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European History (CSS 2016)

Q: Write short note on any Two of the following
(10 Each)

(a) Bolshevik Revolution:

The Bolshevik Revolution, also called the October Revolution occurred in Russia in 1917.

It was led by Vladimir Lenin and the Bolshevik Party who overthrew/overthrew the provincial Government following the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II.

The revolution aimed to establish a Communist state and was part of the broader Russian Revolution.

It marked the beginning of the Soviet Union and the withdrawal of Russia from World War II.

The revolution led to the nationalization of land and industries and the eventual establishment of a one-party state under the Bolsheviks.

* The Bolsheviks had proclaimed war against every kind of order in human society.
(Winston Churchill)

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Key Points of Bolshevik Revolution:

1. Overthrow of the Provincial Government:

The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, overthrew the Russian Provincial Government in October in 1917, following the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II.
"Peace, land and bread"
(Vladimir Lenin)

2. Rise of the Communist Party:

The Bolsheviks, a Marxist faction seized control of Russia and established a socialist government, laying the foundation of Soviet Union.

"By 1921, The Communist Party had 730,000 members solidifying its dominance in Russian political life"

3. End of Russian Involvement in World War I:

One of the Bolsheviks, first actions was to withdraw Russia from World War I by signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany in 1918.

"The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) was signed with Germany, ending Russian involvement in World War I."

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4. Civil War and Red Army Victory:

The revolution sparked a civil war between the Bolshevik Red Army and the anti-communist White Army, with the Bolsheviks emerging victorious by 1922.

"The Red Army, formed by the Bolsheviks grew rapidly reaching 5.5 million soldiers by the end of civil war in 1922"

5. Nationalization of Land and Industries:

The Bolshevik government implemented radical reforms including the nationalization of land, industries and banks and established a state-controlled economy.

Lenin introduced the New Economic Policy in 1921 to stabilize the war-torn economy.

It allowed private trade and small-scale private ownership, while large industries remained nationalized."

The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 marked a pivotal turning point in global history, as it not only transformed Russia into the world's first socialist state but also set the stage for the rise of Communism as a powerful ideological force throughout the 20th century.

