Revolution and Rule

Trace the turning points from 1917 to the founding of the USSR.

TOT.C.3.2 "Trace the significant events of the Russian Revolution. February Revolution and the Provisional (Kerensky) government, October Revolution, the Bolshevik seizure of power, and the establishment of one-party dictatorship, Civil War..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline events that changed who governed Russia or how power was used, then number those events in time order.

From Protest to Party Rule

1. In early 1917, Russia's war losses, food shortages, and anger at the monarchy fueled protests in Petrograd. During the February Revolution, soldiers joined protesters, and Tsar Nicholas II abdicated in March by the calendar used today. A Provisional Government took office but continued the war; Alexander Kerensky became its leader in July. Lenin's Bolsheviks demanded an end to the war and promised "peace, land, and bread." In the October Revolution, which occurred in November by today's calendar, Bolshevik forces seized key sites in Petrograd and overthrew the Provisional Government. Promises of popular rule now faced a test.

2. After taking power, the Bolsheviks dissolved an elected assembly in January 1918 when it refused to support their rule. They shut out rival parties and built a one-party dictatorship. From 1918 to 1921, the Red Army fought anti-Bolshevik White forces and other opponents in a civil war. Lenin's government took over major industries, banned much private trade, seized grain from peasants, and rationed food. These measures aimed to supply cities and soldiers, but they disrupted production and deepened hunger. During the Red Terror, security police imprisoned and executed suspected enemies. War, requisitions, and drought contributed to the devastating famine of 1921 and 1922.

3. Resistance also came from former supporters. In March 1921, sailors at Kronstadt demanded freer elections and an end to forced grain seizures; the Red Army crushed their rebellion. Workers' strikes were suppressed as well. Facing unrest and economic collapse, Lenin introduced the New Economic Policy in 1921, allowing small private businesses and replacing forced grain seizures with a tax, while the state kept major industries. In 1922, authorities confiscated Church property during famine relief campaigns; many clergy were imprisoned or executed, and religious institutions faced persecution. That December, Russia and three other Soviet republics formally formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or USSR, under Communist Party rule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the February Revolution change Russia's government, and what decision by the new government left an opening for the Bolsheviks?

2. Trace the Bolsheviks' path from the October Revolution to one-party dictatorship. Name two steps.

3. Why did Lenin's government seize grain during the civil war, and how did that policy affect the crisis that followed?

4. After the Kronstadt Rebellion, what economic policy changed, and what kind of political rule remained when the USSR was formed?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph assessing whether the revolution's early promises matched life under the government formed by 1922. Trace at least four dated turning points, explain how one led to another, and distinguish an economic change from a political continuity.

ANSWER KEY

Revolution and Rule

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline events that changed who governed Russia or how power was used, then number those events in time order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the February Revolution change Russia's government, and what decision by the new government left an opening for the Bolsheviks?	**The tsar abdicated and a Provisional Government took office. Its decision to continue the war left an opening for the Bolsheviks' promise to end it.**
2	Trace the Bolsheviks' path from the October Revolution to one-party dictatorship. Name two steps.	**They seized key sites and overthrew the Provisional Government, then dissolved an elected assembly and shut out rival parties.**
3	Why did Lenin's government seize grain during the civil war, and how did that policy affect the crisis that followed?	**The government sought food for cities and soldiers. Grain seizures disrupted production and deepened hunger, contributing, along with war and drought, to the famine of 1921 and 1922.**
4	After the Kronstadt Rebellion, what economic policy changed, and what kind of political rule remained when the USSR was formed?	**The New Economic Policy allowed small private businesses and replaced forced grain seizures with a tax. Communist Party rule remained when the USSR was formed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1917, the February Revolution ended the monarchy, but the Provisional Government kept Russia in the war. That failure helped Lenin's promise of "peace, land, and bread" gain support before the October seizure of power. In 1918, the Bolsheviks dissolved an elected assembly and later used grain seizures during the civil war, placing party control above political choice and worsening hunger. Kronstadt sailors rebelled in 1921; Lenin then eased economic controls through the New Economic Policy. When the USSR formed in 1922, Communist Party rule remained despite that economic retreat.

Accept other accurate chains of dated events from the passage. The paragraph should explain a connection between events and identify both an economic change and the continuation of one-party rule.