War to Revolution

Trace how wartime crisis shaped Bolshevik power and Soviet rule.

SS24.WH.7b "Describe the rise of the Bolsheviks and Soviet ideology in Russia during and after World War I."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two wartime problems that weakened Russia's government, and circle two Bolshevik promises or actions that helped the party gain support. Number two actions taken after the Bolsheviks seized power that show how they put their ideas into practice.

How the Bolsheviks Took Power

1. By 1916, World War I had strained Russia's army and cities. Soldiers faced heavy losses and shortages of weapons, while families waited in long lines for bread. Many Russians blamed Tsar Nicholas II, whose government struggled to supply the war effort. In March 1917 (February on Russia's old calendar), protests and soldiers' mutinies forced the tsar to abdicate. A Provisional Government took over but kept Russia in the war. Workers and soldiers also formed councils called soviets. These councils offered another source of political power, and many people demanded peace, food, and land.

2. The Bolsheviks, a revolutionary socialist party led by Vladimir Lenin, did not lead the March revolution. They gained support as the Provisional Government failed to end the war or solve land shortages. Lenin called for power to the soviets and promised “peace, land, and bread.” Bolshevik organizers won influence in key city soviets, especially in Petrograd. In November 1917 (October on Russia's old calendar), armed Bolshevik forces overthrew the Provisional Government. The takeover gave the party control of the capital, but many Russians opposed its claim to rule the whole country.

3. Bolsheviks drew on Marxist ideas about ending class divisions and replacing private control of major industries with collective control. After taking power, they issued a land decree that transferred large estates to peasant committees. In March 1918, their government left World War I through the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, giving up vast territory. During a civil war, the Bolsheviks defeated rival forces and tightened one-party rule. The government took control of major industries and suppressed political opponents. In 1922, Russia joined other republics in the Soviet Union. A promised government of workers had become a state led by one party.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did wartime conditions help bring down the tsar and create an opening for new political groups?

2. Why did the Bolsheviks gain support between the tsar's abdication and their takeover?

3. How did two early Bolshevik decisions connect to promises the party made while seeking power?

4. How did Bolshevik rule after the takeover both reflect and conflict with the party's stated ideas?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 105 word museum label titled “From War to Soviet Rule.” Link at least three developments from wartime problems to Bolshevik power and a policy after 1917, then explain one tension between a Bolshevik ideal and how the leaders governed.

ANSWER KEY

War to Revolution

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.7b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two wartime problems that weakened Russia's government, and circle two Bolshevik promises or actions that helped the party gain support. Number two actions taken after the Bolsheviks seized power that show how they put their ideas into practice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did wartime conditions help bring down the tsar and create an opening for new political groups?	**Heavy losses and shortages fueled protests and soldiers' mutinies that forced the tsar to abdicate. The new government shared the political stage with workers' and soldiers' soviets.**
2	Why did the Bolsheviks gain support between the tsar's abdication and their takeover?	**The Provisional Government kept Russia in the war and failed to solve land shortages. Lenin's promises of peace, land, bread, and power to the soviets appealed to people seeking change.**
3	How did two early Bolshevik decisions connect to promises the party made while seeking power?	**The land decree transferred large estates to peasant committees, connecting to the promise of land. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk took Russia out of World War I, connecting to the promise of peace.**
4	How did Bolshevik rule after the takeover both reflect and conflict with the party's stated ideas?	**Government control of major industries reflected the goal of replacing private control. One-party rule and suppression of opponents conflicted with the promise of power to workers through the soviets.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

From War to Soviet Rule

A bread line in Petrograd could tell the story of a revolution. War brought shortages and defeats, and the tsar lost his throne. The new Provisional Government continued the war, so Lenin's promise of peace helped Bolsheviks gain support in city councils. After they seized power, their government left the war and transferred large estates to peasant committees. Bolsheviks said workers should control society, yet their leaders suppressed opponents and ruled through one party. The exhibit shows how war opened a path to power and how Soviet rule differed from its stated ideal.

Accept other accurate chains linking wartime hardship, the Provisional Government's choices, Bolshevik support, the takeover, and later policies. For the museum label, look for an explained contrast between a stated ideal and one-party rule, not just a list of events.