What Was Their Influence?” History on the Net. June 20, 2018. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.historyonthenet.com/who-were-the-bolsheviks>.

Current Situation

This committee takes place on March 8th of 1917, right before Tsar Nicholas II abdicates the throne. As such, Russia has been involved in WWI for nearly three years. This section of the background guide will outline the situation in March of 1917, but it will also chronicle some of the later events that year. The goal is not to recreate history, but we believe that analyzing the actual course events can provide inspiration for the flow of committee and your own crisis arcs. Use the current situation and surrounding background as a jumping-off point! Please note that at the time of the Bolshevik revolution, the Russians used the Julian calendar. This means the dates are different from our Gregorian calendar. For the sake of ease, we've put all the dates in Gregorian format. This, however, does not impact the names of various events. For example, the February Revolution has a Julian date in February and a Gregorian date in March. The same is true for the October Revolution (it has a Gregorian date in November.)

Disapproval of the Tsar and his family

Public hatred for Tsar Nicholas has been growing consistently throughout his regime, and as we arrive in March of 1917 the Tsar's ratings are at an all-time low. Back in 1915, Nicholas himself took direct command of Russia's failing efforts in World War I, leaving his German wife Alexandra in charge of the nation. Tsar Nicholas was taking personal responsibility for Russia's military failures, and his German wife was not popular with the people. Furthermore, Alexandra was not alone. She was joined by the widely unpopular Grigori Rasputin, a man who claims to have magic healing powers. Rasputin's healing powers had originally saved the Tsar's son from certain death, earning him good standings in the royal family.¹⁸ However, Rasputin was known for his exploits and mistresses, contributing to distrust in the public eye. With Tsar Nicholas away at war, many speculate that Rasputin, a mysterious outsider, was controlling the queen and calling the shots. Ultimately, Rasputin was assassinated in late December of 1916. But even with Rasputin gone, unrest continued to grow.

February Revolution and International Women's Day (March 8 - 16, 1917)

Public protests in Petrograd (now known as St. Petersburg) break out in response to Tsar Nicholas' autocratic rule and resulting food shortages and military failures. Russians were facing food insecurity because German and Turkish troops had blockaded eastern Russian ports, leading to the collapse of imported goods.¹⁹ Russians were forced to rely on insufficient harvests, leaving many starving. In response to Russia's numerous military defeats, Tsar Nicholas took personal command of the army. This led to public backlash, as Russians equated their losses to Nicholas'

¹⁸The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Grigori Rasputin | Biography, Facts, & Death." In *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Grigory-Yefimovich-Rasputin>.

¹⁹Imperial War Museums. "What Was the February Revolution?" Imperial War Museums. 2018. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-was-the-february-revolution>.

poor leadership. The specific protests in Petrograd lead to the deaths of 1,300 civilians²⁰. On March 8th, International Women's Day, female protestors joined the streets, bringing total protesting numbers to 200,000.²¹ When the Tsar ordered that the troops suppress the protestors, the troops instead joined the people in the streets and called for the downfall of the Tsar and the end of the war. Ultimately, military mutinies in combination with these protests led Tsar Nicholas to abdicate the throne on March 15. He additionally removed his son from succession, leaving the Tsarist regime unfulfilled.²²

The Duma Provisional Government

The following information goes out of the scope of this committee, but we believe it is important to recognize the actual events that preceded the Bolshevik revolution so delegates can further understand the implications of the revolution. With the Tsar out of the picture, Russia's Parliament known as the Duma took full control of the state. However, the Duma coexisted with the Soviet Party composed of members of the social revolutionaries party and the Mensheviks. The soviets aligned with the goals of Lenin and the Bolsheviks. The Soviets issued orders to workers and soldiers while the Duma remained in control as a provisional government. Yet, many Russians felt that the Duma only represented the goals of capitalist Russian aristocrats, meaning that there was little change in popular unrest.²³

Lenin's April Theses

While the Tsar was out of power, the Bolsheviks had still yet to take control and transform Russia into a Communist nation. Lenin's writing served as a match to the revolutionary fire, advocating for the implementation of communist ideals. Lenin released ten theses that all supported the same point: Lenin opposed the provisional government, advocating that the proletariat would overthrow the bourgeoisie and take control of Russia. This activism mirrored Karl Marx's proposed communist revolution.

Alexander Kerensky's Provisional Government

Following the abdication of Tsar Nicholas and the Bolshevik July rising, Kerensky's provisional government took control of Russia from July - November of 1917. While Kerensky would take power after the current situation of this committee, we believe it is important to study his rule as you prepare to come into committee with your own ideas. Kerensky was a lawyer, and his provisional government granted Russian citizens key liberal rights such as freedom of speech, equality before the law, and the right of unions to organize and strike.²⁴ Kerensky differed from

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Ibid.

²²British Library. "The Russian Revolution Timeline – the British Library." *The British Library*. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://doi.org/https://www.bl.uk/russian-revolution/articles/timeline-of-the-russian-revolution>.

²³"History of the State Duma." 2011.

²⁴History.com editors. "Russian Revolution." History. A&E Television Networks. November 9, 2009. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/russian-revolution>.

Lenin's calls for blood and opposed a large social revolution. Moreover, Kerensky actually continued to pour Russian money into World War I, losing him public support as many peasants and other citizens still faced food insecurity as a result of the War.²⁵ Ultimately, Kerensky's brief stint in power brought many Russians the same hardships they faced under the Tsars and the Duma.

July Rising

Amid political turmoil, Kerensky launched an attack against Germany as one of his first moves in office. While this offensive at first appeared promising, it slowly collapsed as Russians suffered 400,000 casualties and were forced to retreat.²⁶ Many upper class Russians displayed their patriotism through public displays on Nevsky Avenue, the main street of Petrograd. Meanwhile, Bolsheviks argued that the offensive would ultimately harm Russia even more than World War I already had.

On July 16, soldiers, sailors, and workers flooded the streets of Petrograd in protest of Kerensky's latest attack. This uprising scared both the provisional government and the Bolsheviks. Many of these revolutionaries hoped that the Bolsheviks would back their struggle for power, yet Lenin offered no support, because he didn't believe that one uprising could successfully overthrow the provisional government. After two days of rioting and protesting, Kerensky brought in troops to fight against the citizens of Petrograd.

Ultimately, the July protests negatively impacted the Bolshevik party. Despite their lack of involvement, Kerensky's provisional government blamed the Bolsheviks. This led to the arrests of many key Bolshevik leaders, and Lenin's flight to Finland. With Bolshevik leadership dispersed and the people crushed, the July Rising appeared to silence revolutionary flame in Russia. Moreover, it divided the Bolsheviks from the Proletariat that they hoped to represent. This dissonance between the targeted citizenry and the agents of politics would prove an ongoing source of conflict in Soviet Russia for decades to come.

October Revolution

Finally, we arrive at the October Revolution that would grant Lenin and the Bolsheviks complete control over Russia. While the Bolsheviks lost support following the July Rising, public hatred of Kerensky's war efforts and provisional government were stronger. On November 7th, Lenin and the Bolsheviks successfully took control of the Russian government. Bolshevik Red Guards stormed government buildings, taking control of defenseless members of the provisional government.²⁷ The coup d'état was relatively peaceful, and it led to Lenin's implementation as dictator of Russia.²⁸ Russia would then devolve into a three-year Civil War as the Bolsheviks fought

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶"The July Days." Alpha History. August 2, 2019. Accessed January 3, 2023.
<https://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/july-days/>.

²⁷David L Hoffmann, "The October Revolution in Russia." Origins. November 2017. Accessed January 3, 2023.
https://origins.osu.edu/milestones/november-2017-october-revolution-russia?language_content_entity=en.

²⁸History.com editors. "Russian Revolution."

to solidify control and expel capitalists from the country. Now, it is widely known that Lenin then flipped his so-called communist utopia into a dictatorship rife with secret police and falsified elections. The Russian dystopia would only become more potent once Joseph Stalin took the helm. We encourage further research into dictatorial Soviet Russia if deemed necessary for crisis arcs!

Example Crisis Arcs

An important aspect of each of your crisis arcs is to have a motive; there should be clear reasoning and thought behind the decisions you make in both the Front and Back rooms. Since this is a JCC committee, we will provide you with sample arcs in a skeletal stage for both a Bolshevik and a Romanov.

Romanovs

The Tsars would want to discourage rebellion in any way, so a Tsar's arc could be that they plan the murder of a communist leader in the Bolshevik committee in order to prevent any uprisings. Part of this arc would be utilizing the Backroom and creating a newspaper to spread propaganda to ensure that the general population does not find communism appealing, which would help the Romanov monarchy remain in power.

Bolsheviks

Since a major ideology of the Bolsheviks was that they believed that the working class would liberate themselves from the control of the ruling class after freeing themselves from capitalism, a sample crisis arc could be a taking the steps to reach this goal using the Backroom. One example would be locating a critical resource to the ruling class (such as military access) and destroying it, hence putting the monarchs at an economic disadvantage and susceptible to be overthrown.

Both sample arcs are not detailed enough for this committee, but use these as stepping stones to creating an arc that will not only serve your side of the JCC well, but also your character's interests and goals. Also, remember to be creative! Your fellow delegates will be reading the above ideas as well, and you don't want them to know what you're up to.

What Comes Next?

As the committee starts on March 8th, 1917, you are placed in an uproar. Russian citizens flood the streets demanding for a regime change. We've shown all of you how history played out in hopes that you will consider the failures of Kerensky's regime and the shortcomings of an absolute Bolshevik control as you develop your own understanding of the history of Russia. Each of your characters has various motives and stakes in the establishment of a new, potentially communist, government. How will you represent the starving people of Russia and take this great empire into a new age? As you research, we've developed a couple of guiding questions for you:

- In what ways do communist ideals both benefit and harm the Russian people?
- What is the relationship between the Bolsheviks and the people?

- What economic/political/social reform does Russia require?
- Is communism the answer to Russia's numerous problems?
- Should Russia westernize? How should Russia's participation in World War I change as a result of inner unrest? How can Russia's external allies impact the internal revolution?
- What are the benefits/detriments of the Duma Parliamentary Government? How should the Bolsheviks handle the Duma?
- Remember that, when the committee starts, the Tsar has not yet abdicated. Should the Tsar abdicate? How should Bolshevik revolutionaries handle dismantling the Tsarist regime?

Character List

The following are very basic summaries of some of the most important people on the Bolshevik side of the Revolution. Please make sure to do additional research about the more personal aspects of your assigned character, such as their interests and beliefs in relation to this committee. If you are assigned a delegate not included in this list that means we'll have a larger committee, leading to a more vibrant conference! You will have to do some additional background on your own to understand your character but we are confident that you can take that on and develop an amazing crisis arc! Please reach out to the chair and co-chair with any questions regarding the details of your character that have not been made clear by the background guide.

1. Vladimir Ilyich Lenin: leader of the Bolshevik Party.
2. Leon Trotsky: co-leader of the Bolshevik party.
3. Alexander Kerensky: member of the Social Revolutionary party.
4. Julius Martov: also known as L. Martov, member of the Mensheviks.
5. Georgi Plekhanov: brought Marxism to Russia.
6. Vera Zasulich: Menshevik writer.
7. Pavel Axelrod: one of the original Russian Marxists.
8. Alexander Bogdanov: key member of both the Social Democratic and Bolshevik parties.
9. Victor Nogin: member of the Bolshevik party.
10. Matvei Muranov: member of the Bolshevik party.

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