

◆ 1. The Age of Social Change

After the French Revolution, new ideas like freedom, equality, and social change spread across Europe and Asia.
People debated:

- Who should have power in society?
- Should society be restructured?
- What role should religion and monarchy play?

Three main political ideologies emerged:

1.1 Liberals, Radicals, and Conservatives

- ● Liberals: Wanted change, religious tolerance, and elected parliament. Opposed monarchy but did not support universal suffrage (voting rights only for property-owning men).
- ● Radicals: Wanted complete restructuring of society. Supported universal suffrage (including women), and opposed wealth-based privileges.
- ● Conservatives: Preferred traditional systems, but after the French Revolution, accepted the need for slow and limited change.

◆ 1.2 Industrial Society and Social Change

Industrialization in the 19th century led to:

- Growth of cities and factories
- Long working hours, low wages, poor housing
- Social unrest and strikes

Liberals and radicals supported changes to improve workers' lives. Many revolutionaries (like Giuseppe Mazzini in Italy) worked for national unity and equality.



⌚ Fig.1 – The London Poor in 19th Century (Depiction of poverty in industrial society)

◆ 1.3 The Coming of Socialism in Europe

■ **Socialism:** A political and economic system where the means of production (land, factories) are owned collectively by society, not individuals.

- Robert Owen: Tried cooperative farming in USA (New Harmony)
- Louis Blanc (France): Wanted state-supported cooperatives
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: Argued that workers should overthrow capitalism → move to socialism → eventually communism

■ **Communism:** A classless society where all property is publicly owned.

◆ 1.4 Spread of Socialist Ideas

- By 1870s: Socialism became popular across Europe
- Second International: Organisation to coordinate socialist efforts
- Britain: Labour Party formed
- France: Socialist Party formed

But till 1914, socialists couldn't form governments, although they influenced legislation.



⌚ Fig.2 – Paris Commune 1871: A brief workers' government, later crushed but celebrated by socialists.

▼ 2. The Russian Revolution

◆ 2.1 Russian Empire in 1914

- Ruled by Tsar Nicholas II (absolute monarchy)
- Included regions like Finland, Ukraine, Central Asia
- Majority → Russian Orthodox Christians; also Catholics, Muslims, Buddhists

Fig.3 – Tsar Nicholas II

Fig.4 – Map of Russian Empire, 1914

◆ 2.2 Economy and Society

- 85% population → Agriculturists
- Industry was limited to areas like St Petersburg, Moscow
- Factory workers faced poor conditions (low wages, long hours)



*Fig.3 – Tsar Nicholas II in the White Hall of the Winter Palace, St Petersburg, 1900.
Painted by Ernest Lipgart (1847-1932)*



Fig.6 – Dormitory for workers

- Workers divided: skilled/unskilled, linked to villages or settled
- Women workers earned less than men
- Peasants wanted land redistribution → often refused rent or killed landlords

◆ 2.3 Socialism in Russia

- Political parties were illegal before 1914
- Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party (1898) → followed Marx
- Socialist Revolutionary Party → focused on peasants' rights

Party split:

- Bolsheviks (led by Lenin): Wanted disciplined, small, professional group
- Mensheviks: Wanted open mass-based party

◆ 2.4 1905 Revolution

- Workers protested at Putilov Iron Works, St Petersburg
- Bloody Sunday (Jan 1905): Peaceful protest fired upon → 100+ killed
- Strikes, walkouts, student protests followed
- Tsar created Duma (Parliament) but kept dismissing it

◆ 2.5 Impact of World War I

- Russia allied with Britain & France
- War exposed weaknesses in Tsarist rule
- Food shortages, inflation, huge casualties (7 million)
- Public anger increased, especially after 1916



▼ 3. February and October Revolutions (1917)

◆ 3.1 The February Revolution

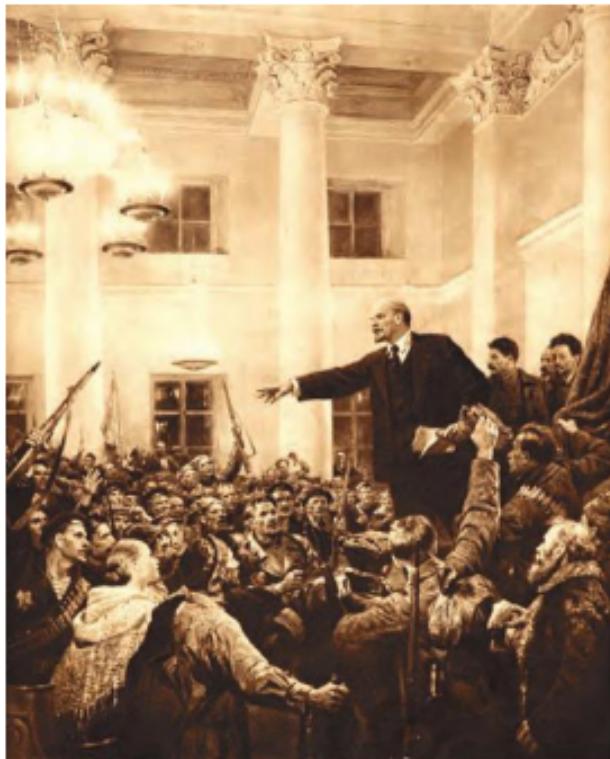
- Food shortage and freezing winter in Petrograd
- Lockouts and protests → led by women workers (International Women's Day)
- Soldiers refused to fire → mutinied and joined workers
- Tsar abdicated on 2 March 1917
- Provisional Government + Petrograd Soviet formed



 Fig.8 – Petrograd Soviet meeting

◆ 3.2 April Theses and Growing Unrest

- Lenin returned from exile, presented April Theses:
 1. End the war
 2. Land to peasants
 3. Power to Soviets
 4. Nationalise banks
 5. Rename Bolshevik Party → Communist Party



⌚ Fig.9 – Lenin addressing workers (April 1917)

◆ 3.3 October Revolution (24 Oct 1917)

- Lenin and Trotsky planned secret uprising
- Bolsheviks took over government buildings and Winter Palace
- Prime Minister Kerenskii fled
- Bolsheviks seized power



⌚ Fig.10 – July 1917 protests

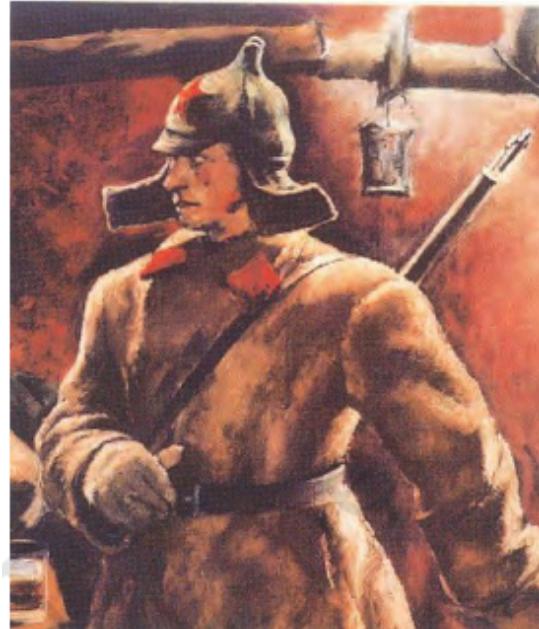


⌚ Fig.11 – Lenin and Trotsky after October Revolution

▼ 4. After October

◆ 4.1 Changes Introduced by Bolsheviks

- Private property abolished
- Land to peasants, industry and banks nationalised
- Party renamed → Communist Party
- Cheka (secret police) established to crush opposition
- Press censored



⌚ Fig.12 – Soviet Hat



Fig.13 – May Day 1918

◆ 4.2 Civil War (1918–1920)

- Whites (pro-Tsar), Greens (SRs), foreign powers fought Reds (Bolsheviks)
- Bolsheviks won due to mass support, though much violence occurred
- USSR formed in 1922

◆ 4.3 Socialist Society & Five Year Plans

- 1927–1938: First and second Five-Year Plans
- Targets set for industry (oil, coal, steel production ↑)
- Cities like Magnitogorsk built quickly, but workers lived in poor conditions



Fig.14 – Soviet factories



Fig.15–17 – Soviet children and workers

◆ 4.4 Stalin and Collectivisation

- Peasants forced into collective farms (Kolkhoz)
- Rich peasants (Kulaks) eliminated
- Many peasants resisted, killed livestock → famine (1930–33), 4 million died
- Harsh punishments and forced confessions became common



Fig.18 – Anti-Kulak poster



Fig.19 – Women in collective farms

▼ 5. Global Influence of Russian Revolution

- Inspired revolutionaries worldwide
- Communist parties formed globally (incl. India, Britain)
- Comintern (1919): International communist alliance
- USSR promoted socialism globally



Fig.20 – Special Issue on Lenin of the Indo-Soviet Journal.

Indian communists mobilised support for the USSR during the Second World War.

Indian thinkers like Nehru, Tagore and R.S. Avasthi praised USSR. But by 1950s, it was clear that the USSR lacked true democracy and freedom despite its development.

- Socialism spread from Europe to Russia
- The Russian Revolution (1917) overthrew monarchy
- Bolsheviks established the world's first socialist state
- USSR saw both economic growth and political repression
- The Revolution had global impact but also criticism