

COMMUNISM

What is communism:

Simply put, communism is the idea that everyone in a given society receives equal shares of the benefits derived from labor. Communism is designed to allow the poor to rise up and attain financial and social status equal to that of the middle-class landowners. In order for everyone to achieve equality, wealth is redistributed so that the members of the upper class are brought down to the same financial and social level as the middle class. Communism also requires that all means of production be controlled by the state.

Why communism failed:

Many things led to the fall of communism in Russia. Any government that systematically oppresses its citizens into submission and obedience will eventually see a backlash against the ruling regime. This is what the leaders in the U.S.S.R. faced which caused the people voting their Communist government out of existence in 1991. This occurred because promises to the people from the Communist government to supply all their need so that they would live comfortably did not come to fruition. The masses became restless and demanded change.



PEOPLE WHO PLAYED A BIG ROLE



Vladimir Lenin - Bolshevik Party (Leader), first leader of the Soviet Union. Spent time in exile in Europe, followed Marxism, which led him to believe that Communism could spread through a communist revolution in Russia. When he returned to Russia, he orchestrated the October Revolution, and consequently turned Russia into a communist state.



JOSEPH STALIN - A BOLSHEVIK LEADER WHO GOT VLADIMIR LENIN'S ATTENTION DURING THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION, AND WAS AWARDED A GOVERNMENT POSITION AS COMMISSAR OF NATIONALITIES. SINCE STALIN WAS FROM GEORGIA, NOT FROM RUSSIA, HE FELT AS THOUGH HE COULD BE AN AMBASSADOR OF SORTS. AS HE GOT MORE POWER, STALIN WAS THE ONE TO SUCCEED LENIN AS THE LEADER OF THE SOVIET UNION.



Leon Trotsky

BOLSHEVIK LEADER, PROMINENT FIGURE DURING THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION, WAS IN EXILE DURING THE FEBRUARY REVOLUTION. WHEN HE RETURNED, HE GOT CLOSER TO LENIN AND JOINED THE BOLSHEVIK PARTY THAT SUMMER. HE WAS APPOINTED COMMISSAR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NEGOTIATED THE PEACE TREATY WITH AUSTRIA AND GERMANY WHICH ALLOWED FOR RUSSIA'S ESCAPE DURING WW1

CAUSES OF REVOLUTION



REASON

The 1905 revolution was spurred by the Russian defeat in the Russo-Japanese War, which ended in the same year, industrial revolution had begun in Russia which brought men, women and children to factories. European countries had adopted democratic system of government while Russia was still under autocratic rule of Tsars. Workers had no political rights and were dominated by ideas of socialism and wanted change so unless Russia was going to change a revolution was inevitable.

TIMELINE

- 1916 - Rasputin is murdered
- 1917 - February Revolution
 - Lenin Returns from exile
 - June offensive
 - Failed Kornilov coup
 - October Revolution
- 1918 - Brest-Litovsk treaty (Russia ends participation in WWI)
 - Tsar Nicholas II is executed
 - Assassination attempt on Lenin
- 1920 - More communist parties start around the world
 - Red army invades
- 1922 - Creation of the soviet union



RUSSIAN REVOLUTION IN A POOR MANS EYE

Most of Russia's peasants took quiet and measured action, although it probably did not feel that way for those whose property was redistributed. Some peasants engaged in discrete revolt by simply opening a gate and allowing the village livestock to graze on a person's land.



THE STORY OF A RICH ROYALIST

DIARY ENTRY

Dear diary,
I cannot believe that the poor would like more rights and have a better quality of life. For starters we feed them once every odd month and in my opinion they are just ungrateful. I know Sam (diaries name) they really are spoilt and still complain and the worst part is with who they are trying to replace us with. This communist party. Apparently us rich people will need to give all our money and land to the government and live like some peasants. To be honest I am planning to take all my money and run because how things are going it looks like I will only be eating bread very soon.

