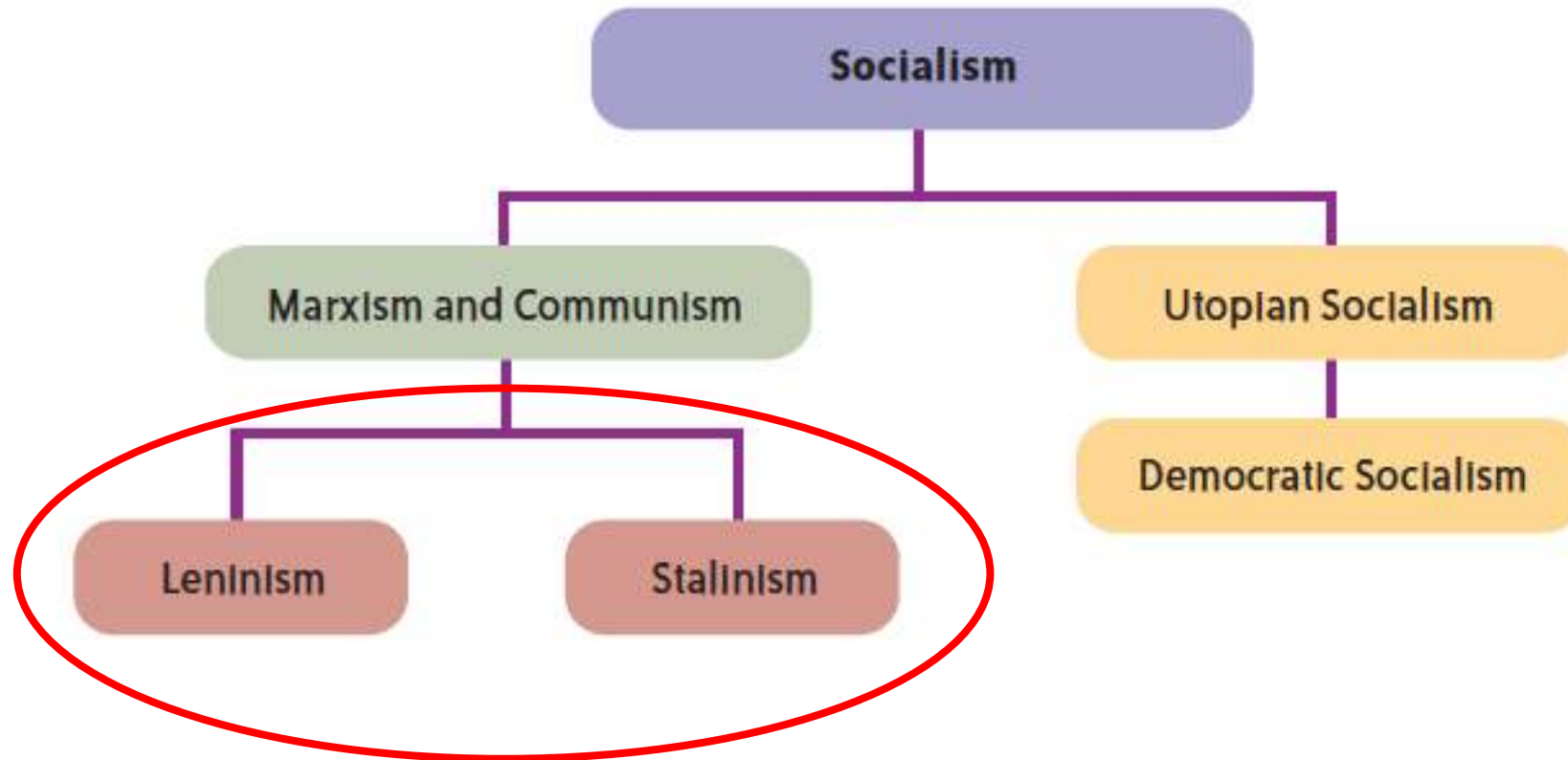


Leninism

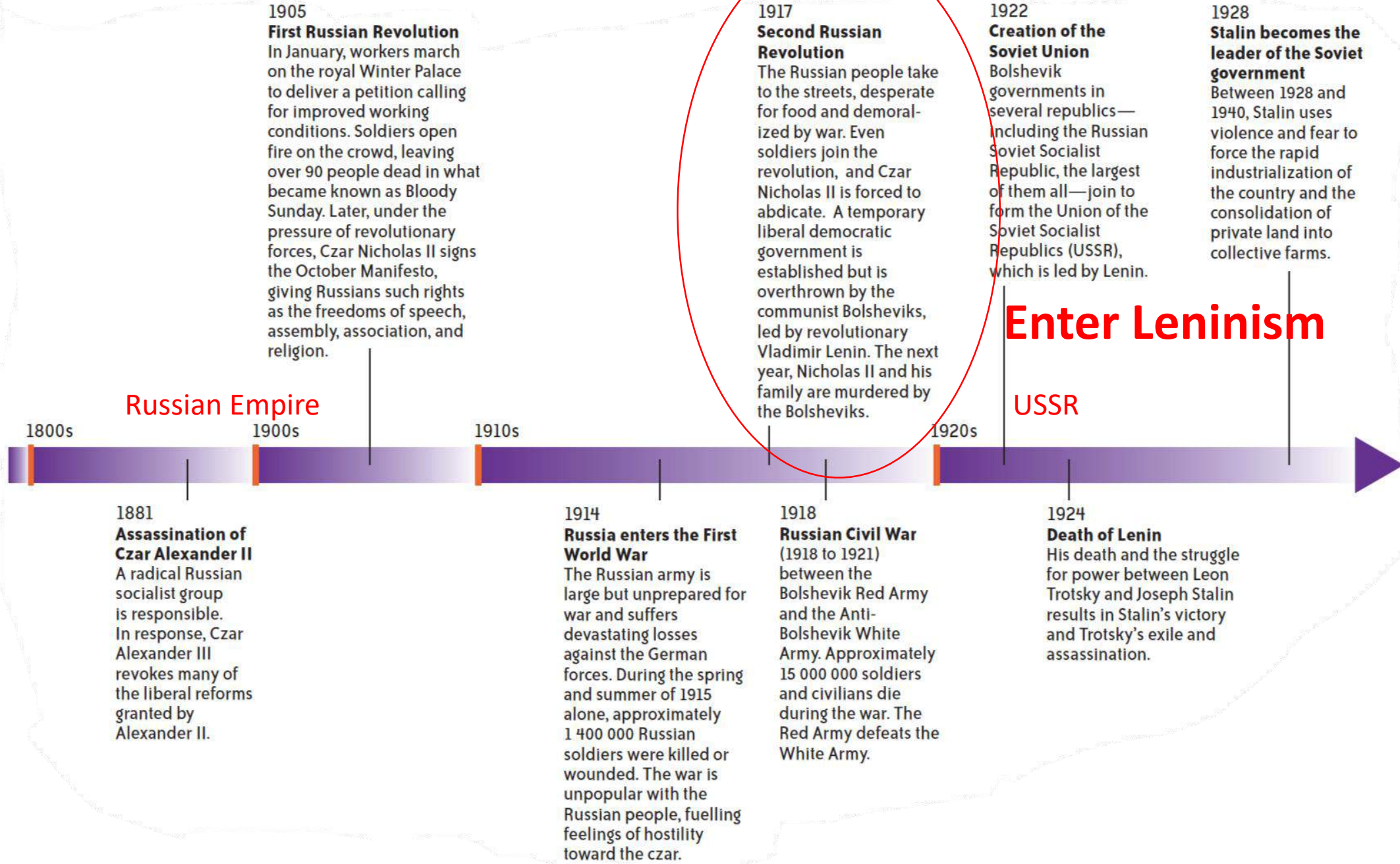
Social Studies 30-1





Consider This...

How was communism in the Soviet Union a rejection of liberalism?



Russian Empire

Enter Leninism

USSR

1800s

1900s

1910s

1920s

**1881
Assassination of Czar Alexander II**
A radical Russian socialist group is responsible. In response, Czar Alexander III revokes many of the liberal reforms granted by Alexander II.

**1905
First Russian Revolution**
In January, workers march on the royal Winter Palace to deliver a petition calling for improved working conditions. Soldiers open fire on the crowd, leaving over 90 people dead in what became known as Bloody Sunday. Later, under the pressure of revolutionary forces, Czar Nicholas II signs the October Manifesto, giving Russians such rights as the freedoms of speech, assembly, association, and religion.

**1914
Russia enters the First World War**
The Russian army is large but unprepared for war and suffers devastating losses against the German forces. During the spring and summer of 1915 alone, approximately 1 400 000 Russian soldiers were killed or wounded. The war is unpopular with the Russian people, fuelling feelings of hostility toward the czar.

**1917
Second Russian Revolution**
The Russian people take to the streets, desperate for food and demoralized by war. Even soldiers join the revolution, and Czar Nicholas II is forced to abdicate. A temporary liberal democratic government is established but is overthrown by the communist Bolsheviks, led by revolutionary Vladimir Lenin. The next year, Nicholas II and his family are murdered by the Bolsheviks.

**1918
Russian Civil War (1918 to 1921)**
between the Bolshevik Red Army and the Anti-Bolshevik White Army. Approximately 15 000 000 soldiers and civilians die during the war. The Red Army defeats the White Army.

**1922
Creation of the Soviet Union**
Bolshevik governments in several republics—including the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic, the largest of them all—join to form the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), which is led by Lenin.

**1924
Death of Lenin**
His death and the struggle for power between Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin results in Stalin's victory and Trotsky's exile and assassination.

**1928
Stalin becomes the leader of the Soviet government**
Between 1928 and 1940, Stalin uses violence and fear to force the rapid industrialization of the country and the consolidation of private land into collective farms.

As a result of the revolution and forced abdication of Czar Nicholas II, Russia was without a formal leader during the last years of the First World War.

A temporary government was put in place for most of 1917, which was led by Alexander Kerensky. Despite some initial success, however, this liberal democratic government struggled to have any real power in Russia. Its decision to refuse land to poor peasants in rural areas and to continue fighting in the First World War caused it to lose the support of the Russian people.

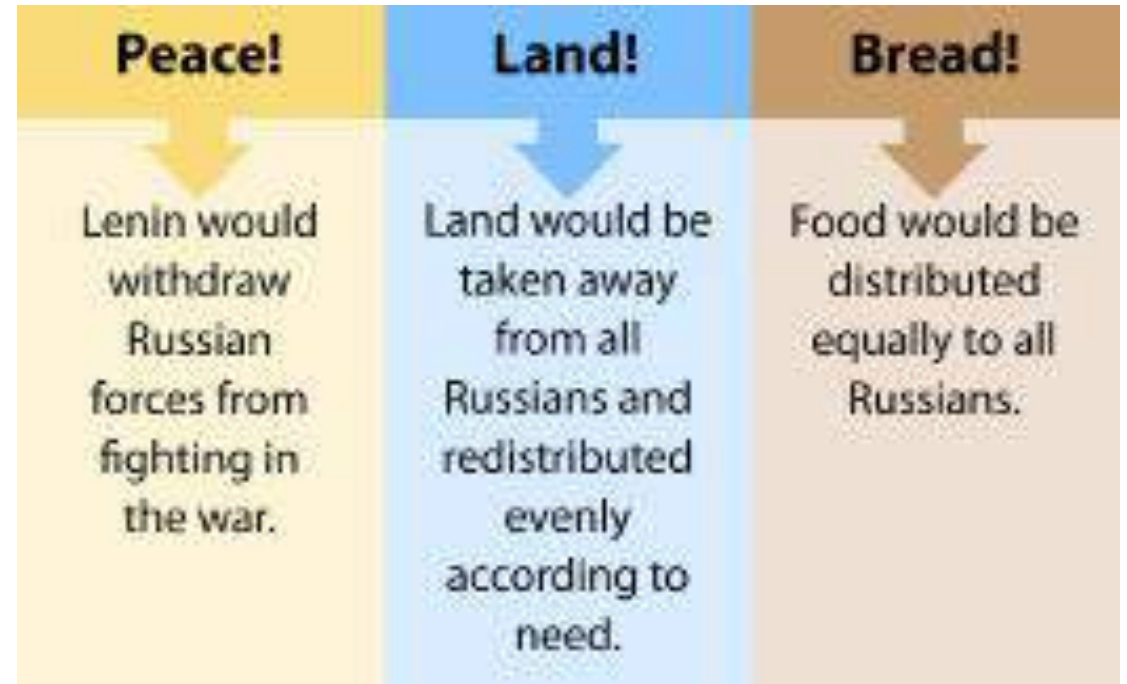
Support for communist and Marxist ideas, however, grew among the poor working class and peasants. In April 1917, Vladimir Lenin, founder and leader of the communist Bolsheviks, called for the end of Russian participation in the war.

Bolsheviks

The Bolsheviks were a radical far-left Marxist faction founded by Vladimir Lenin and Alexander Bogdanov that split from the Menshevik faction of the Marxist Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP).

The slogan of the Bolsheviks, “**Peace! Land! Bread!**”, gained popularity as it reflected that which peasants and working class Russians had been demanding for many years.

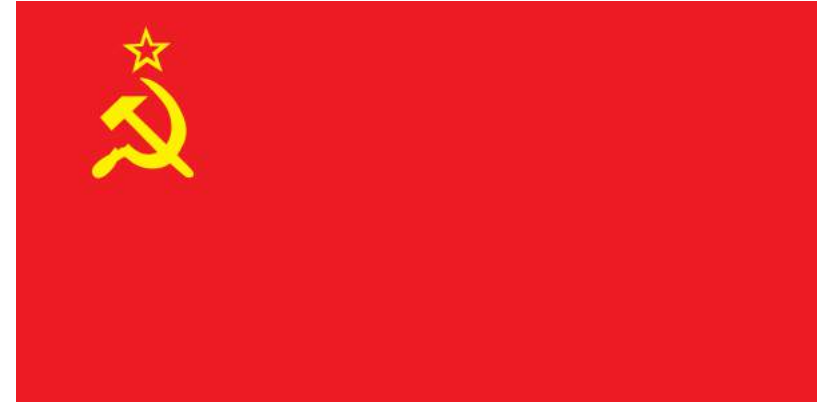
They considered themselves the leaders of the revolutionary working class of Russia. Their beliefs and practices were often referred to as *Bolshevism*.



Symbolism

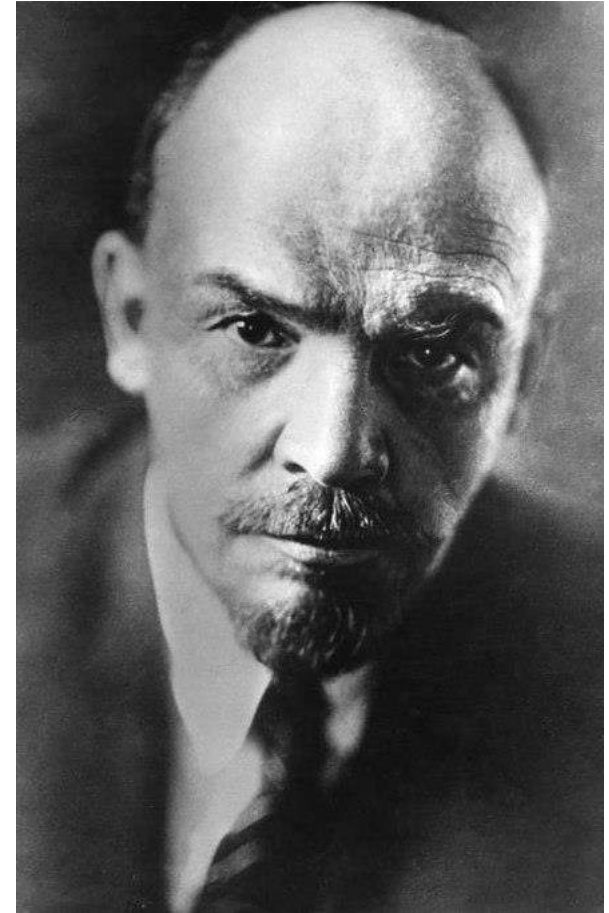
The hammer and sickle is a symbol meant to represent proletarian solidarity – a union between the peasantry and working-class. It was first adapted during the Russian Revolution, the hammer representing the workers and the sickle representing the peasants.

It was taken up by many communist movements around the world, some with local variations.



Vladimir Lenin

- A Russian revolutionary, politician, and political theorist.
- He served as head of government of Soviet Russia from 1917 to 1924 and of the Soviet Union from 1922 to 1924.
- Under his administration, Russia and then the wider Soviet Union became a one-party communist state governed by the Russian Communist Party.
- Ideologically a communist, he developed a variant of Marxism known as Leninism.
- After the 1917 February Revolution ousted the Tsar and established a Provisional Government, he returned to Russia to play a leading role in the October Revolution, in which the Bolsheviks overthrew the new regime.



The Future of Russia

1917-1922 - Bloody Civil War

- The Russian Civil War was a multi-party civil war in the former Russian Empire immediately after the two Russian Revolutions of 1917, as many factions vied to determine Russia's political future.
- Red Army (Lenin's Bolshevik Party) vs White Army (made up of supporters of the old regime and those opposed to Lenin).



The Establishment of Communism

1922 – The Official Establishment of Communism in Russia

- Autocratic rule (Czarism)  Dictatorial rule by the Communist Party
- The Bolsheviks and their allies occupied government buildings and other strategic locations and soon formed a new government with Lenin as its head. Lenin became the dictator of the world's first communist state.

Lenin's government quickly transformed Russia based on his interpretation of communism, which is commonly referred to as Leninism. Lenin took many of Marx's ideas to form the foundations of his own political and economic policies. Similar to Marx, Lenin believed that revolution—and, if need be, violence—was an acceptable means to achieve an ideal society. Lenin's form of communism differed from Marx's in that Lenin believed that a communist government was necessary.

Leninism

- “Communism” but really a mixed economy + welfare state
- The people saw many positive changes
 - ✓ Land was redistributed to the people.
 - ✓ Factories were given to the workers so that they could make decisions about wages and working conditions.
 - ✓ Men and women were considered equal and valuable contributors to society.
 - ✓ Art and music flourished as there were no longer restrictions on what one could create.
- Lenin’s application of Marxist values had given many poor and working class people much more power over their lives than they had known under czarist rule.



In 1922, several republics joined to create the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (the USSR or Soviet Union), which was led by Lenin.



War Communism

War Communism refers to policies, particularly economic, pursued by the Bolsheviks during the Civil War in response to the ideological and pragmatic demands of consolidating power.

It was introduced for many reasons. However, the most important ones were to feed and supply the hungry Red Army of Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War and to begin moving the nation towards complete communism.

- This meant that food surpluses had to be given to the state (while famine took over the land) in order to support the war effort.
- Industrial production was also declining

War Communism

Policies



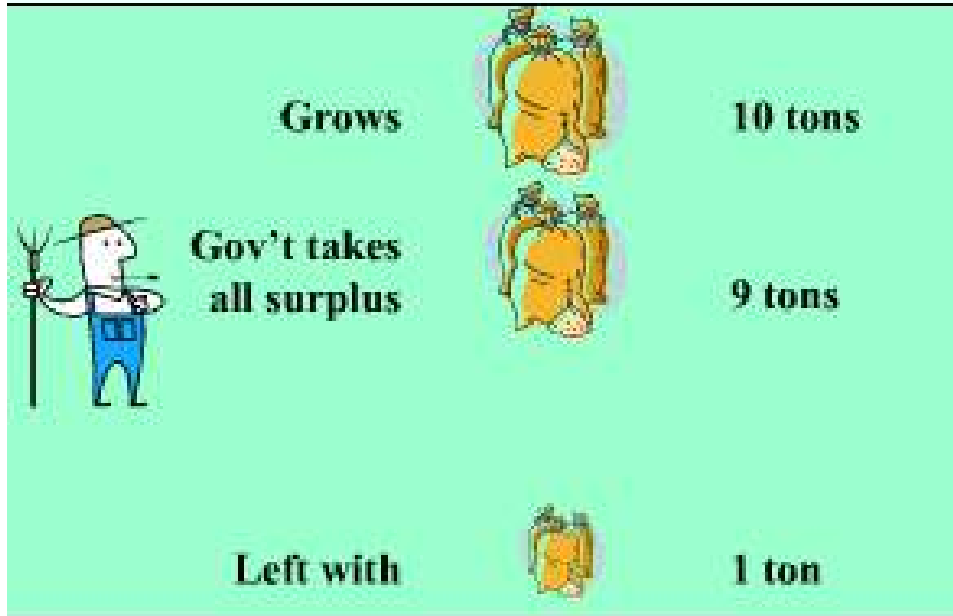
Effects

- X Free Market was declared illegal
Private trade, hiring of labour, leasing of land
 - X All private enterprise and ownership were abolished
 - X All property was confiscated from the upper classes
 - X Businesses and factories were nationalized
 - X Surplus crops/products were taken by the government
 - X Labour was conscripted and organized militarily
 - X Consumer goods were rationed at low prices & no prices later
- Low Government income
 - Lack of Motivation
 - Famine
 - Emigration from Urban Centers
 - 50% Decline in Factory Work production

1917 - 1922

War Communism

Hardworking Farmer



Lazy Farmer



War communism didn't provide any motivation. Essentially, if the government was going to take all of your surplus and only leave you with what was needed, you would only produce what you needed and then you would rest... because why would you work harder than your neighbor when you could only keep the same amount as them? What incentive did you have? Farmers and manufactures could produced "just enough."

The policy of War Communism, in effect since 1918, had by 1921 brought the national economy to the point of total breakdown. Rebellions convinced the Communist Party and Lenin, of the need to retreat from socialist policies in order to maintain the party's hold on power. Accordingly, they introduced the measures of the **New Economic Policy.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5U5duV94Ocs>

Central Planning in the Soviet Union

GOSPLAN (abbreviation of *Gosudarstvennyy Planovyy Komitet*, in English = State Planning Committee), central board that supervised various aspects of the planned economy of the Soviet Union by translating into specific national plans the general economic objectives outlined by the Communist Party and the government.

It was created to coordinate the economic plans of the Soviet republics and to work out a general USSR plan; then its functions were changed from coordination to creation and supervision.

Economic Planning in the Soviet Union

- ✓ Past economic performance used to calculate future needs, GOSPLAN informs ministries of specific sectors the needs required, GOSNAB decides how goods will be distributed while other agencies set process, arrange labor, foreign trade, etc.
- ✓ Ministries decided whether targets can be met and draws up list of needed resources for GOSPLAN
- ✓ GOSPLAN coordinates all the demands, discussions and negotiations are held between the large firms, ministries and GOSPLAN to create a national economic plan
- ✓ Each firm is issued orders setting out production quotas

New Economic Policy (NEP)

The NEP was an attempt to stimulate industrial and agricultural production through small scale private enterprise. It brought back a few elements of capitalism.

= mixed economy

= abandonment of Marxist vision during the dictatorship of the Proletariat

These measures included

- ✓ the return of most agriculture, retail trade, and small-scale light industry to private ownership and management while the state retained control of heavy industry, transport, banking, and foreign trade
- ✓ Money was reintroduced into the economy in 1922 (it had been abolished under War Communism).
- ✓ The peasantry were allowed to own and cultivate their own land, while paying taxes to the state.

The New Economic Policy reintroduced a measure of stability to the economy and allowed the Soviet people to recover from years of war, civil war, and governmental mismanagement. The small businessmen and managers who flourished in this period became known as NEP men.

New Economic Policy (NEP) **meant as a temporary solution*

Policies



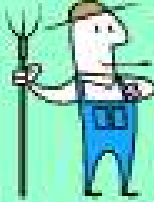




Effects

- ✓ Open & Free Markets
 - ✓ Peasants could sell surplus
 - BUT government took half of surplus first...
 - ✓ Peasants could hire assistants
 - ✓ Trade is allowed (buying/selling for profit)
 - ✓ Privatization of small factories (<20)
 - ✓ International trade was encouraged
 - ✓ State retains control of the larger industry/banking/transportation
- Helped improve the economy!

New Economic Policy





Hardworking Farmer



	Grows		10 tons
	Gov't takes 50%		5 tons
	Peasant sells		4 tons
	Left with		1 ton + cash

Lazy Farmer



	Grows		1 ton
	Gov't takes 50%		1/2 ton
	Left with		1/2 ton

The NEP provided motivation by functioning as a high tax rate. Opposed to the government taking everything that you earned, and only leaving you with what you needed the government would take a certain percentage of what you made (for example, 50%) therefore leaving you with a little bit of surplus. This gave farmers and manufactures motivation to produce extra that they could keep and sell to make a profit.

Note: Under the NEP, if the lazy farmer only produced the 1 ton they needed to survive, and the gov't still takes 50% of that, they're actually left with less than what they need to survive. This puts them at a huge disadvantage, so they have the incentive to work harder.

Advantages of Communism

- ✓ encourages high rates of economic growth
- ✓ helps reduce wastage of resources
- ✓ distribution of income is more equal
- ✓ essential goods are produced before less essential goods
- ✓ do not suffer from trade cycles

In 1924, Lenin dies.

His body was embalmed and placed in a mausoleum near the Moscow Kremlin. Petrograd was renamed Leningrad in his honor. Fellow revolutionary Joseph Stalin succeeded him as leader of the Soviet Union



