

## The October Revolution

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Group Website

The idea for our topic came from our group conversations about topics that we would be interested in researching. We have always been intrigued by Russia, because of its size and unique history, which is largely untaught. One day, as we were driving by the Russian Art museum, we decided that our topic would be the October Revolution of 1917.

To conduct our research, we returned to Wilson Library and were able to check out many books that we had found when visiting with the school. We found three books written by Leon Trotsky, and a couple journals from the time period as Primary sources. Most of our resources came by way of book. Another important source was an interview we conducted with Peter Weisensel, a Professor of Russian history at Macalester College. The interview gave us insight into the motives of Lenin and the tactics of the Bolshevik party, as well as explaining to us the sequence of events that preceded the actual takeover.

Our understanding of the topic has expanded through the research we conducted. As we read the various books and sources, we began to understand the severity of the situation the Russians were in and why they supported such a radical government. We went from knowing little to nothing about the October Revolution in Russia to becoming experts. Our understanding grew on how these events led to the creation of the Soviet Union, and subsequently many more rights being taken away from the people that were under communist rule.

We chose to do a website because we felt it was the most effective medium to display our ideas and information. It was convenient to have everyone be able to work on it from separate places, and we learned the skills of embedding files and pictures, creating templates,

and generally navigating Weebly. The website was out together periodically, moving from the text of the thesis to the four other pages that we deemed significant.

Our topic ties into the theme Rights and Responsibilities because of both the rights that people exercised in overthrowing a government, and also the rights of so many people that the communist regime eventually took away. The people of Russia felt that the government had the responsibility to be for the people. Through the Bolsheviks and Soviets, the workers and peasants felt they were attaining their right to rule themselves.

The topic of the October Revolution is important in the sense that if it had not occurred, there would be no exposure to communism as a form of governance. The Soviet Union may never have formed and ruled over much of the European continent. The communist regime became a military power in the world and there still exists tension today.

## Bibliography

### Primary

**17 Feb. 2014. Digital Image. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.**[.<http://s3.amazonaws.com/magnoliasoft.imageweb/bridgeman/supersize/pnp370961.jpg>](http://s3.amazonaws.com/magnoliasoft.imageweb/bridgeman/supersize/pnp370961.jpg).

Picture of Leon Trotsky during Russian Civil War.

**"Alexander Kerensky honors Petrograd riot victims." Image. The Great War in Gravure: the New York Times Portfolio of the War, The New York Times Co., 1917. World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 5 Feb. 2014.**

Alexander Kerensky honors victims of the Petrograd riots during the Russian Revolution in 1917. The Russian Revolution ended the reign of the Russian imperial regime and instituted the first communist state.

**Bernstein, Herman. "Lenin, Agent of Kaiser, is shown to Prolong War." Minneapolis Morning Tribune (1909-1922) Oct 24 1917: 1. ProQuest. 8 Mar. 2014** [.<http://ezproxy.hclib.org/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/567362229?accountid=6743>](http://ezproxy.hclib.org/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/567362229?accountid=6743).

This New York Times article gave the world's view of Lenin and their suspicions of him as an agent of the Germans.

**"Bolsheviki Seize State Buildings, Defying Kerensky."New York Times (1857-1922) Nov 08 1917: 1. ProQuest. 8 Mar. 2014**

[.<http://ezproxy.hclib.org/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/99869777?accountid=6743>](http://ezproxy.hclib.org/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/99869777?accountid=6743)

The article, written the day after the Bolshevik takeover, expressed the fear of the world as they were unsure of the new government. It also told us how the MRC seized government posts and stormed the Winter Palace.

**"Bolshevik soldiers in Petrograd." Image. Forbes, Edgar Allen, Leslie's Photographic Review of the Great War, 1919. World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 5 Feb. 2014.**

Armed Bolshevik revolutionaries reorganize in Petrograd in 1918 at the outset of the Russian Civil War.

**Century Co. Trotsky Portrait. Digital image. Wikipedia. N.p., 5 June 2012. Web. 9 Mar. 2014.** [.<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Trotsky\\_Portrait.jpg>](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Trotsky_Portrait.jpg).

This is a picture of Leon Trotsky as leader of the Military Revolutionary Committee.

**"Communist Leaders." History.com. A&E Television Networks, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.** [.<http://www.history.com/photos/cold-war-communist-leaders/photo2>](http://www.history.com/photos/cold-war-communist-leaders/photo2).

This is a photo of Joseph Stalin giving a speech during the Cold War.

**Historic Naval Ships Visitors Guide - Cruiser Aurora. Digital image. Historic Naval Ships Visitors Guide - Cruiser Aurora. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014. <<http://www.hnsa.org/ships/aurora.htm>>.**

This is a picture of the battleship Aurora in the bay Neva. This ship was used as part of the October 25th takeover.

**Japanese-troops Russian-civil-war.jpg. Digital image. Alternative History. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014. <[http://static4.wikia.nocookie.net/\\_\\_cb20130425231950/althistory/images/e/ed/Japanese-troops\\_Russian-civil-war.jpg](http://static4.wikia.nocookie.net/__cb20130425231950/althistory/images/e/ed/Japanese-troops_Russian-civil-war.jpg)>.**

This is a picture of Japanese troops in Russia during the Civil War, as they assisted the Whites.

**"Joseph Stalin: speech on the results of the first five-year plan (1933)." World History: The Modern Era. ABC-CLIO, 2013. Web. 13 Dec. 2013.**

This speech was given in the first years of Stalin's leadership. He talks about his five-year plan, which is a plan to improve Soviet Russia's economy in five years. This gave citizens hope for the future of Russia.

**July Days. Digital image. Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 15 Feb. 2014. Web. 17 Feb. 2014. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July\\_Days](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_Days)>.**

This picture depicts the people of Petrograd rioting in the streets.

**Kornilov1916.jpeg. Digital image. Wikipedia. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014. <[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lavr\\_Kornilov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lavr_Kornilov)>.**

Portrait of Lavr Kornilov, leader of coup d'etat.

**"Korniloff and Kaledines Raise Revolt Against Bolsheviki;" Minneapolis Morning Tribune (1909-1922): 1. Dec 10 1917. ProQuest. Web. 9 Mar. 2014 <<http://ezproxy.hclib.org/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/567256882?accountid=6743>>.**

This newspaper article from 1917 exclaims the start of the Russian Civil War. The world saw the Bolsheviks as unstable leadership as is article shows. It spoke as if it was inevitable that there would be a counterrevolution to the Bolsheviks.

**Leon Trotsky, Bolshevik Commissar for War, Alighting from His Train HQ during the Russian Civil War by Russian Photographer. Digital image. Magnolia Box. N.p., n.d. Web.**

This picture shows Leon Trotsky as the Bolshevik Commissar for War during the Russian Civil War.

**"Leon Trotsky." Image. Perry-Castaneda Library. World History: The Modern Era. ABC-CLIO, 2013. Web. 7 Dec. 2013.**

This is a picture of Leon Trotsky while in the Bolshevik government.

**"New Slav Rulers to Ask Three Months Armistice." Minneapolis Morning Tribune (1909-1922) Nov 10 1917: 1. ProQuest. 8 Mar. 2014**  
<<http://ezproxy.hclib.org/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/567362397?accountid=6743>>.

This article explained to us how the Bolsheviks immediately ended the Russian efforts in World War I and the effect it had on the United States and the remaining powers in the war.

**October Revolution Begins in Russia When Bolsheviks Storm Winter Palace in St. Petersburg**Featured. Digital image. Skepticism. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.  
<<http://skepticism.org/timeline/november-history/9919-october-revolution-begins-russia-bolsheviks-storm-winter-palace-st-petersburg.html>>.

This picture depicts the storming of the Winter Palace by the Bolshevik troops.

**"October Revolution." Image. Hulton Archive/Getty Images. World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 5 Feb. 2014.**

During the height of the Russian Revolution of 1917, members of the revolutionary Red Guard and marines attack the Winter Palace in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg). By November, the Bolsheviks, under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin, were firmly in control of the Russian government.

**Rare Photograph. Digital image. : October Revolution of 1917 in Russia. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.** <<http://rarephotograph.blogspot.com/2012/07/october-revolution-of-1917-in-russia.html>>.

This is a picture of a soldier holding the Bolshevik flag while overlooking Petrograd after the attacks.

**"Revolution in Russia; Czar abdicates; Michael Made Regent, Empress in Hiding; Pro-German Ministers Reported Slain." New York Times (1857-1922): 1. Mar 16 1917. ProQuest. Web. 9 Mar. 2014** <<http://ezproxy.hclib.org/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/98150919?accountid=6743>>.

The article explained the rapid chain of events that led to the Tsar abdicating his throne. It expressed the people's discontent with the Tsar Nicholas II and agreed that the February Revolution was necessary.

**"Rioting in St. Petersburg." The Independent ...Devoted to the Consideration of Politics, Social and Economic Tendencies, History, Literature, and the Arts (1848-1921) Jan 26 1905: 174. ProQuest. 9 Mar. 2014** <<http://ezproxy.hclib.org/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/90639333?accountid=6743>>.

The article explained the Revolution of 1905, and why the people were disenchanted with Nicholas. It told how Father Gapon led the General Strike and represented the people. It was the first time the people turned out in masses to protest the tsar.

**Robien, Louis De, and Camilla Sykes. *The Diary of a Diplomat in Russia: 1917-1918*. London: Michael Joseph, 1969. Print.**

This book is a diary of a diplomat who witnessed the events leading up to the Revolution. It gave us an objective perspective of the Bolshevik party and their actions. He admired the Bolshevik's vision of a government for the workers, but was skeptical of their actions. He expressed the mood of the people and their view of Lenin as they slowly turned against him after the revolution.

**"Russian Revolution of 1917." Image. The Illustrated London News Picture Library. World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 5 Feb. 2014.**

A group of Russian soldiers who have joined the revolution drive with Bolshevik flags attached to their bayonets in 1917.

**"Soviet poster from World War II ." Image. Library of Congress. World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 5 Feb. 2014.**

This Soviet poster from World War II exhorts: "Young men and women, defend the freedom, the nation, and the honor fought for by your fathers." It is a call to arms in reference to the Russian Revolution of 1917.

**Sukhanov, Nikolai. *The Russian Revolution, 1917*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984. Print.**

This book provided us with a first hand account of Nikolai Sukhanov, a part of the Socialist Revolutionary Party. In 1917 Sukhanov was elected to the Executive Committee of the Petrograd Soviet and he explains in his 'journals' 1917 Revolution.

**This Day In History | November 7th 1917: The October Revolution. Digital image. This Day In History | November 7th 1917: The October Revolution. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014. <<http://todayinhistory.tumblr.com/post/12470315437/november-7th-1917-the-october-revolution>>.**

This is yet another picture of the Winter Palace takeover.

**Trotsky, Leon, and Max Eastman. *The History of the Russian Revolution*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1936. Print.**

This book written by Leon Trotsky gave us a detailed account of the Revolution from the perspective of the Bolsheviks. The book especially focuses on the planning of the Military Revolutionary Committee and the discussions and decisions that occurred among the Bolsheviks before the revolution. Trotsky told of the elaborate takeover of the bridges and government buildings. He portrayed the Provisional Government and Kerensky as enemies of the people. Meanwhile, he praised Lenin and his policies as a gift to the country. He explained why the Bolsheviks were the party that deserved to rule Russia and their philosophies.

**Trotsky, Leon, and Max Eastman. *The Revolution Betrayed*. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2004. Print.**

This book written by Trotsky while he was exiled in Norway in 1935 and provides his critique on Stalin and the Soviet government. He explains the problems with Stalin allowing us to further see their different views.

**"Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin in 1922." Image. The Illustrated London News Picture**

This picture depicts Lenin and Stalin after the Bolsheviks obtained power of Russia.

**--Library. World History: The Modern Era. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 16 Jan. 2014.**

This picture of Stalin and Lenin together was taken shortly after Stalin was appointed.

**Vladimirov, Ivan. Золотой век России (1880-1940). Digital image. Золотой век России.**

**N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014. <<http://zolotoivek.tumblr.com/post/16746832731/ivan-vladimirov-shooting-workers-near-the-winter>>.**

This is a painting portraying the slaughter of innocent civilians by the Tsar's Imperial Guard.

## **Secondary**

**"All-Russian Congress of Soviets." World History: The Modern Era. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 12 Jan. 2014.**

This article gave us information about the Provisional government that took power briefly after the overthrow of the czar. It also talks about its moderate policies and the October Revolution planned by Lenin to overthrow the Provisional Government.

**"Bolshevik Party: Programme of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (1903)."**

**World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 17 Jan. 2014.**

This article talks about the beginning of the Bolsheviks and their revolution. It shows the Bolsheviks starting to take place in Russia and trying to take over.

**"Bolshevik Party." World History: The Modern Era. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 12 Jan. 2014.**

This article chronicles the beginning of the Bolshevik party all the way to when it becomes the Communist Party. It speaks of their tactics to gain prominence and their views of a Marxist Society.

**"Council of People's Commissars." World History: The Modern Era. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 16 Jan. 2014.**

This article told us about the Council of People's Commissars which rivaled the Provisional Government. It told us about the responsibilities Lenin, Stalin, and Trotsky had and their involvement which led to their later appointments.



**Davenport, John. *The Bolshevik Revolution*. New York: Chelsea House, 2010. Print.**

This book provided context for the Russian Revolution as well as great detail on the events of the Bolshevik Revolution. It gave us information starting with the Sino-Russian War which began the people's disapproval of the tsar. The book outlined a detailed chain of events that continued to accumulate that led to the Revolution of 1905, the February Revolution, and the October Revolution. It explained why each event led to the other. In addition, it explained the forming of the socialist factions-Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, and Socialist Revolutionaries- and the difference among them. It also told us about Lenin's philosophy and how he controlled the Bolshevik party and the Petrograd soviet. The events and details of the October Revolution were outlined as well as how it led to the Russian Civil War.

**Engdahl, Sylvia. *The Bolshevik Revolution*. Detroit: Greenhaven, a Part of Gale, Cengage Learning, 2014. Print.**

This detailed book provided information from the events that led to the Bolshevik Revolution, to its long lasting effects. It also provided personal accounts of those who lived the Revolution.

**Gottfried, Ted, and Melanie Reim. *The Stalinist Empire*. Brookfield, CT: Twenty-First Century, 2002. Print.**

This source talks about Russian history as a whole and the effects they the Communist government had in the twentieth century on the world.

**Have Bethel's Watchmen Fallen Asleep? Digital image. Jehovahs Witnesses Watchman. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014. <<http://e-watchman.com/have-bethels-watchmen-fallen-asleep/>>.**

This picture shows the hammer and sickle icon made famous by the Bolshevik party.

**"Leon Trotsky." *Historic World Leaders*. Gale, 1994. *Biography in Context*. Web. 18 Dec. 2013.**

This article gave us an in depth look at Trotsky's life and his involvement with Lenin as well as his involvement with the October Revolution.

**"Leon Trotsky." *World History: The Modern Era*. ABC-CLIO, 2013. Web. 6 Dec. 2013.**

This data base article gave us information on the life of Leon Trotsky from his birth to his death. We learned briefly about the different philosophies of Lenin, Stalin, and Trotsky and they helped the early Bolshevik government.

**"Military Revolutionary Committee." *World History: The Modern Era*. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 10 Jan. 2014.**

This brief database article provides information on the Military Revolutionary Committee that was led by Leon Trotsky and the Petrograd Soviet. It was responsible for the October Revolution of 1917 when the moderate Provisional Government was overthrown by the Bolsheviks. It further gives information on the Provisional Government that was overthrown.

**Pethybridge, Roger. *Witness to the Russian Revolution*. London: George Allen & Unwin LTD, 1964. Print.**

This book provides documents both on the 1905 and 1917 Revolutions, includes the March Days and a postscript to the Revolution talking about the lasting impact. It goes into detail about events like the storming of the Winter Palace and the Tsar family execution.

**Portrait of Tsar Nicholas II. Digital image. Lost in the Myths of History. N.p., 1 Aug. 2011. Web. 9 Mar. 2014. <<http://lostinthemythsofhistory.blogspot.com/2011/08/often-repeated-untruths-about-tsar.html>>.**

This is a portrait of Tsar Nicholas II as general of the Russian army on the Western front of World War I.

**Pierpaoli, Paul G., Jr. "Cold War (Causes)." *World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society*. ABC-CLIO, 2013. Web. 13 Dec. 2013.**

This source helped to understand the root causes of the Cold War and how it steamed from WW II. Furthermore, it told us about the long term effects the Bolshevik had on the world through the Communist government.

**Russia\_CivilWar.GIF. Digital image. From Lenin to Stalin. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014. <[http://www.hubertlerch.com/images/Russia\\_CivilWar.GIF](http://www.hubertlerch.com/images/Russia_CivilWar.GIF)>.**

A map detailing the positions of the Bolsheviks and others during the Civil War.

**Sergius, Von Mohrenschildt Dimitri. *The Russian Revolution of 1917; Contemporary Accounts*. New York: Oxford UP, 1971. Print.**

This book compiles many accounts of people who witnessed the Russian Revolution of 1917, and it also includes details about the seizure of power for the Bolsheviks.

**Streissguth, Thomas, and Alexander Meigs Haig. *Soviet Leaders from Lenin to Gorbachev*. Minneapolis: Oliver, 1992. Print.**

This book provided background information on the rule of Vladimir Lenin and how he helped shape the Soviet Union before and after the October Revolution.

***The Soviet Union: A Documentary History*. Acton, Edward, and Tom Stableford. Vol. 1. Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 2005. Print.**

This is day by day documentary of the provisional government leading up to the overthrow. It provided many documents, letters, and journals of people during the October Revolution and accounts of the events.

**Watts, Tim. "Russian Revolution of 1905." *World History: The Modern Era*. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Web. 16 Jan. 2014.**

This article details the Russian Revolution of 1905 and how it set the stage for a bigger revolution in 1917.

**Weinberg, Robert, and Laurie Bernstein. *Revolutionary Russia: A History in Documents*.  
New York: Oxford UP, 2011. Print.**

This book told the story of the Russian Revolution through narratives and letters of those who experienced it. It starts in 1905 and continues through the 1940s giving us context to the October Revolution.

**Weisensel, Peter. Personal Interview. 14 Feb. 2014.**

We sat down with Professor Weisensel for an hour and he shared his knowledge of the Russian Revolution with us. Our conversation especially focused on Lenin and his ideas and philosophy for leading the Soviet Union. He answered some questions we had on Lenin and even gave us insight into his personality. He then told us how the Bolsheviks took over the Provisional Government and the rest of the country through the Russian Civil War.