

Topic Studied: Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917-1953

Week	Specification Point	Key Questions	Pre-Lesson Work	Set Homework	Independent Work Further Reading
1	The condition of Russia before the revolution of February/ March 1917. The Tsar and political authority.	Overview of Russia in the late 19th century and early 20th century	Begin to create a glossary of key terms, eg autocracy, constitutional government, bourgeois. Identify the features of autocratic government and political authority under the Tsar.	Create profiles for key individuals, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Tsar • Stolypin • Rasputin. Look at the positive and negative aspects of each individual's influence in Russia.	Read a biography of Rasputin or Stolypin. https://spartacus-educational.com/Russia.htm
2	The economic and social state of Russia The war effort; discontent.	Use maps to look at Russia and the surrounding territory in 1914.	Add key terms to the glossary.	Compile a chart to illustrate the main socio-economic features of Russia, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peasant based agriculture • developments in industry since the 1880s • social groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o peasantry o developing industrial working class o emerging middle class • the significance of the Orthodox Church. 	Textbook: Sally Waller and Chris Rowe, Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917-1953, OUP, 2016 Textbook: Chapter 1
3	The February/March revolution of 1917. Causes and course of revolution; issues of leadership and the Tsar's abdication.	The abdication of the Tsar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did he have any choice? • Was he responsible for his own downfall? 	Students research the role of key individuals in the lead up to revolution, leading to a debate about their respective importance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rasputin • the Tsar • Lenin. 	Rank the various causes of the revolution in order of importance and justify your choices.	Consider whether the events of February/March should really be called a 'revolution' at all. Textbook: Chapter 2
4	The establishment of Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet; the workings of the Dual Authority	Events following the Tsar's abdication, especially the setting up of the Provisional Government and how it related to the Petrograd Soviet.	Examine the political groupings in the Provisional Government. Record this in a chart. Research the role of Kerensky, looking at his background and how he came to power.	Research task on the soviets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition of the soviets and their origin • membership • what they did • the importance of the Petrograd Soviet. 	Research Lenin's career during the First World War and why he returned to Russia in April 1917. Textbook: Chapter 2

				<p>Students to look at the Dual Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss and write a definition • its workings • the problems it faced. 	
5	Developments between the revolutions.	<p>The return of Lenin; Lenin's ideology and the April Theses.</p> <p>The July Days; the Kornilov Coup and the roles of both the Provisional Government and Trotsky.</p>	<p>Research the ideas of the political groups at this time, including Mensheviks, Socialist Revolutionaries and Liberals.</p> <p>Use the April Theses as a key document, analysing it in terms of content, purpose, tone, its value as evidence, etc.</p>	<p>Examine the April Theses and summarise the main proposals. Identify those proposals which were particularly revolutionary.</p> <p>Research the Kornilov Coup, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • course and events • role of Kornilov • role of Trotsky • role of the Provisional Government. 	<p>Compare how different Lenin's proposals were from the views of the Provisional Government and the Soviet at this time. Record this in a chart.</p> <p>Textbook: Chapter 3</p>
6	Developments between the revolutions.	Lenin and the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party.	<p>Look at the role and relevance of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party</p> <p>Debate: did the Provisional Government fail because of its own weaknesses?</p>	Biographies of key individuals: Lenin, Trotsky, Kerensky.	<p>Research Trotsky's background and role in revolutionary events</p> <p>Textbook: Chapter 3</p>

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1	Developments between the revolutions.	Lenin and the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party.	Look at the role and relevance of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party Debate: did the Provisional Government fail because of its own weaknesses?	Biographies of key individuals: Lenin, Trotsky, Kerensky.	Research Trotsky's background and role in revolutionary events Textbook: Chapter 3
2	The October/ November 1917 revolution.	Causes, course and extent of revolution.	Research the causes, course and extent of the revolution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video - Causes of the October Revolution Dr Daniel Beer: History Hub https://youtu.be/0byGT1Zu52M?si=bKPpmjOvFg8rwgl https://www.johnclare.net/Russ5.htm https://spartacus-educational.com/RUSnovemberR.htm Was the revolution a mass movement against the government or a coup organised by a small political group?	Essay - To what extent was the failure of the Provisional Government the key reason in the Bolshevik seizure of power?	Examine a map of Petrograd at the time of the revolution. Look at the key points of action and examine Trotsky's role in carrying out the coup. Textbook: Chapter 4
3	The October/ November 1917 revolution.	Leadership and the establishment of Bolshevik authority.	Define Sovnarkom and explain its nature, structure and purpose. Look at decrees on issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> land peace the army the economy. 	Essay - To what extent was the failure of the Provisional Government the key reason in the Bolshevik seizure of power?	Research the leadership of the Bolshevik Party, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the key individuals and their personalities the part they played in the revolution their roles in the Party. Textbook: Chapter 4
4	The consolidation of the Communist dictatorship.	The establishment of one-party control; the removal of the Constituent Assembly.	Russian Revolution and Civil War: Crash Course European History https://youtu.be/U6KR4cLLVzQ?si=sEY0krnGdXtJbtHl	Essay: 'By the end of 1917, it was already clear that the Bolshevik state would be oppressive and authoritarian.' Assess the validity of this view.	Research the origins and function of the Cheka.
5	The consolidation of the Communist dictatorship.	The ending of involvement in the First World War	The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk - David Stone https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9idVbVOJCGI	Make notes on the armistice and the Treaty of Brest Litovsk. List the main terms of the Treaty of Brest Litovsk and evaluate their significance for all those concerned.	Consider the importance of Trotsky's role in these events. Textbook: Chapter 5

6	The Civil War.	Causes and course. The role of Trotsky; the reasons for the Red victory	Identify the reasons why the Civil War broke out in 1918. Look at both short term and long term causes. Create a chart or flowchart. What was the role of Trotsky? Make a chart to illustrate a comparison of the advantages, disadvantages, strengths and weaknesses of the two sides at the start of the war: Reds and Whites	What were the attitudes towards the regime of these different groups in Russia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • military officers • businessmen • peasants • Mensheviks • ex-Liberal members of the old Duma. 	Use a map to chart the campaigns of the war. Create a timeline to chart the main events of the war. Make an assessment of the importance of foreign intervention to the outcome of the war. Textbook: Chapter 6
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