

26/10/2024

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Saturday

Date: ___/___/20___

European History

MON TUE WED THS FRI SAT

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Q. Write short notes on the following.

(a) Bolshevik Revolution (1917)

The Bolshevik Revolution is also known as the October Revolution was a significant event in Russian history that took place in October 1917. It marked the overthrow of the Provisional Government which had replaced the Russian monarchy earlier that year. It led by Vladimir Lenin and the Bolshevik Party. The revolution sought to establish a socialist state based on Marxist ideologies. The Bolsheviks seized key government buildings in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg) and quickly took control.

"The Bolshevik Revolution and its international consequences are the most sinister and destructive of the influences which have driven the world forward and at the same time torn it to pieces"

(Winston Churchill)

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I. Causes of the Bolshevik Revolution:

1. Widespread Discontent with Tsarist Rule:

The autocratic rule of Tsar Nicholas II was marked by oppression, lack of political freedoms and a rigid class structure. The inability to address grievances led to widespread dissatisfaction among the masses, including peasants, workers and even sections of the middle class.

"Peace, land and Bread"
(Vladimir Lenin)

2. Impact of World War I:

Russia's involvement in World War I brought enormous hardships, including heavy military casualties, economic strain and food shortages. The war exposed the incompetence of the Tsarist regime, leading to increased public frustration and unrest.

"In peace, the scientist belongs to humanity, in war to his fatherland"

(Fritz Haber)

(Father of Chemical warfare)

3. Failure of the Provisional Government:

After the February Revolution of 1917, the Provisional Government which replaced the Tsar failed to address key issues like land reforms, peace and economic stability. Its decision to continue fighting in world war I further eroded its support, creating an opportunity for the Bolsheviks.

4. Rise of Revolutionary Ideologies:

The popularity of socialist and Marxist ideologies grew, especially among the working class. Lenin and Bolsheviks effectively communicated their promises of "Peace Land and Bread", appealing to soldiers, workers and peasants who desired immediate and radical changes.

5. Weaknesses of the Tsarist Military and Administration:

The Tsarist military and administration were weak due to poor leadership, corruption and inefficiencies which led to military failures and public dissatisfaction.

"The lack of coordination, confusion and incompetence of high command were apparent throughout the army"

(Alexei Brusilov)

II. Consequences of Bolshevik Revolution:

- i- The revolution led to the overthrow of Tsar Nicholas II, marking the end of centuries of autocratic rule in Russia.
- ii- The Bolsheviks established a Communist government which eventually led to the formation of the Soviet Union in 1922, becoming the world's first socialist state.
- iii- The revolution triggered a brutal civil war (1918-1921) between the Red Army and the White Army causing widespread devastation and economic hardship.
- iv- The success of Bolshevik Revolution inspired communist movements worldwide, influencing countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

