

**Chapter 1 : Third Anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Georgi Dimitrov**

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The trade unions had 2. In addition, there were numerous co-operative societies for example, apartment co-ops, shop co-ops, etc. At the European congresses of the second Socialist International, the SPD had always agreed to resolutions asking for combined action of Socialists in case of a war. After Rosa Luxemburg called for disobedience and rejection of war in the name of the entire party as a representative of the left wing of the party, the Imperial government planned to arrest the party leaders immediately at the onset of war. After Germany declared war on the Russian Empire on 1 August, the majority of the SPD newspapers shared the general enthusiasm for the war the "Spirit of", particularly because they viewed the Russian Empire as the most reactionary and anti-socialist power in Europe. In the first days of August, the editors believed themselves to be in line with the late August Bebel, who had died the previous year. In, he declared in the Reichstag that the SPD would support an armed defence of Germany against a foreign attack. In, at a party convention in Essen, he even promised that he himself would "shoulder the gun" if it was to fight against Russia, the "enemy of all culture and all the suppressed". In addition, the government of Imperial Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg threatened to outlaw all parties in case of war. There were 14 deputies, headed by the second party leader, Hugo Haase, who spoke out against the bonds, but nevertheless followed party voting instructions and raised their hands in favour. It was with those decisions by the party and the unions that the full mobilisation of the German Army became possible. Haase explained the decision against his will with the words: However, a few days later he joined the Gruppe Internationale Group International that Rosa Luxemburg had founded on 5 August with Franz Mehring, Wilhelm Pieck, and four others from the left wing of the party, which adhered to the prewar resolutions of the SPD. From that group emerged the Spartacus League Spartakusbund on 1 January. On 2 December, Liebknecht voted against further war bonds, the only deputy of any party in the Reichstag to do so. Although he was not permitted to speak in the Reichstag to explain his vote, what he had planned to say was made public through the circulation of a leaflet that was claimed to be unlawful: The present war was not willed by any of the nations participating in it and it is not waged in the interest of the Germans or any other people. It is an imperialist war, a war for capitalist control of the world market, for the political domination of huge territories and to give scope to industrial and banking capital. Because of high demand, this leaflet was soon printed and evolved into the so-called "Political Letters" German: Politische Briefe, collections of which were later published in defiance of the censorship laws under the name "Spartacus Letters" Spartakusbriefe. As of December, these were replaced by the journal Spartakus, which appeared irregularly until November. This open opposition against the party line put Liebknecht at odds with some party members around Haase who were against the war bonds themselves. In February, at the instigation of the SPD party leadership, Liebknecht was conscripted for military service to dispose of him, the only SPD deputy to be so treated. Because of his attempts to organise objectors against the war, he was expelled from the SPD, and in June, he was sentenced on a charge of high treason to four years in prison. After serving a prison sentence, she was put back in jail under "preventive detention" until the war ended. The SPD Split As the war dragged on and the death tolls rose, more SPD members began to question the adherence to the Burgfrieden the truce in domestic politics of. His replacement, Paul von Hindenburg, introduced the Hindenburg Programme by which the guidelines of German policy were de facto set by the Supreme Army Command German: Oberste Heeresleitung, not the emperor and the chancellor. Although the Emperor and Hindenburg were his nominal superiors, it was Ludendorff who made the important decisions. Hindenburg and Ludendorff persisted with ruthless strategies aimed at achieving military victory, pursued expansionist and aggressive war goals and subjugated civilian life to the needs of the war and the war economy. For the labour force, that often meant hour work days at minimal wages with inadequate food. The Hilfsdienstgesetz Auxiliary Service Law forced all men not in the armed forces to work. After the outbreak of

the Russian February Revolution in , the first organised strikes erupted in German armament factories in March and April, with about , workers going on strike. The group emerged from a network of left-wing unionists who disagreed with the support of the war that came from the union leadership. Hindenburg and Ludendorff had called for an end to the moratorium on attacks on neutral shipping in the Atlantic, which had been imposed when the Lusitania , a British ship carrying US citizens, was sunk off Ireland in . Their decision signaled a new strategy to stop the flow of US materiel to France to make a German victory or at least a peace settlement on German terms possible before the United States entered the war as a combatant. The emperor tried to appease the population in his Easter address of 7 April by promising democratic elections in Prussia after the war, but lack of progress in bringing the war to a satisfactory end dulled its effect. Opposition to the war among munitions workers continued to rise, and what had been a united front in favour of the war split into two sharply divided groups. The USPD demanded an immediate end to the war and a further democratisation of Germany but did not have a unified agenda for social policies. Both the USPD and the Spartacists continued their anti-war propaganda in factories, especially in the armament plants. Impact of the Russian Revolution Further information: Nevertheless, Russian society was severely strained by the opposing motivations of patriotism and anti-war sentiment. The German Imperial Government now saw one more chance for victory. To support the anti-war sentiment in Russia and perhaps turn the tide in Russia toward a separate peace , it permitted the leader of the Russian Bolsheviks , Vladimir Lenin , to pass in a sealed train wagon from his place of exile in Switzerland through Germany, Sweden and Finland to Petrograd. Leon Trotsky observed that the October Revolution could not have succeeded if Lenin had remained stuck in Switzerland. In early and mid-1918, many people in both Russia and Germany expected that Russia would now "return the favor" by helping to foster a communist revolution on German soil. The success of the Russian proletariat and peasantry in overthrowing their ruling classes raised fears among the German bourgeoisie that such a revolution could take place in Germany as well. Furthermore, the proletarian internationalism of Marx and Engels was still very influential in both Western Europe and Russia at the time, and Marx and Engels had predicted that for a communist revolution to succeed in Russia, there would probably need to be a Western European communist revolution earlier or at least simultaneously. Lenin had high hopes for world revolution in 1917. The moderate SPD leadership noted that a determined and well-managed group of the Bolshevik type might well try to seize power in Germany, quite possibly with Bolshevik help, and they moved their behavior towards the left as the German Revolution approached. Socialism cannot be erected on bayonets and machine guns. If it is to last, it must be realised with democratic means. Therefore of course it is a necessary prerequisite that the economic and social conditions for socializing society are ripe. If this was the case in Russia, the Bolsheviks no doubt could rely on the majority of the people. As this is not the case, they established a reign of the sword that could not have been more brutal and reckless under the disgraceful regime of the Tzar. Therefore we must draw a thick, visible dividing line between us and the Bolsheviks. For the first time during these strikes, the so-called Revolutionary Stewards took action. They were to play an important part in further developments. To weaken their influence, Ebert joined the Berlin strike leadership and achieved an early termination of the strike. The settlement arguably contained harsher terms for the Russians than the later Treaty of Versailles would demand of the Germans. Lenin and Trotsky also believed at the time that all of Europe would soon see world revolution and proletarian internationalism , and bourgeois nationalistic interests as a framework to judge the treaty would become irrelevant. With Russia knocked out of the war, the German Supreme Command could now move part of the eastern armies to the Western Front. Most Germans believed that victory in the west was now at hand. Leftist and rightist approaches to peace In spite of the optimism created by the surrender of Russia early in 1918, there could be no question that the military situation on the Western Front had become more precarious for the Germans after the United States entered the war in April 1917. In summer 1918, these three parties passed a peace resolution providing for a peace through rapprochement without annexations and payments, as opposed to a peace through victory and annexations, as the political right was demanding. Along with almost everyone else in the country, the committee still believed in victory. The Imperial German Supreme Army Command did not like this resolution, and in the negotiations from December to March with Russia, it imposed a harsh peace by victory. President Woodrow

Wilson on 8 January Wilson wanted peace on the basis of "self-determination of peoples" without victors or conquered. Hindenburg and Ludendorff rejected the offer because they believed themselves to be in a stronger position than they were before their victory over Russia. The Allied forces scored numerous successive victories in the Hundred Days Offensive between August and November that yielded huge territorial gains at the expense of Germany. The arrival of large numbers of fresh troops from the United States was a decisive factor. In mid-September, the Balkan Front collapsed. The political collapse of Austria-Hungary itself was now only a matter of days away. Ludendorff said that he could not guarantee to hold the front for another 24 hours and demanded a request to the Entente powers for an immediate ceasefire. In addition, he recommended the acceptance of the main demand of Wilson to put the Imperial Government on a democratic footing in hopes of more favourable peace terms. This enabled him to protect the reputation of the Imperial Army and put the responsibility for the capitulation and its consequences squarely at the feet of the democratic parties and the Reichstag. As he said to his staff officers on 1 October: In fact, the Imperial Government and the German Army shirked their responsibility for defeat from the very beginning and tried to place the blame for it on the new democratic government. It was just fine with me when Army and Army Command remained as guiltless as possible in these wretched truce negotiations, from which nothing good could be expected. The nationalists soon defamed the revolutionaries and even politicians like Ebert who never wanted a revolution and did everything to prevent it as "November Criminals" *Novemberversbrecher*. The prince was considered a liberal, but at the same time a representative of the royal family. In his cabinet, Social Democrats dominated. The most prominent and highest-ranking one was Philipp Scheidemann, as under-secretary without portfolio. The following day, the new government offered to the Allies the truce that Ludendorff had demanded. It was only on 5 October that the German public was informed of the dismal situation that it faced. In the general state of shock about the defeat, which now had become obvious, the constitutional changes, formally decided by the Reichstag on 28 October, went almost unnoticed. From then on, the Imperial Chancellor and his ministers depended on the confidence of the parliamentary majority. After the Supreme Command had passed from the emperor to the Imperial Government, the German Empire changed from a constitutional to a parliamentary monarchy. As far as the Social Democrats were concerned, the so-called October Constitution met all the important constitutional objectives of the party. Ebert already regarded 5 October as the birthday of German democracy since the emperor voluntarily ceded power and so he considered a revolution unnecessary. After the third note of 24 October, General Ludendorff changed his mind and declared the conditions of the Allies to be unacceptable. He now demanded the resumption of the war that he had declared lost only one month earlier. The German troops had come to expect the war to end and were anxious to return home. They were scarcely willing to fight more battles, and desertions were increasing. For the time being, the Imperial government stayed on course and replaced Ludendorff as First General Quartermaster with General Groener. Ludendorff fled with false papers to neutral Sweden. On 5 November, the Entente Powers agreed to take up negotiations for a truce, but after the third note, many soldiers and the general population believed that the emperor had to abdicate to achieve peace.

Chapter 2 : BBC Bitesize - Higher History - Causes of the Revolution - Revision 2

*The October Revolution and the trade unions [A Abolin] on theinnatdunvilla.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.*

When it finally did, around the turn of the 20th century, it brought with it immense social and political changes. Between 1890 and 1910, for example, the population of major Russian cities such as St. Petersburg and Moscow nearly doubled, resulting in overcrowding and destitute living conditions for a new class of Russian industrial workers. Large protests by Russian workers against the monarchy led to the Bloody Sunday massacre of 1905. The massacre sparked the Russian revolution of 1917, during which angry workers responded with a series of crippling strikes throughout the country. Nicholas II After the bloodshed of 1905, Czar Nicholas II promised the formation of a series of representative assemblies, or Dumas, to work toward reform. Their involvement in the war would soon prove disastrous for the Russian Empire. Militarily, imperial Russia was no match for industrialized Germany, and Russian casualties were greater than those sustained by any nation in any previous war. Food and fuel shortages plagued Russia as inflation mounted. The economy was hopelessly disrupted by the costly war effort. Czar Nicholas left the Russian capital of Petrograd St. Petersburg in 1914 to take command of the Russian Army front. During this time, her controversial advisor, Grigory Rasputin, increased his influence over Russian politics and the royal Romanov family. By then, most Russians had lost faith in the failed leadership of the czar. Government corruption was rampant, the Russian economy remained backward and Nicholas repeatedly dissolved the Duma, the toothless Russian parliament established after the revolution, when it opposed his will. Moderates soon joined Russian radical elements in calling for an overthrow of the hapless czar. Demonstrators clamoring for bread took to the streets of Petrograd. Supported by huge crowds of striking industrial workers, the protesters clashed with police but refused to leave the streets. On March 11, the troops of the Petrograd army garrison were called out to quell the uprising. In some encounters, the regiments opened fire, killing demonstrators, but the protesters kept to the streets and the troops began to waver. The Duma formed a provisional government on March 15. A few days later, Czar Nicholas abdicated the throne, ending centuries of Russian Romanov rule. The leaders of the provisional government, including young Russian lawyer Alexander Kerensky, established a liberal program of rights such as freedom of speech, equality before the law, and the right of unions to organize and strike. They opposed violent social revolution. As minister of war, Kerensky continued the Russian war effort, even though Russian involvement in World War I was enormously unpopular. Unrest continued to grow as peasants looted farms and food riots erupted in the cities. Lenin instead called for a Soviet government that would be ruled directly by councils of soldiers, peasants and workers. The Bolsheviks and their allies occupied government buildings and other strategic locations in Petrograd, and soon formed a new government with Lenin as its head. The warring factions included the Red and White Armies. The White Army represented a large group of loosely allied forces, including monarchists, capitalists and supporters of democratic socialism.

**Chapter 3 : The Revolutionary Democracy of**

*The Russian Revolution of began on January 9, with the massacre in St. Petersburg, where troops fired on a peaceful crowd attempting to bring petitions for change to the Tsar. This day has been named Bloody Sunday.[1] The crowd was led by Father George Gapon who formalized the demands of.*

Lenin expressed his confidence in the success of the planned insurrection. His confidence stemmed from months of Bolshevik buildup of power and successful elections to different committees and councils in major cities such as Petrograd and Moscow. The committee methodically planned to occupy strategic locations through the city, almost without concealing their preparations: The editors of these newspapers, as well as any authors seen to be calling for insurrection, were to be prosecuted on criminal charges. At 10 AM, Bolshevik-aligned soldiers successfully retook the Rabochy put printing house. What followed was a series of sporadic clashes over control of the bridges between Red Guard militias aligned with the Military Revolutionary Committee and military regiments still loyal to the government. At approximately 5 PM the Military Revolutionary Committee seized the Central Telegraph of Petrograd, giving the Bolsheviks control over communications through the city. Petersburg, then capital of Russia against the Kerensky Provisional Government. The event coincided with the arrival of a flotilla of pro-Bolshevik marines, primarily five destroyers and their crews, in St. At Kronstadt, sailors also announced their allegiance to the Bolshevik insurrection. In the early morning, the military-revolutionary committee planned the last of the locations to be assaulted or seized from its heavily guarded and picketed center in Smolny Palace. The Red Guards systematically captured major government facilities, key communication installations and vantage points with little opposition. Railways and railway stations had been controlled by Soviet workers and soldiers for days, making rail travel to and from Petrograd impossible for Provisional Government officials. The Provisional Government was also unable to locate any serviceable vehicles. On the morning of the insurrection, Kerensky desperately searched for a means of reaching military forces he hoped would be friendly to the Provisional Government outside the city, and ultimately borrowed a Renault car from the American embassy, which he drove from the Winter Palace alongside a Pierce Arrow. Kerensky was able to evade the pickets going up around the palace and drive to meet approaching soldiers. The proclamation was sent by telegraph throughout Russia even as the pro-Soviet soldiers were seizing important control centers throughout the city. The Bolsheviks also prolonged the assault for fear of violence since the insurrection did not generate violent outbreaks. As the night progressed, crowds of insurgents surrounded the palace, and many infiltrated it. Some of the revolutionaries entered the Palace at After sporadic gunfire throughout the building, the cabinet of the provisional government had surrendered. The only member who was not arrested was Kerensky himself who had already left the Palace. This was aided by the historical reenactment , entitled *The Storming of the Winter Palace* , which was staged in This reenactment, watched by , spectators, provided the model for official films made much later, which showed a huge storming of the Winter Palace and fierce fighting. After a single day of revolution, the death toll was low not because Bolsheviks decided not to use artillery fire, but instead because the class struggle was used as the strongest weapon. There was not much of a storming of the Winter Palace because the resistance basically did not exist and at 2: The Bolsheviks effectively controlled the almost unoccupied Winter Palace not because of an intense military barrage, but because the back door was left open, allowing the Red Guard to enter. Later stories of the heroic "Storming of the Winter Palace" and "defense of the Winter Palace" were later propaganda by Bolshevik publicists. It is said[ who? The same mariners then dispersed by force the elected parliament of Russia, [31] and used machine-gun fire against protesting demonstrators in Petrograd. These are disputed by various sources such as Louise Bryant, [32] who claims that news outlets in the West at the time reported that the unfortunate loss of life occurred in Moscow, not Petrograd, and the number was much less than suggested above. As for the "several shots in the air", there is little evidence suggesting otherwise.

**Chapter 4 : October Revolution - Wikipedia**

*The October Revolution who would preside over the first session of the All India Trade Union Congress in , sensed that the Bolshevik-led revolution of October spoke clearly to people.*

Meeting Commemorating the October Revolution On November 8th, Workers Unity Trade Union and the Army Bays Workshop Employees Union jointly organised a gathering of workers, trade unionists and activists in Delhi to revisit the role of trade unions in the Great October Socialist Revolution and to understand the present crisis in the trade union movement in India. Azad of the Nirman Mazdoor Shakti Sangathan. Here we give a summary of the talk of Dr. It is planned to publish in future the talks of other speakers. Tripta Wahi began by laying out the theoretical pillars of a Marxist understanding of the capitalist system. She emphasised the inherent contradiction between the producer or worker and capitalist. The current world is divided along the lines of the sellers of labour power workers and the appropriators of labour. Since the relationship involves the appropriation by one from the other it is necessarily an antagonistic one. This basic fact of the current structural juncture is often ignored. The October revolution must be thought of as a historical element and that to learn from it one needs to understand it as a historical culmination of several processes and elements at work. Thus, it becomes necessary to trace the historical origins of the Bolshevik revolution from the beginning of capitalist enterprise in Russia and its relationship with the enterprises in Western Europe. Along with a tracing of the growth of capitalism one also needs to trace the moments and movements of struggle against it by the workers of Russia. After underlining the need for a historical understanding, the speaker went on to explore the role of the trade union movement in the making of the October Revolution. Capitalism began to take root in Russia around a hundred and fifty years ago in the mid nineteenth century. It arrived late in Russia when compared to western Europe which had seen capitalist development for around fifty years prior to its arrival in Russia. Russia, at this juncture, was primarily a peasant nation and was bound by the fetters of feudalism and tsarism. Capitalism arrived in Russia from outside and it exploited the old means of surplus appropriation and invented new forms of appropriation as well. As capital began to enter Russia a process of modernisation was initiated which transformed the physical landscape of Russia. One of the major developments that took place were in the sphere of transport through the coming of the railways and roadways. The capitalist enterprises appropriated through investing in the building of the railways and taking heavy interest for the same. Along with the railways came the mills and along with the mills came the proletariat. The workers in the mills served under unimaginable conditions. Additionally, the workers worked for hours a day. The strikes in the mills till happened without the help of trade unions, for example, the strike which covered around mills, which took place without the assistance of a union, demanded that the full income be paid, fines be reduced and that better conditions of work be organized for children. Soon, however, strikes became illegal. The form of exploitation at that historical juncture was a combination of the capitalist and feudal. Workers struggle took place but the workers, till now, had not begun to grasp the nature of the capitalist system and the basis of its exploitation. But soon a new life force entered the Russian world to take its working class towards emancipation- Marxism. Marxism is a scientific method of analysis which explained the basis of capitalist exploitation. It entered Russia slowly and in different ways. Marxism also spread through the several study groups which were initiated in Russia. Slowly a consensus was born that Tsarism needed to be destroyed for the progress of the country. Russian Workers Union was born in and the Northern Union of Russian Workers began to place demands of better living and working conditions. However along with the growth in the struggle for working and living conditions the need arose to develop a revolutionary consciousness. Workers Dawn was one of the first such papers. It focused on criticizing political policies and demanded the freedom to speak as this freedom is fundamental to the development of working class politics. The strike of and the court case that followed it was a landmark event in the development of working class politics and the trade union movement. The strike was declared illegal by the management and a case was fought in the court. This allowed the issues of the workers and their experiences of work to be shared in a public platform. The jury was sympathetic to the strikers and declared it legal. As industrialization and the

railways progressed between and so did working class politics. Fragmented strikes and unions in different factories began to come together in the period to lead to the national strike in which two lakh and twenty-one thousand workers struck work all over the country. For the first time in its history the working class of Russia spoke and acted as a national working class and not just as a fragmented and particular community. They demanded reduction in the hours of work and increase in wages. Lenin was instrumental in this strike. The Tsar finally succumbed to the force of the working class and agreed to the demands. As working class activity was on the rise a paper was needed to steer it. Pravda was initiated in and several revolutionaries began to distribute papers and to read Capital to workers in factories. Till the first Russian revolution in the strikes intensified. However, after the workers were met with heavy repression and from to the strikes declined in frequency and intensity. After , annual strikes came back due to the economic crisis. The role of the Bolsheviks was extremely important in the coming years as they were the ones who organized and gave direction to the working class activities and allowed for the development of trade union consciousness to revolutionary consciousness. The February Revolution which led to the end of Tsarism was the result of the dynamics of a strong contradiction in Russian society. But the provisional government that was formed was supported both by capitalist and feudal elements and supported them in turn. It was the linkages that the Bolshevik party formed with the soviets and other unions in Russia that allowed for the October Revolution to become a reality. It was Lenin and his comrades who allowed the development of revolutionary consciousness in the Soviets which in turn led to the capture of state power in the October Revolution. But Tripta Wahi also brought our attention to the role played by the different workers unions. The railway workers, for example, blocked the counter-revolution by cutting the railway lines. Sections of the armed forces were instrumental in the struggle. The speaker ended her presentation by underlining the need for workers to have a medium through which they can understand both society and the context in which they are living. [Click here to return to the April index.](#)

**Chapter 5 : Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution | The Anarchist Library**

*7 November, the anniversary of the October Revolution, was the official national day of the Soviet Union from onward and still is a public holiday in Belarus and the breakaway territory of Transnistria.*

It was a series of events that took place during , which entailed two separate revolutions in February and October with a great deal of political wranglings inbetween , and which eventually plunged the country into Civil War before leading to the founding of the Communist State. Growing Unrest The first major event of the Russian Revolution was the February Revolution, which was a chaotic affair and the culmination of over a century of civil and military unrest. The causes of this unrest of the common people towards the Tsar and aristocratic landowners are too many and complicated to neatly summarise, but key factors to consider were ongoing resentment at the cruel treatment of peasants by patricians, poor working conditions experienced by city workers in the fledgling industrial economy and a growing sense of political and social awareness of the lower orders in general democratic ideas were reaching Russia from the West and being touted by political activists. Dissatisfaction of the proletarian lot was further compounded by food shortages and military failures. In Russia experienced humiliating losses in the Russo-Japanese war and, during a demonstration against the war in the same year, Tsarist troops fired upon an unarmed crowd - further dividing Nicholas II from his people. Widespread strikes, riots and the famous mutiny on the Battleship Potemkin ensued. Such was the climate in in fact that Tsar Nicholas saw fit, against his will, to cede the people their wishes. When Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by political activists in Serbia in , the Austro-Hungarian empire declared war on its neighbours. Serbia turned to Russia for help. Tsar Nicholas II saw a chance to galvanise his people against a common enemy, and to atone for the humiliations suffered in the Russo-Japanese war. A continuing series of losses and setbacks meant that Nicholas left St. Petersburg in the autumn of to take personal control of the army. By this time Russia was sending conscripts and untrained troops to the front, with little or no equipment and fighting in an almost continual retreat. In morale reached an all time low as the pressure of waging the war fell hardest on prolaterian families, whose sons were being slaughtered at the front and who severe suffered food and fuel shortages at home. The Tsar and the Imperial regime took the blame as civil unrest heated up to boiling point. Petersburg turned into a city-wide demonstration, as exasperated women workers left factories to protest against food shortages. Men soon joined them, and on the following day - encouraged by political and social activists - the crowds had swelled and virtually every industry, shop and enterprise had ceased to function as almost the entire populace went on strike. Nicholas ordered the police and military to intervene, however the military was no longer loyal to the Tsar and many mutinied or joined the people in demonstrations. Fights broke out and the whole city was in chaos. On October 28th over 80, troops mutinied from the army and looting and rioting was widespread. Faced with this untenable situation Tsar Nicholas abdicated his throne, handing power to his brother Michael. However Michael would not accept leadership unless he was elected by the Duma. He resigned the following day, leaving Russia without a head of state. It was to rule Russia until elections could be held. The more radical Petrograd Soviet organisation was a trade union of workers and soldiers that wielded enormous influence. It favoured full-scale Socialism over more moderate democratic reforms generally favoured by members of the Provisional Government. After centuries of Imperial rule Russia was consumed with political fervour, but the many different factions, all touting different ideas, meant that political stability was still a long way off directly after February Revolution. Lenin Returns to Russia One person keen to take advantage of the chaotic state of affairs in St. Petersburg was Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov - aka Lenin. Lenin had spent most of the 20th Century travelling and working and campaigning in Europe - partly out of fear for his own safety, as he was known Socialist and enemy of the Tsarist regime. However with the Tsar under arrest and Russian politics in chaos, Lenin saw the opportunity to lead his party, the Bolsheviks, to power. From his home in Switzerland he negotiated a return to Russia with the help of German authorities. However, far from uniting the fractious parties, he immediately condemned the policies and ideologies of both the Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet. In his April Theses, published in the Bolshevik newspaper Pravda, he advocated non-co-operation with the liberals ie. Summer of

During the summer of Lenin made several attempts to invoke another revolution the likes of which had taken place in February, with the aim of overthrowing the Provisional Government. Petersburg was then known for the frontline Lenin sought to manoeuvre them instead into making a putsch. However Kerensky, arguably the most important figure of the time - a member of both the Provisional Government and Petrograd Soviet - adeptly thwarted the coup. Experienced troops arrived in the city to quell any dissidents and the Bolsheviks were accused of being in collusion with the Germans. Many were arrested whilst Lenin escaped to Finland. Despite this PR disaster Lenin continued plotting and scheming. Meanwhile Kerensky suffered his own political setbacks and even had to appeal to the Bolsheviks for military aid when he feared his Minister of War, Kornilov, was aiming for a military dictatorship. By autumn the Bolsheviks were climbing into the ascendency, winning majority votes within the Petrograd and Moscow Soviets. Leon Trotsky was elected as president of the former. The October Revolution Nb. On October 10th he held a famous meeting with twelve party leaders, and tried to persuade them that a revolution was required. Despite receiving the backing of only 10 of them plotting went ahead. October 24th was the date decided upon, and on that day troops loyal to the Bolsheviks took up crucial positions in the city, such as the main telephone and telegraph offices, banks, railroad stations, post offices, and major bridges. Guards commissioned by the Provisional Government, who had got wind of the plot, fled or surrendered without a fight. By the 25th October every key building in St. Petersburg was under Bolshevik control, except the Winter Palace where Kerensky and the other Ministers were holed up with a small guard. At of that day Kerensky fled the Palace by car, never to return to Russia. Aftermath and Consequences Despite being allowed to seize power so easily Lenin soon discovered that his support was far from absolute. His Peace Policy with the Germans was particularly unpopular as it ceded large amounts of Russian territory. After a bloody four year struggle Lenin and the Reds won, establishing the Soviet Union in , at an estimated cost of 15 million lives and billions of roubles.

**Chapter 6 : Meeting Commemorating the October Revolution**

*Meeting Commemorating the October Revolution. On November 8th, Workers Unity Trade Union and the Army Bays Workshop Employees Union jointly organised a gathering of workers, trade unionists and activists in Delhi to revisit the role of trade unions in the Great October Socialist Revolution and to understand the present crisis in the trade union movement in India.*

I have indicated some things in this relation in my Conquest of Bread. Pouget and Pataud have also sketched a line of action in their work on Syndicalism and the Co-operative Commonwealth. Kropotkin thought that the Anarchists had not given sufficient to the fundamental elements of the social revolution. The real facts in a revolutionary process do not consist so much in actual fighting – that is, merely the destructive phase necessary to clear the way for constructive effort. The basic factor in a revolution is the organisation of the economic life of the country. The Russian Revolution had proved conclusively that we must prepare thoroughly for that. Everything else is of minor importance. He had come to think that, Syndicalism was likely to furnish what Russia most lacked: He referred to Anarcho-Syndicalism. That and the co-operatives would save other countries some of the blunders and suffering Russia was going through. Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution The Revolution shook all classes and strata of Russian social life. A vast unrest had permeated all levels of Russian society as a result of three centuries of oppression by the Tsarist regime. During the revolutionary explosion, this unrest became the force which cemented the heterogeneous elements into a powerful united front, and which annihilated the edifice of despotism within three days, a brief revolutionary period, unprecedented in history. Within this movement, despite the fact that its component forces were actuated by different, and often mutually exclusive tasks and purposes, reigned full unanimity. At the moment of revolutionary explosion the aims of those various forces happened to coincide, since they were negative in character, being directed at annihilating the superannuated absolutist regime. The constructive aims were not yet clear. It was only during the further course of development, through the differing constructions placed on the aims and tasks of the revolution, that the hitherto amorphous forces began to crystallise and a struggle arose among them for the triumph of their ideas and objectives. It is a noteworthy feature of the revolution that despite the rather small influence of Anarchists on the masses before its out break, it followed from its inception the anarchistic course of full decentralisation; the revolutionary bodies immediately pushed to the front by the course of revolution were Anarcho-Syndicalist in their essential character. These were of the kind which lend themselves as adequate instruments for the quickest realisation of the Anarchist ideal – Soviets, Factory Committees, peasant land committees and house committees, etc. The inner logic of the development and growth of such organisations led in November October to the temporary extinction of the State and the sweeping away of the foundations of capitalist economy. I say temporarily, for in the long run the State and capitalism came to triumph, the logical development of the revolution having been openly frustrated by those who at first were instrumental in accelerating its course of development. Unchecked by the too trustful masses, whose aims and course of action, though felt instinctively, were still far from being clearly realised, the Bolsheviks, to the extent that they gained the confidence of those masses, gradually enveloped the revolution with the chilling atmosphere of State dominance and brute force, thus dooming it to an inevitable process of decay. Up to that moment the revolution kept on ripening. The struggle became sharper and the objectives began to assume an ever clearer and more outspoken character. The country seethed and bubbled over, living a full life under conditions of freedom. Grand struggle The struggle of classes, groups and parties for preponderant influence in the revolution was intense, powerful and striking in character. As a result of this struggle there resulted a sort of stalemate of forces; none was in a position to command superiority in relation to the rest. This in turn made it impossible for the State and government – the external force standing above society – to become the instrument of one of the contending forces. The State, therefore, was paralysed, not being able to exert its negative influence on the course of events, the more so in that the army, due to its active part in the movement, ceased to be an obedient instrument of State power. In this grand struggle of interests and ideas the Anarchists took an active and lively part. The period from March February to November October

was in its sweep and scope a most resplendent one for Anarcho-Syndicalist and Anarchist work, that is for propaganda, agitation, organisation and action. With the return of the Anarchists from abroad, this work began to pick up considerable momentum. Russia was covered with a thick, albeit too loosely connected, net of groups. Scarcely a sizeable city did not have an Anarcho-Syndicalist or Anarchist group. The propaganda took dimensions unprecedented for Anarchist activity in Russia. Proportionately, there was a great number of Anarchist newspapers, magazines, leaflets, pamphlets and books. The book market was flooded with Anarchist literature. The interest in Anarcho-Syndicalism and Anarchism was enormous, reaching even the remote corners of the faraway North. Newspapers were published not only in the large administrative and industrial centres, like Moscow and Petrograd, which had several Anarchist newspapers in Petrograd the circulation of the Anarcho-Syndicalist *Golos Trouda* and the Anarchist *Burevestnik* was 25, each; the Moscow daily *Anarchia* had about the same circulation, but also in provincial cities, like Kronstadt, Yaroslavl, Nizhni-Novgorod, Saratov, Samara, Krasnoyarsk, Vladivostok, Rostov on Don, Odessa and Kiev. Oral propaganda was even more extensive than written – it was carried out in the army, as well as in factories and villages. The propaganda stressed the central task of bringing out and carrying to their logical end the Anarchist principles and tendencies inherent in the revolution. This propaganda, Anarcho-Syndicalist propaganda especially, was very successful with the toilers. The Factory Committees were almost completely swayed by a unique sort of Anarcho-Syndicalism; this is attested by all the conferences of the Petrograd Factory Committees, and by the All-Russian conferences of these committees. Moreover, the Bolsheviks in their drive towards seizure of power and dictatorship, were forced to cast away for the time being only, as subsequent events proved, their orthodox Marxism and to accept Anarchist slogans and methods. Alas, this was but a tactical move on their part, not a genuine change of programme. The slogans formulated by the Bolsheviks Communists voiced, in a precise and intelligible manner, the demands of the masses in revolt, coinciding with the slogans of the Anarchists: Consequently, they continued taking part in the joint struggle. But reality soon proved that all the lapses by the Bolsheviks from the revolutionary position were no casual things, but moves in a rigorously thought-out tactical plan, directed against the vital interests and demands of the masses – a plan designed to carry out in life the dead dogmas of a disintegrated Marxism. Such a channel is for every popular creed a Procrustean bed. Thus, during the period of the Bourgeois and Bourgeois Socialist Government, the Anarchists worked not organisationally of course hand-in-hand with the Bolsheviks. How were the Anarchists situated during that period? The listing of the cities where Anarchist publications came out shows that freedom of the press was of the most extensive kind. Not a single newspaper was closed, not a single leaflet, pamphlet or book confiscated, not a single rally or mass meeting forbidden. True, the government, at that period, was not averse to dealing severely with both Anarchists and Bolsheviks. But the government was powerless, because the revolution was in full swing. After October How did the position of the Anarchists change with the triumph of the October revolution, in the preparation and making of which they had taken such a prominent part? It has to be pointed out that during the Kerensky period the Anarchists had grown considerably and that towards the October days their movement had already assumed considerable proportions. This growth became even more accelerated after the October revolution, when the Anarchists took an active part in the direct struggle against both the counter-revolution and the German-Austrian troops. Not only did the voice of the Anarchists command attention, but the masses actually followed the appeals and directives of the Anarchists, having come to see in them the concrete formulation of their age-long aspirations. That is why they backed demands of an Anarcho-Syndicalist character, carrying them out in the teeth of hamstringing efforts, rather feeble at that time, by the Bolsheviks. Under the influence of Anarcho-Syndicalist propaganda, there began in Petrograd a spontaneous process of socialisation of housing by the house committees. This extended to entire streets, bringing into existence street committees and block committees, when entire blocks were drawn in. It spread to other cities. In Kronstadt it started even earlier than Petrograd and reached even greater intensity. If in Petrograd and other cities, dwellings were socialised only on the triumph of the October revolution, in Kronstadt similar steps were taken earlier, under the influence of Yartchuk, who was enjoying great popularity in that town, and in face of the active resistance of the Bolsheviks. Measures of this kind were carried out in an organised way by the revolutionary workers and

sailors throughout the town. The Bolshevik fraction left a session of the Kronstadt Soviet in protest against the socialisation of dwellings. This is confirmed by A. The party Press wrote very little about this slogan, still less did it try to implement it in a concrete way. This idea won out, workers having begun expropriating enterprises while the Bourgeois-Socialist government was still in power. The Factory Committees and various control committees were already taking over the managing functions at that time. On the eve of the October revolution this movement assumed a truly mass character. Factory Committees The Factory Committees and their Central Bureau became the foundation of the new revolutionary movement, which set itself the task of making the factories into Producer and Consumer Communes. The Factory Committees were to become the nuclei of the new social order gradually emerging from the inchoate elemental life of the revolution. Anarchistic in their essence, the Factory Committees made many enemies. The attitude of all political parties was restrained hostility, their efforts centering on reducing the Factory Committees to a subordinate position within the trade unions. The Communists from the outset showed their suspicion of this type of organisation. It was only after they had become convinced that the trade unions were too strongly dominated by the Social-Democrats to lend themselves as instruments of Communist policy that, following the Anarcho-Syndicalists, they began to centre their attention on the Factory Committees, aiming to place them under their control and, through those committees, ultimately to gain control of the trade unions. Despite this attitude, the Bolsheviks were forced by the course of events to assume a position toward the Factory Committees which differed little from that of the Anarcho-Syndicalists. Only gradually did they assume this position. At first they combatted it. They created a veritable theory around it, saying in effect that the trade unions have died, that the future belongs to the Factory Committees, who will deliver the knock-out blow to capitalism, that the Factory Committees are the highest form of labour movement, etc. In a word, they developed in regard to the Factory Committees the same theory which the French Anarcho-Syndicalists developed in regard to the trade unions. Under these conditions the divorce between the two organisations trade unions and Factory Committees represents the greatest danger for the labour movement of Russia. Seizure of enterprises Characteristically, only the Anarcho-Syndicalist press correctly evaluated the role and significance of the Factory Committees. The first article in the revolutionary press on this problem, by the author of these lines, appeared in the first issue of Golos Trouda. Incidentally, the article did not express the opinion of Golos Trouda as a whole on this problem. At one of the conferences of the Factory Committees held in Petrograd, during August, , the article was hotly contested by the Bolsheviks, notably Lozovsky and others. But this idea, sound in itself and answering the mood and needs of the workers, became dominant even in the Bolshevik Party. These began when the provisional government was still in power and, it stands to reason, the Anarchists played the foremost role in them. The most talked-of event of the kind at that period was the expropriation under the direct influence of the Anarchist Zhuk, of the Shlisselburg gunpowder mills and agricultural estates, both of which were then organised on Anarchist principles. Such events recurred ever more frequently, and on the eve of the October revolution they came to be regarded as a matter of course. Soon after the triumph of the October revolution, the Central Bureau of the Factory Committees worked out extensive instructions for the control of production. These instructions proved to be a brilliant literary document, showing the triumph of the Anarcho-Syndicalist idea. The significance of this incident is the greater considering that the Bolsheviks were then predominant in the Factory Committees. How greatly the workers were influenced by the idea of Factory Committees being the executive bodies of the Factory-Communes "the cellular bodies joining into a federative organisation, which unites all workers and creates the necessary industrial administrative system" is shown by the uneasiness the Bolsheviks revealed after the October revolution. Instead of a rapid regulation of the social production and consumption "instead of measures which, objected to as they may be on various grounds, do represent a genuine step toward a socialist organisation of society" instead of that we are witnessing something which partakes somewhat of the Anarchist visionary dreams about autonomous industrial communes. The predominance of the Bolsheviks makes even more remarkable the successes achieved by our comrades, especially that of W. Shatov, in their work carried on within the Factory Committees.

**Chapter 7 : Lenin Collected Works: Volume 28**

*Communist Leon Trotsky helped ignite the Russian Revolution of , and built the Red Army afterward. an increasingly acrimonious debate grew over the role of trade unions.*

Mathias Bismo; Online Version: Marxists Internet Archive marxists. On November 7, October 25 old style the Russian workers and peasants, led by the Bolshevik Party, overthrew the bourgeois coalition government established after the February Revolution and transferred all power over vast and multi-million Russia to the Soviets of Workers and Peasants. This was the first victory of the international revolutionary proletariat over capitalism and imperialism, the beginning of the world-wide revolution. This great exploit of the Russian proletariat was met by the enemies of the Revolution both inside Russia and in all the other countries with loud prophecies to the effect that the power of the Soviets would not be able to last more than a few weeks, that it was bound to collapse, mainly because the simple workers and peasants would not be able to cope with the extremely complex economic and administrative problems in so vast a country as Russia. Soon, however, the world imperialists and their tools – from the extreme conservatives to the most leftist socialist traitors – had a big disappointment in store for them. Despite the tremendous internal and external obstacles, the Soviet regime, far from heading for a fall, was growing stronger day after day, boldly introducing radical changes and proceeding with the construction of a Communist system in the country. Thereupon the imperialists of the Entente resorted to military intervention against the free and self-governing Russian people by financing the counter-revolutionary armies of Kolchak, Yudenich and Denikin and organizing an economic blockade of Soviet Russia. The imperialists were exultant, expecting the early destruction of this nest of the world proletarian revolution which was so dangerous for them. Their agents and their lavishly subsidized press were proclaiming to the whole world the forthcoming erasing of Bolshevik Russia from the face of the earth. Difficult and critical months set in for the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, months of privations, bloodshed and death. But the Russian workers and peasants created their glorious revolutionary Red Army, an army such as the world had never seen before, which realized that it was fighting not only to defend its own socialist homeland from the imperialist beasts of prey, but also to clear the way for the complete liberation of all working people in the world. This Red Army swept away and annihilated the counter-revolutionary hordes of Kolchak, Yudenich and Denikin. Three whole years have passed in incessant and bloody struggles with the imperialist counter-revolution. It should be stressed again and again that the Russian trade unions have played an important role in this respect. They turned into active collaborators of the Soviet regime, into a staunch support of the proletarian dictatorship. Not only did the Russian trade unions devote all their efforts to the struggle against economic ruin, helping to carry out the socialization of industry, to restore the transport system and to increase labour productivity to the maximum, but they also took and continue to take a most active part in the defeat of the counter-revolution and in the struggle to repel the offensives of the imperialist counter-revolutionary armies. They suffered thousands of casualties on the battlefields, but they spared no effort to supply the Red Army with everything that was needed for victory. Now that we are celebrating the third anniversary of the Great Russian Revolution, we can venture to say that its cause would have been a lost cause were it not for the admirable contribution of the trade unions. Devoting all their forces to the proletarian revolution, the Russian trade unions did not, however, shut themselves into their national frontiers. Deeply imbued with the ideas of communism, they felt it their duty to take the lead in the international revolutionary rallying of the trade union movement in all countries under the banner of the Third Communist International and in the name of the Communist revolution and of the world-wide proletarian dictatorship. It was on the initiative of the Russian trade unions that an International Trade Union Council was set up as the basis for a Red Trade Union International, opposed to the treacherous yellow Amsterdam Trade Union Federation; day after day the International Trade Union Council is rallying greater masses of organized workers in all countries. It was recently joined by the minority of the Confederation of Labour in France, and in the near future this minority will grow into an overwhelming majority. The revolutionary working class movements in Italy and Great Britain are rapidly drawing the trade unions in their countries closer to the Red Trade Union

International. The general revolutionary situation throughout Europe helps to extricate the mass trade unions from the influence of the old treacherous leaders and of the Amsterdam Federation and to enlist them into the ranks of the international revolutionary proletarian front. Within a few months July-October the Moscow InterTrade Union Council succeeded in rallying nearly eight million organized workers from various countries. To sum up, the third anniversary of the Russian Proletarian Revolution coincides with the process of the rapid revolutionary rallying of the working class masses in all countries and foreshadows the forthcoming unfolding of the world-wide proletarian revolution and the triumph of the proletarian dictatorship throughout the world. With the blood they abundantly shed, the Russian procleared the path for the liberation of all working mankind. Celebrating their great historic achievements, the Bulgarian proletarians will prepare ever more persistently to worthily fulfil their duty "to secure the triumph of the Communist revolution in their own country. After the defeat of Kolchak and Denkin, the entente staked its hopes on Pilsudski, a reactionary nationalist and the strong man of bourgeois Poland, on the one hand, and the White-Russian General Wrangel, on the other. In April the Polish forces invaded the Ukraine and captured Kiev, while Wrangel advanced from the south and threatened the Donbas. The Red Army launched a counter-offensive, liberated Kiev and advanced to the gates of Warsaw, whereupon Poland concluded a peace treaty with the Soviets October 20,

**Chapter 8 : Russian Revolution - HISTORY**

*Striking hotel workers starved on meager or no strike pay The multi-billion-dollar business of American trade unions 16 October More than 7, workers are currently on strike at Marriott.*

Arrested in January for revolutionary activity, Bronshtein spent four and a half years in prison and in exile in Siberia, during which time he married his coconspirator Aleksandra Sokolovskaya and fathered two daughters. He escaped in with a forged passport bearing the name Trotsky, which he adopted as his revolutionary pseudonym. His wife remained behind, and the separation became permanent. Shortly before this, in Paris, Trotsky had met and married Natalya Sedova, by whom he subsequently had two sons, Lev and Sergey. Upon the outbreak of revolutionary disturbances in, Trotsky returned to Russia. He became a leading spokesman of the St. In the aftermath, Trotsky was jailed and brought to trial in In, after a second exile to Siberia, Trotsky once again escaped. He settled in Vienna and supported himself as a correspondent in the Balkan Wars of " At the outbreak of World War I, Trotsky joined the majority of Russian Social-Democrats who condemned the war and refused to support the war effort of the tsarist regime. He moved to Switzerland and then to Paris. His antiwar stance led to his expulsion from both France and Spain. Leadership in the Revolution of Trotsky hailed the outbreak of revolution in Russia in February March, New Style as the opening of the permanent revolution he had predicted. He reached Petrograd in mid-May and assumed the leadership of a left-wing Menshevik faction. In August, while still in jail, Trotsky was formally admitted to the Bolshevik Party and was also elected to membership on the Bolshevik Central Committee. When fighting was precipitated by an ineffectual government raid early on November 6 October 24, Old Style, Trotsky took a leading role in directing countermeasures for the soviet, while reassuring the public that his Military Revolutionary Committee meant only to defend the Congress of Soviets. Governmental authority crumbled quickly, and Petrograd was largely in Bolshevik hands by the time Lenin reappeared from the underground on November 7 to take direct charge of the Revolution and present the Congress of Soviets with an accomplished fact when it convened next day. Trotsky continued to function as the military leader of the Revolution when Kerensky vainly attempted to retake Petrograd with loyal troops. Immediately afterward he joined Lenin in defeating proposals for a coalition government including Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries. Germany and its allies responded, and in mid-December peace talks were begun at Brest-Litovsk, though Trotsky continued vainly to invite support from the Allied governments. In January Trotsky entered into the peace negotiations personally and shocked his adversaries by turning the talks into a propaganda forum. LC-DIG-ggbain Following the conclusion of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Trotsky resigned as foreign commissar, turning the office over to Georgy Chicherin, and was immediately made commissar of war, theretofore a committee responsibility. As war commissar, Trotsky faced the formidable task of building a new Red Army out of the shambles of the old Russian army and preparing to defend the communist government against the imminent threats of civil war and foreign intervention. Trotsky chose to concentrate on developing a small but disciplined and professionally competent force. His abandonment of the revolutionary ideal of democratization and guerrilla tactics prompted much criticism of his methods among other communists. Leon Trotsky, commissar of war in the new Soviet government of Russia, reviewing troops. Stock footage courtesy The WPA Film Library With the triumph of the communist forces and the end of the Russian Civil War in, Trotsky, retaining his office as commissar of war, turned his attention to the economic reconstruction of Russia. He first proposed a relaxation of the stringent centralization of War Communism to allow market forces to operate. Rejected in this, he endeavoured to apply military discipline to the economy, using soldiers as labour armies and attempting to militarize the administration of the transportation system. During the Civil War and War Communism phase of the Soviet regime, Trotsky was clearly established as the number-two man next to Lenin. He was one of the initial five members of the Politburo when that top Communist Party policy-making body was created in Trotsky took a prominent part in the launching of the Comintern in and wrote its initial manifesto. In the winter of "21 widespread dissension broke out over the policies of War Communism, not only among the populace but among the party

leadership as well. The point at issue in the controversy was the future role of the trade unions. The utopian left wing wanted the unions to administer industry; Lenin and the cautious wing wanted the unions confined to supervising working conditions; Trotsky and his supporters tried to reconcile radicalism and pragmatism by visualizing administration through unions representing the central state authority. The crisis came to a head in March, with agitation for democracy within the party on the one hand and armed defiance represented by the naval garrison at Kronshtadt on the other. At this point Trotsky sided with Lenin, commanding the forces that suppressed the Kronshtadt Rebellion and backing the suppression of open factional activity in the party. This degree of accord, however, did not prevent Trotsky from losing a substantial degree of political influence at the 10th Party Congress in March. The struggle for the succession. When Lenin was stricken with his first cerebral hemorrhage in May, the question of eventual succession to the leadership of Russia became urgent. Trotsky, owing to his record and his charismatic qualities, was the obvious candidate in the eyes of the party rank and file, but jealousy among his colleagues on the Politburo prompted them to combine against him. As an alternative, the Politburo supported the informal leadership of the troika composed of Grigory Zinovyev, Lev Kamenev, and Stalin. In the winter of 1923 Lenin recovered partially and turned to Trotsky for assistance in correcting the errors of the troika, particularly in foreign trade policy, the handling of the national minorities, and reform of the bureaucracy. Stalin moved rapidly to consolidate his hold on the Central Committee at the 12th Party Congress in April. By fall, alarmed by inroads of the secret police among party members and efforts to weaken his control of the war commissariat, Trotsky decided to strike out against the party leadership. In October he addressed a wide-ranging critique to the Central Committee, stressing especially the violation of democracy in the party and the failure to develop adequate economic planning. Reforms were promised, and Trotsky responded with an open letter detailing the direction they should take. This, however, served only as the signal for a massive propaganda counterattack against Trotsky and his supporters on grounds of factionalism and opportunism. At this critical moment Trotsky fell ill of an undiagnosed fever and could take no personal part in the struggle. Convalescing on the Black Sea coast, Trotsky was deceived about the date of the funeral, failed to return to Moscow, and left the scene to Stalin. Attacks on Trotsky did not cease. When the 13th Party Congress, in May, repeated the denunciations of his violations of party discipline, Trotsky vainly professed his belief in the omnipotence of the party. The following fall he took a different tack in his essay *The Lessons of October*, linking the opposition of Zinovyev and Kamenev to the October Revolution with the failure of the Soviet-inspired German communist uprising in 1919. In January Trotsky was removed from the war commissariat. Early in 1924, following the split between the Stalin-Bukharin leadership and Zinovyev-Kamenev group and the denunciation of the latter at the 14th Party Congress, Trotsky joined forces with his old adversaries Zinovyev and Kamenev to resume the political offensive. The response of the leadership was a rising tide of official denunciation, supplemented by an anti-Semitic whispering campaign. In October Trotsky was expelled from the Politburo, and a year later he and Zinovyev were dropped from the Central Committee. After an abortive attempt at a demonstration on the 10th anniversary of the Revolution, the two were expelled from the party. In January Trotsky was banished from the territory of the Soviet Union. He plunged into literary activity there and completed his autobiography and his history of the Russian Revolution. In 1925 Trotsky secured permission to move to France. He was represented as the principal conspirator, in absentia, in the treason trials of former communist opposition leaders held in Moscow. The evidence of treasonable plotting, however, was later proved to be fictitious. The home was the site of his assassination in 1928. The Soviet government disclaimed any responsibility, and Mercader was sentenced to the maximum year term under Mexican law. Legacy Trotsky was undoubtedly the most brilliant intellect brought to prominence by the Russian Revolution, outdistancing Lenin and other theoreticians both in the range of his interests and in the imaginativeness of his perceptions. He was an indefatigable worker, a rousing public speaker, and a decisive administrator. On the other hand, Trotsky was not successful as a leader of men, partly because he allowed his brilliance and arrogance to antagonize the lesser lights in the communist movement. Had Trotsky won the struggle to succeed Lenin, the character of the Soviet regime would almost certainly have been substantially different, particularly in foreign policy, cultural policy, and the extent of terroristic repression.

**Chapter 9 : German Revolution of 1919 - Wikipedia**

*Leon Trotsky, byname of Lev Davidovich Bronshtein, (born November 7 [October 26, Old Style], , Yanovka, Ukraine, Russian Empire—died August 21, , Coyoacán, Mexico), communist theorist and agitator, a leader in Russia's October Revolution in , and later commissar of foreign affairs and of war in the Soviet Union ( ).*

Megan Erickson For almost a century, most commentators have agreed that the October Revolution represented an undemocratic seizure of state power. Instead of allowing liberal democracy to grow after February , the Bolsheviks moved rapidly to take control. But how democratic was Russian liberalism in ? Were alternative forms of democratic participation — structured through soviets, factory committees, peasant land committees, and other bodies — available? Against the mainstream consensus, the history of the Russian Revolution suggests that rather from being anti-democratic, the Bolsheviks supported the most radical democratic forces of their time against the attempts of liberals to constrain those forces. Democracy in the February Revolution Russian liberals wanted to avoid revolution altogether as long as World War I continued. When the February uprising began, they remained loyal to the tsar, and when Premier Golytsin signed the order to dissolve the Duma, they did not object. The farthest the liberals would go was to form a private committee of Duma members to keep themselves informed. As Tsuyoshi Hasegawa explained nearly four decades ago, the liberals tried to enact an impossible policy: When dealing with the tsar, they showed themselves as defenders of law and order against anarchy. Even when they asked for his abdication, it was in hopes of staving off the revolution. Almost as soon as the Provisional Government formed under Prince Lvov, it made its disinterest in democracy obvious. In a pattern established by the French Revolution , the creation of an elected constituent assembly accompanied the conclusion of a successful democratic uprising, but the Provisional Government did everything it could to delay this vote. On March 3, it declared that elections would take place on the basis of universal, secret, direct, and equal votes. But the very next day, Pavel Miliukov, leader of the Constitutional Democrats the main liberal party , informed the French ambassador that he was trying to avoid setting a date. The Provisional Government also refused to say whether women would be able to participate. The feminists organized a large demonstration on March Forty thousand women marched, including significant numbers of workers, but they rejected Bolshevik Alexandra Kollontai when she tried to make a speech. The Provisional Government claimed that including votes for women would delay the elections. The feminists pressured moderate leaders in the soviets, and, on July 20, the government modified the law. But, by then, the liberals were already planning a coup with a right-wing general , so this hardly counts as a democratic turn on their part. It took the government three weeks to announce the names of the members of the election commission. These procedural hurdles all helped the Provisional Government postpone the announcement of the date. Finally, in June, during the First Congress of Soviets — as Bolshevik strength among the Petrograd workers increased massively and as the clamor for the Congress of Soviets to take power grew — the Provisional Government acted. On June 14, it declared that elections would take place on September But when most liberals resigned from the government in early July, the new coalition government insisted that elections be pushed back to November In the revolution, workers had created soviets without regard to political affiliation. They elected their own representatives and only granted party leaders consultative roles. In February , the call to elect soviets came from two quarters: The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party-Internationalists, a group more often known as Mezhrayonka, was the first to call for soviets, which the party believed would become the true revolutionary government. In contrast, the Mensheviks formed the Executive Committee of the Soviets, in which they rectified the error of by putting party leaders in first and only then calling for the election of delegates. However, while liberals and moderate socialists alike expected that workers and soldiers would follow the Executive Committee, they did not even want this elite group to lead. Instead, as the Menshevik Internationalist Nikolai Sukhanov wrote in his memoirs four years later, his party believed that the government that supplanted the tsar had to be a purely bourgeois government. The workers and soldiers disagreed. For them a revolution that did not respond to their needs was no revolution at all, so they started making demands. While Executive Committee leaders were

urging the liberals to take power, soldiers called for an end to the feudal military life. They practically dictated the text of what became known as Order No. It put the military under the Soviet, rather than the Provisional Government. Soldiers agreed to accept military discipline while on duty, but they demanded civil rights for enlisted men. The Provisional Government tried to breathe life into institutions like city Dumas " municipal bodies where people of all classes could vote as citizens " but the soviets emerged as the crucial democratic institutions. Even before October, soviets were taking over from the organs of local government. Local soviets developed in Moscow, Yaroslav, Kazan, Nikolaev, and Rostov-on-Don, where they subordinated the existing bureaucracy to their control. Under military protection from the city, these organizations dealt with local problems. Ordinary citizens put together factory councils, trade unions, specialized committees, and local militias. For example, urban soviets worked with rural organizations to manage the food supply. On March 5, Petrograd workers discovered almost two hundred trucks of grain consigned to private individuals. The Executive Committee of the Krasnoyarsk Soviet sent a telegram along the Siberian Railway line forbidding food delivery for speculative purposes, and the Moscow soviet initiated the All Russia Food Congress in May. Rural soviets appeared a little later. In his *History of the Russian Revolution*, Trotsky recorded the patterns of rural struggles, suggesting that peasants looked at soviets skeptically until the councils began to reflect their political attitudes. The anti-feudal struggle initially united agricultural workers, rural semi-proletarians, and the peasants into a range of institutions. Peasants also formed soviets, but they could take shelter behind the state institutions to push for action, even if those same organizations were moving rightward at higher levels. Factory employees wanted more democratic working conditions, less exploitation, and essential rights. These struggles forced the workers to realize that they need a new order " not only in government but also in the workplace. They began electing factory committees, which varied in function and intention. Two major studies " S. From Carmen Sirianni to Mandel, several scholars have emphasized that control in Russian has a different sense than in English. The Russian word implies supervision, regulation, or oversight " not complete administration. Practical problems drove the workers forward. One of the first calls was to establish a democratic or a constitutional regime in factories, which the elected committees would supervise. But issues quickly became more complex. The bourgeoisie pushed back against the demand for an eight-hour day. The capitalists claimed that the workers were making selfish demands while soldiers were dying at the fronts, clearly trying to drive a wedge between two parts of the revolutionary class. Some factory owners claimed that productive capacity was standing idle because of the absence of supplies. The factory committees demanded they be allowed to verify these statements, building worker power. By May, even right-wing Mensheviks thought the capitalists were planning a hidden lockout. In mid-May, the Petrograd Soviet adopted modest regulations to revitalize the economy, and the minister of Trade and Industry, factory owner Alexander Konovalov, resigned, warning that hundreds of enterprises would close in the near future. Ryabushinskii, another leading industrialist, explained that state control was impossible because the state was under soviet control. In response to these challenges, Petrograd workers called a citywide conference of factory committees. On June 1, the conference voted in favor of a Bolshevik resolution calling for a full transfer of state power to the soviets. Factory Committees grew in numbers and influence and were rapidly radicalized. At the June conference, left-wing Socialist Revolutionary V. Levin explained that the workers had to become active because the industrialists were not. But when anarchists demanded a takeover from below, even the Bolsheviks were opposed. A Bolshevik delegate explained: Control is not yet socialism. In some cases, factory committees took on management roles in order to keep their workplaces running. This created clashes on both the Right and the Left. A delegate from the New Arsenal factory explained that if workers did not find raw materials, the factories could not run for long. These disagreements show the vitality and diversity of democratic debate in this revolutionary year. October and After Even liberal historians who accept the reality of this explosion of revolutionary democracy in tend to argue that October ended it all. The reality is rather more complex. No insurrection is carried out after a vote. Apart from the soldiers, the working-class movement built their own Red Guards. As Rex Wade has shown, the Menshevik-Socialist Revolutionary leadership immediately distrusted this class project, designating it a Bolshevik initiative. In fact, a soviet institution, the Military Revolutionary Committee, led the October insurrection. In its immediate aftermath,

the Congress of Soviets tried to create a real power structure, passing basic decrees on land, peace, and soviet power. However, the Mensheviks, the right and centrist Socialist Revolutionaries, and even the Menshevik Internationalists, led by Martov himself, eventually rejected any such government. They refused to subordinate the government to the Congress of Soviets. The Socialist Revolutionary party had split shortly before the October insurrection, and the Left faction, led by Maria Spiridonova, Boris Kamkov, and others, supported the Congress and became the dominant force in the Extraordinary Congress of Peasant Deputies in November and the regular Peasant Congress in December. For example, the minutes from November 1 show a long debate over the formation of an all-socialist government, in which the Bolsheviks expressed their willingness to include other parties in the government as long as they accepted the Second Congress of Soviets as the source of authority and subordinated the new government to the VTsIK. Some argue that this debate shows Bolshevik intransigence, particularly from the Leninist wing. Willing to collaborate with bourgeois liberals and with tsarist generals, the Socialist Revolutionaries were unwilling to accept revolutionary democracy. Nevertheless, the claim persists: But we should stress the continuity of soviets beyond October and the absurdity of the claim that a disciplined party aimed to take all power in its hands from the beginning. In February , the Bolsheviks numbered about 24, By July, they had grown to about ten times that size and to approximately , by October. These were not all hardened Leninists. Rather, they were militant workers, soldiers, and peasants. So the factory committees carried out the rest.