

**History 223
Revolutionary Russia**

Prof. F. Hirsch

Fall 2005

Between 1905 and 1921 Russia experienced three major revolutions and a violent civil war: the Russian Empire collapsed and the Soviet Union was born. Was revolution inevitable in Russia? Why do revolutions happen? Why did these three revolutions take place in Russia in such a short period of time? This course will focus on revolutionary Russia—exploring the connections among radical ideas, social movements, war, and political change.

Format: Reading, document analysis, and discussion. Students are expected to show up prepared and ready to participate.

Readings: Books marked * are available at the University Book Store. A required course reader is available at Student Print in Memorial Union. All course materials are on reserve at College Library.

Assignments: Students will submit 1-page papers and 1-page annotated timelines in class each week. (I will send out detailed instructions for each of these assignments a week in advance.) A 5-page midterm paper will be due on October 27. An 8-page final paper will be due on December 19.

Honors: Students who wish to take this course for "honors" credit should set up an appointment to speak with me. These students will do additional research over the course of the semester and will write a 12-page research paper in lieu of the 8-page final paper.

Grading: Course grades will be determined on the basis of written work and participation. Please note: regular attendance and participation in class discussions are an absolute must.

Introduction

Week 1 (9/8): Russia and Revolution

Part I: Imperial Russia and the Road to Revolution

Week 2 (9/15): Nihilism and the Seeds of Revolution

*Christopher Read, *From Tsar to Soviets*, chapter 1

Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons* (Book for Lit 201)

Week 3 (9/23): The Intelligentsia and the Road to Revolution

Serge Nechaev, "The Catechism of the Revolutionary" (Reader)

Nikolai Chernyshevsky, *What Is To Be Done?*, pp. 188-204, 271-293 (Book for Lit 201)

*V. I. Lenin, *What Is To Be Done?*

Week 4 (9/29): Social Discontent and the Road to Revolution

*Reginald Zelnik, ed., *A Radical Worker in Tsarist Russia*, pp. 1-135, 177-232

Part II: 1905 and its Aftermath

Week 5 (10/6): 1905

From Tsar to Soviets, chapter 2

"Father Gapon's Petition to Nicholas II" (Reader)

"An Official Report on Bloody Sunday" (Reader)

"The October Manifesto" (Reader)

"The Cancellation of Redemption Payments" (Reader)

"The Peasants in 1905" (Reader)

"Party Programmes" (Reader)

Week 6 (10/13, Yom Kippur): No Class

10/16: Film and Discussion: *Battleship Potemkin*

Week 7 (10/20): The Duma Experiment

"Nicholas's Deliberations Concerning the Fundamental State Laws" (Reader)

"The Fundamental State Laws of April 23, 1906" (Reader)

"Speech from the Throne" and "The Reply of the State Duma" (Reader)

"The Government's Declaration" and "The Duma's Vote of No Confidence" (Reader)

"Manifesto Dissolving the Second Duma" (Reader)

"The Electoral Law of 3 June 1907" (Reader)

Peter Durnovo, "Memorandum to Nicholas II" (Reader)

Part III: The February Revolution

Week 8 (10/27): World War I

From Tsar to Soviets, chapter 3

"The Collective Message of the Ministers to the Tsar" (Reader)

"The Program of the Progressive Bloc" (Reader)

"Letters from the Tsar to the Tsaritsa, 1915-1917" (Reader)

"Secret Police Reports on Internal Conditions, February-October 1916" (Reader)

Prologue to Revolution: Notes of A. N. Iakhontov, 36-43, 168-179, 226-243 (Reader)

Alexander Shlyapnikov, *On the Eve of 1917*, pp. 70-103 (Reader)

V. I. Lenin, "The War and Russian Social Democracy" (Reader)

Week 9 (11/3): The February Revolution

From Tsar to Soviets, chapter 4

"Rodzianko's Report on the Economic Situation" (Reader)

"General Khabalov's Report on Petrograd" (Reader)

"Rodzianko's Telegrams to the Tsar" (Reader)

"The Telegram From Some State Council Members to the Tsar" (Reader)

"Shul'gin on the Formation of the Provisional Government of the Duma" (Reader)

"The Proclamation of the Provisional Government" (Reader)

Leon Trotsky, selection from *The History of the Russian Revolution* (Reader)

N. N. Sukhanov, *The Russian Revolution of 1917*, pp. 3-33 (Reader)

Week 10 (11/10): The Provisional Government and the Soviet

From Tsar to Soviets, chapter 5

Paul Miliukov, *Political Memoirs* pp. 389-413 (Reader)

Victor Chernov, *The Great Russian Revolution*, pp. 98-109 (Reader)

"Socialistic Support of the Provisional Government" (Reader)

V. I. Lenin, "Letters From Afar: First Letter" (Reader)

V. I. Lenin, "The Dual Power" (Reader)

"Order No 1" (Reader)

Part IV: The October Revolution and the Making of Soviet Russia

Week 11 (11/17): The Bolsheviks

From Tsar to Soviets, chapter 6

V. I. Lenin, "The April Theses" (Reader)

V. I. Lenin, "All Power to the Soviets!" (Reader)

V. I. Lenin, "The Bolsheviks Must Assume Power" (Reader)

"Seizure of the Durnovo Place By the Anarchists" (Reader)

"Do Not Listen to Provocative Calls" (Reader)

"Bolshevik Congress" (Reader)

"The Red Guard" (Reader)

"To the Army and Navy" (Reader)

"Resolution of Petrograd Soviet" (Reader)

"Trotsky Elected Chairman of Petrograd Soviet" (Reader)

"War-Revolutionary Committee and Defense of Petrograd" (Reader)

*V. I. Lenin, *State and Revolution*

Week 12 (11/24, Thanksgiving): No Class

Week 13 (12/1): The Bolsheviks Come to Power

From Tsar to Soviets, chapters 7 and 8

*John Reed, *Ten Days that Shook the World*, pp. 42-180

"Rumors" (Reader)

"The Provisional Government and the Uprising" (Reader)

"Announcement by Mayor of Petrograd on the Food Situation" (Reader)

"Arming for the Uprising" (Reader)
"Meeting of the Petrograd Soviet [October 31]" (Reader)
"Mad Adventure" (Reader)
"Meeting of the Petrograd Soviet [November 7]" (Reader)
"Bolsheviks in Power" (Reader)
"Formation of the Government of People's Commissars" (Reader)
"Decree of Peace Passed Unanimously" (Reader)
"The Land Decree" (Reader)

Week 14 (12/8): The Civil War

From Tsar to Soviets, chapters 9, 10

*Edward Dune, *Notes of a Red Guard*, pp. 89-212

12/10: Film and Discussion: *Chapaev*

Week 15 (12/15): The Civil War and the Formation of the USSR

From Tsar to Soviets, chapters 11 and 12

"Declaration of Rights of the Laboring and Exploited People" (Reader)

Victor Serge, *Memoirs of a Revolutionary*, pp. 115-142 (Reader)

Alexandra Kollontai, "On Bureaucracy and Self-Activity of the Masses," from *The Workers' Opposition* (Reader)

"On Party Unity—The Tenth Party Congress" (Reader)

"The New Economic Policy—The Agricultural Tax in Kind," (Reader)

"Draft Resolutions on Questions of the New Economic Policy," and "Speech on Closing the Conference" (Reader)