

## SECTION 1

# TWO REVOLUTIONS IN RUSSIA

### TEXT SUMMARY

In 1917, Russia was in trouble. Millions of Russians had died in World War I. There was not enough food, and citizens were starving. Many people blamed Czar Nicholas II for the problems. A strike of workers began a revolution in March. A new government seized power and promised to be democratic. However, this government decided to continue the war against Germany. This decision drained more men, money, and food.

Vladimir Lenin, an enemy of the czar, returned to Russia in April from exile in Switzerland. He and his followers, the Bolsheviks, started a second revolution. Lenin called for a classless society based on

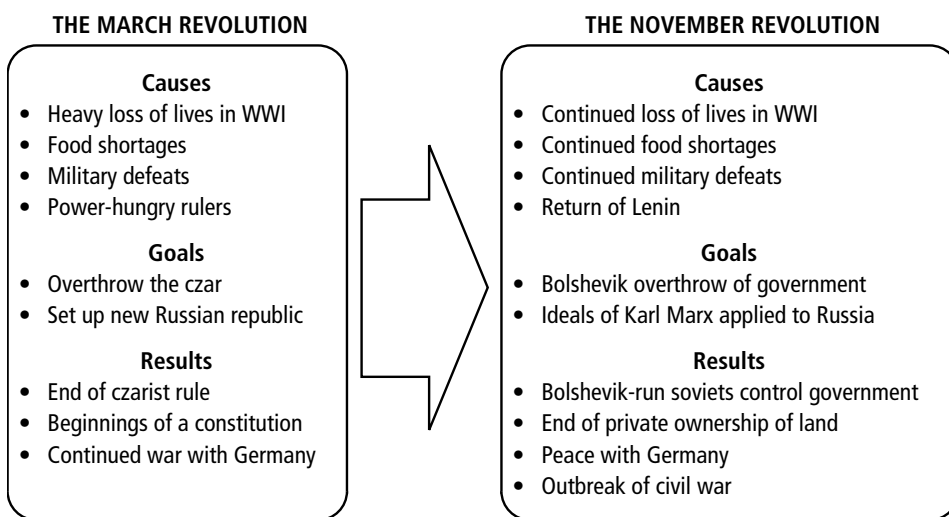
socialist teachings of the German Karl Marx. He and his Bolsheviks promised “Peace, Land, and Bread” and won control of the government in November 1917. They set up councils, called **soviets**, to govern the nation. Lenin made peace with Germany, but for the next three years faced unrest in Russia.

Russians had expected democracy. But they found that the Bolsheviks, now called Communists, ran the soviets. A civil war erupted when rebel forces fought against Lenin’s Red Army. By 1921, the Communists had defeated the rebels.

### THE BIG IDEA

**Two revolutions rocked Russia in 1917.**

### GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *Russia, 1917*



In 1917, there were two revolutions in Russia.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why were the Russians ready to revolt in 1917?

2. **Diagram Skills** What continuing problems caused both the March and November revolts?

### TEXT SUMMARY

In 1922, Lenin and the Communists controlled much of the old Russian empire. They called it the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The USSR, or Soviet Union, was made up of many **republics**, or states. Russia was the largest republic and it controlled the others.

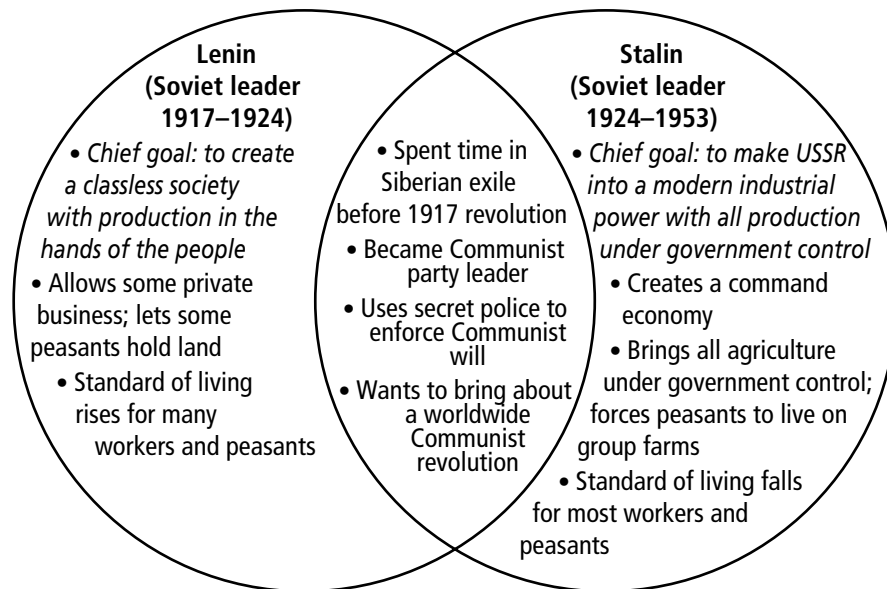
#### THE BIG IDEA

**Lenin and Stalin were the first leaders of the USSR.**

Under Communist party control, the economy slowed. Lenin had said he wanted to put all factories and lands in the hands of the people. In truth, the party, not the people, was in charge. Lenin had to give up some of his socialist ideals. His New Economic Policy (NEP) allowed some private profit. It let peasants own plots of land. The NEP improved business and the standard of living.

When Lenin died in 1924, Joseph Stalin became head of the USSR. (See diagram below.) “Stalin” meant “man of steel,” and this new leader was, indeed, cold and hard. Stalin destroyed all those he thought were against him. His police arrested millions and had them shot or sent to labor camps. He brought all factories and farms under government control. In his **command economy** government officials made all basic economic decisions. Workers who met their production goals were rewarded. Those who did not were punished. Some production levels went up. Still, most Russians were poor. Their standard of living and spirits were low. Stalin built up Soviet trade. Yet, many nations did not fully trust the USSR.

### GRAPHIC SUMMARY: First Leaders of the USSR



Lenin established the Soviet Union under the Communist party. After Lenin's death, Joseph Stalin gained absolute power over the nation.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who controlled farms under Stalin?

2. **Diagram Skills** How did the main goal of Lenin differ from that of Stalin?

# LIFE IN A TOTALITARIAN STATE

## TEXT SUMMARY

Joseph Stalin turned the Soviet Union into a **totalitarian state**. In this form of government, a one-party dictatorship attempts to regulate every aspect of the lives of its citizens.

Stalin used propaganda to make himself a hero. His pictures appeared everywhere. Stalin **censored**, or withheld, news from inside and outside the USSR. The news said only what he wanted people to know. It spoke of the evils of capitalism, never of problems at home. He controlled all art so it showed only the good side of communism.

Fear taught Russians to be obedient and loyal. The Communists used secret police to silence all critics. They closed churches and synagogues and tried to

replace religion with communism.

The totalitarian state changed Soviet life. (See diagram below.) The classless society did not happen. Members of the Communist party made up a new upper class. The Communists offered free schooling and health care. New laws gave women training and jobs. Still, the standard of living stayed low for most people. Housing, meat, fresh foods, and clothes were scarce.

When Stalin died in 1953, the Soviet Union had become a modern military and industrial power. However, it had gained that power through a strict program of censorship, propaganda, and fear.

### THE BIG IDEA

**Under Stalin, the Soviet government used propaganda, censorship, and terror to establish a totalitarian state.**

## GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *Life in a Totalitarian State*

Economics	Politics	Arts	Religion	Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth of industry</li> <li>• Growth of military</li> <li>• Low standard of living</li> <li>• Shortage of foods and consumer goods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-party dictatorship</li> <li>• Total government control of citizens</li> <li>• Total government control of industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Use of propaganda to win government support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Censorship of books, music, art</li> <li>• Purpose of all art to praise communism</li> <li>• Observation of artists, writers, and musicians by secret police</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government war on religion</li> <li>• Takeover of houses of worship</li> <li>• Secret police control religious worship</li> <li>• Communist ideals replace religious ideals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear of secret police</li> <li>• An upper class of Communist party members</li> <li>• Free education and health care</li> <li>• Public transportation and recreation</li> <li>• Jobs for women</li> </ul>

From 1924 until 1953, Stalin controlled life in the Soviet Union.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was one way Stalin made sure his people were loyal?

2. **Chart Skills** Describe one of the bad sides of life under Stalin. Describe one of the good sides.