Essential Question:
– How did Vladimir Lenin & the Bolsheviks transform Russia during the Russian Revolution in 1917?

Warm Up Question:
Based on what you know about communism, why do you think people calling themselves “communists” gained power in Russia during World War 1?
In the 1700s, Czar Peter the Great expanded & modernized Russia. Peter introduced into Russia Western style navy, fashions, & city-planning.
But in the 1800s, Russia failed to keep pace with the rapid changes taking place in Western Europe. The Enlightenment led to new democratic reforms throughout Europe. In Russia, the Romanov czars continued to rule as absolute monarchs. Czars like Alexander III used secret police to monitor citizens, censored the media, and sent political prisoners to labor camps in Siberia. Czars organized pogroms (violent attacks) against ethnic minorities like Jews & Poles in Russia.
But in the 1800s, Russia failed to keep pace with the rapid changes taking place in Western Europe. The Industrial Revolution made European militaries & economies the strongest in the world. Russian industry lagged behind Europe, had few railroads, & most citizens were poor farmers. Russia committed to industrialization but it led to poor wages, long hours, & discontent among the Russia people. Russia used its industry to build a respectable navy but had problems mass-producing weapons.
In 1894, Czar Nicolas II came to power but failed to address major problems from 1904 to 1917. In 1904, Russia & Japan went to war over Manchuria & Korea. When Russian liberals called for democratic reforms, Nicholas II ordered his secret police to persecute those calling for reform. Russia's humiliating loss to Japan exposed weaknesses in the nation’s military & government. Losing the Russo-Japanese War set off a series of riots among commoners who were unhappy with Nicholas’ government.
In 1894, Czar Nicolas II came to power but failed to address major problems from 1904 to 1917.

In 1905, Russian commoners met outside the czar's Winter Palace to demand better working conditions, right to form unions, & a democratic constitution. The protest became known as "Bloody Sunday" when the czar’s guards fired into the crowd; Riots broke out across Russia.

In 1905, Nicholas II agreed to a new constitution that created a Duma (parliament) & limited monarchy; But Nicholas ignored the Duma.
The czar’s unpopularity & failure of the government to respond to problems increased calls for socialism.

Socialists demanded that the government control all means of production to create an equal society.

Karl Marx developed a radical form of socialism in called communism in which the working class led a revolution, seized property, & shared all wealth without a gov’t.
The czar’s unpopularity & failure of the government to respond to problems increased calls for socialism. Radical workers, peasants, & soldiers began to form councils called soviets that held meetings & assumed control over local gov’ts. Image of one of Russia’s first soviet councils.
The czar’s unpopularity & failure of the government to respond to problems increased calls for socialism.

In 1903, a radical socialist named Vladimir Lenin formed the Bolsheviks, a group that supported a revolutionary overthrow of the Russian government.

But, Lenin fled Russia to avoid arrest by the czar’s secret police & waited for an opportunity to return & lead his revolution.

Lenin

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not capable of leading a revolution and needed the guidance of professional revolutionaries.
Russia’s involvement in World War I proved to be the fatal blow to Czar Nicholas’ support in Russia.

The Russian military was no match for the German army.

Russia had difficulty producing weapons for soldiers on the front, food shortages were common for troops & civilians, the lack of trains slowed supplies & communication.

Russia drafted 15 million soldiers & nearly 7 million were killed or wounded; 1.5 million civilians died.
Russia’s involvement in World War I proved to be the fatal blow to Czar Nicholas’ support in Russia.

Czar Nicholas refused to pull Russia out of the war & went to the Eastern Front to personally take command of the army.

Nicholas left his wife, Alexandra, in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Russian government.

To help cure her hemophiliac son Alexi, she relied on a mystic named Rasputin.

Many people feared that Rasputin was controlling the royal family & murdered him.
By early 1917, citizens were rioting across Russia demanding an end the monarchy & to World War I

In March, Czar Nicholas II abdicated the throne & the Duma created a provisional (temporary) government
Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia & led the Bolsheviks in the Russian Revolution in November 1917

Lenin’s message of “peace, land, & bread” helped him gain popularity among the Russian people.

Bolshevik Red Guards seized control of the provisional government & declared themselves the new gov’t leaders of Russia.

The Bolsheviks arrested & executed the Romanovs which ended 300 years of rule by czars in Russia.
After the success of the Bolshevik Revolution, Lenin announced major reforms for Russia. Lenin signed a truce with Germany & gave up huge territories in order to get Russia out of the war. Lenin ordered all farmland to be distributed among the peasants. Lenin gave control of the factories to the workers.
The Russian Revolution led to a civil war between the Bolshevik Red Army & the White Army (people who wanted a new czar, democracy, or land back). Britain, France, & USA supported the White Army to get Russia back into WWI.
After 3 years of fighting, the Red Army won & Lenin became the unquestioned leader of Russia.

In 1922, Lenin renamed Russia the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

Lenin created the Communist Party which ruled the Soviet Union as a dictatorship.
# Evolution of Communist Thought

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Marx</th>
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<td>- History was the story of class struggle.</td>
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<td>- The struggle Marx saw was between capitalists and the proletariat, or the workers.</td>
<td>- The struggle Lenin saw was capitalists against the proletariat and the peasants.</td>
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<td>- The proletariat’s numbers would become so great and their condition so poor that a spontaneous revolution would occur.</td>
<td>- The proletariat and the peasants were not capable of leading a revolution and needed the guidance of professional revolutionaries.</td>
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<td>- The revolution would end with a “dictatorship of the proletariat”—the communal ownership of wealth.</td>
<td>- After the revolution, the state needed to be run by a single party with disciplined, centrally directed administrators in order to ensure its goals.</td>
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Essential Question:
– What was the impact of Joseph Stalin’s rule over the Soviet Union?
In 1917, Vladimir Lenin led the Bolsheviks in an overthrow of the Russian government. Lenin transformed Russia into the Soviet Union, the world’s first socialist gov’t & created the Communist Party to rule the nation.
In 1922, Lenin suffered a stroke & died in 1924; Lenin’s death led to a struggle for power in the USSR.

By 1927, Joseph Stalin out maneuvered his rivals & gained control of the Soviet Union.

Stalin quickly created a totalitarian state in which he had total control of the gov’t & peoples’ lives.

Class Activity: What was life like in Stalin’s Soviet Union? Examine the front & back of the 4 placards & take notes in your chart.
Stalin was a totalitarian dictator who transformed the USSR into a police state.

Stalin led the Great Purge to eliminate potential rivals in the Communist Party (He executed 8-13 million).

Stalin used propaganda & censorship to control information & began education programs to teach communist ideals & loyalty to Russia children.
The Five Year Plans

Stalin created a series of Five Year Plans to overhaul the Soviet economy

Stalin seized control of the economy & set high production quotas on steel, coal, oil, electricity

Stalin’s Five Year Plans dramatically improved Soviet industry & helped modernize the military
The Five Year Plans
Stalin seized 25 million acres of private farms & combined them into large government-controlled collective farms. 90% of all peasants lived & worked on collective farms. Agricultural production improved in the USSR, but farming was inefficient & peasants resented having their land taken from them.
Individual Rights

Stalin declared men & women equal in the USSR; Women’s rights increased as women could vote & join the Communist Party

Women were expected to work in factories and on collective farms like men

Stalin attacked all religion & created a nation of atheists (no emphasis on religion); Stalin ordered destruction of Orthodox churches & Jewish synagogues
Insert Placards Here
The Communist Party

In 1936, the Communist Party declared that it was the leader of "the working people in their struggle to build a communist society and the leading core of all organizations of the working people, both government and non-government." The working class of Russia had created a classless society in the Soviet Union.

No one group, including the party leaders enjoyed special privileges in the Soviet Union. Furthermore, all citizens had the same rights under the Constitution of 1936, making sure that Soviet citizens were entirely equal, sharing equally in work and the products of the nation's labor.
Secret Information about the Communist Party

Never more than 15 percent of the Soviet population was in the Communist party during the lifetime of Josef Stalin. From 1935-1937 Stalin executed, imprisoned or exiled one quarter of the Communist party - around 600,000 people. The Communist party, the "party of the working class" never had more than 52 percent of its membership from the working classes.

Communist leaders lived in luxury and privilege. During the famines, they continued to eat well, using their influence to find better food and to gain other privileges.
Five Year Plans

During the era of Russian czars, Russia remained behind western Europe in industrialization. Russia’s technology, factories, communication & transportation needed great improvement.

Joseph Stalin announced that "We are fifty to one hundred years behind the advanced [industrialized] countries. We must make good the distance [make up the difference] in ten years or be crushed." Stalin's plan to industrialize and catch up with the West was drawn up in a series of five-year plans. These plans set quotas for all areas of Soviet industry. By 1940, production of steel, coal, oil and electricity had more than tripled since 1928.
Some members of Soviet society attempted to undermine the success of the five-year plans. For instance, some government officials worked from the inside to derail Stalin's plans. These traitors confessed their crimes and were punished. Factories had to meet production quotas often cut corners or simplified products to meet quotas. A shirt factory for example, might leave off cuffs or even buttons to speed up production. Many Soviets chose to shop early in the month, hoping to find higher quality items, before factories were pressed to meet their quotas.
Collective Farms

Before the Revolution, most Russian land was divided among kulaks, wealthy landowners who controlled much of Russia's land. Stalin's policies in the late 1920s redistributed this land, creating communities in which peasants farmed together, sharing all profits. The state helped this process by providing these communities with machinery, repairs, seeds and training in new farming techniques.

By, 1937 the state controlled almost all land in the Soviet Union. Russian collectivization made farming more efficient and productive. Grain production increased from 73.3 million tons in 1928 to 95.6 million tons in 1940, allowing the Soviet Union to sell wheat on the international market.
Secret Information about the Collective Farms

Severe penalties awaited those who opposed the policy of collectivization. 12.5 million Russians were murdered as a part of collectivization and more were sent to work as slaves in labor camps. Collectivization was initially unproductive as well, leading to the famine of 1932, where five million people had died. The government refused to admit the famine had existed.
Individual Rights

The new communist constitution guaranteed the rights of all Russian citizens - the right to free speech, assembly, freedom of religion. Communist leaders saw the Orthodox Church as tricking Russian peasants into accepting a lower role in society.

The Communist party also recognized that women had essential roles in creating a socialist society, as both workers and mothers. Socialist women were full citizens, voting, working, attending school and earned important jobs in the government.

Many minority groups were also given the right to complete freedom to exercise their language and culture without interference.
In 1932, Stalin wiped out religion in the USSR. Stalin closed ten thousand churches and only 1,312 mosques remained open in Russia. Divorces were harder to gain and women were encouraged to "strengthen the family" by staying at home and have children. Women's participation in government declined due to their heavy amount of household work. Ethnic minorities in the USSR were deported, physically attacked, or moved to labor camps in Siberia. Russian communists received getting better pay, houses and jobs.