



THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

WORDS

- **completely** = totally , fully
- **create** =make
- **dissolve** = to break up or to end
- **event** = something important that happens
- **finally** = in the end
- **force** = to make someone do something that he doesn't want to do
- **fuel** = material that produces heat, like coal or wood
- **give up** = to give to someone else
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **harsh** = very bad
- **join** = to become a member of a group
- **lead—led** = to be the first in a group
- **manage** = to control
- **officially** =publicly
- **peace** = when there is no war or fighting
- **peasant** = a poor farmer who doesn't have very much land
- **population** = the people who live in a country
- **poverty** =being poor
- **promise** = to say that you really want to do something
- **rebellion** = if people fight against the government and try to change it
- **set up** = to start or organize something
- **society** =the people in general
- **soldier** = a man or woman who fights for a country in a war
- **spread** =move
- **step down** = give up
- **take over control** =to become leader
- **throughout** = in the whole ...
- **treat** = to behave towards someone in a certain way
- **tsar** = the male ruler of Russia up to 1917
- **turn against** =to stop giving a person help

For centuries **tsars** ruled Russia. This period came to an end during the Russian revolution of 1917. The **events** changed Russia **completely** and brought the people a new form of **government**.

BACKGROUND

Russian people were **treated** very badly during the rule of the **tsars**. At the end of the 19th century many people in the countryside were **peasants**. They had little food to eat and lived in **poverty**. They didn't have any power either. As **society** changed, more and more people started living in cities. They became factory workers and turned into a new middle class. They didn't like the tsar and wanted more power from him.

After a small **rebellion** in 1905 Tsar Nicholas II **created** a kind of parliament called the Duma. But the tsar himself was not willing to **give up** his power and he **dissolved** the Duma after a few months.

During World War I Russia's army lost many **soldiers** in their fight against the Germans. The winter of 1916/17 was very **harsh** and many people had little food to eat and not very much **fuel** to heat their houses. They wanted Russia to stop the war.



Nicholas II

FEBRUARY 1917



Lenin

Finally, in February 1917 large demonstrations against the tsar started in Petrograd (today's St. Petersburg). The Russian army **joined** the demonstrators and **turned against** the him . Nicholas II was **forced** to give up.

After the tsar had **stepped down** from power the Duma **set up** a new **government**, but it couldn't **manage** the problems that Russia had. At the same time groups of workers **set up** so-called "Soviets". They were first organised in St. Petersburg but quickly **spread throughout** the country. As the Duma's **government** became weaker the power of the Soviets became stronger.

Many different political groups in these Soviets fought for power. In the end, the Bolsheviks, **led** by Vladimir Lenin, **took over control**. Most of the **population** liked the Bolsheviks because they **promised** the people "**peace, land and bread**".



THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

WORDS

- **anti-communist** = against the Communists
- **civil war** = a war in which two groups from the same country fight against each other
- **factory** = building in which goods are produced
- **forbidden** = not allowed
- **forces** = group of soldiers
- **foreign** = from another country
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **independent** = free; to govern yourself
- **introduce** = to use for the first time
- **officially** = formally, publicly
- **prisoner** = to keep someone locked up in a place
- **pull out** = to get out of...
- **receive** = get
- **sign** = to put your name on an important piece of paper
- **soldier** = a man or woman who fights for a country in a war
- **state** = government
- **take over control** = to govern or become a leader
- **territory** = land
- **treaty** = an agreement between two or more countries
- **troops** = soldiers

OCTOBER 1917

In October 1917 the Bolsheviks **took over the government** in Russia and Lenin became the most powerful man in the country. All other political parties were **forbidden**.

Under the Bolsheviks all land was put under the control of the **state**. The tsar and the Russian church lost a lot of their land. The new party **introduced** an 8 hour work-day and gave workers more control over the **factories**. **Soldiers** entered the new Red Army.

Lenin quickly **pulled** Russia **out** of World War I. He **signed a treaty** with the Germans at Brest-Litovsk in early 1918. Under this **treaty** Russia lost about a fourth of its **territory**. Georgia, Ukraine and Finland became **independent** countries. Poland and the Baltic states fell under German control. Soon, the Bolsheviks changed their name to the Communist Party.



CIVIL WAR

Shortly after the end of the First World War **civil war** broke out between the Bolsheviks and **anti-Communist forces** who wanted to have the tsar back again. These tsarist **troops** were called "White Russians". They **received** help from some **foreign** countries, like France, Great Britain and the USA. After three years the Red Army won the war and the revolution that had begun a few years earlier was over.

Nicholas II and his family were taken **prisoners** and murdered by the Communists in 1918. In 1922, Russia **officially** became the Soviet Union.

