Promises and Power

Trace how revolution changed Russia and the wider world

MWH.C.6.3 "Analyze the causes and consequences of the Russian Revolution on global politics, social structures, human rights, and economic systems..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three causes of revolution. Circle two Soviet policies, then number a consequence of each policy.

From Protest to Soviet Rule

1. During World War I, Russian soldiers lacked supplies while families in cities waited in bread lines. Under Czar Nicholas II, political critics faced censorship and arrest, and many peasants wanted land. Strikes and protests grew. In February 1917, soldiers joined demonstrators instead of stopping them, and Nicholas abdicated, ending Romanov rule. A provisional government continued the war and failed to settle demands for land. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, promised peace, land, and bread and seized power that October.

2. The Bolshevik takeover did not end conflict. In the Russian Civil War, the Red Army defeated forces opposed to Bolshevik rule. Under Lenin, the new Soviet state suppressed rival parties, establishing a one-party dictatorship. It seized private property, including major industries, and directed production through the government. Religious believers faced persecution, and churches lost property. These changes shifted economic power from owners to the state and narrowed civil and religious freedoms. Abroad, the revolution inspired communist movements and alarmed governments that feared similar uprisings.

3. After Lenin died in 1924, Joseph Stalin gained power by outmaneuvering rivals in the Communist Party. His totalitarian regime sought control over politics, the economy, and daily life. During the Great Purge, arrests, forced confessions, executions, and labor camps crushed suspected opponents. In Ukraine, Stalin's government forced farms into collective ownership, demanded large grain deliveries, and took food from villages. These policies helped cause the Holodomor famine of 1932 to 1933, which killed millions. Soviet claims of equality thus stood beside mass terror, hunger, and limits on human rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did wartime conditions and the government's response to protest help end Romanov rule?

2. Why did the provisional government's decisions give the Bolsheviks an opening?

3. How did Lenin's policies change both economic power and political rights?

4. How did Stalin use state power against opponents, and how did his policies contribute to famine?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences for a museum label that contrasts one Bolshevik promise with two later Soviet policies. Explain an effect on ordinary people and an effect on politics or the economy.

ANSWER KEY

Promises and Power

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.6.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three causes of revolution. Circle two Soviet policies, then number a consequence of each policy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did wartime conditions and the government's response to protest help end Romanov rule?	**Shortages fueled unrest, and when soldiers joined demonstrators rather than stopping them, Nicholas abdicated.**
2	Why did the provisional government's decisions give the Bolsheviks an opening?	**It continued the war and did not settle demands for land, while the Bolsheviks promised peace, land, and bread.**
3	How did Lenin's policies change both economic power and political rights?	**Seizing property shifted economic power to the state. Suppressing rival parties narrowed political rights.**
4	How did Stalin use state power against opponents, and how did his policies contribute to famine?	**The Great Purge used arrests, forced confessions, executions, and labor camps against suspected opponents. Collective farming, grain demands, and food seizures helped cause the Holodomor.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Bolsheviks promised land to people who wanted more control over their lives. Under Lenin, the government seized private property and directed production. Under Stalin, officials took food from Ukrainian villages, helping cause a famine that killed millions. Families suffered hunger while the state gained control over farms and industry.

Accept other accurate cause-and-effect links supported by the passage. For the museum label, look for one promise, two distinct policies, and effects on both ordinary people and politics or the economy.