



The Russian Revolution

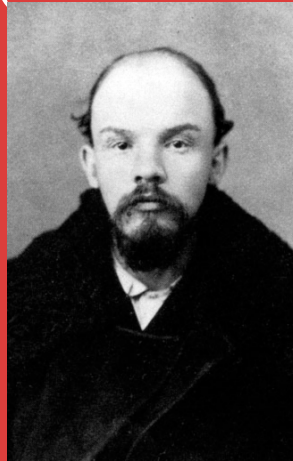
Richard Pipes

- Thesis – Russian Revolution = Lenin
- Leftist, but not Communist
- American from Poland; Jewish
- Early Revisionist often questioned by neo-revisionists for focus on Lenin as the core of the revolution.



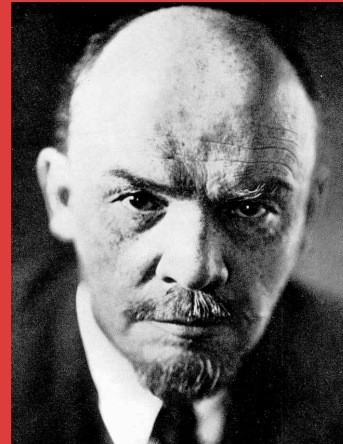
Vladimir Ilitch Ulianov

- Born 1870; Father died and brother executed by Alexander II for an assassination plot in 1886
 - Is this why Lenin became a Communist – Histo says No.
- **University of Kazan** – “reticent and unsociable”
 - Expelled due to a harmless student protest
 - Exposure to radical literature began
 - Hatred for autocracy, lawlessness, police, liberals and bourgeoisie – Struve (friend in 1890s) → personality shift



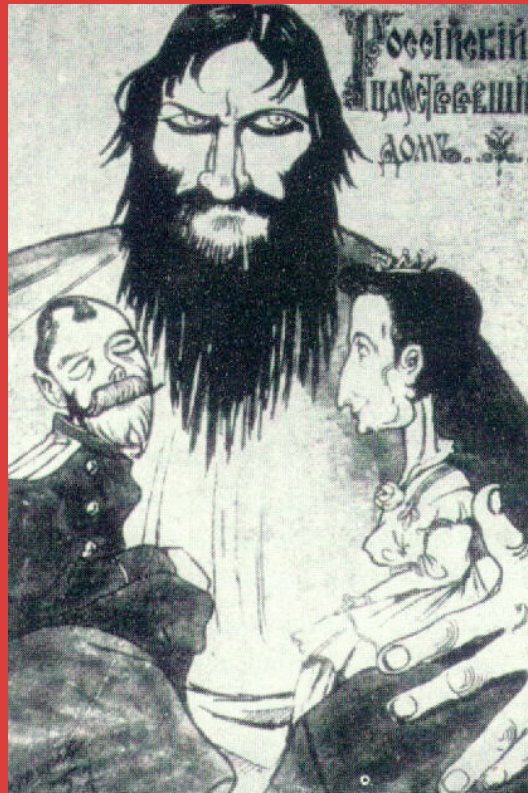
Lenin 2.0

- Wants to mix Marxism with German Social-Democratic philosophies and anarchistic terror
- Two types of people: Friend and Enemy
 - Unable to tolerate dissent; silence and suppress dissenters
 - Seeds of totalitarian mentality
- Inspired fear; cruel, but at no physical risk to himself
- No individuals, just states and parties
 - Could not understand that normal people wanted to live in peace (105)
- **Bolsheviks** – “pseudo-intellectuals looking for certainty in an uncertain world” (104)



Roots of Bolshevism

- War (Crimea, Russo-Japanese, WWI)
- Nicholas II and weak leadership
- Poor economic conditions
- Agrarian, feudal society (still serfs in late 1800s)



Bolshevism vs. Leninism

- One in the same; “conceived in his own image...”
- Communist Russia does away with opposition
- Lenin had no personal life → dedicated to cause
- Influenced by Lenin’s life experiences with workers, intelligentsia, liberals, absolutism



Bolshevism vs. Marxism

- Marxism + Social Democrats
- “Worker, if left to himself, would not make revolution, but come to terms with the capitalist (105)→ workers need to be led by socialist party of professional revolutionaries (don’t betray class)
- Social intelligentsia would lead (not Marx)
- Need clandestine effort to implement→ Split w/SD



- Mensheviks – Split over way revolution should be handled (now vs. later) in 1906-07
- Bolsheviks join SRs on collectivization and giving land to peasants (win peasant support)
- Supported self-determination for minorities
- Funded by bourgeois and bank robberies (1907-08)



WWI (110-12)

- Lenin welcomed war because it would attract peasants to Bolshevism.
- Called for the defeat of Russia as “least evil”
- Provisional Government wanted to win the war



February Revolution

- True Crane Brinton Stage #3
- Spontaneous and gained nationwide acceptance → largely socialist/liberal/intellectual backed, but Bolsheviks prospered from the fall of czar. (113-15)
- April Theses – Renounce war, deny support of Provisional Gov't., nationalization of land and bank, soviet control of production/distribution (117)

Alexander
Kerensky



War and Propaganda

- Clausewitz's focus on total destruction (119)
- Avoid Counterrevolutionary backlash
- Tirailleur (skirmishing) – find weak points and attack there
- Gustav le Bon – *Crowd Psychology* → learned how to manipulate large crowds



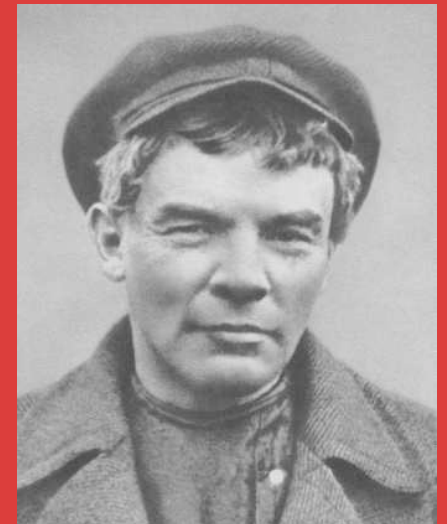
April-June, 1917 (119-121)

- Bolsheviks still behind SRs and Mensheviks
 - Slogans say others were hypocrites → TRUE revolution
 - World Revolution promised groups everything b/c Russia didn't matter →
 - April Riots – Weak
- Syndicalism – Anti-Marxist – vertical integration of workers; almost Corporatist!? Uses it to gain worker support in 1917 → destroys it in 1920.
- Red Guard – Private army financed by GER →
 - Antiwar propaganda against “bourgeoisie’s war”



June-July, 1917 (125-127)

- June antiwar/anti-Kerensky demonstration cancelled prematurely; people disgruntled by RUS in WWI
- July Revolt – Lenin flees prior to putsch in Finland
- Trotsky & others seize power in name of Soviets
 - Mensheviks and SRs walk out, leaving Bolsheviks
 - Lenin returns to lead coup → loses his nerve → fails →
 - Bolsheviks arrested and Lenin flees back to Finland
 - Lvov resigns and Kerensky takes over

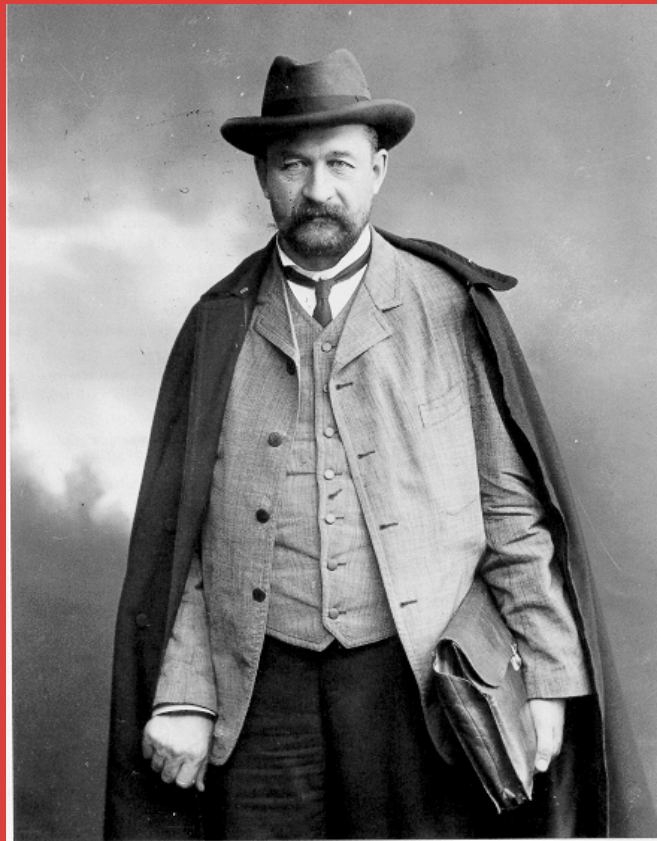


Kornilov Affair (8/17; 132-35)

- Army loses it's strongest general's support→
- Weakening of army key to forming single-party state
- Kornilov Comm-in-Chief by Kerensky who feared right more than left
- Lvov deceives Kerensky into thinking Kornilov was plotting overthrow as revenge over firing→ THEN tricks Kornilov into saying he wants to be dictator



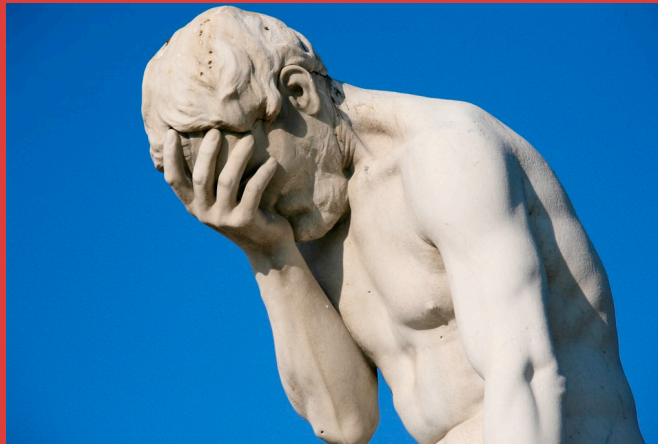
- THEN Lvov tells Kerensky, who demands he puts Kornilov's demands in writing & demands dictatorship in Kornilov's name.
- THEN the misunderstanding on the phone→
- Kerensky dismisses Kornilov



Lvov...Georgy Lvov

Kerensky's Folly

- Kornilov requests martial law in Petrograd, having no clue what's going on (proof of no Korn. putsch)
- Kerensky's telegram firing Kornilov received as a forgery by generals → finds out about Lvov. → Kerensky won't back down even after misunderstanding is discovered →
- Kornilov enraged & *actually rebels*
- **Pipes** – No Kornilov plot, but a real Kerensky plot
 - Failed and achieved exact opposite result for Kerensky
 - Bolshevik gains in popularity (nearly 50% of seats)



Aftermath

- Bolsheviks released from prison, gain power in Soviets (nearly 50%) → Kerensky, to stop Kornilov's imaginary coup gives 40K guns TO BOLSHEVIKS!
- **Pipes** – Pandering to the Left lost Kerensky the army, and they didn't save him in October. Lenin had “fresh hope” due to split (136)



September

- Trotsky takes over Petrograd Soviet & wants to use this power to take over the others
- Coup talk rekindled
 - Zinoviev and Kamenev against it; instead, assume legit power at 2nd Congress of Soviets
 - Lenin thought they were “insane”; only way was armed insurrection in Moscow and Petrograd
 - Everyone in Central Committee disagreed with Lenin
- **Why Now?** Didn't want to get overruled by SRs wrecking his mandate. Needed to do it before Constituent Assembly met or they'd be striking a gov. run by SRs instead of bourgeois. Ispolkom gives in to Lenin's demands; fatal mistake (139-140)



Red October

- PG ready to give Petrograd to GER navy → Ispolkom condemns move “capital of revolution”
- Menshevik move to create Committee of Revolutionary defense → goes awry b/c Bolsheviks vote for it and control military LEGALLY →
- Time to strike. Coup on 10/25 & 2nd Congress would ratify it.



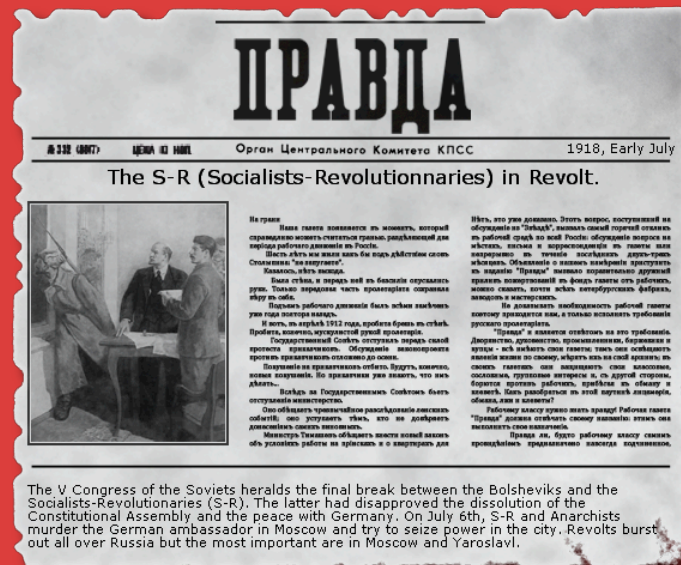
Coup d'Etat

- Trotsky orchestrates control of the army through Milrevkom
- Kerensky didn't arrest them b/c he thought he could permanently crush Bolshevik uprising; still more afraid of Right, so he didn't activate loyal forces
- Milrevkom took businesses and utilities
- Kerensky escapes → Lenin doesn't take Winter Palace, but sends out a declaration as if he had.



The Morning After...

- People had no idea what had happened overnight but, “Petrograd was in the iron grip of armed Bolsheviks and nothing would ever be the same.”
- Winter Palace taken and PG cabinet arrested at 2am
- 2nd Congress begins with a Bolshevik/Left SR supermajority at 1am on 10/26



The V Congress of the Soviets heralds the final break between the Bolsheviks and the Socialists-Revolutionaries (S-R). The latter had disapproved the dissolution of the Constitutional Assembly and the peace with Germany. On July 6th, S-R and Anarchists murder the German ambassador in Moscow and try to seize power in the city. Revolts burst out all over Russia but the most important are in Moscow and Yaroslavl.

Results

- Lenin is Party Chairman
- All other prominent Bolsheviks are his cabinet in a stacked Sovnarkom
- Moscow and other cities fall to Bolsheviks throughout November/December; countryside follows in Summer 1918.
- People fooled by continuity (stocks didn't move)

