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

Immediate

●

Short-Term

▲

Long-Term

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CONSEQUENCES

Created the first socialist state.

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

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 20th 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).

Its legacy (or Θ) 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
revolutions.

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

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