



Life in Communist Russia - Lenin



Chapter 22

Term	Definition
Bolshevik Party	Russian communists who seized power in October 1917. The leader of the Bolsheviks was Vladimir Lenin.
Cheka	Lenin's secret police.
Collective	A farm worked as a unit by a community or village under the supervision of the state as in Soviet Russia.
Collectivisation	Taking agricultural land into state ownership and dividing it into collective or group farms.
Communism	The belief that all property is owned by the community. People work for the benefit of the community and benefits are received as needed.
Cult of personality	When propaganda is used to glorify a political leader, to create a god-like image of a political leader.
Communist Party	The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Communist Party after Lenin came to power.
Dictator	A ruler with full power over a country.
Dictatorship	A country being ruled or governed by a dictator.
Five-Year Plans	Stalin's plans aimed at rapidly increasing industrial output.
Gulag	Forced labour prison camp.
Komsomol	Communist youth group.
Modernising	Changing to modern ideas and ways.
Kulak	Wealthier class of peasant farmers.
New Economic Policy	The NEP replaced War Communism and allowed small business to remain in private ownership and peasant farmers to sell spare crops for profit.
NKVD	Stalin's secret police.
Red Army	Lenin's government army during the Russian Civil War. It was commanded by Leon Trotsky.
Purges	To remove people by lawful or unlawful means from society in order to eliminate opposition.
Rationing	Use of coupons and ration books to control the amount of food, clothes, footwear and petrol given to each person.
War Communism	A policy of directing the means of the state towards the army and factory workers. This policy was employed during the Russian Civil War and involved forcibly taking food from peasant farmers.
White Army	Anti-Communist army during the Russian Civil War. It was commanded by Alexander Kolchak.
Show Trials	A staged trial of opposition figures in Soviet Russia, organised by Stalin, held in public to influence popular opinion.
Socialism	A political and economic theory of social organisation which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.

3.9 EXAMINE life in one fascist country and one communist country in the twentieth century

Summary		
<p>The rise of communism in Russia under Lenin was a significant event in 20th-century history, transforming Russia from an absolute monarchy into the world's first socialist state. In the aftermath of World War I and the Russian Revolution, Lenin and his Bolshevik Party established a new government that aimed to create a society that was more equitable and just for all citizens. The Bolsheviks implemented a series of policies and reforms, including the nationalization of industry and land, the establishment of a planned economy, and the promotion of gender equality and universal education.</p> <p>While the Bolsheviks faced numerous challenges, including political instability, a devastated economy, and opposition from anti-communist forces, they were able to maintain their grip on power and establish a new state that would significantly impact the world. The rise of communism in Russia had far-reaching consequences, leading to the formation of the Soviet Union and the spread of Marxist ideology throughout the world.</p> <p>Communism and the Bolsheviks:</p> <p>Communism is a political ideology that advocates for a classless society in which resources are shared equally among all members. The Bolsheviks were a Marxist political party that came to power in Russia after the October Revolution of 1917. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, believed in the establishment of a socialist state that would eventually transition to communism. They also believed in the seizure of private property and the nationalization of industry, agriculture, and natural resources.</p>		
Russia in the 1900s	The Romanov Dynasty	Lenin's Rise to Power
Russia was ruled by Tsar Nicholas II and was still largely an agrarian society. Despite some efforts at industrialization, the country lagged behind other European powers in economic and military development. The majority of Russians were peasants who lived in extreme poverty and were heavily oppressed, with little hope for social or economic mobility. Russia's participation in World War I was a disastrous failure, with the country suffering numerous military defeats, supply shortages, and a mounting death toll. The war further exacerbated social tensions and economic hardships, ultimately leading to the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and the downfall of the Tsarist regime.	The Romanov dynasty, led by Tsar Nicholas II, presided over a tumultuous period in Russian history marked by social, economic, and political strife. Nicholas II's autocratic rule was characterized by a lack of political freedoms, widespread corruption, and a disregard for the suffering of the Russian people. The country's involvement in World War I was a catastrophic failure, which further exacerbated these problems and led to widespread unrest. In 1917, the Bolsheviks seized power in a revolution, and the Romanov family was subsequently arrested and imprisoned. In July 1918, they were executed by the Bolsheviks, bringing an end to over 300 years of Romanov rule in Russia.	Vladimir Lenin was a revolutionary leader and the first head of the Soviet Union. Lenin's rise to power was characterized by his influential leadership in the Bolshevik party and his successful implementation of Marxist ideology. Lenin led the Bolsheviks to victory in the October Revolution of 1917, which overthrew the Provisional Government and established the world's first socialist state. Lenin was a strong advocate for the establishment of a vanguard party, which would act as the revolutionary leadership for the proletariat.
Daily Life in Lenin's Russia	The Russian Civil War	Economic Politics
Daily life in Lenin's Russia was characterized by the aftermath of the Russian Revolution and the establishment of the world's first socialist state. The Soviet government faced numerous challenges in its early years, including a devastated economy, widespread famine, and political instability. Economic policies such as War Communism, which aimed to nationalize industry and eliminate the market economy, were implemented but had negative consequences such as widespread famine. The government also relied on propaganda and terror to maintain control, with the creation of the Cheka secret police and the use of show trials and public executions.	The Russian Civil War was a multi-faceted conflict that occurred in Russia from 1918 to 1922. The war was fought between the Bolshevik Red Army and a collection of anti-Bolshevik forces, known as the White Army. The war was characterized by a high level of violence and brutality, with both sides committing atrocities against civilians. The Bolsheviks ultimately emerged victorious, solidifying their grip on power in Russia.	Lenin's Economic Policies aimed to create a socialist economy that would benefit workers and peasants. War Communism, implemented during the Russian Civil War, nationalized industries and abolished private trade, but resulted in famine and economic collapse. Lenin replaced it with the New Economic Policy (NEP), allowing small-scale private enterprise and foreign trade, stabilizing the economy and increasing food production. State-owned industries were created, and collectivization in agriculture promoted to create a planned economy. However, rapid industrialization came at a high cost, with forced labor, poor working conditions, and low wages being common. Overall, Lenin's policies aimed to benefit the working class, with the NEP stabilizing the economy and laying the groundwork for future industrialization efforts.
Education	Women's Lives	Use of Terror and Propaganda
Education was a priority for the Soviet government, with a focus on providing free and universal education to all citizens. The government also aimed to create a new system of education that would be more egalitarian and accessible to all, including women and minorities. However, education was heavily politicized; schools were used to promote Communist ideology and Soviet loyalty.	Women's lives in Lenin's Russia were impacted by the government's policies aimed at promoting gender equality. The Soviet government passed laws granting women greater rights and opportunities, such as the legalization of abortion and the introduction of equal pay for equal work. The government also aimed to eliminate traditional gender roles and promote the participation of women in the workforce, politics, and education.	The Soviet government under Lenin relied on propaganda and terror to maintain its grip on power. The government controlled the media, which was used to promote Communist ideology and to present the Soviet Union as a progressive and egalitarian society. However, dissent was not tolerated, and the Cheka secret police were given broad powers to suppress opposition and dissent through violent means. This led to a climate of fear and repression, with many individuals being arrested, executed, or sent to labour camps.