

## PODCAST The Russian Revolution - From Idealism to Terror (0 to 2:29 minutes)

Immediate

Short-Term

Long-Term

CONSEQUENCES

Created the first socialist state

Changed the course of human history (we are living in a world shaped by a pivotal moment in 1917)

Shook the very foundations of the known world

Divided the world into socialist & capitalist camps

Shaped the course of WW1

Helped define the battle lines for many of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's largest ideological military conflicts (WW2, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, among others)

Led to the death of millions in the Soviet Union (famines, executions, slave labour)

It's legacy (a ⊕ or ⊖) 100 plus years later is fiercely contested

For some it remains a symbol of liberation from oppression, that capitalism & wealth concentration can be challenged, and that empires can be toppled by the masses

For others it is a cautionary tale about how lofty dreams can turn to nightmares (not a good idea that somehow went wrong, but a very bad idea from the start)

What you think about the Russian revolution says a lot about how you see the world today



## Russian Revolution Concepts - From Idealism to Terror

**SOCIALISM** - a political and economic theory which advocates that the community as a whole, and not private owners (capitalists), should own and control the resources and industries of a country.  
- derived from Marxism (political & economic theories based on the writings of) Karl Marx, a philosopher

**COMMUNISM** - a system of society with the state controlling the resources and industries (the means of production) and citizens contributing or receiving according to their abilities and needs  
- V. Lenin said, "the goal of socialism is communism."

**Vladimir Ulyanov (alias "LENIN")** - founder of the Russian Communist Party, leader of the Bolshevik Revolution (1917), & architect and first leader of the Soviet State.  
- developed & implemented Marx's ideas into the Communist worldview where a Soviet government is ruled directly by a country's soldiers, peasants, and workers  
- workers seize a country's land and capital from the political & economic elite

**BOLSHEVIK** - a member of the radical faction of the Russian Communist Party prepared to use violence & terror to bring about a worker's revolution.

**BOURGEOIS ("liberal")** - the capitalist class, owning most of a society's wealth and resources.  
- the elite who uphold the interests of the capitalist class

**Joseph Jughashvili (alias "STALIN")** - became the Soviet dictator after Lenin's death. Stalin's power went unchallenged.

↳ meaning "steel"

\*\* before Lenin's death, he expressed remorse over the violent and dictatorial power that dominated the Soviet government, particularly the absolute power amassed by Stalin.

- forced rapid industrialization & collectivization of agricultural land, resulting in millions dying from famine while others sent to labour camps, or executed (known for "the great purge")  
- ruled the Soviet Union for more than two decades, instituting a reign of death and terror while helping to defeat Nazism.



CZAR - the title of the ruler/emperor of Russia before 1917. The Czar enjoyed absolute power (i.e., an autocracy).

OKHRANA - were the secret police of the Czar / Russian Empire.

RED TERROR - the name given to the civil war that followed Lenin's Communist Revolution against anti-Soviet forces/civilians.

- Lenin was determined to win at any cost, instituting a vicious campaign used to eliminate the opposition to the Soviet government within the civilian population.
- Russia would be void of class conflict & thus the international wars it fostered.