

# SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Chapter 2 - Class 9 History

**CBSE Curriculum 2025-26**

Comprehensive Study Material by Math Love Institute

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### What was Socialism?

**Socialism:** A system of society where the means of production (land, factories, mines) are owned by the society as a whole, not by private individuals.

#### Key Ideas:

- **No Private Property:** Means of production owned collectively
- **Equality:** No rich or poor, everyone equal
- **Cooperation:** People work together for common good
- **Against Capitalism:** Opposed exploitation of workers

## Age of Social Change (19th Century Europe)

The 19th century saw tremendous changes in Europe:

- **Industrial Revolution:** Factories, machines, urbanization
- **New Social Classes:** Capitalists (factory owners) and Workers
- **Problems:** Exploitation, poverty, terrible working conditions
- **New Ideas:** Socialism emerged as solution to these problems



## 2. THE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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### A. Industrial Revolution (Late 18th Century)

#### What Changed:

- Production moved from homes to **factories**
- Machines replaced manual labor
- Cities grew rapidly (urbanization)
- New social classes emerged

#### Impact on Society:

- Massive production, more goods available
- Factory owners became very rich
- Workers lived in poverty despite hard work
- Terrible working conditions in factories

## B. New Social Classes

### 1. Capitalists/Bourgeoisie:

- Factory owners, mine owners, business people
- Owned means of production
- Very wealthy and powerful
- Controlled economy and politics

### 2. Working Class/Proletariat:

- Factory workers, miners, laborers
- Owned nothing except their labor
- Worked long hours (12-14 hours daily)
- Very low wages, terrible living conditions
- No job security, no rights
- Women and children also worked in factories

## Problems of Industrial Society

- **Exploitation:** Workers paid very little, owners earned huge profits
- **Long Working Hours:** 12-14 hours daily, 6-7 days a week
- **Unsafe Conditions:** Accidents, diseases, no safety measures
- **Child Labor:** Children as young as 5-6 worked in factories
- **Unemployment:** Machines replaced workers
- **Poor Housing:** Workers lived in crowded slums
- **No Political Rights:** Only property owners could vote



## 3. COMING OF SOCIALISM TO EUROPE

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### A. Liberal and Radical Groups

Different groups wanted change but had different ideas:

#### LIBERALS:

- Wanted change but gradually
- Supported individual rights and freedom
- Wanted voting rights for **property owners only**
- Believed in parliamentary democracy
- Did NOT want universal suffrage (vote for all)

#### RADICALS:

- Wanted drastic change
- Supported **universal suffrage** (vote for all adults)
- Wanted government control of property
- Believed in restructuring society
- More revolutionary in approach

## B. Early Socialists

### Robert Owen (England):

- Factory owner who improved workers' conditions
- Built cooperative communities
- Reduced working hours, provided education
- Believed in **cooperatives** (people working together)

### Louis Blanc (France):

- Wanted government help for workers
- Proposed **social workshops** controlled by workers
- Government should encourage cooperatives

### Friedrich Engels:

- German industrialist and philosopher
- Wrote about poor conditions of workers
- Close friend and collaborator of Karl Marx

## 4. KARL MARX AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM

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### Karl Marx (1818-1883)

German philosopher, economist, and revolutionary socialist.

#### Major Works:

- **"The Communist Manifesto"** (1848) - with Friedrich Engels
- **"Das Kapital"** (Capital) - his main work on economics

## A. Marx's Ideas - Historical Materialism

### 1. Class Struggle:

- All history is history of **class struggle**
- Society divided into two classes: Owners vs Workers
- Conflict between these classes drives historical change

### 2. Capitalist Exploitation:

- Capitalists own means of production
- Workers sell their labor for wages
- Capitalists pay less than value of work (exploitation)
- This creates **surplus value** (profit for capitalists)

### 3. Revolution:

- Workers (proletariat) will become conscious of exploitation
- They will unite and overthrow capitalists
- **"Workers of the world, unite!"**
- Revolution will create **socialist society**

### 4. Communist Society:

- After socialism, society will reach **communism**
- No private property, no classes
- No state needed (state will "wither away")
- "From each according to ability, to each according to need"

## **B. Socialist International (Second International)**

- Formed in 1889 by socialist parties from different countries
- Coordinated socialist movements across Europe
- Opposed war and imperialism
- Supported workers' rights and 8-hour working day
- Collapsed during World War I (1914)

## RU 5. THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN 1914

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### A. Political System

#### Autocratic Rule:

- Ruled by **Tsar (Czar)** - absolute monarch
- Tsar Nicholas II (1894-1917) - last Tsar of Russia
- No parliament, no democracy
- Secret police, censorship, no freedom
- Opposition to Tsar was crushed

## B. Economic and Social Conditions

### 1. Agriculture:

- 85% population were **peasants**
- Most land owned by nobility and church
- Peasants worked on land but didn't own it
- Poor farming methods, frequent famines
- Heavy taxes on peasants

### 2. Industry:

- Industries developed after 1890s
- Workers lived in terrible conditions
- Long working hours, low wages
- No workers' rights, frequent strikes

### 3. Social Groups:

- **Nobility:** Rich, owned land, enjoyed privileges
- **Peasants:** Majority, very poor
- **Workers:** Growing class in cities, exploited
- **Middle Class:** Small, wanted reforms

## 6. THE 1905 REVOLUTION

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### Events of 1905

#### Background:

- Russia at war with Japan (1904-05)
- Defeats in war caused anger
- Prices rising, wages falling
- Strikes by workers

#### January 22, 1905 - Bloody Sunday:

- Workers marched peacefully to Winter Palace in St. Petersburg
- Led by Father Gapon, a priest
- Wanted better wages and working conditions
- Carried petition to Tsar
- **Police fired on peaceful protesters**
- Over 100 workers killed, hundreds injured
- This event called "**Bloody Sunday**"

#### After Bloody Sunday:

- Strikes and protests spread across Russia
- Workers, peasants, soldiers joined
- Demanded end of autocracy
- Tsar forced to make concessions

#### Results:

- Tsar created **Duma** (elected parliament)
- But Duma had limited powers

- Tsar could dismiss it anytime
- Real problems remained unsolved

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## 7. POLITICAL PARTIES IN RUSSIA

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### Revolutionary Groups

#### 1. The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party (1898):

- Marxist party
- Split into two groups in 1903:

##### a) BOLSHEVIKS (Majority):

- Led by **Vladimir Lenin**
- Believed in **revolution by disciplined party**
- Small party of professional revolutionaries
- Workers cannot make revolution on their own
- Party should lead workers
- **More radical and revolutionary**

##### b) MENSHEVIKS (Minority):

- Believed in democratic methods
- Party should be open to all
- Workers will develop consciousness gradually
- Less radical than Bolsheviks

#### 2. Socialist Revolutionary Party:

- Focused on **peasants**
- Wanted peasants to own land
- Used terrorist methods (assassinations)

#### 3. Constitutional Democrats (Cadets):

- Liberal party

- Wanted constitutional monarchy
- Supported by middle class

## Important - Lenin's Role

### Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924):

- Real name: Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov
- Leader of Bolshevik Party
- Spent years in exile in Europe
- Wrote many books on Marxism and revolution
- Key work: **"What is to be Done?"**
- Adapted Marx's ideas to Russian conditions
- Main architect of Russian Revolution

## 8. THE FEBRUARY REVOLUTION (1917)

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### Events of February 1917

#### Background - World War I (1914-1918):

- Russia entered war in 1914
- Lost millions of soldiers
- Economy collapsed
- Food shortage, bread rationing
- Soldiers tired of war

#### February 22, 1917:

- Factory lockout at Petrograd (St. Petersburg)
- Workers demonstrated

#### February 23, 1917 (International Women's Day):

- Women workers led strikes
- Demanded "**Bread, Peace, and Land**"
- 50,000 workers on strike

#### February 24-25:

- Strikes spread across Petrograd
- Workers joined by students, teachers
- Government buildings attacked

#### February 27:

- Soldiers refused to fire on protesters
- **Soldiers joined workers**
- This was the turning point

## March 2, 1917:

- **Tsar Nicholas II abdicated (gave up throne)**
- End of 300-year Romanov dynasty
- End of monarchy in Russia

## After February Revolution

### 1. Provisional Government:

- Formed by Duma leaders
- Led by Alexander Kerensky (later)
- Promised reforms and elections

### 2. Petrograd Soviet:

- **Soviet:** Council of workers and soldiers
- Controlled by workers and soldiers
- Had real power on ground
- Supported by Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, Socialist Revolutionaries

**DUAL POWER:** Both Provisional Government and Petrograd Soviet had power, creating confusion.

## **Problems of Provisional Government**

- Continued Russia's participation in World War I (people wanted peace)
- Delayed land reforms (peasants wanted land immediately)
- Did not solve food crisis
- Lost support of workers and soldiers
- Failed to meet people's expectations

## ▶ 9. THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION (1917)

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### Lenin's Return and April Theses

#### April 1917:

- Lenin returned from exile in Switzerland
- Announced his **"April Theses"**

#### April Theses - Three Demands:

1. **"Peace"** - End war immediately
2. **"Land"** - Land to peasants
3. **"Bread"** - Food for workers

#### Slogan: **"All Power to the Soviets"**

Lenin declared that Provisional Government should be overthrown and Soviets should take power.

## Events of October Revolution

### October 24, 1917 (Night):

- Bolsheviks began uprising in Petrograd
- Led by **Military Revolutionary Committee**
- **Leon Trotsky** organized military operations
- Red Guards (Bolshevik soldiers) seized key points
- Telegraph, post office, bridges captured

### October 25, 1917 (Evening):

- **Winter Palace attacked**
- Signal: Cruiser Aurora fired blank shots
- Provisional Government arrested
- Kerensky fled
- **REVOLUTION SUCCESSFUL!**

### October 26:

- All-Russian Congress of Soviets met
- Approved Bolshevik takeover
- New government formed with Lenin as Chairman

## Why October Revolution Succeeded

- Provisional Government was weak and unpopular
- Continued war despite people wanting peace
- Lenin's clear program: Peace, Land, Bread
- Bolsheviks well-organized under Lenin
- Support of workers, soldiers, and peasants
- Trotsky's brilliant military planning

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## 10. CHANGES AFTER OCTOBER REVOLUTION

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### A. Immediate Actions (October-November 1917)

#### 1. Peace Decree:

- Russia withdrew from World War I
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) with Germany
- Russia lost territory but got peace

#### 2. Land Decree:

- All land of landlords confiscated
- Land given to peasants
- Peasants' Soviets distributed land

#### 3. Banks and Industries Nationalized:

- All banks taken over by government
- Large industries nationalized
- No private ownership of means of production

#### 4. Workers' Control:

- Workers given control over factories
- 8-hour working day introduced

#### 5. Rights to Nationalities:

- All nationalities given equal rights
- Right to self-determination



## 11. THE CIVIL WAR (1918-1920)

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### Why Civil War?

#### Opposition to Bolsheviks:

- Nobles, landlords lost their property
- Rich people opposed socialism
- Some political parties opposed Bolsheviks
- Foreign countries opposed communist government

#### Two Sides:

##### 1. REDS (Bolsheviks):

- Bolshevik government forces
- Led by Lenin and Trotsky
- **Red Army** - organized by Trotsky
- Supported by workers and peasants

##### 2. WHITES (Anti-Bolsheviks):

- Supporters of Tsar
- Landlords, nobles, capitalists
- Socialist Revolutionaries, Mensheviks
- Supported by foreign countries (Britain, France, USA, Japan)

## Result of Civil War

- **Reds (Bolsheviks) won** by 1920
- Devastating war - millions died
- Economy completely destroyed
- Famine and disease spread
- But Bolshevik government survived

## War Communism (1918-1921)

During Civil War, Bolsheviks introduced War Communism:

- All industries under state control
- Strict discipline in factories
- Food rationing
- Forced requisition of grain from peasants
- This created discontent among peasants

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## 12. THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP)

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### Background

- After Civil War, economy was ruined
- Peasants angry due to grain requisition
- Workers discontent due to food shortage
- 1921: Sailors' revolt at Kronstadt naval base
- Lenin realized need for change

### New Economic Policy (1921)

#### Main Features:

- **Peasants:** Could keep surplus after paying tax
- **Small Industries:** Allowed private ownership
- **Large Industries:** Remained state-owned
- **Trade:** Private trade allowed
- Basically, **mixed economy** - some capitalism + socialism

#### Results:

- Agricultural production increased
- Industrial production recovered
- Trade revived
- Economy improved
- But inequality increased



## 13. FORMATION OF USSR

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### December 1922 - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

#### Formation:

- Russia joined with other republics
- Formed **USSR (Soviet Union)**
- Federal system with multiple republics
- Russia was largest republic

#### Political System:

- **One-party system** - only Communist Party allowed
- All political power to Communist Party
- No opposition parties
- Democratic Centralism - decisions made at top, followed below

## Stalin's Rise

Lenin died in 1924

Joseph Stalin (1879-1953):

- Became leader after Lenin's death
- Ruled USSR from 1924 to 1953
- Introduced **Five Year Plans**
- Rapid industrialization
- Collectivization of agriculture
- But also established dictatorship
- Killed millions of opponents (Great Purge)



## 14. CHANGES IN SOCIETY

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### Social Changes After Revolution

#### 1. Class System:

- No more nobles or landlords
- All equal citizens
- No exploitation

#### 2. Land Ownership:

- Land belonged to state
- Peasants worked on collective farms (kolkhoz)

#### 3. Education:

- Free and compulsory education
- Literacy rate increased dramatically
- Schools for workers and peasants

#### 4. Women's Rights:

- Equal rights with men
- Right to work, equal wages
- Right to education
- Divorce allowed

#### 5. Workers:

- 8-hour working day
- Right to form trade unions
- Social security, healthcare
- No unemployment

## 6. Housing and Healthcare:

- Free healthcare
- Low-rent housing
- Childcare facilities

## Important Points

### Achievements:

- First socialist state in world
- Rapid industrialization
- High literacy rate
- Social security for all
- Inspired socialist movements globally

### Problems:

- One-party dictatorship
- No freedom of speech
- Secret police, censorship
- Stalin's purges killed millions
- Forced collectivization caused famines

## 15. GLOBAL IMPACT

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### Impact on the World

#### 1. Spread of Socialism:

- Socialist and communist parties formed worldwide
- Workers' movements strengthened
- Inspired revolutions in other countries

#### 2. Colonial Countries:

- Inspired anti-colonial movements
- USSR supported independence struggles
- Influenced leaders like Nehru in India

#### 3. Workers' Rights:

- Even capitalist countries improved workers' conditions
- Fear of communist revolution forced reforms
- 8-hour day, minimum wages became common

#### 4. Cold War:

- USSR vs USA - two superpowers
- Socialism vs Capitalism
- Shaped 20th century history

## IN Impact on India

- Inspired Indian freedom movement
- Nehru influenced by socialist ideas
- Indian National Congress adopted socialist goals
- After independence, India adopted mixed economy
- Five Year Plans inspired by Soviet model



## 16. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS & TERMS

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### Key Terms to Remember

- 1. Socialism:** System where means of production owned by society, not individuals.
- 2. Capitalism:** Economic system where production owned by private individuals for profit.
- 3. Bourgeoisie:** Capitalist class, factory owners.
- 4. Proletariat:** Working class, factory workers.
- 5. Tsar (Czar):** Emperor of Russia.
- 6. Duma:** Russian parliament.
- 7. Soviet:** Council of workers and soldiers.
- 8. Bolsheviks:** Radical socialists led by Lenin (Majority).
- 9. Mensheviks:** Moderate socialists (Minority).
- 10. Bloody Sunday:** January 22, 1905 - massacre of peaceful protesters.
- 11. April Theses:** Lenin's program - Peace, Land, Bread.
- 12. Kolkhoz:** Collective farm in USSR.
- 13. Nationalization:** Transfer of private property to state ownership.

**14. USSR:** Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union).

**15. Communist Party:** Political party that ruled USSR.

## 17. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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### Very Short Answer Questions (1 mark)

**Q1.** What was socialism?

**Answer:** A system where means of production are owned by society, not private individuals.

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**Q2.** Who was the leader of Bolshevik Party?

**Answer:** Vladimir Lenin

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**Q3.** When did Bloody Sunday occur?

**Answer:** January 22, 1905

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**Q4.** What does USSR stand for?

**Answer:** Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

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**Q5.** What were Lenin's three demands in April Theses?

**Answer:** Peace, Land, and Bread

## Short Answer Questions (3 marks)

**Q6.** What were the main ideas of Karl Marx?

**Answer:**

Karl Marx's main ideas:

1. **Historical Materialism:** All history is history of class struggle between owners and workers
2. **Exploitation:** Capitalists exploit workers by paying less than value of their work
3. **Revolution:** Workers will unite and overthrow capitalists through revolution
4. **Socialist Society:** After revolution, socialist society will be created with no private property
5. **Communism:** Eventually society will reach communism - classless, stateless society

Famous slogan: "**Workers of the world, unite!**"

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**Q7.** What was Bloody Sunday? What was its impact?

**Answer:**

**Bloody Sunday (January 22, 1905):**

- Workers marched peacefully to Winter Palace in St. Petersburg
- Led by Father Gapon, a priest
- Carried petition to Tsar for better wages and conditions
- Police fired on peaceful protesters

- Over 100 killed, hundreds injured

**Impact:**

- Triggered the 1905 Revolution
  - Strikes and protests spread across Russia
  - Tsar forced to create Duma (parliament)
  - People lost faith in Tsar
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**Q8.** What were the main events of February Revolution 1917?

**Answer:**

**Main Events:**

- **February 22:** Factory lockout at Petrograd, workers demonstrated
- **February 23:** Women workers led strikes for bread, 50,000 workers joined
- **February 24-25:** Strikes spread, government buildings attacked
- **February 27:** Soldiers refused to fire on protesters and joined workers (turning point)
- **March 2:** Tsar Nicholas II abdicated, ending 300-year Romanov dynasty

**Result:** Provisional Government formed, monarchy ended

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**Q9.** Differentiate between Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.

**Answer:**

<b>Bolsheviks</b>	<b>Mensheviks</b>
Led by Lenin	Led by other leaders
Believed in revolution	Believed in gradual change
Small, disciplined party	Open, broad-based party
Party should lead workers	Workers will develop consciousness
More radical	More moderate

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**Q10.** What was the New Economic Policy (NEP)?

**Answer:**

**New Economic Policy (1921):**

Introduced by Lenin after Civil War to revive economy.

**Main Features:**

- Peasants could keep surplus grain after paying tax
- Small industries allowed private ownership
- Private trade permitted
- Large industries remained state-owned
- Mixed economy - combination of socialism and capitalism

**Result:** Economy recovered, production increased

## Long Answer Questions (5 marks)

**Q11.** What were the main causes of the Russian Revolution?

**Answer:**

### **1. AUTOCRATIC RULE:**

- Tsar Nicholas II was absolute ruler
- No democracy, no parliament (Duma had limited powers)
- Secret police, censorship, no freedom
- Opposition crushed brutally

### **2. CONDITION OF WORKERS:**

- Worked 12-14 hours daily
- Very low wages, terrible working conditions
- No workers' rights, frequent strikes crushed
- Lived in crowded slums

### **3. CONDITION OF PEASANTS:**

- 85% population were peasants
- Most land owned by nobles and church
- Peasants poor, wanted land
- Heavy taxes, frequent famines

### **4. WORLD WAR I (1914-1918):**

- Russia suffered heavy losses
- Millions of soldiers died
- Economy destroyed
- Food shortage, bread rationing
- Soldiers and people wanted peace

## 5. ROLE OF LENIN AND BOLSHEVIKS:

- Lenin provided clear program: Peace, Land, Bread
- Well-organized revolutionary party
- Connected with workers and peasants

These factors together led to February and October Revolutions of 1917.

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**Q12.** Describe the main events of the October Revolution 1917.

**Answer:**

### **BACKGROUND:**

- After February Revolution, Provisional Government formed
- But continued war, delayed land reforms
- Lenin returned in April, announced April Theses
- Demanded: Peace, Land, Bread; "All Power to Soviets"
- Bolsheviks gained support of workers and soldiers

### **EVENTS OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION:**

#### **October 24, 1917 (Night):**

- Bolsheviks began uprising in Petrograd
- Led by Military Revolutionary Committee
- Leon Trotsky organized operations
- Red Guards (armed workers) seized key points
- Telegraph, bridges, railway stations captured

#### **October 25, 1917 (Evening):**

- Winter Palace (government headquarters) attacked
- Signal: Cruiser Aurora fired blank shots

- Provisional Government arrested
- Kerensky (PM) fled
- **Revolution successful!**

#### **October 26:**

- All-Russian Congress of Soviets approved takeover
- New government formed with Lenin as Chairman

#### **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:**

- Russia withdrew from World War I
- Land given to peasants
- Banks and industries nationalized
- Workers given control of factories

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**Q13.** What changes did the Bolsheviks introduce after the October Revolution?

#### **Answer:**

After October Revolution, Bolsheviks introduced major changes:

#### **1. POLITICAL CHANGES:**

- All power transferred to Soviets
- Communist Party became ruling party
- One-party system established
- No other parties allowed

#### **2. ECONOMIC CHANGES:**

- **Land:** All landlords' land confiscated, given to peasants
- **Industries:** Banks and large industries nationalized
- **No Private Property:** Means of production owned by state

- **Workers' Control:** Workers managed factories

### 3. SOCIAL CHANGES:

- **Class Equality:** Nobles and landlords abolished
- **Women's Rights:** Equal rights with men, right to work, divorce
- **Education:** Free and compulsory education
- **8-hour Working Day:** Introduced for workers

### 4. PEACE:

- Russia withdrew from World War I
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918) with Germany

### 5. HEALTHCARE AND WELFARE:

- Free healthcare for all
- Social security system
- Low-rent housing

These changes transformed Russia from capitalist to socialist society.

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**Q14.** What was the impact of the Russian Revolution on the world?

**Answer:**

Russian Revolution had far-reaching global impact:

#### 1. SPREAD OF SOCIALISM:

- First socialist state inspired others
- Socialist and communist parties formed worldwide
- Workers' movements strengthened globally
- Socialist revolutions in China, Cuba, Vietnam, etc.

## 2. COLONIAL COUNTRIES:

- Inspired anti-colonial movements
- USSR supported independence struggles
- Influenced leaders like Nehru, Ho Chi Minh
- Provided alternative to Western imperialism

## 3. WORKERS' RIGHTS:

- Even capitalist countries improved workers' conditions
- Fear of communist revolution forced reforms
- 8-hour working day became common
- Social security, minimum wages introduced

## 4. COLD WAR:

- USSR emerged as superpower
- Cold War between USSR (socialism) and USA (capitalism)
- World divided into two blocs
- Shaped 20th century politics

## 5. INDIA:

- Inspired Indian freedom movement
- Nehru influenced by socialist ideas
- After independence, India adopted mixed economy
- Five Year Plans based on Soviet model

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**Q15.** Why did the Tsarist autocracy collapse in 1917?

**Answer:**

Several factors led to the collapse of Tsarist autocracy:

## **1. AUTOCRATIC RULE:**

- Tsar Nicholas II was weak and indecisive ruler
- Refused to share power
- Duma had no real power
- People had no say in government

## **2. ECONOMIC CRISIS:**

- Russia's economy backward compared to Europe
- Industry underdeveloped
- Agriculture primitive
- Workers and peasants lived in poverty

## **3. WORLD WAR I:**

- Biggest immediate cause
- Russia suffered terrible defeats
- Over 7 million casualties
- Economy completely destroyed
- Food crisis, bread shortage
- Soldiers tired of war, deserted

## **4. ROLE OF REVOLUTIONARIES:**

- Lenin, Bolsheviks, and others organized opposition
- Spread revolutionary ideas
- Organized workers and soldiers

## **5. LOSS OF SUPPORT:**

- Even army turned against Tsar
- Soldiers joined workers in February 1917
- Without army support, Tsar was helpless
- Had to abdicate on March 2, 1917

Thus, combination of autocracy, economic crisis, war, and revolutionary movement led to collapse of 300-year-old Tsarist autocracy.

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## 18. EXAM PREPARATION GUIDE

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### High Priority Topics

- ✨ Karl Marx and his ideas
- ✨ Conditions in Russia before 1917
- ✨ 1905 Revolution (Bloody Sunday)
- ✨ Bolsheviks vs Mensheviks
- ✨ February Revolution 1917
- ✨ Lenin's April Theses
- ✨ October Revolution 1917
- ✨ Changes after October Revolution
- ✨ Civil War (Reds vs Whites)
- ✨ New Economic Policy (NEP)
- ✨ Formation of USSR
- ✨ Impact of Russian Revolution

## EXAM STRATEGY

### Common Question Patterns:

#### 1. Comparison questions (3 marks)

- Bolsheviks vs Mensheviks
- February vs October Revolution
- Socialism vs Capitalism

#### 2. Causes and Effects (5 marks)

- Causes of Russian Revolution
- Impact on Russia and world
- Changes after October Revolution

#### 3. Events and significance (3-5 marks)

- Bloody Sunday and 1905 Revolution
- February Revolution
- October Revolution

#### 4. Role of individuals (3-5 marks)

- Role of Lenin
- Role of Stalin
- Karl Marx's ideas

## Important Dates Timeline

Year	Event
1848	Communist Manifesto published
1898	Russian Social Democratic Workers Party formed
1903	Split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks
Jan 22, 1905	Bloody Sunday
1905	1905 Revolution, Duma created
1914	World War I began
Feb 1917	February Revolution, Tsar abdicated
April 1917	Lenin returned, April Theses
Oct 24-25, 1917	October Revolution
1918	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
1918-1920	Civil War (Reds vs Whites)
1921	New Economic Policy (NEP)
1922	USSR formed
1924	Lenin died, Stalin took power

### Common Mistakes to Avoid

-  Confusing February and October Revolutions
-  Mixing up Bolsheviks and Mensheviks
-  Not mentioning Lenin's role properly
-  Forgetting dates (Jan 22, 1905 and Oct 1917 are crucial)
-  Not explaining Marx's ideas clearly
-  Incomplete explanation of changes after revolution
-  Not mentioning global impact
-  Confusing War Communism with NEP



## QUICK REVISION - Chapter Summary

**SOCIALISM:** Society owns means of production, not individuals

**MARX:** Class struggle → Workers' revolution → Socialism → Communism

**RUSSIA 1914:** Autocratic Tsar + Poor workers + Landless peasants

**1905:** Bloody Sunday (Jan 22) → Revolution → Duma created

**WWI 1914-18:** Defeats + Deaths + Food crisis

**FEB 1917:** Women's strikes → Soldiers joined → Tsar abdicated

**APRIL THESES:** Peace, Land, Bread + "All Power to Soviets"

**OCT 1917:** Bolsheviks seized power → Lenin's government

**CHANGES:** Land to peasants + Industries nationalized + 8-hour day

**CIVIL WAR 1918-20:** Reds (Bolsheviks) defeated Whites

**NEP 1921:** Mixed economy to revive production

**USSR 1922:** Federal socialist state formed

**IMPACT:** Socialism spread globally, inspired workers and colonies

## Key Mnemonics

### Lenin's demands - "PLB":

- **P**eace (end war)
- **L**and (to peasants)
- **B**read (food for workers)

### Two Revolutions - "FO":

- **F**ebruary - Forced Tsar to quit
- **O**ctober - Overthrew Provisional Government

### Civil War sides - "RW":

- **R**eds - Revolutionary Bolsheviks
- **W**hites - Wanted Tsar back

### Marx's stages - "CRSC":

- **C**apitalism
- **R**evolution
- **S**ocialism
- **C**ommunism

## Writing Tips

- Always mention Lenin's role in revolutions
- Use proper terms: Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, Soviet, Duma
- For causes, divide into categories: Political, Economic, Social
- For changes, categorize: Political, Economic, Social
- Always mention dates: Jan 22, 1905 and Oct 1917
- Quote Marx's slogans when relevant
- Connect events logically with cause-effect

## Study Material Information

This comprehensive study material on **Socialism in Europe and the Russian Revolution** (Chapter 2, Class 9 History) covers the rise of socialism, conditions in Russia, both revolutions, changes, and global impact as per the latest CBSE curriculum. It includes detailed explanations, timelines, and practice questions for thorough exam preparation.

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(Classes 6-12)**

*"Workers of the world, unite!"*

*- Karl Marx*