

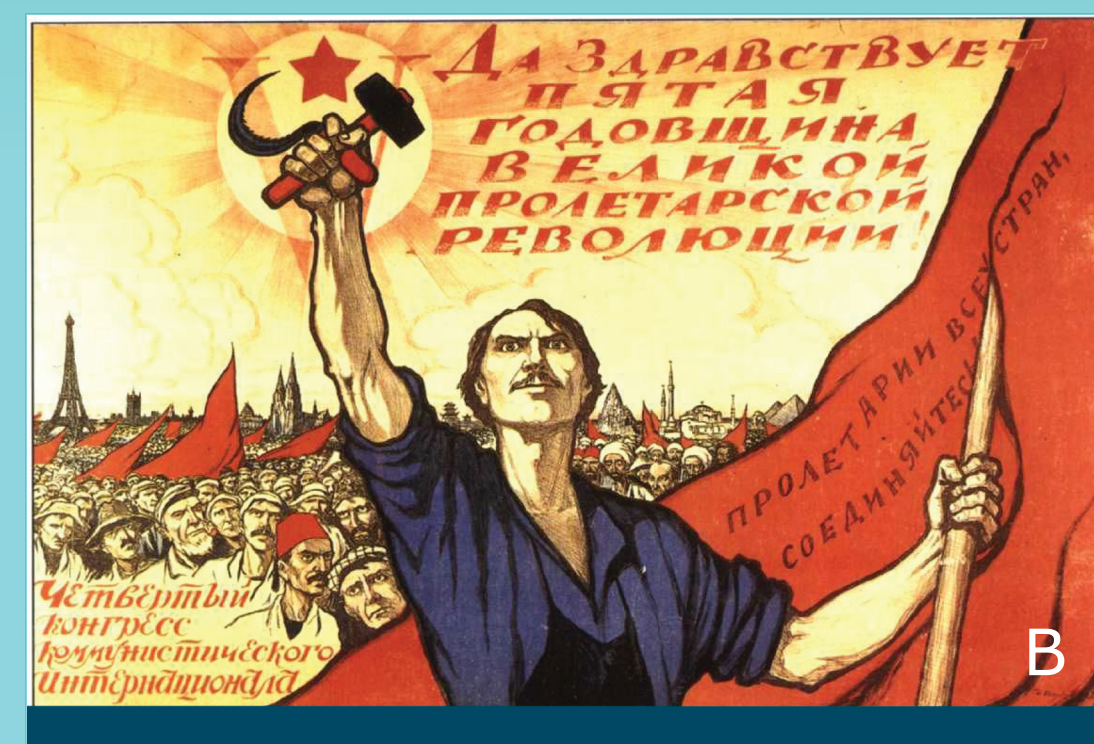
1917 RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was one of the most important events of the twentieth century. The victory of the Bolsheviks over the old imperial regime of Russia shaped the political, military, and economic balance of the entire world from 1917 to the present day. In fact, almost every conflict in which the US has taken part since World War I has been a result of the Russian Revolution.

Russia entered the fray of World War I on the side of Serbia, and shortly after Tzar Nicholas II, emperor of Russia, took control of the military. He was not the most capable commander, and Russia suffered severe losses on the Eastern front. Because what little food and supplies were available were directed toward the soldiers at the front, there was hunger and unrest at home. The tzar also refused to stop fighting, despite the terrible losses abroad and at home.

This unrest in the face of hunger, military defeats, and incompetent leadership from Nicholas II gave the Bolsheviks an opening to overthrow the Provisional Government in October 1917. The Bolsheviks rallied the people and soldiers to fight by promising what they wanted, "Peace, Land, and Bread!" and formed the Soviet Union.

The Bolsheviks followed through on the promises of peace and land, as they ended Russia's involvement in World War I, and "justly" distributed the lands of the aristocrats. Their revolutionary government was seen as a threat by all Western and imperial nations, as it promoted the destruction of all capitalist governments.



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