

# CHAPTER - II



## THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

# WHAT WAS THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION?

## THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a major turning point in history that led to the fall of the Tsarist monarchy and the rise of a socialist government. It happened in two main phases – the February Revolution and the October Revolution.

The revolution was caused by long-term social and economic problems, including poor working conditions, lack of political rights, and inequality. The situation became worse during World War I, which led to widespread suffering, food shortages, and loss of trust in the government.

As a result, workers, peasants, and soldiers united against the Tsar, leading to the collapse of the old system and the establishment of a new political order.



## KEY WORDS

- Revolution
- Tsar
- Socialism
- Bolsheviks
- February Revolution
- October Revolution
- Inequality
- World War I

# RUSSIA BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

## RULER - TSAR NICHOLAS II

- Russia was ruled by Nicholas II
- He had absolute power
- People had no political rights
- Decisions were made without public involvement

### IMPORTANT:

Autocratic rule (no democracy)



## EMPIRE - RUSSIAN EMPIRE

- Russia was one of the largest countries
- Included many different regions and cultures
- Mostly followed Russian Orthodox religion
- Lack of unity among people

### IMPORTANT:

Large but not stable



## POPULATION - PEOPLE OF RUSSIA

- About 85% were peasants
- Most people lived in villages
- Large gap between rich and poor
- Workers and peasants had difficult lives

### IMPORTANT:

Majority = poor and unhappy



# ECONOMY & SOCIETY

## ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### FACTORY WORKERS

- Worked 10–15 hours daily
- Received low wages
- Worked in unsafe conditions
- Lived in crowded and poor housing
- Women were paid less than men

#### IMPORTANT:

Hard work, low pay, no rights



### PEASANTS (FARMERS)

- Made up the majority of population
- Lived in poverty
- Wanted land from nobles
- Depended on agriculture
- Faced frequent food shortages

#### IMPORTANT:

Wanted land and better life



# 1917 REVOLUTION

## WHAT HAPPENED IN 1917?

In 1917, Russia experienced two major revolutions that completely changed its political system. The first, known as the February Revolution, was caused by food shortages, strikes, and growing anger against the government during World War I.

Workers and soldiers in Petrograd protested against poor conditions and lack of food. As unrest increased, the army refused to support Nicholas II, forcing him to abdicate. This brought an end to the Tsarist monarchy.

Later in October 1917, the Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin took control of the government. They overthrew the Provisional Government and established a socialist state based on the power of workers and peasants.



## MINI TIMELINE

- February 1917 → Protests and strikes
- Tsar abdicates → End of monarchy
- October 1917 → Bolsheviks take power
- Lenin leads → Socialist government begins

# RESULTS & CIVIL WAR

## WHAT HAPPENED AFTER?

After the revolution, Russia faced a civil war between the Bolsheviks (Red Army) and their opponents (White Army). The Bolsheviks eventually won and secured control over the country.

The new government introduced major changes. Land was taken from nobles and given to peasants, and industries were brought under state control.

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### KEY RESULTS

- End of Tsarist rule
- Rise of socialist government
- Land redistributed
- Industries nationalized
- Civil war (Reds vs Whites)

# WW1 IMPACT

## KEY IMPACTS ON RUSSIA:

- **Military Disasters:** The Russian army, initially vast, suffered from poor leadership and severe equipment shortages, leading to major defeats by Germany and high casualties.
- **Political Collapse:** Discontent with Tsar Nicholas II—who took personal command in 1915—and mismanagement, coupled with Rasputin's influence, led to the February Revolution in 1917, causing the Tsar's abdication.
- **Economic Collapse:** War costs and shortages led to high inflation, with industries stalling and agriculture failing to feed cities, resulting in riots and strikes.
- **Rise of the Bolsheviks:** The Provisional Government's failure to end the war, followed by the Bolsheviks' promise of "Peace, Land, and Bread," led to the October Revolution of 1917.
- **Territorial Losses:** Russia withdrew after signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk on March 3, 1918, losing significant territory, including Ukraine and the Baltic states.

### Allied First World War Casualties by Country

**British Empire**



**France**



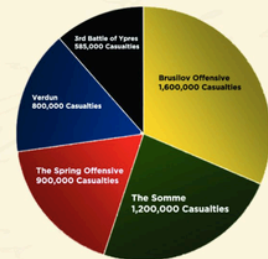
**United States**



**Russian Empire**



Total Casualties of the 5 Bloodiest Campaigns



= 100,000 Military Deaths

An Infographic by Forces War Records



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# QUICK REVISION

## TIMELINE

- 1917 → Revolution
- Feb → Tsar removed
- Oct → Bolsheviks win

## KEY POINTS

- Causes → war, poverty, inequality
- Lenin led Bolsheviks
- Monarchy ended

## KEY WORDS

- Revolution
- Tsar
- Socialism
- Bolsheviks

## IMPORTANT FIGURES

- Tsar Nicholas II
- Vladimir Lenin

