

WHAT CHANGED  
AFTER  
OCTOBER?

- **The Bolsheviks** were totally opposed to private property
- Most industries and banks were nationalised in November 1917
- Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility
- In cities Bolsheviks enforced the partition of large houses according to family requirements
- They banned the use of the old titles of Aristocracy
- To assert the change new uniforms were designed for the army and the officials
- The Bolshevik party was renamed the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik)
- In November 1917 the Bolsheviks conducted the election to the constituent assembly but failed to gain majority.
- In January 1918 the Assembly rejected Bolshevik measures and Lenin dismissed the Assembly
- He thought that the All Russian Congress was more democratic than an assembly elected under uncertain conditions.

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- In March 1918 despite opposition by the political allies the Bolsheviks made peace with Germany at Brest Litovsk
- In the years that followed, the Bolsheviks became the only party to participate in the elections to the All Russian Congress of Soviets, which became the parliament of the country.
- **Russia became a one party state.**
  - Trade unions were kept under party control.
  - The secret police (called the Cheka first and later OGPU and NKVD) punished those who criticized the Bolsheviks.
  - Many young writers and artists rallied to the party because it stood for socialism and for change.
  - After October 1917 this led to experiments in art and architecture.
  - But many became disillusioned because of the censorship the party encouraged.

# THE CIVIL WAR

- Not everyone was happy with the new communist government and allies wanted Russia back in the war.
- When Bolsheviks ordered land redistribution, the Russian army began to break up.
- Non Bolshevik socialists, liberals and supporters of autocracy condemned the Bolshevik uprising
- Their leaders moved to south Russia and organised troops to fight the Bolsheviks (The Reds).
- During 1918 and 1919 **the ‘greens’ (Socialist Revolutionaries) and ‘whites’ (Pro Tsarists)** controlled most of the Russian empire.
- They were backed by French, American, British and Japanese troops, who were worried at the growth of socialism in Russia.
- These troops and the Bolsheviks fought a civil war.

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- Supporters of private property among whites took harsh steps with peasants who had seized the land.
- These led to loss of popular support for the non Bolsheviks.
- By January 1920, the Bolsheviks controlled most of the former Russian empire.
- They succeeded due to cooperation with non Russian nationalities and Muslim Jadidists.
- Most non Russian nationalities were given political autonomy in the Soviet Union (USSR) – the state the Bolsheviks created from the Russian empire in 1922.

# Civil War

*Russia's October Revolution of **1917** produced a civil war between the Bolshevik government (Reds) – who had just seized power - and a number of rebel armies (Whites). This civil war is often said to have started in 1918, but bitter fighting began in 1917.*

*Although most of the war was over by 1920, it took until **1922** for the Bolsheviks, who held the industrial heartland of Russia from the start, to crush all opposition.*

# MAKING A SOCIALIST SOCIETY

- A process of centralised planning was introduced.
- Officials assessed how the economy could work and set targets for a five year period.
- On this basis they made the Five Year Plans.
- The government fixed all the prices to promote industrial growth during the first two 'Plans'( 1927 -32 and 1933 – 38).
- Centralised planning led to economic growth.
- New factories came into being and industrial production increased.

## *IMPACTS OF SOCIALISM ON RUSSIA*

- Workers lived hard lives and resulted in stoppage of works often.
- In living quarters, in extreme winter time, people had to climb down from the fourth floor and dash across the streets even to meet their primary needs.
- Rapid construction led to poor working conditions.
- Developed an extended schooling system and arrangements were made for factory workers and peasants to enter universities.
- Creches were established in factories for children of women workers.
- Cheap public health care was provided.
- Model living quarters were set up for workers. However the effect of all these was uneven due to limited government resources.



# STALINISM AND COLLECTIVISATION

- After the death of Lenin, *Stalin* headed the party.
- He introduced firm emergency measures.
- Adopted strict measures to speculation and hoarding.
- Eliminated 'kulaks (well-to-do farmers) and modernised farms to run them along industrial lines.
- Took away land from peasants and established state controlled large farms.
- From 1929, the party forced all peasants to cultivate in collective farms (kolkhoz).
- Enraged peasants resisted the authorities and destroyed their livestock.
- They were severely punished and many were deported and exiled.
- In spite of collectivisation , production did not increase immediately.



HÓRÉKÓB É. PASOTE

## Stalin's Soviet Union



## Stalin's Objectives for Collectivisation

- To increase agricultural output from large scale mechanized farms, to bring the peasantry under more direct political control.
- Make food production efficient.
- Tax collection more efficient.
- Lesser farmers needed for agricultural, the rest can work in the cities.



*Thank you!!!!!!!*

*Nancy George*

*TGT(SS)*

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