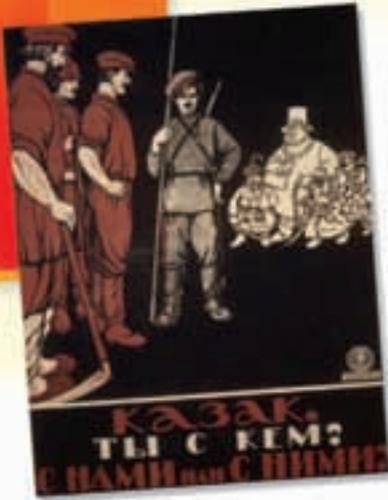


5



A pin showing the Soviet hammer and sickle (left). A propaganda poster asks Russians to choose sides in the Russian Civil War (right).

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

Voices From the Front

“Mr. War Minister!

We, soldiers from various regiments, . . . ask you to end the war and its bloodshed at any cost. . . . If this is not done, then believe us when we say that we will take our weapons and head out for our own hearths to save our fathers, mothers, wives, and children from death by starvation (which is nigh). And if we cannot save them, then we’d rather die with them in our native lands than be killed, poisoned, or frozen to death somewhere and cast into the earth like a dog.”

—Letter from the front, 1917

The voices from the front joined voices at home, calling for change in Russia.

Focus Question How did two revolutions and a civil war bring about Communist control of Russia?

5

Step-by-Step Instruction

SECTION

Objectives

As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.

- Explain the causes of the March Revolution.
- Describe the goals of Lenin and the Bolsheviks in the November Revolution.
- Outline how the Communists defeated their opponents in Russia’s civil war.
- Analyze how the Communist state developed under Lenin.

Revolution and Civil War in Russia

Objectives

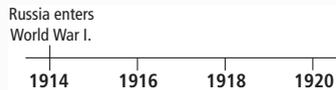
- Explain the causes of the March Revolution.
- Describe the goals of Lenin and the Bolsheviks in the November Revolution.
- Outline how the Communists defeated their opponents in Russia’s civil war.
- Analyze how the Communist state developed under Lenin.

Terms, People, and Places

proletariat Cheka
soviet commissar

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Summarize Copy the timeline below and fill it in as you read this section. When you finish, write two sentences that summarize the information in your timeline.



The year 1913 marked the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. Everywhere, Russians honored the tsar and his family. Tsarina Alexandra felt confident that the people loved Nicholas too much to ever threaten him. “They are constantly frightening the emperor with threats of revolution,” she told a friend, “and here,—you see it yourself—we need merely to show ourselves and at once their hearts are ours.”

Appearances were deceiving. In March 1917, the first of two revolutions would topple the Romanov dynasty and pave the way for even more radical changes.

The March Revolution Ends Tsarism

In 1914, the huge Russian empire stretched from Eastern Europe east to the Pacific Ocean. Unlike Western Europe, Russia was slow to industrialize despite its huge potential. Landowning nobles, priests, and an autocratic tsar controlled the government and economy. Much of the majority peasant population endured stark poverty. As Russia began to industrialize, a small middle class and an urban working class emerged.

Unrest Deepens After the Revolution of 1905, Nicholas had failed to solve Russia’s basic political, economic, and social problems. The elected Duma set up after the revolution had no real power. Moderates pressed for a constitution and social change. But Nicholas II, a weak and ineffective leader, blocked attempts to limit his authority. Like past tsars, he relied on his secret police

Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge

Ask students to recall that Russia withdrew from World War I because of a revolution at home. Remind them that people had pressed for reform earlier, in 1905. Ask them to predict what caused the move toward revolution in 1917.

Set a Purpose

■ **WITNESS HISTORY** Read the selection aloud or play the audio.

 **Witness History Audio CD, Voices From the Front**

Ask **How does the writer of the letter feel about the war?** (*He does not believe in it.*) **How have conditions at home affected his opinion?** (*His family’s imminent starvation makes him want to help them instead of fighting.*)

■ **Focus** Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (*Answer appears with Section 5 Assessment answers.*)

■ **Preview** Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

■ **Note Taking** Have students read this section using the Paragraph Shrinking strategy (TE, p. T20). As they read, have students fill in the timeline summarizing events in Russia.

 **Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 241**

Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use words from this section.

 **Teaching Resources, Unit 6, p. 7; Teaching Resources, Skills Handbook, p. 3**

High-Use Word

Definition and Sample Sentence

crucial, p. 840

adj. of vital importance
I didn’t hear the **crucial** information, so I couldn’t answer the question.

withdrawal, p. 843

n. the act of leaving
The **withdrawal** of the opposing candidate ensured that Mr. Ravek won the race.

Teach

The March Revolution Ends Tsarism

L3

Instruct

■ Introduce: Vocabulary Builder

Have students read the Vocabulary Builder term and definition. Ask them to predict how Russian soldiers felt about fighting without **crucial** equipment.

■ **Teach** Draw a flowchart with three boxes on the board. Label the boxes Problems Before the War, Impact of the War, and The End of Tsarist Rule. Have students take turns coming to the board to note information from this subsection in the chart.

■ **Quick Activity** Divide students into groups. Ask each group to create a list of problems that the provisional government faced after the tsar stepped down. Then, using the Think-Write-Pair-Share strategy (TE, p. T23), have students share their answers. Tell students to read further to see how the provisional government did or did not deal with these problems.

Independent Practice

Have students study the images on this page, and then reread the first paragraph under the section title again. Ask students to write a paragraph explaining why Tsarina Alexandra might have believed that the people would never revolt against the tsar.

Monitor Progress

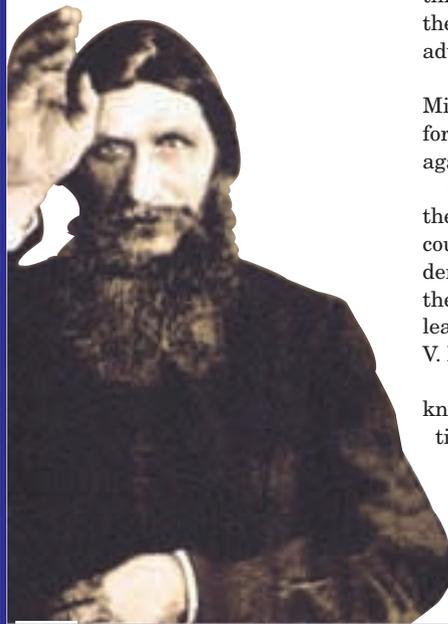
As students write their paragraphs, check that they understand that although the tsar and his family were showered with celebrations, they had little contact with the Russian people themselves, and so did not understand their discontent.

Vocabulary Builder

crucial—(KROO shul) *adj.* of vital importance

The Tsar's Downfall

Tsarina Alexandra's reliance on the "mad monk" Gregory Rasputin (below left) to help her govern proved fatal for Rasputin, and ultimately for Alexandra. A lavish Fabergé egg (below right) details three centuries of Romanov tsars. *How do both images show the gulf between Russia's rulers and its people?*



and other enforcers to impose his will. A corrupt bureaucracy and an overburdened court system added to the government's problems.

Revolutionaries hatched radical plots. Some hoped to lead discontented peasants to overthrow the tsarist regime. Marxists tried to ignite revolution among the **proletariat**—the growing class of factory and railroad workers, miners, and urban wage earners. A revolution, they believed, would occur when the time was ripe.

Impact of World War I The outbreak of war in 1914 fueled national pride and united Russians. Armies dashed to battle with enthusiasm. But like the Crimean and Russo-Japanese wars, World War I quickly strained Russian resources. Factories could not turn out enough supplies. The transportation system broke down, delivering only a trickle of **crucial** materials to the front. By 1915, many soldiers had no rifles and no ammunition. Badly equipped and poorly led, they died in staggering numbers. In 1915 alone, Russian casualties reached two million.

In a patriotic gesture, Nicholas II went to the front to take personal charge. The decision proved a disastrous blunder. The tsar was no more competent than many of his generals. Worse, he left domestic affairs to the tsarina, Alexandra. In Nicholas' absence, Alexandra relied on the advice of Gregory Rasputin, an illiterate peasant and self-proclaimed "holy man." The tsarina came to believe that Rasputin had miraculous powers after he helped her son, who suffered from hemophilia, a disorder in which any injury can result in uncontrollable bleeding.

By 1916, Rasputin's influence over Alexandra had reached new heights and weakened confidence in the government. Fearing for the monarchy, a group of Russian nobles killed Rasputin on December 29, 1916.

The Tsar Steps Down By March 1917, disasters on the battlefield, combined with food and fuel shortages on the home front, brought the monarchy to collapse. In St. Petersburg (renamed Petrograd during the war), workers were going on strike. Marchers, mostly women, surged through the streets, shouting, "Bread! Bread!" Troops refused to fire on the demonstrators, leaving the government helpless. Finally, on the advice of military and political leaders, the tsar abdicated.

Duma politicians then set up a provisional, or temporary, government. Middle-class liberals in the government began preparing a constitution for a new Russian republic. At the same time, they continued the war against Germany.

Outside the provisional government, revolutionary socialists plotted their own course. In Petrograd and other cities, they set up **soviets**, or councils of workers and soldiers. At first, the soviets worked democratically within the government. Before long, though, the Bolsheviks, a radical socialist group, took charge. The leader of the Bolsheviks was a determined revolutionary, V. I. Lenin.

The revolutions of March and November 1917 are known to Russians as the February and October revolutions. In 1917, Russia still used an old calendar, which was 13 days behind the one used in Western Europe.

Russia adopted the Western calendar in 1918.

✓ **Checkpoint** What provoked the March Revolution?



Answers

Caption The image of Rasputin shows that Tsarina Alexandra was out of touch with reality, while the Fabergé egg represents a detached royal family with no connection to their subjects.

✓ defeats on the front, shortages at home, and poor decisions by the tsar and government leaders

Differentiated

Instruction Solutions for All Learners

L4 Advanced Readers L4 Gifted and Talented Students

Remind students that World War I strained Russia's resources. The army suffered defeats, mass desertion, and violent rebellion. Ask students to assume the role of a newspaper reporter accompanying the Russian troops. Have them research and write an article describing how and why Russian troops turned against their officers and the tsar to become the

troops of the Russian Revolution. Advise them to research and address such factors as socio-economic conditions, Bolshevik propaganda, conditions at the front, and the relations between the troops and their officers.

Lenin and the Bolsheviks

Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (ool YAHN uh) was born in 1870 to a middle-class family. He adopted the name Lenin when he became a revolutionary. When he was 17, his older brother was arrested and hanged for plotting to kill the tsar. The execution branded his family as a threat to the state and made the young Vladimir hate the tsarist government.

A Brilliant Revolutionary As a young man, Lenin read the works of Karl Marx and participated in student demonstrations. He spread Marxist ideas among factory workers along with other socialists, including Nadezhda Krupskaya (nah DYEZ duh kroop SKY uh), the daughter of a poor noble family. In 1895, Lenin and Krupskaya were arrested and sent to Siberia. During their imprisonment, they were married. After their release, they went into exile in Switzerland. There they worked tirelessly to spread revolutionary ideas.

Lenin's View of Marx Lenin adapted Marxist ideas to fit Russian conditions. Marx had predicted that the industrial working class would rise spontaneously to overthrow capitalism. But Russia did not have a large urban proletariat. Instead, Lenin called for an elite group to lead the revolution and set up a "dictatorship of the proletariat." Though this elite revolutionary party represented a small percentage of socialists, Lenin gave them the name Bolsheviks, meaning "majority."

In Western Europe, many leading socialists had come to think that socialism could be achieved through gradual and moderate reforms such as higher wages, increased suffrage, and social welfare programs. A group of socialists in Russia, the Mensheviks, favored this approach. The Bolsheviks rejected it. To Lenin, reforms of this nature were merely capitalist tricks to repress the masses. Only revolution, he said, could bring about needed changes.

In March 1917, Lenin was still in exile. As Russia stumbled into revolution, Germany saw a chance to weaken its enemy by helping Lenin return home. Lenin rushed across Germany to the Russian frontier in a special train. He greeted a crowd of fellow exiles and activists with this cry: "Long live the worldwide Socialist revolution!"

 **Checkpoint** Why did Germany want Lenin to return to Russia in 1917?

The November Revolution Brings the Bolsheviks to Power

Lenin threw himself into the work of furthering the revolution. Another dynamic Marxist revolutionary, Leon Trotsky, helped lead the fight. To the hungry, war-weary Russian people, Lenin and the Bolsheviks promised "Peace, Land, and Bread."

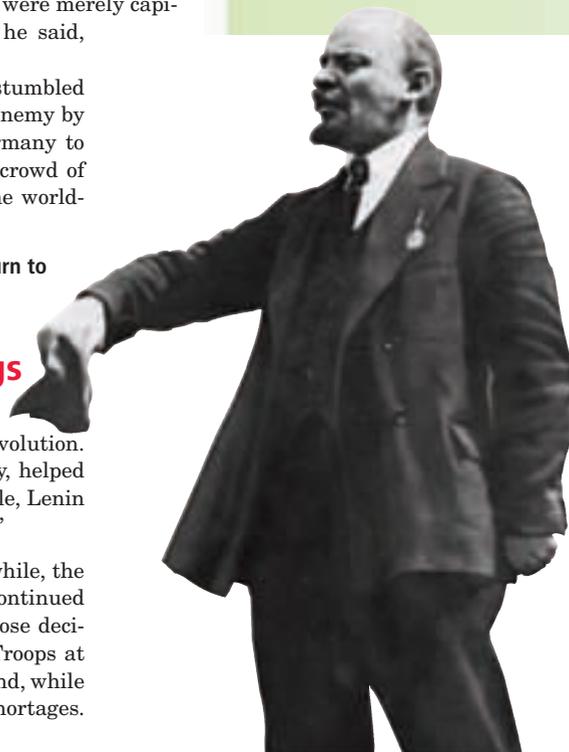
The Provisional Government's Mistakes Meanwhile, the provisional government, led by Alexander Kerensky, continued the war effort and failed to deal with land reform. Those decisions proved fatal. Most Russians were tired of war. Troops at the front were deserting in droves. Peasants wanted land, while city workers demanded an end to the desperate shortages.

BIOGRAPHY

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

Lenin (1870–1924) was the son of a teacher and his wife who lived in a little town on the Volga River. Vladimir lived with his parents and five siblings in a rented wing of a large house. By all accounts it was a happy home. Vladimir excelled at school and looked up to his older brother Alexander. But when Vladimir was 16, his father died. When he was 17, his beloved brother Alexander was hanged for plotting to kill the tsar.

Still reeling from the death of his brother, Vladimir enrolled at Kazan University. There he met other discontented young people. They united to protest the lack of student freedom in the university. Within three months, Vladimir was expelled for his part in the demonstrations. **How do you think Lenin's early life affected his later political ideas?**



Lenin and the Bolsheviks

L3

Instruct

- **Introduce: Key Term** Review the definition of the key term *proletariat*. Remind students that Karl Marx's theories called for the proletariat to rise up and overthrow the bourgeoisie, creating a classless society where wealth and power would be shared equally among all people.
- **Teach** Ask students to briefly describe Lenin's life, after reading the text and the Biography on this page. Then ask **How did Lenin adapt Marx's theories to fit the Russian situation?** (*Although Russia lacked a large urban proletariat, Lenin started a movement that would form a "dictatorship of the proletariat" instead.*)
- **Quick Activity** Organize a debate on whether Lenin's adaptation of Marxism remained true to the spirit of Marxism.

Independent Practice

Have students suppose they are living in Russia in 1917. Ask them to write a diary entry either supporting or opposing Lenin's ideas. Entries should clearly explain how Lenin's ideas would help or harm Russia.

Monitor Progress

As students fill in their timelines, circulate to make sure they understand the sequence of events. For a completed version of the timeline, see

 **Note Taking Transparencies, 173**

History Background

A Hard Man to Kill The death of Gregory Rasputin was perhaps even more bizarre than his strange life. Nobles feared his influence in the court. To get rid of him, in December 1916, a group of nobles lured Rasputin to the palace of Prince Felix Yusupov, where they served him poisoned cakes and wine. Rasputin was not affected. Next, Yusupov shot him through the chest with a revolver. Rasputin fell, but when the

conspirators examined the body, Rasputin got to his feet and began to attack Yusupov.

Then Rasputin attempted to escape. He ran outside, but was shot again. The conspirators then clubbed him unconscious. After flinging Rasputin into the icy Neva River, they watched him sink. Later, the body of Rasputin—poisoned, shot, and badly beaten—was recovered from the river and autopsied. The cause of death? Drowning.

Answers

BIOGRAPHY Sample: The execution of his brother caused Lenin to question and reject the tsarist government.

- ✓ Germany hoped that Lenin would stir up trouble in Russia and disrupt Russia's war effort, which he did.

The November Revolution Brings the Bolsheviks to Power

L3

Instruct

- **Introduce** Ask students to read the introductory sentences and the three black headings under The November Revolution Brings the Bolsheviks to Power. Have students predict what they will learn under each heading. Then have them read to find out whether their predictions were accurate.
- **Teach** Using the Idea Wave strategy (TE, p. T22), have students discuss the changes in government. Ask **What mistakes did the provisional government make?** (*It continued the war against public opinion and failed to resolve land disputes.*) **How did the Bolsheviks come to power?** (*The Russian people started to revolt. The Bolsheviks, promising peace, land, and bread, took over Petrograd and Moscow, ousting the provisional government almost bloodlessly.*) **What changes did the Bolsheviks make immediately?** (*They ended private ownership of land, gave land to peasants to use, and gave workers control of factories and mines.*)
- **Analyzing the Visuals** Draw students' attention to the Infographic on this page. Ask students to discuss how the events of World War I influenced events in Russia.

Independent Practice

Ask students to write a paragraph explaining why Lenin's promise of "Peace, Land, and Bread" was appealing to the Russian people.

Monitor Progress

Read aloud the black headings in this subsection and ask students to summarize the content under each.

In July 1917, the government launched the disastrous Kerensky offensive against Germany. By November, according to one official report, the army was "a huge crowd of tired, poorly clad, poorly fed, embittered men." Growing numbers of troops mutinied. Peasants seized land and drove off fearful landlords.

The Bolshevik Takeover Conditions were ripe for the Bolsheviks to make their move. In November 1917, squads of Red Guards—armed factory workers—joined mutinous sailors from the Russian fleet in attacking the provisional government. In just a matter of days, Lenin's forces overthrew the provisional government without a struggle.

The Bolsheviks quickly seized power in other cities. In Moscow, it took a week of fighting to blast the local government out of the walled Kremlin, the former tsarist center of government. Moscow became the Bolsheviks' capital, and the Kremlin their headquarters.

"We shall now occupy ourselves in Russia in building up a proletarian socialist state," declared Lenin. The Bolsheviks ended private ownership of land and distributed land to peasants. Workers were given control of the factories and mines. A new red flag with an entwined hammer and sickle symbolized union between workers and peasants. Throughout the land, millions thought they had at last gained control over their own lives. In fact, the Bolsheviks—renamed Communists—would soon become their new masters.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** How were the Bolsheviks able to seize power from the provisional government?

INFOGRAPHIC

1914
July
Russia enters World War I.
August
Germans defeat Russians at the Battle of Tannenberg.

1915
June–September
Russians retreat from German-Austrian offensive.

1917
March
The March Revolution forces Tsar Nicholas to abdicate. The Duma sets up a provisional government.
April
Lenin returns to Russia to instigate revolution. ▶
November
The provisional government fails to end the war and resolve internal problems. The November Revolution brings Bolsheviks to power.

Tsar Nicholas II (left), preoccupied by war, neglected unrest at home. Revolts erupted in March 1917 in response to poor leadership and equipment on the front and lack of food at home. ▶

Differentiated

Instruction Solutions for All Learners

- L1 Special Needs
- L2 Less Proficient Readers
- L2 English Language Learners

Have students scan the headings and visuals in the section. Then create two columns on the board, for Tsarist rule and Communist rule. Have students volunteer information about the problems under each government, its motives, and its actions during this period. Then ask students to use this chart to compare life in Russia before and after the revolutions.

Use the following study guide resources to help students acquiring basic skills:

Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide

- Adapted Note Taking Study Guide, p. 241
- Adapted Section Summary, p. 242

Answer

- ✓ The soldiers, workers and peasants did not support the provisional government because the provisional government continued the war and did not address land reform.

Russia Plunges Into Civil War

After the Bolshevik Revolution, Lenin quickly sought peace with Germany. Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918, giving up a huge chunk of its territory and its population. The cost of peace was extremely high, but the Communist leaders knew that they needed all their energy to defeat a collection of enemies at home. Russia's withdrawal affected the hopes of both the Allies and the Central Powers, as you read in Section 3.

Opposing Forces For three years, civil war raged between the “Reds,” as the Communists were known, and the counterrevolutionary “Whites.” The “White” armies were made up of tsarist imperial officers, Mensheviks, democrats, and others, all of whom were united only by their desire to defeat the Bolsheviks. Nationalist groups from many of the former empire's non-Russian regions joined them in their fight. Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania broke free, but nationalists in Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Central Asia were eventually subdued.

The Allies intervened in the civil war. They hoped that the Whites might overthrow the Communists and support the fight against Germany. Britain, France, and the United States sent forces to help the Whites. Japan seized land in East Asia that tsarist Russia had once claimed. The Allied presence, however, did little to help the Whites. The Reds appealed to nationalism and urged Russians to drive out the foreigners. In the long run, the Allied invasion fed Communist distrust of the West.

Vocabulary Builder

withdrawal—(with DRAW ul) *n.* the act of leaving



▲ The victorious Reds' symbol of worker and farmer unity—the hammer and sickle—comes to represent the new regime.

1918

March
Bolsheviks sign Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

June–July
Civil war erupts between the Reds (Bolsheviks) and the Whites; the Reds execute the tsar and his family.

November
Allies sign armistice with Germany.

1920
November
Communist (Red) government wins civil war, after years of bloody fighting.

Thinking Critically

- 1. Identify Central Issues** Describe Russia's performance in World War I.
- 2. Draw Conclusions** How did involvement in World War I affect events within Russia?

Russia Plunges Into Civil War

L3

Instruct

■ **Introduce** Display **Color Transparency 161: Russia Before and After the Revolution 1914 and 1921**. Point out the borders of the Russian Empire before World War I and in 1921. Then point out the line of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Ask **How did Russia's territory change from 1914 to 1921?** (*Russia lost control of the Baltic States, Finland, and Poland.*) Point out that Russia did not lose as much territory as it would have if the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk had stood. Ask students to consider how Russians may have felt about losing so much territory.

 **Color Transparencies, 161**

■ **Teach** Ask **Who were the Reds?** (*the Communists*) **the Whites?** (*a collection of groups who opposed the Reds*) **How did the Reds motivate the Russian people to support them?** (*by force and terror*)

■ **Quick Activity** Show students *The Fall of the Tsar* from the **Witness History Discovery School™** video program. After watching the video, point out that the Bolsheviks murdered the tsar and his family in captivity. Ask them to explain why the Bolsheviks thought the tsar was dangerous. (*He served as a symbol of the old form of government; conservative Whites might have tried to bring him back to power.*)

Independent Practice

Have students review Lenin's promises of “Peace, Land, and Bread.” Then have them write a paragraph explaining whether Lenin delivered on these promises by 1921.

Monitor Progress

As students work on their paragraphs, circulate to ensure their answers include examples from the text and show an understanding of Lenin's actions.

Answers

Thinking Critically

1. Russia performed poorly in the war; it was defeated by the Germans and continually retreated until it eventually withdrew in 1917.
2. Economic conditions got worse, and leaders were preoccupied with matters abroad. Revolutionaries were able to take advantage of the widespread unhappiness and bring about the overthrow of the provisional government.



Link to Geography

A Land of Many Nations Geography had long favored the growth of the Russian empire. The vast land stretching from Moscow had few natural obstacles to halt the advance of the Russian armies. For nearly four centuries, the empire grew steadily. This growth was a mixed blessing, however. In 1897, a census revealed that the Russians were a minority in their own empire. More than half the people under

tsarist rule were not Russians. The population included Poles, Finns, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Turkic peoples, and other groups.

Nationalism led to the rise of new political parties among the peoples. In addition to social and economic reform, the parties' leaders hoped for some degree of self-rule. Radicals dreamed of independent nations, which contributed to unrest in the Russian empire.

Building the Communist Soviet Union

L3

Instruct

- **Introduce** Ask students to recall that the Bolsheviks were an elite party representing just a small percentage of socialists. Based on their reading, ask students to predict how the new government set up by the Bolsheviks will operate after the end of the civil war.
- **Teach** Work with students to find evidence in the text to support the following generalizations: (1) In some ways, the Soviet Union remained similar to the old Russian empire. (2) Lenin retreated from pure communism. Write the evidence on the board.
- **Analyzing the Visuals** Have students look at the photograph on the next page. Ask them to describe the scene. Then ask **How did Lenin's New Economic Policy address some of the devastation caused by years of warfare?** (*It allowed for some people to develop economically and survive independent of government assistance.*)

Independent Practice

Have students work in groups to write one generalization of their own about the Soviet Union during this period.

Monitor Progress

Check the Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding. Check answers to map skills questions.

Answer

- ✓ The Reds used foreign intervention as a rallying point, supplied their troops by taking crops from peasants, trained the Red Army using terror tactics, and controlled the center of Russia.

WITNESS HISTORY VIDEO

Watch *The Fall of the Tsar* on the Witness History Discovery School™ video program to learn more about the end of the tsarist rule in Russia.



Brutality was common in the civil war. Counterrevolutionary forces slaughtered captured Communists and tried to assassinate Lenin. The Communists shot the former tsar and tsarina and their five children in July 1918 to keep them from becoming a rallying symbol for counterrevolutionary forces.

War Under Communism The Communists used terror not only against the Whites, but also to control their own people. They organized the **Cheka**, a secret police force much like the tsar's. The Cheka executed ordinary citizens, even if they were only suspected of taking action against the revolution. The Communists also set up a network of forced-labor camps in 1919—which grew under Stalin into the dreaded Gulag.

The Communists adopted a policy known as “war communism.” They took over banks, mines, factories, and railroads. Peasants in the countryside were forced to deliver almost all of their crops to feed the army and hungry people in the cities. Peasant laborers were drafted into the military or forced to work in factories.

Meanwhile, Trotsky turned the Red Army into an effective fighting force. He used former tsarist officers under the close watch of **commissars**, Communist party officials assigned to the army to teach party principles and ensure party loyalty. Trotsky's passionate speeches roused soldiers to fight. So did the order to shoot every tenth man if a unit performed poorly.

The Reds' position in the center of Russia gave them a strategic advantage. The White armies were forced to attack separately from all sides. They were never able to cooperate effectively with one another. By 1921, the Communists had managed to defeat their scattered foes.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** How did the Red army defeat the White army to end the civil war?

Building the Communist Soviet Union

Russia was in chaos. Millions of people had died since the beginning of World War I. Millions more perished from famine and disease. Lenin faced the enormous problem of rebuilding a shattered state and economy.

New Government, Same Problems In 1922, Lenin's Communist government united much of the old Russian empire into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or Soviet Union. The Communists produced a constitution that seemed both democratic and socialist. It set up an elected legislature, later called the Supreme Soviet, and gave all citizens over 18 the right to vote. All political power, resources, and means of production would belong to workers and peasants. The Soviet Union was a multinational state made up of European and Asian peoples. In theory, all the member republics shared certain equal rights.

Reality, however, differed greatly from theory. The Communist party, not the people, reigned supreme. Just as the Russian tsars had, the party used the army and secret police to enforce its will. Russia, which was the largest republic, dominated the other republics.

Lenin's New Economic Policy On the economic front, Lenin retreated from his policy of “war communism,” which had brought the economy to near collapse. Under party control, factory and mine output had fallen. Peasants stopped producing grain, knowing the government would only seize it.

Differentiated

Instruction

Solutions for All Learners

L1 Special Needs

To help students master vocabulary, have them make a list of this section's Vocabulary Builder terms and Key Terms and People. Encourage students to include in the list additional terms that may be new to them, such as *authority*, *bureaucracy*, *provisional*, and *imperial*. Then, have them create flashcards with the

L2 Less Proficient Readers

L2 English Language Learners

term on one side and its definition (or, in the case of Key People, a one-sentence identifying statement) on the other. For English Language Learners, you may wish to have students add explanations in their first language to go with the flashcards. Pair students and have them quiz each other, using the flashcards.

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress

L3

- Have students complete the Section Assessment.
- Administer the Section Quiz.

All in One Teaching Resources, Unit 6, p. 6

- To further assess student understanding, use  **Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 112**

Reteach

If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.

 **Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 242**

L3

 **Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide p. 242**

L1

L2

 **Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide p. 242**

L2

Extend

L4

Assign half the class the American Revolution and the other half the Russian Revolution. Have each group research the ideology behind their revolution, the manner in which it was carried out, and its legacies. Then, have each group present its research.

Answer

- ✓ In the government Lenin set up, the Communist Party, not the people, controlled the government. The economy under the NEP allowed some capitalist ventures.

In 1921, Lenin adopted the New Economic Policy, or NEP. It allowed some capitalist ventures. Although the state kept control of banks, foreign trade, and large industries, small businesses were allowed to reopen for private profit. The government also stopped squeezing peasants for grain. Under the NEP, peasants held on to small plots of land and freely sold their surplus crops.

Lenin's compromise with capitalism helped the Soviet economy recover and ended armed resistance to the new government. By 1928, food and industrial production climbed back to prewar levels. The standard of living improved, too. But Lenin always saw the NEP as just a temporary retreat from communism. His successor would soon return the Soviet Union to "pure" communism.

Stalin Takes Over Lenin died in 1924 at the age of 54. His death set off a power struggle among Communist leaders. The chief contenders were Trotsky and Joseph Stalin. Trotsky was a brilliant Marxist thinker, a skillful speaker, and an architect of the Bolshevik Revolution. Stalin, by contrast, was neither a scholar nor an orator. He was, however, a shrewd political operator and behind-the-scenes organizer. Trotsky and Stalin differed on the future of communism. Trotsky urged support for a worldwide revolution against capitalism. Stalin, more cautious, wanted to concentrate on building socialism at home first.

Eventually, Stalin isolated Trotsky within the party and stripped him of party membership. Trotsky fled the country in 1929, but continued to criticize Stalin. In 1940, a Stalinist agent murdered Trotsky in Mexico.

In 1922, Lenin had expressed grave doubts about Stalin's ambitious nature: "Comrade Stalin . . . has concentrated an enormous power in his hands; and I am not sure that he always knows how to use that power with sufficient caution." Just as Lenin had warned, in the years that followed, Stalin used ruthless measures to win dictatorial power.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** How did the government and the economy under Lenin differ from "pure" communism?



Famine in Russia

Years of war took its toll on Russian people, like these starving families in the Volga region. An American journalist, accompanying an international relief team in Russia, described the horrible desolation. In village after village, he noted, "no one stirred from the little wooden house. . . where Russian families were hibernating and waiting for death."

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Writing About History

Quick Write: Clarify Cause-and-Effect Transitions Writing clear transitions can help strengthen your points in a cause-and-effect essay. Connecting words like *since*, *as soon as*, *because* and *until* introduce causes. *Therefore*, *consequently*, *as a result*, and *then* introduce effects. Rewrite the sentence below to include a clear transition.

- Tsar Nicholas' government collapsed. He did not solve key problems.

5 Assessment

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Summarize** Use your completed timeline to answer the Focus Question: How did two revolutions and a civil war bring about Communist control of Russia?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Draw Conclusions** What were the causes of the March Revolution?
4. **Recognize Ideologies** How did Lenin adapt Marxism to conditions in Russia?
5. **Recognize Cause and Effect** What were the causes and effects of the civil war in Russia?
6. **Recognize Effects** Why did Lenin compromise between the ideas of capitalism and communism in creating the NEP?

Section 5 Assessment

1. Sentences should reflect an understanding of each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section.
2. The first revolution toppled tsar rule and put a provisional government in place. The provisional government had little support, allowing it to be deposed by the Bolsheviks in the second revolution. After a civil war, the Bolsheviks finally drove

- their opponents out, and set up a Communist government and economy.
3. Russia's massive defeats in World War I, food and fuel shortages, and low confidence in the government
4. He called for an elite group to lead the revolution and set up a "dictatorship of the proletariat."
5. causes: resistance to Bolshevik rule, nationalist groups attempt to break away, Allies' desire to keep Russia in the war;

- effects: foreign intervention, loss of territory, country in chaos
6. to boost the economy, which war communism had brought to a near collapse

Writing About History

Students should rewrite the sentences using appropriate cause-and-effect transitions.

For additional assessment, have students access **Progress Monitoring Online** at **Web Code naa-2651**.