

Southern New Hampshire University

The Evils of Bolshevism

Effects on the European Society, Peoples, Culture, Schools, and Churches

A Capstone Project Submitted to the College of Online and Continuing Education in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Master of Arts in History

By

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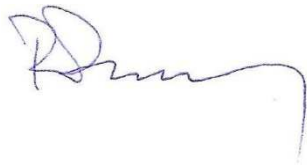
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## **Abstract**

In recent months, Russia has been the focus of many investigation and has been the topic of choice of the United States and its media. It is believed that a reinvigorated and bolstered Russia is now making itself known once more as key power player on the world stage. By utilizing modern day social media as modern-day propaganda tool and with limited invasions of neighboring former republics. Russia is now making a power play to influence elections, economies and its neighbors once more . Not more than a century ago, Russia and its Bolsheviks would feel this same type of invigoration when it attempted to spread unwanted Marxism throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Led by Lenin, Trotsky and later Stalin, these men would push a deadly agenda that had no bounds. Their agenda was simple, they wanted countries, societies and the church to be reformed so they could control all features of the individuals who rested in their Bolshevik and now imperialist path.

The goal of the paper is to look back at its beginnings and reflect upon how Russia used propaganda, violence, pandemics and an economic crisis to push their unwanted Bolshevik outline. It will track how certain countries would be infiltrated by disheartened soldiers who had lost faith in their current leaders and their countries. It will look at its usages of media to push its schema. All these factors will be looked at with multiple lenses to see if Russia of yesteryear is now mirroring Russia of today. By looking at the past maybe we can see some clues of the future.

## **Dedication**

I would like to dedicate this paper first to my wife Jenean, who did so much for me so I could accomplish this enormous task so late in life. I could not have achieved it without her help, love and guidance. Second, my children, Emmy, Lucy, Maggie, Chris, and Andrew, who put up with an absent father for over the last two years. I love you all. Next, I want to acknowledge my father, Jan Michael Young Sr.. He passed away halfway through my goal of getting this degree. His work ethic drove me to not even think about quitting my pursuit at any point. I also want to thank my mother, Barbara Young, who always encouraged me to finish what I started, and who always told me I could do anything. Lastly, I want to thank my co-workers at the Sheriff's Department who read all my papers as a favor to me. Every one of them had to put up with my constant pleading for feedback on my work.

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## Introduction

In 1918, the young First Lord of the Admiralty and future Prime Minister Winston Churchill would take on the Bolshevik menace that was spreading in Europe. In his political lifetime he would see the birth of Bolshevism and later its horrific outcomes. Churchill could see in the movement's infancy what very few leaders, diplomats or economists would. Like others, he believed Bolshevism's only purpose was as a tool or instrument for controlling, influencing, and propagandizing labor movements domestically and internationally. It would seek out only weakened economies by influencing their depressed labor forces. A secondary preparation was to attack and change a country's societal and religious norms and practices to discredit past practices and reform and implement their formula of change.

Only a few politicians and world leaders would fully grasp what Churchill understood about Bolshevism: that this scheme would become a cancer on Europe. Bolshevism would threaten not only Europe's economic, societal and religious norms but also the entire Western world's societal solidity and belief structures. On April 10th, 1919, Winston Churchill, would author a letter a secret letter to the British War Cabinet regarding the spread of Bolshevism throughout Germany.<sup>1</sup> He would title this letter "Bolshevism in Germany."<sup>2</sup> In his official report he would state "Bolshevik activity is steadily on the increase throughout the country; agents are becoming more numerous and more open in their methods, and further, a steady stream of forged notes was pouring into the country, which are known to be of Bolshevik

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<sup>1</sup> Winston S Churchill, "Bolshevism in Germany", Memorandum (The National Archives, Kew, 1919), CAB 24/77/94, National Archives United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup> Churchill, Bolshevism, 1.



origins.”<sup>3</sup> Churchill now had a hard time holding back his views of Bolshevism. He would later tell Prime Minister Sir Lloyd George, “one might as well legalize sodomy and recognize the Bolsheviks.”<sup>4</sup> Churchill was no fool; he saw the many dangers that now threatened both Europe’s economic health and its norms and traditions.

Lenin, Trotsky, and Stalin would lead this newly created band of Bolsheviks in its first phase. They would publicize their objectives early on of what they wanted to accomplish with uses of Bolshevism. By exploiting Bolshevik newspapers and the use of agents, their hope was to spread Marxist revolutionary thought and practice throughout Europe and later across the globe. In 1917, most of Europe, as well as the rest of the world, was in economic chaos and on the brink of starvation due to the ongoing British naval blockade and influenza epidemic.<sup>5</sup> The British naval blockade may have been the most devastating weapon used during War I. It is estimated to have caused millions of civilian deaths, especially in Germany. An estimated 763,000 German civilians would die, according to British historical research.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, more than 150,000 Germans would also die of influenza.<sup>7</sup> In a memo dated January 1917, printed for the British war cabinet, it states: “All the evidence available tends to show that, with some minor exception, practically no goods coming from overseas are getting through to Germany.”<sup>8</sup> Starvation,

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<sup>3</sup> Lewis Jones, "Keeping Tabs on The Hampstead Bolsheviks: The Secret History of Espionage in Twenties Britain", The Telegraph, 2017, accessed April 4, 2018, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/what-to-read/keeping-tabs-hampstead-bolsheviks-secret-history-espionage-twenties/>.

<sup>4</sup> Anthony Read, *The World on Fire: 1919 And the Battle with Bolshevism*, 1st ed. (New York: W. W. Norton & Company Inc., 2008), 104.

<sup>5</sup> Chris Kampshell, "Influenza Pandemic", WW1 East Sussex, last modified 2014, accessed April 4, 2018, <http://www.eastsussexww1.org.uk/influenza-pandemic/>.

<sup>6</sup> "Starvation and Disease", document (Kew, Richmond, Surrey, 1917), The blockade of Germany, National Archives United Kingdom.

<sup>7</sup> "Starvation and Disease", 1.

<sup>8</sup> Sir E. Carson, "Memorandum to War Cabinet on Trade Blockade", Memorandum, 1917, CAB 1/22 fl-2, National Archives United Kingdom.

influenza, unemployment and fear were all propaganda tools that Lenin would use to sway the disheartened peoples, soldiers of Russia and later the Europeans to the sways of Leninism and later communism.

This Spanish Flu, or influenza pandemic, would be responsible for taking thirty million lives in 1918. A letter written on October 28, 1918 in East London brings this calamity into perspective. A small excerpt of this letter sheds light on how this scourge impacted so many around Europe and the world: “Doctors are on constant call, while undertakers can’t turn out or bury the people quick enough.”<sup>9</sup> The flu would turn a depraved situation into a more desperate situation for millions of distraught Russians and Europeans. Lenin and Marxism would now make inroads into the opinions of disheartened soldiers, unemployed labors of Russia, Eastern Europe, Germany, and the people of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Lenin once said, “A revolution is impossible without a revolutionary situation; furthermore, not every revolutionary situation leads to revolution.”<sup>10</sup> With most of Europe on the brink of starvation, due to the British Navy’s continued blockade in the Baltic Sea and France and Italy’s control of all inland passages and Western railways that led East, Russia would now see more and more openings for Bolshevism. As early as 1917, Lenin would plan his expansion into Europe. What Lenin did see, unlike the leaders of the Triple Alliance (Britain, France, and Italy), was the influence the returning soldiers of the Central Powers would have against their own governments. Germany, Austria and most of Eastern Europe were the most financially affected by losing World War I. Combined with starvation, a lack of jobs, and no hope, Lenin

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<sup>9</sup> ES Bennett, "Influenza Pandemic: East London", Letter (London England, 1918), FD 1/535-537: National Archives United Kingdom.

<sup>10</sup> V.I. Lenin, "The Collapse of The Second International", Marxists.Org, last modified 1915, accessed March 23, 2018, <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1915/csi/ii.htm>.

would now see an opportunity to spread his Bolshevik beliefs throughout Russia, Central and Eastern Europe with little or no opposition. Bolshevism had become a true threat to Europe's social, religious and political future after World War I.

Some Western and Eastern European leaders, including Churchill, believed their established societal norms, including religious practices, were now under attack by Bolshevik ideology and their propaganda machine. Evidence of these societal and establishment attacks came about rapidly after the October Revolution, when Lenin basically declared war on the Catholic and Russian Orthodox Churches throughout Russia. Prior to the 1917 Revolution, the Catholic archdiocese had over a million and a half laity and over 119 parishes. By 1924, the Bolsheviks had reduced the Catholic population to almost nothing.<sup>11</sup> Many of these churches and their property would be seized by the Soviet Bolsheviks during this period. Several priests would be imprisoned or executed, and the parishes would be forcefully converted into Soviet government institutions.<sup>12</sup> Lenin would write a secret letter on March 19, 1922 to his associate Vyacheslav Molotov and members of the Politburo, the principal policymaking committee of a communist party, sharing strategy on how to seize these churches and obtain the wealth that they had amassed over the centuries. This letter makes it quite clear that Lenin intended all along to rid the Soviet Union and Europe of the Church and its religion.

We must pursue the removal of church property by any means necessary in order to secure for ourselves a fund of several hundred million gold rubles (do not forget the immense wealth of some monasteries and lauras). Without this fund any government work in general, any economic build-up in particular, and any upholding of Soviet principles in Genoa especially is completely unthinkable. In order to get our hands on this fund of several hundred million gold rubles (perhaps even several billion), we must do whatever is necessary. But to do this successfully is possible only now. All

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<sup>11</sup> Donia Byrnes, "Bolshevik Persecution of The Catholic Church", History Journal 8 (1987): 1-10, <http://www.ioyno.edu/history/journal/1987-8/byrnes.htm>.

<sup>12</sup> Byrnes, Bolshevik, 10.

considerations indicate that later on we will fail to do this, for no other time, besides that of desperate famine, will give us a mood among the general mass of peasants that would ensure us the neutralization of this group in the sense that victory in the struggle for the removal of church property unquestionably and completely will be on our side.<sup>13</sup>

Due to Bolshevism, during the October Revolution in 1917, he and Trotsky believed it would be just a matter of time before they would expand the revolution to their Central and Eastern European neighbors.<sup>14</sup> As early as 1903, Lenin and his fellow Socialists had planned for their version of Bolshevistic ideologies be spread beyond Russia's borders as soon as the provincial government fell.<sup>15</sup> Germany's economic turmoil and war loss would create an enormous crack in Central Europe's power bloc and its financial foundations. This opening would allow Lenin and his Bolshevik supporters to thrust their Red Marxist philosophies into Germany's borders by using Bolshevik agents. Originally their focus would be on war-torn Germany and hopefully Eastern Europe due to increased instability throughout the region. Lenin's initial plan was to use its current and former territories of Ukraine and Poland to create a so-called "Red Bridge."<sup>16</sup> His purpose was to carry Bolshevism first into Germany, by use of its Bolshevik agitators, members of the Industrial Workers of the World and colloquially known as "Wobblies."<sup>17</sup> The name was coined in Chicago in 1905 to describe Socialist and Marxist union agitators and propagandist agents who were suspected of spreading anti-capitalistic opinions throughout North America and Europe by use of newspapers and other forms of propaganda."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Vladimir Lenin, "Letter from Lenin", Letter (Washington, DC, 1919), Revelations from Russian Archives, Library of Congress.

<sup>14</sup> Read, World on Fire, 4.

<sup>15</sup> Read, World on Fire, 24.

<sup>16</sup> Read, World on Fire, 110.

<sup>17</sup> Read, World on Fire, 110.

<sup>18</sup> Walter J Simpson and Harry Bridges, "IWW Newspapers", Depts.Washington.Edu, last modified 2015, accessed April 8, 2018, <http://depts.washington.edu/iww/newspapers.shtml>.

Comparable to other radical organizations, the Wobblies saw reporting as a vital part of their organizing strategy.”<sup>19</sup> They would ultimately publish over ninety newspapers worldwide in 19 different languages to draw as many people as possible to their beliefs.<sup>20</sup>

These Wobblies and leftist agitators were first used extensively in the United States during America’s first general strike in Seattle in February 1919.<sup>21</sup> Many of the so- called Bolshevik agitators, and Wobblies were rumored to have ties to Industrial Workers of the World, known as the “IWW.”<sup>22</sup> Created in the Chicago Illinois, in 1905, its purpose was to unite the revolutionary workers and Socialists of the world together. Its agenda echoed many of Lenin’s beliefs during this period. It is rumored that historians believe there were many shared ties between Lenin and the IWW.<sup>23</sup> In 1918, six foreign members of the IWW were arrested in San Francisco.<sup>24</sup> These individuals were citizens of Russia, Germany, Austria, and Great Britain.<sup>25</sup> All were found carrying radical WWI literature and membership cards when arrested by police. After the Seattle General Strike, a five-day general work stoppage by more than 65,000 workers in the city of Seattle, Washington, which lasted from February 6 to February 11 of that year, and just prior to entering World War I, many Americans would worry about Bolshevik agitators entering America.<sup>26</sup> Due to their arrest in 1918, many Americans would now believe that a concentrated effort was now being made to introduce political radicalism into America.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Simpson, "IWW Newspapers", 1.

<sup>20</sup> Simpson, "IWW Newspapers", 1.

<sup>21</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 95.

<sup>22</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 93.

<sup>23</sup> Maria Sakovich, "When The "Enemy" Landed at Angel Island", United States National Archive 41, no. 2 (2009): 1-11, accessed April 5, 2018, <https://www.archives.gov/publication/prologue/summer/angel.html>

<sup>24</sup> Sakovich, *When The "Enemy"*, 1.

<sup>25</sup> Sakovich, *When The "Enemy"*, 4.

<sup>26</sup> Sakovich, *When The "Enemy"*, 4.

<sup>27</sup> Sakovich, *When The "Enemy"*, 4.

To exploit their beliefs, Trotsky would utilize a scheme that had been proven over and over again to gain Bolshevik converts. First, they would taint and create uncertainties about the present government. Next, they would organize established labor and create pro-Bolshevik unions. Finally, they would push their schema, organize strikes, and spread pro-Bolshevik propaganda in hopes of attracting people who were currently unsatisfied with their situation. Lenin's advertised goals had always been to overthrow any pro-capitalistic governments that showed instability and feeble leadership. Germany was allegedly his main goal of disrupting during this era of starvation and economic uncertainty.<sup>28</sup> His hope was to set up a Marxist proletariat-style dictatorship in Germany that echoed his own Bolshevik revolution in Russia. If Germany could be turned into a Bolshevik state, Lenin believed the rest of Europe would fall.<sup>29</sup> Poland, Ukraine and parts of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire would theoretically be the first to flip due to the enormous pressure placed upon them by Russia's revolutionary forces, who still had many political, ethnic and societal ties within each of those countries. By exploiting disaffected soldiers and dwindling economies in proximity to Russia, Lenin believed he had a real chance of spreading his Bolshevik theories based on Marxist theories. The Versailles Treaty of 1919 would help increase this chaos and destabilization of Europe by forcing millions of different ethnic populations to give up their ancestral homelands. This was known as "population transfers."<sup>30</sup> In Hungary alone, over 28,200 square miles of Hungarian territory would be subdivided between Romania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.<sup>31</sup> Now, for

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<sup>28</sup> Sakovich, "When The 'Enemy' Landed at Angel Island, 4.

<sup>29</sup> Sir Max Hastings et al., "World War One: 10 Interpretations of Who Started WW1", BBC Magazine, 2014, accessed April 5, 2018, <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-26048324>.

<sup>30</sup> Hastings, World War One, 1.

<sup>31</sup> Cecil D. Eby, Hungary At War, 1st ed. (Philadelphia: Pennsylvania State University, 1998).

example, over 3,200,000 Magyars (from Hungary) were trapped in a foreign land to which they had no ethnic or social connection.<sup>32</sup>

Evidences of Bolshevik political meddling came as soon as 1918, when Joseph Stalin and Lenin would brainwash and exploit captured prisoners of war and later return them to their homelands to lead revolts.<sup>33</sup> They would see limited success against the newly created independent Hungary.<sup>34</sup> This period would later be known as the “Red Terror” era.<sup>35</sup> As Bolshevism spread from Russia to Eastern Europe, millions would later die from forced and manmade starvation in Ukraine and be murdered by Russian Secret Police (NVKD).<sup>36</sup> Hundreds of thousands of Poles, Ukrainians, Germans, and other Eastern Europeans would be forcibly shipped to Siberia to be worked to death in mines and labor camps.<sup>37</sup> Bolshevik agitators would crisscross Eastern Europe, South America, Asia, and North America, waiting in the wings for some type of political or labor unrest to occur.<sup>38</sup> When unrest became obvious, representatives would move in to familiarize their new associates with Bolshevik revolutionary principles and push Socialist and Marxist propaganda.<sup>39</sup> Other times, they would help form strikes and encourage violence against any pro-capitalist governments that opposed their principles. Russia’s expansionist intentions would now threaten thousands of years of European social norms, including marriage, family, and numerous religious foundations that were communal to

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<sup>32</sup> Eby, Hungary, 5.

<sup>33</sup> Eby, Hungary, 2.

<sup>34</sup> Eby, Hungary, 2.

<sup>35</sup> Shaun Walker, "Stalin's Secret Police Finally Named but Killings Still Not Seen as Crimes", The Guardian, 2017, accessed April 5, 2018, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/06/stalin-secret-police-killings-crimes-russia>.

<sup>36</sup> Walker, Stalin's, 1.

<sup>37</sup> Anne Applebaum, *Gulag* (London: Penguin, 2004), 292.

<sup>38</sup> Sakovich, "When The ‘Enemy’ Landed at Angel Island", 1.

<sup>39</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 124.

generations of Eastern Europeans, which included the Lutheran, Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches that bordered Russia.<sup>40</sup>

During this post World War I era, chaos and disorder was now becoming the norm for Central and Eastern Europe. Several of Germany's partners in the Central Alliance, which included the former Austro-Hungarian Empire and the many nations of the Balkans would now be forced to share in Germany's harsh punishments, due to their shared ties.<sup>41</sup> Several of the Western powers, including the United States, Great Britain, Italy, and France would see this German loss and decline as an opening to not only recoup war damage and, increase territory, but to add colonial possessions such as Rwanda and German South Africa.<sup>42</sup> They also sought to end the philosophies of Germany's societal leanings towards Prussian Militarism and break up the many European mini-empires that aligned itself with the German Central Alliance. Several high-ranking western politicians, including Woodrow Wilson and the many leaders of the Triple Alliance who fought against Germany, believed this assemblage of beliefs was the foremost cause of German societal belligerence. Deprived of Prussian militaristic philosophies, it was hoped that German society, would perhaps now be on a steady and peaceful course.<sup>43</sup> In the east, Russia had previously signed the "Brest-Litovsk" treaty in March of 1918 with the Central powers.<sup>44</sup> This treaty would allow Lenin and some of his revolutionary cohorts to focus on his war against members of the remaining provisional Socialist government who stood in his way of

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<sup>40</sup> "The Russians Effort to Abolish Marriage", *The Atlantic*, 1926, accessed March 4, 2018, <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1926/07/the-russian-effort-to-abolish-marri>.

<sup>41</sup> Margaret Macmillan, *Paris 1919*, 1st ed. (New York: Random House Inc., 2001).

<sup>42</sup> Macmillan, *Paris*, 300.

<sup>43</sup> "Principle of Prussian Military Policy to Wage War in Enemy Territory; Means of Preventing the Passage of Facts of Military Value to The Enemy.", *The New Republic* 17, no. 210 (1918): 24-27.

<sup>44</sup> . "The Peace Treaty of Brest-Litovsk", document (Provo Utah, 1918), *The World War I Document Archive*, Brigham Young University Library,



Bolshevism.<sup>45</sup> Lenin understood he had no chance of defeating his moderate socialist opposition without satisfying Germany, the Central Powers, and their territorial demands to end the war on the Eastern Front.<sup>46</sup> Lenin understood his political and military limitations during this period, and believed one day they would recover these territories he was now so willing to give up in order to pacify his German enemies.

Similarly, the Western Allies and the Russians wanted political and societal change in both Central and Eastern Europe. The differences between these two former allies was how to gain these political, societal changes in Central and Eastern Europe after the war. The main variance was what mode or strategy they were willing to use to make those changes. One political entity would use violence and murder; the other treaties and diplomacy.

Correspondingly, the United States, Great Britain, and France would for the most part discernably state and reflect their pro-democracy beliefs and objectives on the future of a post-World War I Europe.

In the Paris peace talks of 1919, a large number of individuals would be freely invited from many of the nations to participate and peaceably contribute to the framework of the prevailing nations and their newly created homelands from the former defeated empires, including Austria, Turkey, and the Balkans.<sup>47</sup> Leaders, diplomats, and envoys would be invited by the Western Triple Alliance to present and lobby for their wants and needs. One bloc would be noticeable in its absence: Russia and its Soviet allies. Why was this? Many theories and narratives have been proposed over the last century on Russia's absence. Many individuals who

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<sup>45</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 9.

<sup>46</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 9.

<sup>47</sup> Macmillan, *Paris 1919*, 65

have studied this subject, including myself, believe it was due to Russia's ongoing revolutionary ambitions and aggression against the Russian people (and later its Eastern and Northern neighbors, particularly Finland and Hungary).<sup>48</sup> Many would now fear Bolshevism after it exposed its true intents by invading Finland in 1918 and later trying to influence and propagandize the masses of marginalized Germans and Hungarian soldiers returning home.<sup>49</sup> British Prime Minister David Lloyd would now grasp what a true threat Bolshevism had become. He now understood the menace it was becoming, especially after its influences were now taking hold in Berlin and Munich.<sup>50</sup> He would tell others, including Winston Churchill:

If we are wise, we shall offer to Germany a peace, which just, will be preferable for all sensible men to the alternative of Bolshevism. I would, therefore, put it in the forefront of peace that once she accepts our terms, especially reparation, we will open to her the raw materials and markets of the world on equal terms with ourselves, and will do everything possible to enable the German people to get upon their legs again. We cannot both cripple and expect her to pay.<sup>51</sup>

Many of these warning signs would be ignored or rebutted by both the French and the Italian leadership. Together, these nations wanted only reparations and revenge against Germany. Unlike Churchill and Great Britain, France and Italy had not seen the coming dangers of Russian Bolshevism. Both countries would later see its ominous intentions only later.

Currently, an estimated forty million deaths are attributed to Bolshevism and later Communism. Perhaps Churchill wasn't so far off in his feelings on its forthcoming harmful and

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<sup>48</sup> Macmillan, Paris 1919, 64.

<sup>49</sup> Henrik O Lunde, *Finland's War of Choice* (Havertown, Pa: Casemate, 2011).

<sup>50</sup> Prime Minister David Lloyd, "Extracts from A Document Setting Out British Prime Minister David Lloyd George's Views on A Treaty with Germany, 25 March 1919", document (Kew, Richmond, Surrey, 1919), The Great War, National Archives United Kingdom.

<sup>51</sup> Prime Minister David Lloyd, "Extracts from A Document Setting Out British Prime Minister David Lloyd George's Views on Treatment of Germany, 25 March 1919" (London England, 1919), Transcript, United Kingdom National Archives.

deadly impacts of Bolshevism.<sup>52</sup> In 1989, a major Soviet newspaper known as *Argumenti I Fakti* (Arguments and Facts), which had a circulation rate of twenty million, would echo these numbers.<sup>53</sup> Behind many of these deaths was one culprit, Joseph Stalin.<sup>54</sup> The author and historian Roy Menvedev would write, “about 40 million victims of Stalin’s repressions, including those arrested, driven from their land and blacklisted” would lose their lives in the name of Bolshevism and Communism.<sup>55</sup> He uses some very convincing accounting to show his proofs of deaths that can be directly traced to first Bolshevism and later to its descendant, Communism. Menvedev states that between 1927 and 1929, over one million accused saboteurs would be executed by Russian Secret Police.<sup>56</sup> In the 1930s, a campaign of unsuccessful forced farm collectivities in the Soviet territory of Ukraine could be directly linked to Stalin. He would be responsible for starving over eleven million Ukrainians to death.<sup>57</sup> Between 1932 and 1933, six million more would die of starvation under Stalin’s instruction and command.<sup>58</sup> During World War II, ten million ethnic Germans or “Volga Germans” would either be murdered or forcibly moved from their ancestral homes in Russia and be repatriated to what is Germany today.<sup>59</sup> These Volga Germans were same ethnic group who had suffered the greatest burden of starvation in

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<sup>52</sup> Przemysław Żurawski vel Grajewski, "Ukraine 2014 – The End of The Second European Belle Époque", *International Studies. Interdisciplinary Political and Cultural Journal* 18, no. 2 (2016), <https://www-degruyter-com.ezproxy.snhu.edu/downloadpdf/j/ipcj.2016.18.issue-2/ipcj-2016-0009/ipcj-2016-0009.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> Bill Keller, "Major Soviet Paper Says 20 Million Died as Victims of Stalin", *New York Times*, 1989, accessed April 6, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/1989/02/04/world/major-paper-says-20-million-died-as-victims-of-stalin.html>.

<sup>54</sup> Keller, "Major Soviet Paper Says 20 Million Died as Victims of Stalin", 1.

<sup>55</sup> Keller, "Major Soviet Paper Says 20 Million Died as Victims of Stalin", 1.

<sup>56</sup> Keller, "Major Soviet Paper Says 20 Million Died as Victims of Stalin", 1.

<sup>57</sup> Keller, "Major Soviet Paper Says 20 Million Died as Victims of Stalin", 1.

<sup>58</sup> Alfred Maurice De Zayas and John A. Koehler, *A Terrible Revenge* (New York, NY [etc.]: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006).

<sup>59</sup> Walker, "Stalin's Secret Police Finally Named but Killings Still Not Seen as Crimes", 1.

1921.<sup>60</sup>Over 25 million peasants, mostly ethnic Germans from lower Volga basin, would suffer or even die during this period of poor climate and manmade starvation and famine.<sup>61</sup>Finally, over one million Soviet citizens between 1946 and 1952 would be arrested and/or executed for crimes against the Soviet Union.

Therefore, it is inarguable that Bolshevism was a true threat to Europe's social, religious and political future after World War I. The purpose of this thesis is to prove that Russian Bolsheviks had only malevolent intent to change several of Europe's political, social and religious foundations to align with their own Bolshevik and Marxist beliefs. They would use whatever resources and modes of violence necessary to bring about a revolutionary change, including murder, exile, and imprisonment. Any person or political entity that they found threatening to their system of beliefs would be purged and eliminated. To understand their determination, a reader must know what their objectives, motivations, and influences were from their earliest beginnings.

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<sup>60</sup> James W. Long, "The Volga Germans And the Famine Of 1921", *Russian Review* 51, no. 4 (1992): 510-525, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/121043>.

<sup>61</sup> Long, "The Volga Germans And the Famine Of 1921", 1.



**Figure 1: Ralph Bruce, Soviet Gulag 1930s, 1974.**

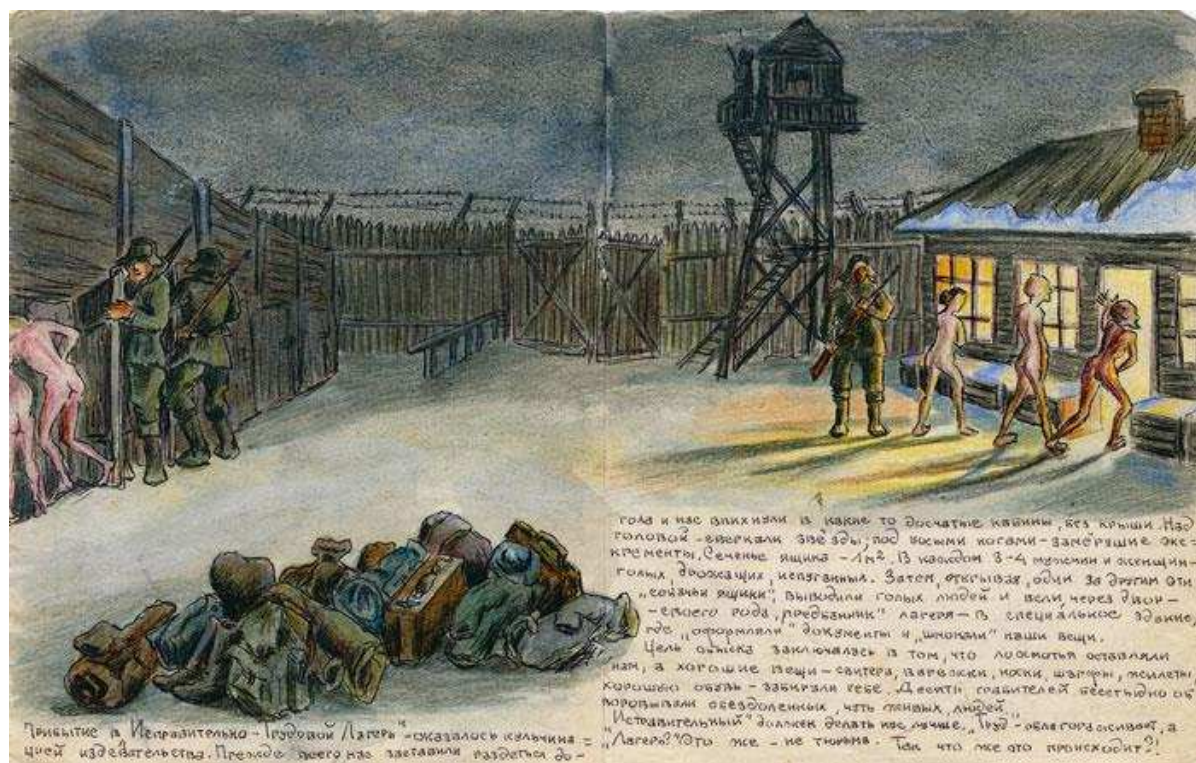


Figure 2: Evfrosiniia Kersnovakia, A Day in the Life of Women of a Soviet Gulag, N.D.

## Chapter 1: The Bolshevik Fathers and Their Plans

In the early twentieth century, groups of these new so-called Bolsheviks would meet all over Europe. Their plan was to spread their doctrine at any cost. Today, over a hundred years later, we still live with its aftermath. In 1903, an assemblage of Socialist Bolsheviks would meet at a small pub in London to discuss of Marxist theories.<sup>1</sup> Incorporated into their theories of Bolshevism during this prewar era were violent anti-monarch and anti-government, beliefs with a heady mix of anti-capitalist and hateful beliefs towards established Christianity. Several of these true believers, including Lenin and Trotsky, believed they could convert the masses of Russia, Europe, and later the world to embrace Bolshevism. In the spring of 1933, a well-documented interview with one of the founding fathers of Bolshevism would reaffirm what many historians had previously thought about Bolshevism and its evil intents and goals. In an in-depth interview between Leon Trotsky and a pro-Stalinist communist sympathizer by the name of Louis Fischer, Trotsky would be asked some very insightful questions that truly shed light on their early beliefs of these original Bolsheviks. Fisher asked:

Lenin and all his followers were convinced at that time in 1917 that only revolution abroad could save them from certain doom...They did not hope to survive unless revolution in Europe and Asia weekend external hostility and gave red Russia a breathing space for domestic entrenchment? Was Lenin speaking only in immediate military and political sense of saving Russia from defeat and subjugation, or did he have in mind a whole perspective of Russia's developing on its own soil through the dictatorship of the proletariat to the ultimate Communist goal?"

Trotsky answered:

To overthrow the power of the bourgeoisie and to establish the power of the proletariat in one country still does not signify the full victory of Socialism. The main task of Socialism- the organization of Socialist Production- remains still in the future. Is it

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<sup>1</sup> Read, World on Fire, 3.

possible to fulfill this task, it is possible to achieve the definitive victory of Socialism in one country without the combined efforts of the proletarians of several abroad countries? No, it is impossible. For the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, the efforts of one country are sufficient- for this we have the testimony of the history of our revolution. For the definitive victory of Socialism, for the organization of Socialist production, the efforts of one country, especially of a peasant country like Russia, are insufficient-for that are required the efforts of the proletarians of several advanced countries.<sup>2</sup>

Prior to their gatherings in England, these far leftists would live and gather in places like Brussels Belgium. Due to the threat of death or being sent to Siberia's gulags for life by the czarist forces in Russia, many would seek out a safe location like Belgium, Switzerland, or Great Britain to discuss their controversial philosophy on Socialism, Marxism and Bolshevism. As word spread throughout Brussels of their hateful meeting and assemblies on anti-capitalistic sentiments, they were increasingly harassed by the local police. Many of these proclaimed Bolsheviks now believed it was time to leave Brussels and relocate their meetings to London to continue their revolutionary schema without police harassment.<sup>3</sup> What was unique about these meetings and period in London which included over "fifty-seven delegates to the Second Congress of the Soviet," was the amount of political liberty they would have. There was little to no fear in addressing their far-left views and beliefs during this era.<sup>4</sup> Some historians who have researched the prerevolutionary era are not surprised that these same Bolsheviks who utilized these western freedoms to protect themselves from Czarist governmental forces would later turn and plot against those same countries that provided them protection. Years later, the fear of the Czarist and his governmental forces was a thousand miles away and a distant memory as they discussed their revolutionary ideologies and plans. Throughout this initial

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<sup>2</sup> Einde O'Callaghan, "An Interview with Leon Trotsky", The Militant VI, no. 23 (1933): 1-5.

<sup>3</sup> O'Callaghan, "An Interview with Leon Trotsky", 1.

<sup>4</sup> Read, World on Fire, 3



prerevolutionary period of Bolshevism, the main core of these Russian Socialists and their party would be split down the middle, with each side having distinct but similar views on how to move forward.<sup>5</sup> The main two Socialist parties represented during their meetings in London were the Revolutionary Socialist Party.<sup>6</sup> They were created in Minsk Belarus in 1898, and the Social Democratic Labor Party, created in 1903.<sup>7</sup> Equally, they would use and share the acronym of "RSDLP" as their main Bolshevik party identifier.<sup>8</sup>

In 1905, a thirty-three-year-old Russian by the name of Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, known today as Vladimir Lenin, would join several of his comrades in London. He too had escaped the Czarist forces that attempted to imprison him in Siberia for his anti-czarist, anti-capitalistic beliefs.<sup>9</sup> This self-proclaimed trailblazer and motivational speaker of Marxist beliefs would take on most of the responsibility of creating Bolshevik philosophies, language, and modes to bring about change. One mode that separated him from others was his beliefs in the use of violence and brutality to spark revolution. Lenin had no qualms in using whatever modes of violence or radical approach would be useful to shut down opposing beliefs or political entities. In 1907, Joseph Stalin would end up joining his comrades in England once more.<sup>10</sup> Stalin would spend several nights in London at a hotel known as "Tower House," while attending the Fifth Congress

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<sup>5</sup> Ryhor Astapenia, "Is Communism Still Alive in Belarus? | Belarus Digest, Belarusdigest.Com, last modified 2018, accessed April 6, 2018, <https://belarusdigest.com/story/is-communism-still-alive-in-belarus/>.

<sup>6</sup> Hugh Morris, "Stalin And Lenin's Forgotten London Hangouts", The Telegraph, 2017, accessed January 8, 2018, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/england/london/articles/the-russian-revolution-in-london-bolshevik-sights/>.

<sup>7</sup> "SOVIET AND AMERICAN COMMUNIST PARTIES", document (Washington D.C., 2016), Revel ations from the Russian Archives, Library of Congress.

<sup>8</sup> "Glossary of Events: R.S.D.L.P. Congresses", Marxists.org, accessed April 6, 2018, <https://www.marxists.org/glossary/events/r/rsdpl.htm>.

<sup>9</sup> Jesse Greenspan, "9 Things You May Not Know About Vladimir Lenin", HISTORY.Com, last modified 2014, accessed April 6, 2018, <https://www.history.com/news/9-things-you-may-not-know-about-vladimir-lenin>.

<sup>10</sup> Morris, "Stalin And Lenin's Forgotten London Hangouts", 1.

of the Russian Social Democratic and Labor Party.<sup>11</sup> Several historians believe these meetings were some of the first in which Lenin would come face to face with Stalin, Trotsky and Rosa Luxemburg.<sup>12</sup> All their meetings would take place in the Whitechapel district of London. Many business owners would reminiscence how “Bolsheviks and Mensheviks would fill the neighborhood’s pubs and lodgings.”<sup>13</sup> Lenin would feel completely safe in Whitechapel, due to the thousands of working-class people who filled the streets of the district. Whitechapel was known for its mixture of “Irish laborers and Jewish immigrants from Russia and Eastern Europe.”<sup>14</sup> The Bolsheviks would have three Russian congresses in Whitechapel in 1903, 1905, and 1907.<sup>15</sup> “Lenin would have signed up here, along with other Russians, Poles, Lithuanians, then the British labor movement would have helped find them places to stay, clarified Rosenberg.”<sup>16</sup>

In London, Lenin would be credited by some historians with devising some of the main Bolshevik terms that would be used to self-identity themselves and their differing socialist parties. Lenin would now become Bolshevism’s main driving force for the next few decades in its planning and spreading itself throughout Russia and Eastern Europe.<sup>17</sup> He would become its new self-proclaimed leader, working as an intergenic force to many and motivate thousands to embrace Bolshevism. It is believed that the term Bolshevik, which in Russian means “those in the majority”, was coined in 1903, during this period of meetings in a small pub in London.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Morris, "Stalin And Lenin's Forgotten London Hangouts", 1.

<sup>12</sup> Read, World on Fire, 2.

<sup>13</sup> Read, World on Fire, 2.

<sup>14</sup> Read, World on Fire, 3.

<sup>15</sup> Read, World on Fire, 2.

<sup>16</sup> Read, World on Fire, 4.

<sup>17</sup> Read, World on Fire, 2.

<sup>18</sup> History.com staff, "Bolsheviks Revolt in Russia - Nov 06, 1917 - HISTORY.Com", HISTORY.Com, last modified 2010, accessed April 7, 2018, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/bolsheviks-revolt-in-russia>.

The term “Menshevik” was also believed to have been coined during this same period and was used to describe the minority voices and factions within the Socialist party.<sup>19</sup> Several of these new Bolshevik universal terms would not be widely known or used by the proletariat until November of 1918.<sup>20</sup> Many historians who have researched this era especially Anthony Read, agree that these terms were not in wide use until after the October Revolution. Lenin would quickly partner with those he believed shared his strict Marxist ideological beliefs and opinions. Socialist Georgi Plekhanov and the Mensheviks echoed his principles of socialism and Marxism. Lenin would establish a relationship with Plekhanov that would last decades until the October Revolution. In 1964, Isaac Deutscher would write an essay describing their on-and-off association between 1903 and 1917.<sup>21</sup> In this excerpt, Deutscher would outline what Plekhanov may have thought about during their association:

The relationship between Plekhanov and Lenin is of absorbing historical interest. Even in the heat of controversy, Lenin willingly acknowledged himself as Plekhanov’s disciple. ‘It is impossible’, he wrote as late as in 1920, ‘to become an intelligent and genuine communist without studying, precisely studying, all that Plekhanov has written on philosophy, for what he has written is the best that can be found in the whole international literature on Marxism.’ Plekhanov, on the other hand, never quite freed himself of the sentiment with which he had first welcomed the young Lenin as his political descendant, who would not merely continue his work but bring it to fruition. This distinguishes Plekhanov’s attitude to Lenin from that of all other Mensheviks. He did not in fact join the Mensheviks at once during the 1903 split. At first indeed, he, alone of all the leading Russian Marxists, stood with Lenin. Only later did he have second thoughts and begin to vacillate. Then he moved away from Lenin in 1905, during the great dress rehearsal for the revolution, when he already acted the ultra-Menshevik part that was to be his in 1917. He dogmatically insisted on the exclusively bourgeois character of the revolution; he demanded that the party accept the liberal bourgeoisie as its ally, as its senior ally. ‘We should not have taken up arms’ was the moral he drew from the Moscow insurrection of 1905. But afterwards he again moved closer to Lenin

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<sup>19</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 4.

<sup>20</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 4.

<sup>21</sup> Isaac Deutscher, 1964, “Plekhanov: The Father of Russian Marxism” (London: The Listener, 1964), accessed April 8, 2018, <https://www.marxists.org/archive/deutscher/1964/mensheviks-plekhanov.htm>.

and cooperated with the Bolsheviks, when all Menshevik and intermediate groups boycotted them.<sup>22</sup>

Leon Trotsky, an eloquent speaker and influential writer whose real name was Lev Bronstein, was born in Russia to a wealthy Jewish family of farmers and would later join the Bolshevik cause.<sup>23</sup> In 1902, Trotsky would read a copy of the *Iskra*, a Marxist newspaper edited by Lenin and Georgi Plekhanov.<sup>24</sup> He would become a huge admirer of both men's ideals and words on Marxist theory, so much that he would escape Siberia by stealing a guard's identification card and make his way for Switzerland then London.<sup>25</sup> He would later meet up with both Lenin and Plekhanov.<sup>26</sup> He eventually served as Lenin's right-hand man and his best propagandizer. Trotsky would later seek refuge in Switzerland to avoid being exiled or assassinated.<sup>27</sup> The best-known Bolshevik partner, who would later become one of the world's most ruthless, sadistic and brutal killers, was Joseph Stalin. This self-identified Bolshevik started as a bank robber from the Soviet Georgian Republic, and later turned revolutionary.<sup>28</sup> Unluckily for the world, on January 21, 1924 Lenin would die of a cerebral hemorrhage and Stalin would out-think and out-manuever all his Bolshevik competitors for Lenin's leadership position.<sup>29</sup> Trotsky and his supposed other moderate allies would be the first to be ousted and purged during these early days after Lenin's death.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Deutscher, "Plekhanov: The Father of Russian Marxism", 1.

<sup>23</sup> Robert Service, *Trotsky: A Biography*, 1st ed. (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010).

<sup>24</sup> Service, *Trotsky: A Biography*, 1.

<sup>25</sup> Service, *Trotsky: A Biography*, 1.

<sup>26</sup> Service, *Trotsky: A Biography*, 1.

<sup>27</sup> Service, *Trotsky: A Biography*, 1.

<sup>28</sup> Walter Duranty, "Lenin Dies of Cerebral Hemorrhage; Moscow Throngs Overcome with Grief; Trotsky Departs Ill, Radek In Disfavor", *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, last modified 2018, accessed March 8, 2018, <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/0121.html>.

<sup>29</sup> Duranty, "Lenin Dies of Cerebral Hemorrhage", 1.

<sup>30</sup> Duranty, "Lenin Dies of Cerebral Hemorrhage", 1.

In 1905, in St. Petersburg, Trotsky obtained a job at an underground Socialist newspaper *Izvestia*.<sup>31</sup> Trotsky would use this newspaper and his editorial skills to encourage others to take up and spread radical Bolshevik opinions throughout St. Petersburg.<sup>32</sup> It would be circulated in St. Petersburg and its environs.<sup>33</sup> This newspaper was one of the first to utilize the word “Soviet,” which means “council” in Russian, in their paper’s title.<sup>34</sup> Its connotation and usage was significant for this era, as it was used knowingly to contradict the word “local government,” which was associated with pro- czarist newspapers.<sup>35</sup> This newspaper would be later used by Trotsky and the Bolsheviks to organize labor and governmental strikes throughout St. Petersburg area.

Lenin was still living abroad throughout this prerevolutionary era in London. He continued to control the editorial board of a Socialist newspaper *Irska*, which, loosely translated, means “spark.”<sup>36</sup> Originally published in Leipzig, Germany in 1900, it later moved to Munich and finally Geneva.<sup>37</sup> It would have thousands of multi-national and European followers at its peak. Its objective was to push Lenin’s radical Bolshevik agenda, specifically revolution, throughout Europe. It would be used to outline Lenin’s specific Bolshevik beliefs on economics and refute capitalism at every turn. It was Lenin’s main propaganda tool to promote anti-czarist feelings and advocate violence if needed against these same forces. Much of Lenin’s editorial work for this newspaper would be done from London. Both Lenin and Trotsky would utilize and

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<sup>31</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 4.

<sup>32</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 4.

<sup>33</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 4.

<sup>34</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 4.

<sup>35</sup> Read, *World on Fire*, 4.

<sup>36</sup> Ted Widmer, “Lenin And the Russian Spark”, *The New Yorker*, 2017, accessed April 8, 2018, <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/lenin-and-the-russian-spark>.

<sup>37</sup> Arthur Herman, *1917 Lenin, Wilson And the Birth of New World Disorder*, 1st ed. (New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2017).

exploit these newspapers to spread their Bolshevik messaging in Russia and abroad.<sup>38</sup> In just a matter of months, signs of revolution began to appear in Russia and other parts of Eastern and Central Europe.

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<sup>38</sup> "Propaganda Investigative Assets: Insights", Pbs.Org, last modified 1999, accessed April 8, 2018, [http://www.pbs.org/redfiles/prop/inv/prop\\_inv\\_ins.htm](http://www.pbs.org/redfiles/prop/inv/prop_inv_ins.htm).

## Chapter 2: Brutality, Violence, Secret Police and Gulags: All the Devices Needed for a Revolution

On January 9, 1905, in St. Petersburg, a Russian Orthodox priest would attempt to lead a peaceful demonstration of 150,000 protesters. He would argue for civil rights and a living wage for workers.<sup>1</sup> Czarist police and the Cossack cavalry unleashed an unprovoked attack with their guns and swords.<sup>2</sup> Some individuals were hung from trees to send a message.<sup>3</sup> As many as two hundred people were killed that day.<sup>4</sup> This infamous day would be known worldwide as Bloody Sunday.<sup>5</sup> Was this the spark that would light the fire for revolution? A decade later, in 1917, after the October Revolution had started, the same forms of brutality, torture, and exile would be shared by Lenin's forces. They began to starve, brutalize, banish, and kill the so-called intelligentsia, anti-Capitalist, pro-Nationalist enemies, during the "Red Terror."<sup>6</sup> These forms of brutality used against the peoples of Russia were taught, ingrained, and exploited by both Czarist governmental forces and later by their Russian Bolshevik successors.<sup>7</sup> The Bolsheviks would later use them extensively against the supposed enemies of the new Soviet Russian State.<sup>8</sup> Historian Danial Beer examines this history of Russian brutality against its civilian populations and their shifting perceived threat groups. Beer also focuses on Czarist forces first,

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Cavendish, "'Bloody Sunday' In St Petersburg", *History Today*, 2005, accessed April 8, 2018, <https://www.historytoday.com/richard-cavendish/%E2%80%98bloody-sunday%E2%80%99-st-petersburg>.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Cavendish, "'Bloody Sunday' In St Petersburg: January 22nd, 1905.", *History Today* 55, no. 1 (2005): 51.

<sup>3</sup> Cavendish, "'Bloody Sunday' In St Petersburg, 51.

<sup>4</sup> Cavendish, "'Bloody Sunday' In St Petersburg, 51.

<sup>5</sup> Cavendish, "'Bloody Sunday' In St Petersburg, 51.

<sup>6</sup> Herman, 1917 Lenin, Wilson And the Birth of New World Disorder, 316.

<sup>7</sup> James Ryan, "The Sacralization Of Violence: Bolshevik Justifications for Violence and Terror During the Civil War", *Slavic Review* 74, no. 04 (2015): 808-831.

<sup>8</sup> Ryan, "The Sacralization Of Violence", 813.

revolutionaries second, and lastly, the murderous Bolsheviks. In his article, he studies the histories of Russian learned violence, viciousness against their own people and the role of Siberia during these long periods of hostility and ongoing revolutions.<sup>9</sup> Siberia was first used by Czarist government forces, their Cossack allies and later by the conquering Bolsheviks. Millions of Russians would be exiled, tortured, and worked to death there throughout its long dark history.<sup>10</sup> Beer uses several examples throughout his article to prove his main argument on the shared uses of violence that both Czarist and Bolshevik forces demonstrated. One incident that was significant in this scheme of collective violence occurred in St Petersburg Square Russia in 1864. Nikolai Chernyshevsky, an executive editor for the so-called radical journal known as the “Contemporary,” was beaten with a ceremonial sword that was finally broken over his head, for supposedly plotting a scheme against the Czar and his governmental forces of St. Petersburg.<sup>11</sup> Watching his beating with astonishment and fear was an audience of over two thousand viewers.<sup>12</sup> After his beating, he would be stripped of his rights and property, sentenced to fourteen years’ hard labor, and later exiled to Siberia for the rest of his life.<sup>13</sup> Chernyshevsky was just one of many who were whispered to have revolutionary aspirations by Czarist governmental agents. This case was unique due to the attention it gathered from international media sources and its blatant brutality. According to Beer, this incident would entice and create additional revolutionary movements during this era. From 1878 to 1881, many of the anti-Czarist forces would now escalate their use of violence by hunting down appointed and elected officials who served in any form of government. This anti-government campaign of terror

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<sup>9</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", History Today, 2016.

<sup>10</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 41.

<sup>11</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 36.

<sup>12</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 36.

<sup>13</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 36.



would be known as the “Emperor Hunt.”<sup>14</sup> Anti-governmental forces murdered two provisional governors and later, eleven soldiers were blown up at the Czars Winter Palace.<sup>15</sup> These activities infuriated the Czar and his governmental forces and raise their violence level once more. Its aftershocks would have long-lasting repercussions on the revolutionary forces, innocent civilians and any other perceived revolutionaries who had undesirable interactions with anyone who opposed these governmental forces. A succession of new oppressive laws called “Hoc Laws”, were passed by both the secret police and the government.<sup>16</sup> They allowed increased surveillance, detention and later imprisonment to anyone suspected of conspiring or showing compassions for anti-Czarist forces.<sup>17</sup> In several of these laws, little to no proof was needed or required to kill or detain someone suspected of anti-governmental views and supposed actions. Many Russians would suffer, die, or be exiled due to these new laws.<sup>18</sup> Some historians believe these laws were the main catalyst that would turn the people’s opinion from supporting the Czar to supporting these fringe subversive groups with revolutionary ties.

“Narodnaya Volya,” known in English as “The People’s Will,” set off a bomb and the Winter Palace, killing Czar Alexander II, on March 13, 1881.<sup>19</sup> Nikolai Kibalchich, an anti-czarist chemist, was the main perpetrator of the bombing.<sup>20</sup> Similar to other radicals during this period, Kibalchich had a deep-seated hate for both the czar and the Orthodox Church. From an early age he was radicalized by his anti-religious maternal grandfather,

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<sup>14</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 36.

<sup>15</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 38.

<sup>16</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 38.

<sup>17</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 38.

<sup>18</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 38.

<sup>19</sup> Daniel Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", 39.

<sup>20</sup> Richard Greenman, "History and Myth: Victor Serge' Russian Heritage", *Massachusetts Review* 53, no. 1 (2012): 14-39.

Ivanitsky, who left the priesthood under a cloud of scandal to pursue a career in the theatre.<sup>21</sup> He was also influenced by the writings of the radical economist Nikolai Govrilovich Chernishevsky.<sup>22</sup> He later read the works of Marx and became very drawn to his beliefs. This bombing would be a great victory to all those who had contributed in the campaign known as the “Emperor’s Hunt.”<sup>23</sup> After the bombing, every government official was now within reach of the anti-czarist or anti-governmental forces.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, the brutality that had been inflicted upon them by czarist forces was not as large of deterrent that it was meant to be; it was just a momentary setback against an eventual overthrow of the Czar and his government.

The czarist police and Cossacks would now inflict more even more pain upon the real and made-up enemies of the Russian Empire and the Czar.<sup>25</sup> This author believes this event would set off a chain of events that had not been seen previously during this revolutionary era. It would include mass arrests, mass infiltration of spies into several of so-called and believed revolutionary establishments. Its focus would be placed on the entities who declared opposition to state and the Czar. Many of these provisional “Ad Hoc Laws” created by Alexander II, would now become permanent laws after his son Alexander III, was crowned Czar.<sup>26</sup> Many of these laws would endure until the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.<sup>27</sup> Alexander III would quickly round up the perpetrators responsible for his father death. For decades to come, there were mass arrests stemming from both czarist paranoia as well as legitimate threats. Hundreds of thousands of people, innocent and not, were detained. There were no

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<sup>21</sup> Greenman, "History and Myth", 20.

<sup>22</sup> Greenman, "History and Myth", 20.

<sup>23</sup> Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", History Today, 39.

<sup>24</sup> Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", History Today, 41.

<sup>25</sup> Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", History Today, 42.

<sup>26</sup> Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", History Today, 39.

<sup>27</sup> Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", History Today, 39.

distinction or sympathies for anyone who opposed the Czar and refuted his beliefs. Regardless of intent, non-violent, peaceful reformers and extreme counterrevolutionaries would share the same punishment. Most of them were executed; if they were lucky, exile to a labor camp in Siberia, better known as a “gulag.”<sup>28</sup> Military tribunals were a fast and speedy way to move supposed enemies of the state to either execution or exile.<sup>29</sup> After arriving in Siberia, many of these so-called political prisoners were starved, tortured, and worked to death.<sup>30</sup> Author and historian Anne Applebaum estimates that over 18 million individuals between the 1917 and 1953 served a sentence in a gulag.<sup>31</sup> At any one time, she believes, a minimum of 2 million individuals were detained.<sup>32</sup>

Those individuals, who may once have had faith in the Czar, would now rethink their loyalty and commitment in the face of such brutal punishment. It is believed by some historians, including Dr. Beer, which Russia’s ideological turning point came about partially due to the lack of real political reforms, and partly to the unjustified brutality and exile that turned “dangerous and extreme fanatics into heroes and martyrs”.<sup>33</sup> Some historians, including the author of this article, believe that Alexander III’s actions may have finally pushed the Russian people past their loyalty to the Czar in his usages and acceptance of brutality and exile.

Now a question arises: Did Lenin and his cohorts mimic the violence of the secret police that were first used by Czar and his governmental forces? In a well-written article by a

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<sup>28</sup> Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", History Today, 39.

<sup>29</sup> Beer, "Russia's War on Terror", History Today, 42.

<sup>30</sup> Anne Applebaum, *Gulag* (London: Penguin, 2004), xvii.

<sup>31</sup> Applebaum, *Gulag*, 1.

<sup>32</sup> Applebaum, *Gulag*, 1.

<sup>33</sup> Beer, *Russia's War on Terror*, 41.

former British Police Commander, James Steurt, in 1928, he details the many similarities between these two organizations.<sup>34</sup> This author traces the origins of Ochrana and the Tcheka and its opening histories.<sup>35</sup> In 1826, under the direction of Czar Nicolas I, he created the first independent police force in Russia that reported directly to him and his chiefs.<sup>36</sup> In 1880, under the control of his successor Alexander II, this agency was given its title of “Ochrana,” the Czar’s Secret Police.<sup>37</sup> Its mission was to combat “counter-revolution, speculations and sabotage” throughout Russia.<sup>38</sup> The Tcheka was created in 1917, to first protect a Polish Bolshevik by the name of Felix Edmundovitch Dzerinski and guard the newly created government of the Bolsheviks. Dzerjinski would be placed in command of the Tcheka and combat counterrevolutionary movements that threatened Lenin and his Bolsheviks.<sup>39</sup> Like their predecessors the Ochrana, the Tcheka would use different modes of torture and exile to achieve their Bolshevik objectives. Dzerjinski would utilize a massive Bolshevik staff of “coroners, magistrates, policeman, wardens, and executioners, to do his malicious requests.”<sup>40</sup> He would also employ “spies, provocateurs and others” to control the Bolshevik message, and spread Bolshevik beliefs to fellow Soviets and other countries.<sup>41</sup> After the Revolution of 1917, the Tcheka would utilize the existing outlines that had been created by the Ochrana. This outline would prove very beneficial to Dzerinski, who would copycat many of the Ochrana systems for controlling the Russian people.<sup>42</sup> On February 1922, the Tcheka was disbanded and renamed

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<sup>34</sup> James Steuert and Dr. Bernhard Weiss, "The Russian Secret Police", *The Police Journal: Theory, Practice and Principles* 2, no. 3 (1929): 492-502.

<sup>35</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 496.

<sup>36</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 496.

<sup>37</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 497.

<sup>38</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 497.

<sup>39</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 497.

<sup>40</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 497.

<sup>41</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 497.

<sup>42</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 497.

“Grossudartvennoe Politicheskoe Upravlenie” (GPU).<sup>43</sup> For the most part, there were little to no personal changes or renaming of buildings building after its dissolution.<sup>44</sup> What did change was the merging of power, the judicial system would be combined, “prosecutor, judge and gaoler” were combined into one person.<sup>45</sup> The GPU would control every facet of the judicial system in Soviet Russia. The powers of GPU secret police would surpass powers of the preceding Ochrana.<sup>46</sup> The GPU was responsible for controlling all incoming and outgoing information in the Soviet Union during this era.<sup>47</sup> Damaging facts could place the Soviet leadership in a bad light with other nations if they came out. The GPU would make every effort to control all individuals’ information that they believed could bring out negative actualities about what was really taking place within Russia during this period. In letter was sent to the Politburo by GPU higher up, he asks for the immediate removal of a “United Press representative from the United States”<sup>48</sup> This letter clarifies the powers that Cheka or GPU had amassed. The following is an an informative letter titled “United Press” and addressed to the Politburo, Joseph Stalin and all members of the Politburo.<sup>49</sup>

It says:

For some time now, particularly during the period of the Genoa Conference, the Moscow representative of the American Telegraph Agency “United Press” citizen Gullinger has started sending abroad telegraphs tendentiously reflecting events in Russia. This has been particularly so in his telegrams on the removal of church properties and in telegrams that have anticipated the "united front" of Germany and Russia at the Genoa Conference.. We have repeatedly brought to his attention the distortion of the facts permitted by him in his telegrams; while in others we have expunged the particularly tendentious passages that might serve as the basis

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<sup>43</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 497.

<sup>44</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 498..

<sup>45</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 498..

<sup>46</sup> Steuert, "The Russian Secret Police", 498..

<sup>47</sup> "United Press", Secret Archive of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (of Bolsheviks) (Washington D.C., 2018), Soviet Archives Collection, Library of Congress.

<sup>48</sup> "United Press", Secret Archive, 1.

<sup>49</sup> United Press", Secret Archive, 1.

for propagating false rumors about Russia abroad. In response to this, citizen Gullinger has begun to slip into his telegrams phrases about tightening of censorship in Moscow. On April 26, he brought for transmission a telegram, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter. This telegram was not let through; nevertheless, Gulliger sent it, apparently through some mission, as we learned from the response he received to his suggestion. I feel that it is intolerable to permit such crooks to live in Moscow and to continue to do such dirty tricks. I suggest that he be deported immediately.<sup>50</sup>

In 1934, the GPU would be dissolved and all its powers of collecting anti- Bolshevik data and finding anti-Soviet entities would shift away to its successor. In its place would come one of the most feared and violent police organizations ever known to Europe and the world. Stalin himself was “arrested and exiled four times, three times he escaped.”<sup>51</sup> Stalin remarked, “the czarist regime’s toothlessness knew no bounds.”<sup>52</sup> Ironically, for decades Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin and other Socialists had sworn to protect the proletariat and peasants of Russia from these types of czarist abuses. In the end, they would not only inherit the czarist practices of brutality and terror but sadly improve upon their horrific usage of torture, banishment, and murder.

A letter by an unknown author, most likely an educated political prisoner questions the gulag’s existence and the authority of those who have placed him there. Written on December 14, 1926, and titled simply, “Letter to Bolshevik,” this prisoner writes to “The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik)”.<sup>53</sup> In the second paragraph, this unknown author asks this “The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the All-Union Communist Party, how they can

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<sup>50</sup> United Press", Secret Archive,1.

<sup>51</sup> Applebaum, Gulag, xxxiii.

<sup>52</sup> Applebaum, Gulag, xxxiii.

<sup>53</sup> "Letter to Bolshevik", Letter (Washington D.C., 1926), Soviet Archives exhibit, Library of Congress.,

rationalize these horrors and exile:<sup>54</sup>

People die like flies, i.e., they die a slow and painful death; we repeat that all this torment and suffering is placed only on the shoulders of the proletariat without money, i.e., on workers who, we repeat, were unfortunate to find themselves in the period of hunger and destruction accompanying the events of the October Revolution, and who committed crimes only to save themselves and their families from death by starvation; they have already borne the punishment for these crimes, and the vast majority of them subsequently chose the path of honest labor. Now because of their past, for whose crime they have already paid, they are fired from their jobs. Yet, the main thing is that the entire weight of this scandalous abuse of power, brute violence, and lawlessness that reign at Solovky and other sections of OGPU concentration camp is placed on the shoulders of workers and peasants; others, such as counterrevolutionaries, profiteers and so on, have full wallets and have set themselves up and live in clover in the Soviet State, while the next to them, in the literal meaning of the word, the penniless proletariat dies of hunger, cold, and back breaking 14-16 hour days under the tyranny and lawlessness of inmates who are agents and collaborators of the state political Directorate (GPU).<sup>55</sup>

One unique characteristic of these joint attitudes and beliefs on violence, exile was Lenin's reasons for keeping these gulags open after the October Revolution. Lenin saw the use of slave labor as an important instrument for creating and yielding massive profits that could be used to directly finance his Cheka secret police.<sup>56</sup> Hannah Arendt, a German-American political theorist whose work deals with the nature of power, authority, and totalitarianism, believed this prison-camp financing scheme was critical to preserving the Cheka and NPU, and the NVKD would later help spread and maintain the Bolshevik Revolution.<sup>57</sup> Lenin believed it was important to keep an endless supply of political prisoners in the camps to provide income for the revolution.<sup>58</sup> The constant burdens of keeping "internal vigilance" and maintaining harsh order

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<sup>54</sup> "Letter to Bolshevik", Letter, 1.

<sup>55</sup> "Letter to Bolshevik", Letter, 1.

<sup>56</sup> Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 1st ed. (New York: "A Harvest Book", 1968), 428.

<sup>57</sup> Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 428.

<sup>58</sup> Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 428.

provided a constant source of new bodies and political prisoners for these work camps.<sup>59</sup> Lenin made sure that he would have an endless number of new political enemies that could fill these slave worker positions for his secret police and their financial needs.<sup>60</sup> His belief in keeping a gallery of ever-changing enemies was a systematic belief. Lenin said: “After the proletariat has grasped power the class struggle does not cease. On the contrary, they said, the class struggle continues in new forms, and with greater frenzy and ferocity, because the resistance of the exploiters to the fact of Socialism is now even more savage than before.” It is clear there would always be a resistance and exploiters in the mind of both Lenin and his Bolsheviks. It is also clear they took full advantage of the supposed exploiters and resisters to keep their work camps full and continue the revolving door of exploiters and prisoners. Throughout this chapter, it has been shown that both Lenin and the czarist forces shared many of the same vicious beliefs when it came to deal with their supposed enemies. What is not clear is who was better for the Russian people and the world. A simple quote by Dr. Randell Kennedy will help this historian arrange his beliefs on who was worse during this era and beyond.

In March 2014, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, a group of historians came together at a Harvard University to discuss violence and when it is justifiable. A historian by the name of Randell Kennedy said, “Violence is justifiable when one can confidently predict that violence that one is deploying will eliminate a greater evil”.<sup>61</sup> Who was the greater evil, the czarist forces or the Bolsheviks? One group would attempt to contain an empire; the other would

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<sup>59</sup> Dikko Tomasic, “Interrelations Between Bolshevik Ideology and The Structure of Soviet Society”, *American Sociological Review* 16, no. 2 (1951): 137-149.

<sup>60</sup> Tomasic, “Interrelations Between,” 137.

<sup>61</sup> . “In Honor of Nelson Mandela: When, If Ever, Is Violence Justifiable in Struggles for Political or Social Change? (Video) - Harvard Law Today”, Harvard Law Today, last modified 2018, accessed January 6, 2018, <https://today.law.harvard.edu/honor-nelson-mandela-ever-violence-justifiable-struggles-political-social-change-video/>.



murder millions and attempt to suppress religion, societal norms and dream of conquering the world.

### Chapter 3: Lenin Gets his Revolution

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1917, the Germans and their allies were only three hundred miles away in Petrograd. A German victory over Petrograd would end any chance for Lenin and Bolsheviks to fulfill their vision of a Socialist revolution. Lenin told Trotsky that the revolution had a zero chance of success if they did not sign some type of peace treaty with Germany and the Central powers as soon as possible.<sup>1</sup> Trotsky would harmonize with Lenin's thoughts and principles on making peace at any cost after the revolution with Germany. Trotsky had other wishes for Germany besides peace. He had multiple motivations when it came to making peace with Germany, specifically because of its industrial capacity. Beginning with the armistice talks with Germany, Trotsky saw a long-awaited opportunity to both create peace and possibly end Prussian nationalistic militancy against Russia and its eastern neighbors. Additionally, he could now meet with like-minded German Socialist representatives to spread Bolshevik beliefs amongst those German individuals whom he believed paralleled with his long-term agenda. Germany, like Russia, was still starving due to the ongoing British blockade, and it was hoped that peace with Russia would diminish some of Germany's suffering. German soldiers were also becoming more and more disillusioned with the German military elite and its nationalistic government. Comparable to Russia, Germany was now showing similar signs of potential revolution. In this excerpt from his speech, Trotsky said:

We are leading our army and our people out of the war in anticipation of the hopefully imminent time when the oppressed people of all countries will take their fate into their own hands in the way Russia's workers have done. Our former farm worker, peasant soldier, must return to the land, which the Revolution took out of

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<sup>1</sup> Herman, 1917, Lenin, Wilson, And the Birth of The New World Disorder, 268.

the hands of the landowners and placed into peasants' hands, so that he can till the land peacefully this spring. Our industrial soldier must return to his workshop to produce weapons of production, rather than weapons of destruction, and together with the farmer build a new socialist economy. We hereby notify all peoples and their governments of our intentions to withdraw from the war. We issue the order to fully demobilize all armies facing the armies of Germany. Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey. It is our belief that other nations will soon follow our example. At the same time, we declare that the conditions proposed to us by the governments of Germany and Austro-Hungary are fundamentally inconsistent with the interests of all people. The workers of all nations will reject the conditions, including those of Austria-Hungary and Germany...<sup>2</sup>

Before Trotsky could focus on Germany, a revolution within Russian still needed to occur. Luckily for Lenin, by October 1917, with no peace treaty with Germany in sight, and extreme starvation and huge food shortages, large numbers of frustrated Russians were ready for a change—even a violent revolution if needed.<sup>3</sup> On March 17, 1917, under extreme pressure from several of the Czar's generals, Czar Nikolai II would reluctantly abdicate his throne.<sup>4</sup> All of his power and control would be handed off to Prince George of Lvov and the creation of a new provisional government. Serving underneath Prince George as his new Deputy Chairman was an up- and-coming socialist lawyer by the name of Alexander Kerensky.<sup>5</sup> Within a few months, Prince Lvov would step down as the leader of this ineffective government. Kerensky would now courageously step up and lead this new provisional government.

During his rule he would belong to Menshevik faction called the Trudoviks, a moderate Socialist Labor Party.<sup>6</sup> Within a few weeks, Petrograd would have elections. Both the

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<sup>2</sup> Leon Trotsky, "Trotsky's Speech at Brest-Litovsk", Speech (London England, 1918), GFM 33/1504, United Kingdom national archives.

<sup>3</sup> Trotsky, "Trotsky's Speech at Brest-Litovsk", 1.

<sup>4</sup> Graham Darby, "Kerensky In Hindsight", History Today (2017): 49-53.

<sup>5</sup> Darby, "Kerensky In Hindsight", 50.

<sup>6</sup> Darby, "Kerensky In Hindsight", 50.

Trudoviks and the Bolsheviks would hope for some type of a majority.<sup>7</sup> From its start, this new provisional Menshevik Government was very fragile and politically weak. Prior to his duties, Deputy Chairman Kerensky served as the Minister of Justice.<sup>8</sup> He made two major declarations as Minister of Justice just prior to leading this new provisional government. The first decision was to abolish the death penalty.<sup>9</sup> The second decision, which he would come to regret, was allowing freedom of the press to all the people of Petrograd.<sup>10</sup> He would unknowingly allow his future rivals, adversaries to utilize the press to unify against him. Within months of reorganization, the radicalization of left was almost complete; they now waited in the shadows, waiting for a good time to strike against Kerensky and his provisional government. Many peasants and proletariat believed this government still catered to the needs of the *kulaks*, or landowners, and the bourgeoisie.<sup>11</sup> Kerensky had the nearly impossible task of trying to preserve and maintain this messy provisional government.<sup>12</sup> Due to a blend of disillusioned soldiers, starvation, influenza outbreaks, and peasants who wanted redistribution of farmlands right away, Kerensky inevitably failed in his leadership. With the Czar out of the equation and his military and police organizations dissolved, the traditional forms of authority were now gone forever. Chaos and disorder were now the norm throughout Russia, mostly due to removal of the czarist systems of justice.<sup>13</sup> In February of 1917, frustrated by lack of reforms, Pavel Milyukov led the “February Revolution.”<sup>14</sup> It would take place Petrograd between March 8-12

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<sup>7</sup> Darby, Kersensky In Hindsight, 51.

<sup>8</sup> Darby, Kersensky In Hindsight, 51.

<sup>9</sup> Darby, Kersensky In Hindsight, 51.

<sup>10</sup> Darby, Kersensky In Hindsight, 52.

<sup>11</sup> Darby, Kersensky In Hindsight, 52.

<sup>12</sup> Darby, Kersensky In Hindsight, 52.

<sup>13</sup> Darby, Kersensky In Hindsight, 52.

<sup>14</sup> Darby, Kersensky In Hindsight, 52.

of March; on the Russian calendar used at the time, it was February. Calling for a military dictatorship, Milyukov would attempt an overthrow utilizing support from the moderate middle class and nationalistic military cadets.<sup>15</sup> This Menshevik Revolution would nose-dive rapidly due to Kerensky's outmaneuvering and out-thinking his more moderate opponents by gaining the support of General Kornilov and forming a second coalition government with support from other cadets from the liberal middle-class.<sup>16</sup> Kerensky was told by his advisors to release hundreds of Bolsheviks from multiple gulags to help combat this threat. This release of extreme Bolsheviks may be one of the biggest historic blunders of all time, states author and historian Graham Darby.<sup>17</sup> Kerensky would come to regret his order after the fact for the rest of his life.<sup>18</sup> This would allow Lenin and his followers to organize and rebuild for their next try at removing Kerensky and his provisional government once more.

To many historians today this would be known as the "Kornilov Affair" or to others as the beginnings of the "February Revolution."<sup>19</sup> Once Kerensky had overcome his enemies by quashing this uprising, he would quickly reestablish the death penalty and threaten to use it on those he believed would collude against him or clash with him and his new provisional government.<sup>20</sup> In the aftermath of the February Revolution, one thing was clear: all traditional authority used to maintain control the Russian Army was now gone. This attempted military overthrow had now thrown suspicion upon all military officers.<sup>21</sup> To add even more insult to the already weakened morale of the army, Kerensky would introduce

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<sup>15</sup> Darby, Kerensky In Hindsight, 52.

<sup>16</sup> Darby, Kerensky In Hindsight, 52.

<sup>17</sup> Darby, Kerensky In Hindsight, 52.

<sup>18</sup> Darby, Kerensky In Hindsight, 52.

<sup>19</sup> Tamara Eidelman, "RUSSIAN Revolution, 1917-1921", Russian Life 60, no. 5 (2017): 19-27.

<sup>20</sup> Darby, Kerensky In Hindsight, 52.

<sup>21</sup> Darby, Kerensky In Hindsight, 52.

“Political Commissars” and Soldier’s Committees in the Army ranks.<sup>22</sup> Desertion was now a common occurrence throughout the Army.<sup>23</sup> In many cases, mingling between officers and their men was now common. Officers were now being murdered at a high rate due to a lack of discipline and respect for their perceived authority.<sup>24</sup> From this point on, members of the Army Officers Corps and senior enlisted became disillusioned with Kerensky and his provisional government.

It is believed that Lenin was now was endeavoring to relax and soften the Bolshevik image in hopes of gaining more votes in the forthcoming general election in Petrograd. Lenin offered up simple speeches and solutions for complex problems. He exploited a simple slogan, rumored to be taken from a German socialist, just prior to the upcoming election that many Russians would not forget: “Peace, Land, Bread: this is what Bolshevism offers you.”<sup>25</sup> On July 20, 1918, the *New York Times* would announce that Nicholas Romanoff, ex-Czar and Emperor of the Russian Empire, was assassinated on July 16, by Bolshevik Revolutionaries tied to group known as the “Ural Regional Soviet.”<sup>26</sup> This extremist revolutionary group was known to have solid ties to different factions of the Bolshevik government, especially Lenin’s faction.<sup>27</sup> Initially, only Nicholas II’s death would be announced by Russian sources.<sup>28</sup> Historians believe if the actual truth of the murder of his whole family, including the czarina and their children, had been released to the foreign press, it would cause an untimely problem for the Bolsheviks and

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<sup>22</sup> Catherine Boylan, "The Man in Carriage No. 2013", *History Today*, October 2017 (2017): 68-77.

<sup>23</sup> Boylan, "The Man in Carriage No. 2013", 69-77.

<sup>24</sup> Boylan, "The Man in Carriage No. 2013", 69-77.

<sup>25</sup> The New York Times, "Ex-Czar of Russia Killed by Order of Ural Soviet", 1918.

<sup>26</sup> The New York Times, "Ex-Czar of Russia Killed by Order of Ural Soviet", 1.

<sup>27</sup> The New York Times, "Ex-Czar of Russia Killed by Order of Ural Soviet", 1.

<sup>28</sup> The New York Times, "Ex-Czar of Russia Killed by Order of Ural Soviet", 1.

their cause.<sup>29</sup> The death of the czar and his family assured Lenin that Russia would never have another Romanoff in control of Petrograd again. It made Lenin feel much more secure knowing that his main foe was no longer a threat to his agenda.

On September 14, the Russian election would take place, after the all the votes were tallied in Petrograd, the Bolsheviks had won most of the votes for the first time. This would allow the Bolsheviks a firm place within the central committee. Many historians credit Lenin, with his simplistic slogan of “Peace, Land, Bread” and his softening of his rhetoric, for placing the Bolsheviks in a position of strength.<sup>30</sup> Historian and Author Arthur Herman points to “Peace, Land, Bread” as one biggest catalytic agents for winning over undecided voters who previously saw Lenin and the Bolsheviks as threatening. The chaos was so pervasive now, especially in Petrograd, that even the liberal middle class believed “the system was so corrupt, so immune to reform or repair it must be smashed.”<sup>31</sup> On September 19<sup>th</sup>, the Germans had taken over many of the fortified islands in the Gulf of Riga.<sup>32</sup> This move was critical because it allowed German amphibious armies a way to outflank their Russian counterparts.<sup>33</sup> This action also meant that time was running out for Lenin and Trotsky to secure and control the capital of Petrograd. The Germans were now in a position to move towards Petrograd.<sup>34</sup> Lenin understood that if the Germans reached the capital with Kerensky and his provisional government still in charge, he and his Bolsheviks would have no chance of advancing their

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<sup>29</sup> The New York Times, "Ex-Czar of Russia Killed by Order of Ural Soviet", 1.

<sup>30</sup> Ian Frazier, "What Ever Happened to The Russian Revolution", Smithsonian 48, no. 6 (2017): 48-80.

<sup>31</sup> Anne Applebaum, "100 Years Later, Bolshevism Is Back. And We Should Be Worried", Washington Post, 2017, accessed January 27, 2018, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/bolshevism-then-and-now/2017/>.

<sup>32</sup> Herman, 1917. Lenin, Wilson, and the Birth of New World Disorder, 268.

<sup>33</sup> Herman, 1917. Lenin, Wilson, and the Birth of New World Disorder, 268.

<sup>34</sup> Herman, 1917. Lenin, Wilson, and the Birth of New World Disorder, 268.

agenda of revolution within Russia. Lenin also recognized if Kerensky stayed in power, he would be the one to make the terms for peace with the Germans. Some historians believe this was Lenin's biggest fear was knowing Kerensky had the power to decide the fate of Russia as the Germans approached.

Time was now becoming an enormous factor for Lenin in pushing his Bolshevik agenda on the citizens of Petrograd. As the Germans drew closer, Mensheviks and other revolutionaries questioned whether the militia that was created to protect Petrograd was enough to fend off such a strong force.<sup>35</sup> As fear gripped the city, several different groups of Socialist and Mensheviks called for the creation of an independent body to synchronize and manage its defensive forces. Trotsky, recently freed from a gulag, agreed to take over and lead this new "Military Revolutionary Committee."<sup>36</sup> Trotsky was already the chairman of the Petrograd Soviet and felt that this job belonged to him. By deciding to place Trotsky in charge of the Military Revolutionary Committee, Kerensky would now open a door to power to the Bolsheviks' political machine that could never close again.<sup>37</sup> The Bolsheviks would now have a man who not only controlled parts of the Soviet government, but also all the localized factions of the Petrograd defense forces and the regular Army forces. Trotsky could now control which men would be appointed to crucial positions within the government and military.<sup>38</sup> He also controlled the leadership of the military that had ultimate control over Petrograd. Now that Trotsky commanded the armed revolutionary troops, Lenin was relaxed enough to make his way back

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<sup>35</sup> Herman, 1917. Lenin, Wilson, and the Birth of New World Disorder, 268.

<sup>36</sup> "BBC - Standard Grade Bitesize History - The October Revolution 1917: Revision", BBC.Co.Uk, last modified 2014, accessed April 11, 2018, [http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/standard/history/russia\\_1914\\_1941/october\\_revolution/revision/1/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/standard/history/russia_1914_1941/october_revolution/revision/1/).

<sup>37</sup> Herman, 1917 Lenin, Wilson, and the Birth of New World Disorder, 268.

<sup>38</sup> Herman, 1917 Lenin, Wilson, and the Birth of New World Disorder, 268.



from Switzerland through Finland while sporting a disguise to avoid being captured by Kerensky and his agents.<sup>39</sup> Lenin waited for the first gathering of the Constituent Assembly to meet in October.<sup>40</sup> At that meeting, the Second All- Russian Congress would now consider the unthinkable just months ago, taking over the Provisional Government led by Kerensky. On October 10 a vote of 11-2 in favor of starting an armed revolution against the government was approved. Lenin got his imagined revolution on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1918. Unlike the February Revolution, the October Revolution would start out bloodless.<sup>41</sup> Bolshevik masses took over and controlled all information hubs, transportation networks and all governmental buildings with limited opposition from any governmental force.<sup>42</sup> At approximately 9:40AM on this same day, the Russian cruiser *Aurora* sailed on the River Neva with one goal in mind: to attack the Winter Palace to crush any Provincial government resistance, if needed.<sup>43</sup> As the cruiser arrived, a small skirmish arose. Military cadets from the palace fired their guns upon the Bolshevik ship. None of the shells would make a connection the ship, but the *Aurora* returned fire upon the palace.<sup>44</sup> Hours later, Red Army troops arrived and surround the Winter Palace.<sup>45</sup> The cadets quickly surrendered due to the overwhelming forces that were now streaming towards the Winter Palace.<sup>46</sup>

An eyewitness to these revolutionary accounts was a young American reporter, Evan

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<sup>39</sup> Joshua Hammer, "Vladimir Lenin's Return Journey to Russia Changed the World Forever", Smithsonian, last modified 2018, accessed March 24, 2018, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/vladimir-lenin-return-journey-russia-changed-world-forever-180962127/>.

<sup>40</sup> Frazier, "What Ever Happened to The Russian Revolution, 59.

<sup>41</sup> Read, World on Fire, 7.

<sup>42</sup> "Bolsheviki Seize State Buildings, Defying Kerensky", Archive.Nytimes.Com, last modified 2010, accessed April 11, 2018, <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/1107.html>

<sup>43</sup> Archive.Nytimes.Com, "Bolsheviki Seize State Buildings, Defying Kerensky", 1.

<sup>44</sup> Archive.Nytimes.Com, "Bolsheviki Seize State Buildings, Defying Kerensky", 1.

<sup>45</sup> Archive.Nytimes.Com, "Bolsheviki Seize State Buildings, Defying Kerensky", 1.

<sup>46</sup> Archive.Nytimes.Com, "Bolsheviki Seize State Buildings, Defying Kerensky", 1.

Reed, who knew “something was afoot” when he noticed the “whole town was out tonight all but the prostitutes.”<sup>47</sup> He would record the sights of soldiers trying to get the Winter Palace now that the guards had surrendered.<sup>48</sup> Kerensky would escape the Bolshevik onslaught to save his own life. A civil war had now begun. The Russian Revolution had succeeded, and Bolshevism was now the schema for a new Russian Soviet Republic.

Lenin, Trotsky and others had accomplished their lifelong mission of spreading Bolshevism into Russia and taking over Petrograd and parts of the Republic using violence to achieve their mission. Democracy now ceased to exist in Russia. And totalitarianism would now begin. The revolution was still in its infancy, but soon it would time to move the revolution across its borders. Germany, Hungary, Finland were the first targets of opportunity to push Bolshevism upon its peoples and societies.

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<sup>47</sup> Jonathan Steele, "Caught in The Revolution Review-Russia in 1917, 100 Years On", The Guardian, 2016, accessed March 24, 2018, <http://www.theguardian.com/bboks/2016/nov/23/caught-in-the-revolution-review-rapport-russia>.

<sup>48</sup> Steele, "Caught in The Revolution Review-Russia in 1917,1.

## Chapter 4: Family and Religion Must be Destroyed for Bolshevism to Succeed

The Bolsheviks were now in control of Petrograd, Moscow, and most of Russia. With control came a unique chance for change. Lenin wasted no time in attacking every institution, organization and societal norm he and his followers believed would threaten their new Bolshevik Republic. Lenin truly believed that to have a pure form of Socialism, two obstacles must be removed. The first and most obvious was capitalism. The second impediment was organized religion. Lenin stated, “every religious idea, every idea of God, even flirting with the idea of God, is unutterable vileness, Millions of sins filthy deeds, acts of violence and physical contagions are far less dangerous than the subtle spiritual idea of God.”<sup>1</sup> Both the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church personified this vileness of the bourgeois, so Lenin attempted to rid Russia of both. These institutions could provide the Bolsheviks with untold riches (including lands and monies).<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, these churches would be Bolshevism’s biggest threat to achieving their goal of domination of Europe and later the world. Lenin did not wait very long before he made his first move on attacking what Karl Marx called the “opiate of the masses.”<sup>3</sup> Lenin would later point out that “all contemporary religious and churches, all and every kind of religious organization. Marxism has always viewed as instruments of bourgeois reaction, serving as defense of exploitation and for the doping of the working class.”<sup>4</sup> Due to these beliefs, Lenin had no qualms or misgivings about murdering priests, stealing from

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<sup>1</sup> Herman, 1917 Lenin, Wilson And the Birth of New World Disorder, 90.

<sup>2</sup> Buel W Patch, "Church and Communism", CQ Researcher by CQ Press, last modified 1949, accessed February 13, 2018, <http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/document.php?id=cqresrre1949081900&type=comment>. 1-8.

<sup>3</sup> Patch, "Church and Communism", 1-8.

<sup>4</sup> Jonathan Luxmoore reposted, "When Christianity Becomes A Crime", Catholic Herald, 2016, accessed February 13, 2018, <http://catholicherald.co.uk/issue/june-10th-2016/when-christianity-becomes-a-crime/>, 1-8.

churches and abolishing all organized religions within Russia and its Soviet satellites.<sup>5</sup> Living in the Soviet Republics were millions of Catholics, Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Jews and Muslim believers.<sup>6</sup> Although Lenin was an equal-opportunity hater of religion, the Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches were his main focus right after the October Revolution.<sup>7</sup> If religion could be eliminated, other entities like the family could be subverted as well.<sup>8</sup> Lenin would later appoint many high-level Bolsheviks who he believed could not only sabotage the family but society as a whole as well.<sup>9</sup> Lenin believed that if you broke down the church, destabilized the family, and indoctrinated the schools, you may attain societal change.<sup>10</sup> To many of the Bolshevik leaders it was critical to rid Russia of religion and replace it with the religion of Marxism. In on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1918, Lenin and his Soviet Bolsheviks made their first move and nationalized all church properties.<sup>11</sup> This made public all church lands without any of compensation to the owners or former owners who claimed to own them.<sup>12</sup> A second announcement came on January 23, Lenin declared a separation between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian state.<sup>13</sup> Local Russian Bolsheviks and Soviet council members from the adjoining areas would be allowed to take ownership of these lands after signing contracts with local Soviet entities who now claimed control of church properties. This same declaration would forbid the church from performing any religious teachings in public. Religious beliefs could only be taught in

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<sup>5</sup> Luxmoore reposted, "When Christianity Becomes A Crime", 1-8.

<sup>6</sup> Paul Kengor, "The War on Religion", Victims of Communism, last modified 2002, accessed March 4, 2018, <http://victimsofcommunism.org/war-on-religion/>, 1-7.

<sup>7</sup> Tania C. Mastrapa, "Return Our Churches: Murder, Theft and Denial", Crisis Magazine, 2014, accessed March 4, 2018, <https://www.crisismagazine.com/2014/return-churches-murder-theft-denial> Published: 29 Jan 2014.

<sup>8</sup> Mastrapa, "Return Our Churches: Murder, Theft and Denial", 1-8.

<sup>9</sup> "The Russians' Effort to Abolish Marriage", 1.

<sup>10</sup> Vera Kaplan, "A Dress Rehearsal for Cultural Revolution: Bolshevik Policy Towards Teachers and Education Between February And October, 1917", History of Education 35, no. 4-5 (2006): 427-452.

<sup>11</sup> Patch, "Church and Communism", 3.

<sup>12</sup> Patch, "Church and Communism", 3.

<sup>13</sup> Patch, "Church and Communism", 3.

private to groups of three.<sup>14</sup> A final decree would be made on November 10, 1918, to discredit all clergy with Russia and its republics.<sup>15</sup> This decree would declare “Priests to be non-workers and deprived them of the franchise. This provision placed them as an inferior class.”<sup>16</sup>

From the very start it was obvious to some that the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Churches would be Bolshevism’s biggest impediment to indoctrinating the masses due to their wealth and the size of their congregations. A war on religion would be needed to purge these two main churches.<sup>17</sup> As early 1921, evidence was now being provided to foreign governments, including the United States, of the ongoing persecution of the church, mainly the Catholic Church.<sup>18</sup> Polish diplomats were providing the world with concrete proofs that Russian Bolsheviks were in process of purging not only Catholics from their churches, lands and properties, but every other religion as well. The Polish delegation was adamant that the Catholic Church was bearing the brunt of Bolshevik retributions.<sup>19</sup> Many of the decrees and articles were created as early as 1918 and were now showing encouraging outcomes for the Bolsheviks.<sup>20</sup> These decrees were having a vast reverberation on religion in both Russia and Ukraine.<sup>21</sup> In Article 1, it states, “the church is separated from the state.” This article would be just the first of many critical changes to its prior relationships to the Czar and the state.<sup>22</sup> In Article 7, the Bolsheviks would declare anyone who belonged to a congregation or a church as being a member of a cult.<sup>23</sup> The purpose of doing this was to diminish anyone who had

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<sup>14</sup> Patch, "Church and Communism", 3.

<sup>15</sup> Patch, "Church and Communism", 3.

<sup>16</sup> Patch, "Church and Communism", 3.

<sup>17</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 153.

<sup>18</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 153.

<sup>19</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 153.

<sup>20</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 152.

<sup>21</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 152.

<sup>22</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 152.

<sup>23</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 152.

any religious principles and ties to the church. The Bolsheviks understood that they must weaken not only the clergy, but the parishioners who worshiped at these churches. Article 7 stated: “All cults without regard to the language in which their religious ceremonies conducted are to be treated as counter-revolutionary, and in no case have they the right for protection of any branch whatsoever of the political authority.”<sup>24</sup> Article 32 allowed local Soviet councils to close churches and confiscate any items found.”<sup>25</sup>

Reports of Catholic graves and shrine desecration were reported throughout Russia after this edict was passed.<sup>26</sup> Local officials broke into Catholic and Orthodox shrines and gravesites and pillaged anything of value from corpses and the remains of dead Catholics and Orthodox cemeteries.<sup>27</sup> Many of the bodies would have their “vestments or clothes torn from their bodies, and naked corpses exposed to the hands and gaze of scoffers.”<sup>28</sup> In Moscow, the Orthodox Church was reported to be in complete pandemonium due to these proclamations and their lack of leadership.<sup>29</sup> These edicts and articles were designed to destroy the organized church that governed so much of Russian life. A secondary aspect that would be used to purge the churches would be the uses of murder, fake trials and exile.<sup>30</sup> Lenin, and later Stalin, would have no reservations about allowing the Cheka and NPU to use whatever means necessary to rid the Bolshevik state and Russia of all high-level cardinals, bishops, notable priests and Orthodox clergy during this era.<sup>31</sup> Evidence of premeditated murder and theft of church property would later be found on a document from Lenin to Molotov, stating the aims

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<sup>24</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 152.

<sup>25</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 153.

<sup>26</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 153.

<sup>27</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 153.

<sup>28</sup> Page, "Religion and Bolshevism", 153.

<sup>29</sup> Francis McCullagh, "Religion in Red Russia", *America*, 1927.

<sup>30</sup> Luxmooereposted, "When Christianity Becomes A Crime", 3.

<sup>31</sup> McCullagh, "Religion in Red Russia", 177.

of Bolsheviks to use murder as an example if needed to send a message to the church. In this excerpt from Lenin, dated March 19, 1922, he would tell Molotov:

At the party congress arrange a secret meeting of all or almost all delegates to discuss this matter jointly with the chief workers of the GPU, the people's Commissariat of Justice and the Revolutionary Tribunal. At this meeting pass a secret resolution of the congress that the removal of property of value, especially from the richest *lauras*, monasteries, and churches must have carried out with ruthless resolution, leaving nothing in doubt, and in a very shortest time. The greater representatives of the reactionary Bourgeoisie that we succeed in shooting on this occasion, the better because this "audience" must precisely now be taught a lesson in such a way that they will not dare to think about any resistance whatsoever for several decades.<sup>32</sup>

One priest, would be remembered for his duties and his death. Monsignor Constantine Budkiewicz would become a Catholic martyr after being executed on trumped up charges created by Lenin's N.P.U.<sup>33</sup> He was put to death on Easter Sunday, March 31st, 1923, for his Catholic beliefs and duties as priest.<sup>34</sup> This priest was extensively known throughout Petrograd due to his role as vicar of the St. Petersburg Catholic Church and for his unstinting endeavors to help his flock.<sup>35</sup> His notoriety and beliefs did not go unnoticed by the Secret Police as well. He was arrested and tried hurriedly on what many historians believe were made-up charges.<sup>36</sup> A reporter for the *New York Herald* would be present to record he called a "show trial." Many readers of the *Herald* questioned the motives of the Bolsheviks in the death of Monsignor Constantine Budkiewicz. In June 1924, an editorial in a pro-Marxist English newspaper called the *Soviet Russia Pictorial* would show support

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<sup>32</sup> Vladimir Lenin, "Letter to Molotov: Anti-Religious Campaigns", letter (Washington D.C., 2010), Soviet Archives exhibit, Library of Congress.

<sup>33</sup> Lenin, "Letter to Molotov: Anti-Religious Campaigns", 1.

<sup>34</sup> Lenin, "Letter to Molotov: Anti-Religious Campaigns", 1.

<sup>35</sup> Lenin, "Letter to Molotov: Anti-Religious Campaigns", 1.

<sup>36</sup> Soviet Russia Pictorial: A Graphic Monthly Review of Russian Affairs, Religion", 1923, 117-118.

for the trial and execution of Monsignor Constantine Budkiewicz.<sup>37</sup> In an editorial, their board would attempt to justify and refute all the negative western print media that surrounded his execution on Easter Sunday.<sup>38</sup> The *Soviet Russia Pictorial* editorial board would state, utilizing their own questions and their prejudiced answers:

1. Is it a fact that teaching religion to children under eighteen is forbidden?
2. What position does the Soviet government take upon religious freedom and the teachings of various religious beliefs?
3. What were the actual charges made or proved against these Catholic clergymen?
4. Were they natives of Russia or temporary clerical thereof?

1 and 2: The teaching of any religious belief is permitted, but only for adults.

The attitude of the Soviet government is prompted by the conviction that Russia needs new generations, trained in scientific thinking through the elimination of all fairy tales that tend to obstruct their vision and make them willing tools of the dispensers of celestial rewards and infernal punishments. Freedom of religious teaching to children is, according to Russian authorities, comparable to the freedom to sell children dangerous drugs that would be liable to stunt their future development. In its attitude towards the teachings of religious beliefs in general, the Soviet Government takes the position that progress of science and general higher education will gradually eliminate all supernatural beliefs, but that prohibiting or restricting of any religious cults would be an unwise and unpractical interference with the process. It is merciless and intolerant, however, whenever it

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<sup>37</sup> Soviet Russia Pictorial, 117.

<sup>38</sup> Soviet Russia Pictorial, 117.



discovers that the clergy of whatever denomination is using its spiritual ascendancy for counter-revolutionary propaganda.

3: The charges against the Catholic clergymen were actual resistance and incitement to resistance against seizure of the church's treasures, which, according to the law, were sold for the benefit of famine sufferers. This resistance resulted in many fatalities and was abetted by enemies of Russia, thus constituting treason in the full meaning of the word.

4: The priest was of Polish descent native and a citizen of Russia.<sup>39</sup>

This disproving editorial was obviously a counter-punch to support the Bolshevik show trials that had taken place that same year. The *Soviet Russia Pictorial's* editorial board would attempt to justify Monsignor Budkiewicz's death based on his resistance to the new Bolshevik anti-religious policies. Monsignor Budkiewicz was just one of hundreds of Catholic and Orthodox priests who were arrested during this early period of Bolshevism. Thousands of Catholics, Christians, Jews, and Muslims would later be murdered for their faith.<sup>40</sup> Some researchers and Catholic historians have stated that over 45,000, Orthodox churches were known to be closed by the Bolsheviks.<sup>41</sup> These same researchers believe that 1,240 Catholic properties were also taken over by Soviet councils. During the great religious purge of 1937-38, over 422 Catholic priests were confirmed to have been killed by Communist forces.<sup>42</sup> Other estimates go much higher. Catholic historian Donia Byrnes believes she has evidence

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<sup>39</sup> Soviet Russia Pictorial, 117.

<sup>40</sup> Soviet Russia Pictorial, 117.

<sup>41</sup> Luxmooereposted, "When Christianity Becomes A Crime", 3.

<sup>42</sup> Luxmooereposted, "When Christianity Becomes A Crime", 3.

that Catholic priests were known to be executed by the “Russian State” and 30 Orthodox priests were murdered, some by being buried alive.<sup>43</sup> Byrnes estimates that in 1917, over 11,381,009 rubles would be seized from churches by the Bolsheviks.<sup>44</sup> Currently, various historians including Byrnes and Dinko Tomasic, author of “Interrelations between Bolshevik Ideology and the structure of Soviet Society,” believe that Lenin and his Bolshevik followers’ main intention was to replace religion with “materialistic atheism.”<sup>45</sup> Their evidence comes from a variety of examples based on edicts that were passed to secularize marriage, births and death registrations. As stated earlier, Lenin would pass measures to immediately separate the Russian Orthodox Church from the state. His purpose was to transfer church powers over to the Bolshevik state.<sup>46</sup> An added characteristic that would be vehemently taken away from the church was their ability to maintain schools. All religious schools, including Jewish and Muslim schools, would fall under these anti- religious edicts and decrees.<sup>47</sup> Lenin and the Bolsheviks would claim their justification for removing birth, death, and marriage registrations, was the church’s lack of possessing the “rights of juridical persons.”<sup>48</sup> Lenin’s main purpose was to first secularize the churches and second to impose his own version of religion upon the peoples of Russia and their Soviet Republics.<sup>49</sup> The purpose of “materialistic atheism” was to create its own god like figure of this earth that the Russian people could depend upon for all their needs.<sup>50</sup> This new leader would be called “Vozhd,” which translates

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<sup>43</sup> Byrnes, "Bolshevik Persecution of The Catholic Church", 4.

<sup>44</sup> Byrnes, "Bolshevik Persecution of The Catholic Church", 1.

<sup>45</sup> Tomasic, *Interrelations Between Bolsheviks Ideology and The Structure of Soviet Society*, 142-143.

<sup>46</sup> Byrnes, "Bolshevik Persecution of The Catholic Church", 2.

<sup>47</sup> Byrnes, "Bolshevik Persecution of The Catholic Church", 2.

<sup>48</sup> Byrnes, "Bolshevik Persecution of The Catholic Church", 2.

<sup>49</sup> Tomasic, *Interrelations Between Bolsheviks Ideology and The Structure of Soviet Society*, 142.

<sup>50</sup> Tomasic, *Interrelations Between Bolsheviks Ideology and The Structure of Soviet*

to “Russian leader” in English.<sup>51</sup> This individual “would be merciless to his foes and to those who disobey him, but kind to those who pay him obedience to him and show him gratitude for his fatherly care.”<sup>52</sup> This type of unconditional obedience would be demanded when both Lenin and Stalin served as Premier of the Soviet Union.<sup>53</sup> With any luck, it was hoped that this God-like figure would eventually take the place of the organized church. The Bolshevik’s secondary goal was to rob the churches of their wealth.

Once the bourgeois churches were damaged, it was now time to attack and downgrade the role of the traditional Slavic and European family and change its societal makeup to meet the needs of the state. If you can break up the traditional family roles and bring doubt on their envisioned determinations and norms, eventually you may bring about transformation.<sup>54</sup> Like many other societal institutions and organizations, Bolsheviks considered marriage to be a foundation of the bourgeoisie that needed to be purged, or at least reformed.<sup>55</sup> To rewrite and meet the needs of the Bolshevik state, the role of the family would need to be restructured. To restructure the family, influential and radical thinkers like Alexandra Kollontai would be utilized. She would become best known for her beliefs on the usefulness (or lack thereof) of marriage and the family.<sup>56</sup> In an enlightening excerpt about her true beliefs on this subject, Alexandra Kollontai would say:

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Society, 142.

<sup>51</sup> Vozhd Definition and Meaning | Collins English Dictionary, Collinsdictionary.Com, last modified 2018, accessed March 10, 2018, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/vozhd>.

<sup>52</sup> Tomasic, *Interrelations Between Bolsheviks Ideology and The Structure of Soviet Society*, 142.

<sup>53</sup> Tomasic, *Interrelations Between Bolsheviks Ideology and The Structure of Soviet Society*, 142.

<sup>54</sup> “The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage: Men Took to Changing Wives with The Same Zest Which They Displayed in The Consumption of The Recently Restored Forty- Per-Cent Vodka”, *The Atlantic*, 1926, accessed March 10, 2018, <https://www.theatlantic.com/archive/1926/07/the-Russian-effort-to-abolish-marriage>.

<sup>55</sup> “The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage”, 2.

<sup>56</sup> “The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage”, 2.

Let us turn our attention to another aspect of the women question, the question of the family. The importance that the solution of this urgent and complex question has for the genuine emancipation of women is well known. The struggle for political rights, for the right to receive doctorates and other academic degrees, and for equal pay for equal work, is not the full sum of the fight for equality. To become really free women must throw off the heavy chains of the current forms of the family, which are outmoded and oppressive. For women, the solution of the family question is no less important than the achievement of the political and economic independence.<sup>57</sup>

The first major shakeup to the family structure would come in 1918, with the passing of a decree that would abolish the term “illegitimate children.”<sup>58</sup> This decree equalized the status of every child. Regardless of being born in wedlock or not, the father of the child was now responsible for supporting his child(ren) and their mother(s).<sup>59</sup> A second edict would be passed allowing divorce to be conducted at the request of either partner. These new laws would allow fast divorces; some historians state it would take just a few minutes to fill out the needed documentations for separation.<sup>60</sup> A large number of Russian men and women partnered up with a variety of different people for a multitude of reasons. Many men and women would see marriage as monetary investment rather than a sacred institution. It was reported by numerous Russian establishments that “some men have twenty wives, living a week with one, a month with another.”<sup>61</sup> Intimacy and monogamy between couples was discouraged by Bolshevik advisory councils and Soviet authorities.<sup>62</sup> Monogamy was seen as a bourgeois practice. Religious women and peasants who refused to follow these policies were mocked by local

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<sup>57</sup> Alexandra Kollontai, "The Social Basis of The Women Question", Pamphlet, 1909, Selected writings of Alexandra Kollontai, WWW. Marxist.org/archive/Kollontai/social-basis.htm.

<sup>58</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage: Men Took to Changing Wives with The Same Zest Which They Displayed in The Consumption of The Recently Restored Forty- Per-Cent Vodka", 3.

<sup>59</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage",3.

<sup>60</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage",3.

<sup>61</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage",3.

<sup>62</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage",4.

Soviets and their followers.<sup>63</sup> In matter of years, over three hundred thousand children would be a product of this policy. Due to the inability of the parents to care for their children, many children would be discarded, cut off, and pushed into the streets to survive on their own.<sup>64</sup> Many of these unwanted children would later grow up to be criminals and drug addicts.<sup>65</sup> This would be just the one consequence coming from this anti-marriage reform; these policies would have direct ties and empirical evidences of causing abandonment and homelessness for many children from this era.<sup>66</sup> Therefore these polices had unplanned side effects.<sup>67</sup> These Bolshevik strategies to control and fund illegitimate children would become a great socialist failure. In the past, churches would have been a source of support for these children, but now that the churches had been purged it would left to the Bolshevik state to care for them.<sup>68</sup>

Therefore, the main goal of breaking up marriage had a dual approach: first, it would take husbands and wives' devotion away from the family and re-focused their observances upon the Bolshevik state rather than church or family.<sup>69</sup> Furthermore, by taking marriage out of the traditional societal equation of Russian norms, it made a much easier progression for the Bolsheviks to propagandize men and women to fall under their shared belief system.<sup>70</sup> In places like Petrograd, over 90 percent of single or divorced women would rapidly find themselves now dependent upon the state by 1918.<sup>71</sup> Due to these newly created ideas of marriage policies and

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<sup>63</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage",4.

<sup>64</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage",3.

<sup>65</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage",3.

<sup>66</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage",3.

<sup>67</sup> "The Russian Effort to Abolish Marriage",3.

<sup>68</sup> Tomasic, *Interrelations Between Bolsheviks Ideology and The Structure of Soviet Society*,146.

<sup>69</sup> MONICA SHOWALTER, "Five Ways Lenin's Propaganda Destroyed Marriage and The Family in Russia | Stock News & Stock Market Analysis - IBD", Investor's Business Daily, last modified 2018, accessed March 16, 2018, <https://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/bolsheviks-targeted-women-and- children-with-antifamily-antimarrriage-propaganda/>.

<sup>70</sup> SHOWALTER, "Five Ways Lenin's Propaganda Destroyed Marriage and The Family in Russia,1.

<sup>71</sup> SHOWALTER, "Five Ways Lenin's Propaganda Destroyed Marriage and The Family in Russia,1.

secondly, there arose a lack of jobs for women. Women who, in the past, were married and provided for by their husbands, found themselves reliant on the Government for all food and material handouts.<sup>72</sup>

Currently, historians dispute if Lenin really knew what impacts and repercussions would be wrought by his beliefs on the eradication of marriage and the church and family. As early as 1913, evidence of his actual sentiments are echoed from some of his previous writings prior to the October Revolution from a passage of the “Three Sources and Three Component Parts of Marxism in 1913.”<sup>73</sup> Lenin expressed his true feelings, scorn about current societal morals and norms that currently existed during this era. He said, “People always have been the foolish victims of deception and self- deception in politics, and they always will be until they have learnt to seek out the interests of some class or other behind all moral, religious, political and social phrases, declarations and promises.”<sup>74</sup> This statement could not be much clearer on his true hatred of the societal norms that were in place throughout Russia and Europe prior to his revolution. In 1920, Alexandra Kollontai would once more echo Lenin’s beliefs about the need of change. She would now focus on the family dynamic, after subjugating marriage for Lenin.<sup>75</sup> She would lead the charge with her beliefs and what she believed the family’s role should be in the future of Russian and the Bolshevik state. In a well- known narrative entitled *Communism and the Family*, Kollontai leaves no doubt as to what she truly believes for the future of children and the new secular Bolshevik

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<sup>72</sup> SHOWALTER, "Five Ways Lenin's Propaganda Destroyed Marriage and The Family in Russia,1.

<sup>73</sup> V.I. Lenin, "Lenin: The Three Sources and Three Component Parts of Marxism", Marxists.Org, last modified 2018, accessed March 17, 2018, <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1913/mar/x01.htm>.

<sup>74</sup> Lenin, "Lenin: The Three Sources and Three Component Parts of Marxism",1.

<sup>75</sup> Alexandra Kollontai, "Communism and The Family by Alexandra Kollontai", Marxists.Org, last modified 2018, accessed March 16, 2018, <https://www.marxists.org/archive/kollonta/1920/communism-family.htm>.

family:<sup>76</sup>

No longer was a father and mother needed to raise a family, you just needed the state to do it for you. But even if housework disappears, you may argue, there are still the children to look after. But here too, the workers' state will come to replace the family, society will gradually take upon itself all the tasks that before the revolution fell to the individual parents. Even before the revolution, the instruction of the child had ceased to be the duty of the parents.<sup>77</sup>

The last area that would need to be infiltrated and transformed was the education system. Prior the October Revolution, many Bolshevik teachers would use subversive methods in their attempt to indoctrinate and propagandize their students.<sup>78</sup> Paradoxically, the most prominent Bolshevik theoretician and educator during the period was Lenin's own wife, Nadezhda Krupskaya.<sup>79</sup> She pushed Marxism upon her students while teaching in St. Petersburg. Krupskaya started as a Sunday school teacher prior to taking on a much more significant role in St Petersburg after the revolution.<sup>80</sup> In 1905, she became the pivot point in Russian's education system.<sup>81</sup> Based on a vote, the Pedagogical Society would now allow revolutionary teachers to unite and create a union of teachers without being persecuted for radical beliefs.<sup>82</sup> Still small in numbers during this pre-revolution period, it would embolden subversive Bolshevik teachers to now come out of the shadows and aggressively propagandize students on their shared beliefs.<sup>83</sup> Insignificant oversight of teachers continued until the end of the October Revolution. Once the revolution was completed, teachers were told to be

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<sup>76</sup> Kollontai, "Communism and The Family by Alexandra Kollontai", 1.

<sup>77</sup> Kollontai, "Communism and The Family by Alexandra Kollontai",

<sup>78</sup> Kaplan, "A Dress Rehearsal for Cultural Revolution: Bolshevik Policy Towards Teachers and Education Between February And October 1917", 431-432.

<sup>79</sup> Kaplan, "A Dress Rehearsal for Cultural Revolution, 431.

<sup>80</sup> Kaplan, "A Dress Rehearsal for Cultural Revolution, 431.

<sup>81</sup> Kaplan, "A Dress Rehearsal for Cultural Revolution, 432.

<sup>82</sup> Kaplan, "A Dress Rehearsal for Cultural Revolution, 432.

<sup>83</sup> Kaplan, "A Dress Rehearsal for Cultural Revolution, 432.

“conscious of their duty and committed to their pupils, were expected to rebel against dull routines and take part in teacher’s organizations.”<sup>84</sup> Teachers would now be called upon to share in activism that was now taking place throughout the country. No longer were schools a place of learning, trend of controlling the schools its students would become key in attacking traditional but place to learn activism as well.<sup>85</sup> Prior to the revolution, the Orthodox and Catholic Church schools prior controlled a large share of the education structure. Once the revolution started, they were immediately shut down due to Bolshevik fears of outside influences from the Vatican and the Orthodox hierarchies.<sup>86</sup>

Schools were fertile grounds in which to indoctrinate of young minds. As Bolshevism made its way into other Soviet Republics and Eastern European nations, this trend of controlling the schools its students would become key in attacking traditional societal norms.

In 1917, Nadezhda Krupskaya returned from exile in Switzerland after the revolution.<sup>87</sup> She was placed in a high-ranking role with the education system and the teacher’s union. Immediately she used her powers as the wife of Lenin and union leader to allow all “Bolsheviks to play a role in all stages of the educational process.”<sup>88</sup>

Ultimately, Lenin attempted to rid what believed was the foundation that had created supported and allowed the bourgeois control over masses. By demonizing, purging, and deconstructing the Church, family and vanquishing traditional morals, Lenin thought he had found a mechanism and a tool that would change the common people in supporting Bolshevism.

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<sup>84</sup> Kaplan, "A Dress Rehearsal for Cultural Revolution, 432.

<sup>85</sup> Kaplan, "A Dress Rehearsal for Cultural Revolution, 432.

<sup>86</sup> Mikhail Sitnikov, "Orthodox Bolshevism", Russian Politics and Law 49, no. 1 (2017): 83-90.

<sup>87</sup> Sitnikov, "Orthodox Bolshevism", 83-90.

<sup>88</sup> Sitnikov, "Orthodox Bolshevism", 83-90.



Lenin said, “there is only one way of smashing the resistance of those classes, and that is to find, in the very society which surrounds us, the forces which can and, owing to their social position, must constitute the power capable of sweeping away the old and creating the new, and to enlighten and organize those forces for the struggle.”<sup>89</sup> Jonathan Brent, a *New York Times* writer, sums up this chapter by affirming why it is so important in attacking the societal norms that many held so impotently. “Undermining the social order, abrogating the rule of law, putting fear at the core of individual consciousness, and sowing distrust were essential to Stalin’s goal of eliminating any threat to his absolute power.”<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> V.I. Lenin, "Lenin: The Three Sources and Three Component Parts of Marxism", 1.

<sup>90</sup> Jonathan Brent, "The Order of Lenin: 'Find Some Truly Hard People'", *New York Times*, 2017, accessed March 24, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/22/opinion/lenin-stalin-bolshevism-soviet-russia.html>.

## Chapter 5: The Bolshevik Cancer Begins To Spread

Lenin once said, “Socialists cannot achieve their great aim without fighting against all oppression of nations (Lenin, Socialism and War 1915).<sup>1</sup>

In 1918, Lenin saw this type of oppression just across the Russian border, in Hungary. He saw a chance to push Bolshevism beyond Russia’s borders to one of the most distressed countries in Eastern Europe. Hungary suffered from overwhelming poverty rates, the largest in Eastern Europe, because of the lawlessness that was now ubiquitous due to its loss of the war and the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Influenza, food shortages and the rapid starvation were increasing every day.<sup>2</sup> Lenin believed this cluster of problems were an opportunity to gain a Bolshevik foothold in both Hungary and the West. He believed there was an opening for rural Hungarian peasants to embrace Bolshevik beliefs. If Bolshevism had a chance to spread in Eastern Europe, it was now! Lenin and Trotsky believed Hungary could now carry its Bolshevik propaganda and beliefs westward. Prior to its association with Austria, Hungary had been under the control of the Ottomans for over a hundred and fifty years.<sup>3</sup> “Three quarters of the peasantry consisted of poor peasants and farm laborers.”<sup>4</sup> A “total of 2.5 to 4 million [were] living” in extreme poverty, with multiple families sharing a single-room house.<sup>5</sup> Marxist historian Alan Woods has found archival evidence that proves on average between 20-25 people would live in

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<sup>1</sup> Lenin, "Lenin: 1915/S+W: The Principles of Socialism and The War Of 1914–1915", 1.

<sup>2</sup> Alan Woods, "The Hungarian Soviet Republic Of 1919 - The Forgotten Revolution", Marxist, 1979, accessed January 28, 2018, <https://www.marxist.com/hungarian-soviet-republic-1919.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> Woods, "The Hungarian Soviet Republic Of 1919,2.

<sup>4</sup> Woods, "The Hungarian Soviet Republic Of 1919,2.

<sup>5</sup> Woods, "The Hungarian Soviet Republic Of 1919,3.

one dwelling.<sup>6</sup> He also states that 6 out of 10 babies would die of either starvation or tuberculosis within their first year.<sup>7</sup> Now with the loss of the war, it was enduring even more suffering and paying an even higher price for aligning itself with Germany and the Central powers.

Since 1687, Hungary had been ruled by the Habsburg Royal Family and a small ethnic minority.<sup>8</sup> This small but powerful group was known as the “Magyars.”<sup>9</sup> Magyars believe they can trace their heritage back to Turkey in the ninth century.”<sup>10</sup> Other Magyars believe they can trace their heritage back to the Huns who conquered this region in 453 A.D.<sup>11</sup> Magyars make up just ten percent of the male population of Hungary but with the help of the Hapsburgs royals, controlled up to eighty-five percent of the land and most Hungarian politics.<sup>12</sup> Compared to several of its European neighbors like the Czechs and its Austrian overseers, most Hungarians lived day to day in life-threatening poverty and hunger.<sup>13</sup> In addition to these issues, many of the purported middle classes who lived in the urban areas would look upon many of rural Hungarians with harsh disparagement and little to no empathy for their disadvantaged circumstances. Unlike the urban dwellers of the cities, the rural farm workers had no “social service they could fall back upon” during periods of starvation and famine.<sup>14</sup> The term

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<sup>6</sup> Woods, "The Hungarian Soviet Republic Of 1919,3.

<sup>7</sup> Woods, "The Hungarian Soviet Republic Of 1919,4.

<sup>8</sup> Eby, Hungary At War, 2.

<sup>9</sup> Eby, Hungary At War, 2.

<sup>10</sup> "Hungarian Genetics - DNA Of Hungary's Magyar People", Khazaria.Com, last modified 2018, accessed February 3, 2018, <http://www.khazaria.com/genetics/hungarians.html>.

<sup>11</sup> Mike Dash, "Nice Things to Say About Attila The Hun", Smithsonian, last modified 2018, accessed February 3, 2018, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/nice-things-to-say-about-attila-the-hun-87559701/>.

<sup>12</sup> Cecil Eby, Hungary At War, 3.

<sup>13</sup> Cecil Eby, Hungary At War, 3.

<sup>14</sup> Cecil Eby, Hungary At War, 3.

“paraszt,” which means parasite in English was widely used by the middle class to describe the rural peasant population of Hungary.<sup>15</sup>

Based on these circumstances, Lenin and his Bolsheviks saw Hungary as ripe for his radical type socialistic philosophies and revolution. Hungary would now become a testing ground to see if Lenin’s vision of socialism would be accepted by others within Europe. Hungary was showing all the signs of being welcoming to Bolshevism: would mass starvation, disgruntled returning soldiers, a weak economy, and a frail and feeble government. All these characteristics echoed Russia’s political and social dilemmas just prior to the October Revolution. Lenin believed it was time for the Bolsheviks to make their move on Hungary. Fortunately for Lenin and his revolutionaries, he had the right man for the job incarcerated in a gulag, learning the ideals and professed greatness of Marxism.

During the war, a young Hungarian officer by the name of Bela Kun and an ethnic Magyar were captured by Bolshevik forces.<sup>16</sup> During his incarceration, Kun was indoctrinated in both Marxist ideals and Bolshevism.<sup>17</sup> Russian forces attempted to propagandize Hungarian soldiers in a mixture of Bolshevik beliefs and their versions of social norms. Great efforts were made to counter these beliefs once these soldiers began to make their journey back to Hungary.<sup>18</sup> A blend of Catholic priests, anti-propaganda officials and Romanian military chaplains were utilized to counter all the propaganda and misinformation that was forced upon soldiers while they were in prisoner of war camps.<sup>19</sup> Hapsburg Romanian military chaplains were the first line

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<sup>15</sup> Cecil Eby, *Hungary At War*, 3.

<sup>16</sup> Margaret MacMillan, *Paris 1919*, 257.

<sup>17</sup> Lonela Zaharia, "For God And/or Emperor: Habsburg Romanian Military Chaplains and Wartime Propaganda for Returning POW's", *European Review of History* 24, no. 2 (2017), 288-304.

<sup>18</sup> Zaharia, "For God And/or Emperor", 88.

<sup>19</sup> Zaharia, "For God And/or Emperor", 88.

of defense to counter- revolutionary ideals as soldiers as Russia began to hand over former prisoners.<sup>20</sup> These chaplains would first assess their mental and physical conditions to see how much indoctrination had taken place.<sup>21</sup> Catholic priests would later step into this progression and use theology-based information to counter Bolshevik theories. Due to these efforts, it is believed that these counterrevolutionary programs would help gain and regain a majority of loyalties in supporting the emperor of the Austro-Hungarian empire.<sup>22</sup> An added aspect that had great significances upon their beliefs towards Bolshevism was based on the deplorable conditions many were forced to live in during their stint as prisoners of war.

In Russia, working conditions varied very widely, with the worst occurring during the construction of the Merman railway during which an estimated 25,000 out of the 70,000 mainly Austro-Hungarian and German prisoner of war work force died.” In the Russian empire: in winter 1915-16, typhus ravaged Totskoe camp where at least 10,000 men died out of 25,000. The typhus epidemic led to the development of better hygiene conditions in prisoner of war camps in Germany, with modern latrines, disinfection vats to remove lice from clothing and shower or bath houses built for the prisoners.<sup>23</sup> Kun would later develop a personal friendship with Lenin and other members of the Bolshevik elites during his incarceration.<sup>24</sup>

Bela Kun came from a small village in Transylvania. His father was Jewish but did not practice his faith and suffered from alcoholism.<sup>25</sup> His father’s only known job during Kun early years was the village’s notary.<sup>26</sup> Kun was described by those who knew him growing up as “ugly, short tempered, and extremely self-centered.” Kun was also a very short, with a huge head that many would comment on when they saw him.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Zaharia, "For God And/or Emperor", 88.

<sup>21</sup> Zaharia, "For God And/or Emperor", 88.

<sup>22</sup> Zaharia, "For God And/or Emperor", 88.

<sup>23</sup> Heather Jones, "Prisoners of War", The British Library, last modified 2014, accessed March 3, 2018, <https://www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/prisoners-of-war>.

<sup>24</sup> Jones, "Prisoners of War", 1.

<sup>25</sup> MacMillan, Paris 1919, 262.

<sup>26</sup> MacMillan, Paris 1919, 262.

<sup>27</sup> MacMillan, Paris 1919, 262.

Margret Macmillan author, of “Paris 1919,” alleges that his physical flaws were overlooked due to his unique writing abilities and talents as a “radical journalist and as poetic writer.”<sup>28</sup> These skills and his perceived ties to both the Magyar and Jewish communities are believed to have helped Kun gain a following within Hungary, as well as Lenin’s trust.<sup>29</sup> Kun would return to Hungary as a Bolshevik representative shortly after the war ended with the signing of the Brest-Litovsk treaty.<sup>30</sup> He immediately began to spread his new belief system to anyone who would listen. In 1917, the “Social Democratic regime under Prime Minister Tisza had botched inflation during the post-war aftermath, independence got to its highest level in Hungary, and all non-Magyar ethnic groups together with Jews, Serbians, Croatians, Romanians, were under attack by their Austrian administrators and the Magyar pro-royalists.”<sup>31</sup> In addition to this brewing civil war, the continuing Allied Blockade was still having a significant impact on the average peasant who would continue to bear the greatest burden during this period of famine and starvation.<sup>32</sup>

Prime Minister Tisza was assassinated on October 31, 1918, by a Magyar leftist and Bolshevik sympathizer who was connected to a group known as the “Galilei Circle.”<sup>33</sup> Chaos would surge immediately throughout both cities and rural areas for the next year. The Hungarian Bolshevik Revolution started abruptly after the forced closing of Kun’s own leftist newspaper in 1919.<sup>34</sup> Students and soldiers loyal to Kun and the Hungarian Bolsheviks attacked

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<sup>28</sup> MacMillan, Paris 1919, 262.

<sup>29</sup> MacMillan, Paris 1919, 258.

<sup>30</sup> MacMillan, Paris 1919, 258.

<sup>31</sup> Isabella Y Liu, "Bela Kun And Hungarian Soviet Republic: 1918-1919 - World War I In Europe's East", World War I In Europe's East, last modified 2018, accessed February 3, 2018, <http://hist373fall14.blogs.wm.edu/post-war-states-and-identities/bela-kun-hsr-1919/>.

<sup>32</sup> Read, The World on Fire, 158.

<sup>33</sup> Eva Balogh, "Tisza Trial – Hungarian Spectrum", Hungarianspectrum.Org, last modified 2016, accessed February 11, 2018, <http://hungarianspectrum.org/tag/tisza-trial/>.

<sup>34</sup> Read, The World on Fire, 157.

the Army barracks loyal to new Prime Minister Michael Karolyi and the government.<sup>35</sup> Fearful that violence would erupt throughout the city, Prime Minister Karolyi would swiftly release all political prisoners, including Kun, who was jailed for anti-governmental activities. This event in Hungary echoed the February Revolution in Russia, which led to the release of leading Bolsheviks from prison including Trotsky and other high-profile political opponents. This event was, in retrospect, an enormous political blunder on the parts of both Prime Minister Karolyi and Prime Minister Kerseky. After his release Kun called for a Bolshevik-style Revolution. It is estimated by some historians that over twenty thousand of his leftist believers and so-called Hungarian Bolsheviks turned out to support Kun and his dream of a Bolshevik Revolution.<sup>36</sup> During this same period many of the Western powers were vehemently making irrational demands upon the leadership of Hungary. The final blow to the Hungarian nationalist cause came when the Western powers of France, Italy, and Great Britain ordered all Hungarian troops off their own borders.<sup>37</sup> Seeing this as a distinct opportunity, Kun, with some help from Lenin, mostly propaganda, would lead what is now called the “Hungarian Bloodless Coup.”<sup>38</sup> Hungarian Bolsheviks effortlessly seized power from Prime Minister Karolyi on March 23, 1919.<sup>39</sup> This coup would almost have no resistance to speak of. Kun and Lenin believed they had finally succeeded in their first international Bolshevik victory. Lenin wrote Bela Kun a letter on March 23, 1919, wanting to know what form of socialist government he would set up in Budapest: a weak and moderate government or strong Bolshevik style government.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 158.

<sup>36</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 159.

<sup>37</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 159.

<sup>38</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 159.

<sup>39</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 159.

<sup>40</sup> V. I. Lenin, "Lenin To Bela Kun In Budapest", Letter (Moscow, 2002), Lenin's Collected Work, 4th English Edition, progress Publishers, Moscow,

### Lenin to Bela Kun in Budapest

Please inform us what real guarantees you have that the new Hungarian Government will actually be a communist, and not simply a socialist, government i.e., one traitor-socialists. Have the Communist a majority in the government? When will the Congress of Soviets take place? What does the socialist' recognition of the proletariat really amount to? It is altogether beyond doubt that it would be a mistake merely to imitate our Russian tactics in all details in that specific conditions of the Hungarian revolution. I must warn you against this mistake, but I should like to know where you see real guarantees. So that I may be certain that the answer has come to me from you personally, I ask you to indicate in what sense I spoke to you about the National Assembly when you last visited me in the Kremlin with communist greeting Lenin"<sup>41</sup>

Now that the Hungarian leftists had successfully taken over, Bela Kun launched what "the Red Terror Era."<sup>42</sup> This period of turmoil would in many ways repeat and reverberate the events that took place in Russia a scant few years prior to Kun's takeover of the Hungarian Nationalist government.<sup>43</sup> To implement these new Bolshevik principles upon the peoples of Hungary, Kun appointed true leftist believers into positions of real authority. One minister that would have enormous effects for many years to come on Bolshevism and Hungary was Gyorgy Lukacs.<sup>44</sup> He was known as an acclaimed Marxist philosopher, writer, and staunch atheist who loathed Christians and their church. Lukacs was appointed Hungary's initial "Minister of Culture after Kun's successful coup and takeover."<sup>45</sup> He would later add his own philosophy how to eliminate and deconstruct religion amongst the Hungarian peoples.<sup>46</sup>

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[www.marxist.org/archive/works/1919/mar/23.htm](http://www.marxist.org/archive/works/1919/mar/23.htm).

<sup>41</sup> Lenin, "Lenin To Bela Kun In Budapest", 1.

<sup>42</sup> Brother Andre Marie, "Cultural Marxism Versus the Church", The Catholic Sanctuary [blog], 2017, accessed February 13, 2018, <http://catholicism.org/ad-rem-no289.html>.

<sup>43</sup> Marie, "Cultural Marxism Versus the Church", 1.

<sup>44</sup> Marie, "Cultural Marxism Versus the Church", 1.

<sup>45</sup> Marie, "Cultural Marxism Versus the Church", 1.

<sup>46</sup> Marie, "Cultural Marxism Versus the Church", 1.



To deconstruct religion as an influence upon a society and a church, Lukacs believed you must attack the “family unit” and its “sexual morals.”<sup>47</sup> To attack it, you must set up progressive programs that will create sexual reforms within the family structure through the government-controlled schools can use to indoctrinate children.<sup>48</sup> Lukacs’ original program introduced “mandated sex-education classes” in all Hungarian schools.<sup>49</sup> This would be just one of many programs created by him and Bela Kun to transform the family social structure and its perceived norms. At the same time, Kun told the Catholic archdioceses that their properties were going to be seized and turned into movie theaters.<sup>50</sup> Catholic properties were seized and property within the churches was confiscated.<sup>51</sup> Priests could remain in their parishes and churches as long as they did not use their pulpits to refute Kun and his revolutionaries.<sup>52</sup> Many Catholic and Orthodox clergy were ordered to work in hospitals, schools and other charitable organization for the hypothetical good of the people of Hungary.<sup>53</sup> Once more Hungary was starting to echo what had taken place shortly after the Russian October Revolution, especially relating to the Catholic and Russian Orthodox Churches.<sup>54</sup> Many feared that the Hungarian churches would suffer the same fate as the Russian churches. In one later study by the Catholic Church, it was estimated that thousands of Russian Orthodox Churches were destroyed and thousands of Russian and Soviet deaths followed the Russian Revolution due to their beliefs in god and religion.<sup>55</sup> The Catholic Church claims over 45,000 churches were destroyed and up to 15,000 religious and

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<sup>47</sup> Marie, "Cultural Marxism Versus the Church", 1.

<sup>48</sup> Marie, "Cultural Marxism Versus the Church", 1.

<sup>49</sup> Marie, "Cultural Marxism Versus the Church", 1.

<sup>50</sup> Luxmooereposted, When Christianity Becomes A Crime, 1.

<sup>51</sup> Brother Andre Marie, Cultural Marxism Versus the Church, 1.

<sup>52</sup> Luxmooereposted, When Christianity Becomes A Crime, 2.

<sup>53</sup> Luxmooereposted, When Christianity Becomes A Crime, 2.

<sup>54</sup> Luxmooereposted, When Christianity Becomes A Crime, 2.

<sup>55</sup> Luxmooereposted, When Christianity Becomes A Crime, 2.

non-religious executions took place in the early months by the Bolshevik Secret Police.<sup>56</sup> It wasn't until the 1990s that the Vatican would gain critical knowledge and empirical evidence on the fate of their bishops and priests during era of Communism and Bolshevism in both Russia and Hungary.<sup>57</sup> Other societal reforms ordered by Bela Kun included grave standardization, redistribution of large estates, forbidding alcohol consumption and mandatory baths for all Hungarians adults and children.<sup>58</sup> As Lenin did, Kun attacked the Hungarian judicial system and traditional political assemblies of Hungary. He dissolved the judicial powers of the judges and appointed revolutionary Bolshevik councils to take their places.<sup>59</sup>

Celebrations throughout the communist world began with the news that Hungary had fallen to the Bolsheviks.<sup>60</sup> One broadly published manifesto that circulated throughout Budapest during this period stated:

Comrades, in Hungary all the power has been transferred to the working class, the Hungarian bourgeoisie had to yield. The Entente imperialist burned their fingers. Their rapacious pressure only hastened the birth of the Socialist Soviet Republic. When the Hungarian bourgeoisie thus confirmed their inability to save their own country from ruin they gave clear proof that their historic role has been played out, and their gravedigger, the proletariat, has come to take their place.<sup>61</sup>

Bela Kun now set out to find any person or group he believed to be a threat to his new government. This action mimicked Lenin's activities after he took power in Petrograd, soon after the October Revolution. Lenin sent Red Army troops, secret police, and Soviet volunteers to Hungary to assist in finding and overcoming counter-revolutionaries believed to be hiding in

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<sup>56</sup> Luxmooereposted, When Christianity Becomes A Crime, 3.

<sup>57</sup> Luxmooereposted, When Christianity Becomes A Crime, 1.

<sup>58</sup> Arthur Herman, 1917 Lenin, Wilson and the Birth of the New World Disorder, 360.

<sup>59</sup> Macmillan, Paris 1919, 265.

<sup>60</sup> Macmillan, Paris 1919, 265.

<sup>61</sup> V. I. Lenin, "Letter to Comrades", Letter (Moscow, 2017), Lenin's Collected Works, Progress Publishers, Moscow, Volume 26, 1972, pp. 195-215, <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/oct/17.htm>.

rural areas of Hungary.<sup>62</sup> Hungarians referred them as the “Lenin boys.”<sup>63</sup> Kun ordered the arrest of five thousand Hungarian Jews and seized their property to show his willingness to crack down on capitalist sympathizers.<sup>64</sup> It was estimated that the “Lenin boys” would be responsible for over 300 deaths of imaginary capitalist and anti-Bolshevik sympathizers who crusaded and fought against Kun and the Bolsheviks.<sup>65</sup> This would be but one chapter in the “Red Terror Era” of Bolshevik attacks on the state, church and European societies.<sup>66</sup> Kun’s Red Terror ended after 133 days.<sup>67</sup> Romanian troops invaded Hungary with the intent to drive out all the Bolsheviks from Hungary.<sup>68</sup> Bela Kun himself would narrowly escape this invasion by Romanian troops by seeking refuge in other European countries, including Russia.<sup>69</sup> Today many historians believe this invasion was economically and militarily supported by the Western powers, specifically France and Italy.<sup>70</sup> French President Georges Clemenceau had always believed that the Bolshevik threat was a real threat to France and Central Europe, unlike President Woodrow Wilson of the United States, who was known to dither about making real military commitments to fighting off the threat of Bolshevism.<sup>71</sup> Anthony Read, historian and expert on Bolshevism, documented his behavior of hesitant and uncommitted conduct when dealing with Lenin and Bolshevism throughout his whole book *The World On Fire*. In the end, due to Clemenceau’s persistence and resolve, Romania was used to solve the newly formed Hungarian Bolshevik

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<sup>62</sup> Lenin, "Letter to Comrades", 361.

<sup>63</sup> Lenin, "Letter to Comrades", 361.

<sup>64</sup> Lenin, "Letter to Comrades", 361.

<sup>65</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 159.

<sup>66</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 159.

<sup>67</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 159.

<sup>68</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 159.

<sup>69</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 160.

<sup>70</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 160.

<sup>71</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 161.

problem.<sup>72</sup> Romania was later compensated enormously for supporting the Western powers in their wishes to terminate Bolshevism in Hungary. Margaret Macmillan, historian and author, documents the mass looting that occurred when the Romanians finally removed Bela Kun from power.<sup>73</sup> She states, Romania would steal “telephones, prized stallions, fire engines, shoes, carpets, automobiles and railway cars.”<sup>74</sup> Queen Maria of Romania allegedly told an American Army officer observer, “You may call it stealing if you want to, or any other name, I feel that we are perfectly entitled to what we want.”<sup>75</sup> Romanian would later try to justify its looting by stating “after all Bratianu said, Rumania had saved civilization from Bolshevism.”<sup>76</sup> On October 31, 1919, a reporter from the Guardian newspaper of Great Britain was embedded inside Budapest and reflected on the mood of the people after Bela Kun was now on the run after the Romania was now settling inside Budapest.<sup>77</sup> He wrote: “White Guard officers had raided our train up the line for Red fugitives. At Raab the hue and cry were still on. In front of us lay the occupied city. A few hours later even the last pool of Bolshevism was to be scorched dry.”<sup>78</sup> This same reporter would witness the house-to-house searches that were now taking place looking for any Bolshevik holdouts that may have escaped the first dragnet that covered the city.

He reports:

You would suddenly find whole blocks of the town shut off by a cordon of Rumanian troops. Within the cordon no-one was allowed to go out of doors, while a house-to house-search went on. Well-dressed Hungarian civilians or officers often accompanied the

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<sup>72</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 161.

<sup>73</sup> Macmillan, *Paris 1919*, 268.

<sup>74</sup> Macmillan, *Paris 1919*, 268.

<sup>75</sup> Macmillan, *Paris 1919*, 268.

<sup>76</sup> Macmillan, *Paris 1919*, 268.

<sup>77</sup> The Guardian, "Hungary Sings Bolshevism's Swan-Song", 1919, accessed February 19, 2018, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>.

<sup>78</sup> The Guardian, "Hungary Sings Bolshevism's Swan-Song", 1.

Rumanian search parties with lists in their hands. Issuing from the cordon, one would see groups of men being marched off.<sup>79</sup>

A short year after Kun's removal, Hungary would be forced into "population transfers." The western allies decided to separate the Austro-Hungarian Empire into gifts to those who had supported them against the Central Powers.<sup>80</sup> On June 4, 1920 the Allies would sign what many Hungarian's even today see as unwarranted, unjust and its greatest catastrophe since the "the Battle of Mohacs in 1526".<sup>81</sup> It was called the "Treaty of Trianon" by the conquering allied powers.<sup>82</sup> It would allow half of the Hungary population and seventy-five percent of its territory to be pulled apart and given away to Romania and other neighboring nations.<sup>83</sup> Over ninety percent of its seaports and almost all of its infrastructure and railway systems were also divided among its neighbors.<sup>84</sup> What was left of Hungarian familiarity and order would turn into sadness and lawlessness due to a small and ineffectual government. Its people were forced to give up their Hungarian citizenship and forced to relocate to foreign lands. Its limited resources and industries were looted away; its cities, including Transylvania were divided away as well.<sup>85</sup> One-third of the ethnic Magyar population found themselves living under a new flag with these newly created borders.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 160.

<sup>80</sup> "The Treaty of Trianon: A Hungarian Tragedy: American Hungarian Federation - Founded 1906", Americanhungarianfederation.Org, accessed February 25, 2018, [http://www.americanhungarianfederation.org/news\\_trianon.htm](http://www.americanhungarianfederation.org/news_trianon.htm), 1-7

<sup>81</sup> "The Treaty of Trianon: A Hungarian Tragedy: American Hungarian Federation - Founded 1906", 1.

<sup>82</sup> "The Treaty of Trianon: A Hungarian Tragedy: American Hungarian Federation - Founded 1906", 1.

<sup>83</sup> "The Treaty of Trianon: A Hungarian Tragedy: American Hungarian Federation - Founded 1906", 1.

<sup>84</sup> "The Treaty of Trianon: A Hungarian Tragedy: American Hungarian Federation - Founded 1906", 1.

<sup>85</sup> "The Treaty of Trianon: A Hungarian Tragedy: American Hungarian Federation - Founded 1906", 1.

<sup>86</sup> Macmillan, Paris 1919, 269.

The Communist would later re-stoke its terror campaigns against Hungary after the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945.<sup>87</sup> Once more the Allies would turn their back on Hungary as they did in 1920.<sup>88</sup> It would take just a few generations until Hungary would again live under Russian Bolshevism and its successor, Communism. Stalin's thumb of oppression would again find a way into Hungary and become the governor and Communist overlord of its people by 1947.<sup>89</sup> Hungary was unique: it was the first stepping-stone for the Bolsheviks in their attempt to move westward into Europe. What is clear about Hungary is that Lenin, Stalin saw many similarities that mimicked Russia during this period. Lenin would use starvation, a weak economy, ethnic biases and a feeble government to propagandize many in to believing Bolshevism could be their salvation. In some respects, perhaps Queen Maria of Romania wasn't so far off when she stated, "Rumania [sic] had saved civilization from Bolshevism."<sup>90</sup> If Romania had not intervened, who knows how long and how far Bolshevism could have spread during this era. Lenin's hopes for westward expansion would now be placed on hold. It was an enormous setback for his dreams of European domination. But the wait would be shorter then he thought, as soldiers returning to Germany were now publicizing and touting Bolshevik propaganda through the streets of Berlin and Munich.<sup>91</sup> Germany's wartime quandaries would be another chance at pushing his Bolshevik agenda forward once more.

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<sup>87</sup> John Pike, "Hungary History - 1939-1945 - Hungary In World War II", Globalsecurity.Org, accessed February 25, 2018, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/hu-history-25.htm>.

<sup>88</sup> Pike, "Hungary History", 1.

<sup>89</sup> "Hungary Profile", BBC News, last modified 2012, accessed February 25, 2018, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country\\_profiles/1054642.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1054642.stm).

<sup>90</sup> Macmillan, Paris 1919, 268

<sup>91</sup> "Germany; Weimer Republic, 1919-1933--Social Conditions; Germany--Economic Conditions--1918-1945 Bolshevism; Unemployment--Germany; Blockade", America 20, no. 22 (1919): 542-543.

Destructive economic circumstances and wartime losses and disillusionment in Germany were now ripening to a breaking point that could allow Bolshevik Revolutionaries to prosper within the borders of Germany. Starvation was rampant; the Allied blockade had done its job and a lot more. Comparable to the Russian Revolution, most of the pre-Bolshevik environments that were needed to progress Bolshevism onwards into Germany were now showing. Lenin's vision and his long-time strategy for German Bolshevism were finally materializing. Many newspapers, military intelligence agencies, and foreign governments were also picking up on the Bolshevik interest in Germany as well.<sup>92</sup>

A Reuters journalist stationed in Germany saw the ongoing chaos and the destabilizing trend and wrote: "As the result of the lack of food and an increase of unemployment, the continuation of the blockade is intensifying the situation. Discontent is growing, says a Reuter report, the people are hungry, neurasthenic and dispirited, and the government is unable to improve material condition."<sup>93</sup> A reporter from the Daily Telegraph would state: "if the Allies do not act immediately there be no Germany to negotiate with because anarchy will take place of the Government."<sup>94</sup> The same conditions that had stoked the fires of the October Revolution in Russia and the Red Terror coup in Hungary, were now overflowing up and were echoing through-out Germany. As indicated throughout this opposing Bolshevik narrative, Lenin and his fellow Bolsheviks would continuously utilize a country's economic, social, and cultural failings to push their Bolshevik schema as an alternative philosophy or form of government.<sup>95</sup> Germany now met many of the same criteria that would facilitate radical change, particularly the persistent

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<sup>92</sup> ."Germany; Weimer Republic,542.

<sup>93</sup> "Germany; Weimer Republic,542.

<sup>94</sup> "Germany; Weimer Republic,542.

<sup>95</sup> "Germany; Weimer Republic,543.

famine. Other conditions that paralleled Russia's Capital Petrograd of 1917 were the enormous strikes and unemployment expanding throughout Germany more and more every day.<sup>96</sup> In Berlin, over 200,000 people refused to work and sat out their shifts.<sup>97</sup> As conditions grew poorer, Lenin dreams of walking over the borders of Ukraine and Poland and into the streets of Berlin and Munich was becoming a certainty.<sup>98</sup> Characteristics like starvation, unemployment, influenza and disenfranchised soldiers who no longer believed in their current government would be the biggest aspects to help push this Bolshevik agenda into the German households, streets and drinking establishments.<sup>99</sup> These conditions would echo both Russia and Hungary's predicaments just before Bolshevism made its inroads there. Anthony Read believed "Lenin, Trotsky and other Bolsheviks made no secret of the fact that they were intent on starting a universal revolution to be exported through a defeated Germany."<sup>100</sup> On many occasions Lenin would brag about the number of agents that had sent to Germany to begin to organize, propagandize and eventually over through the German government.<sup>101</sup> During this period, a report was circulated from the British Home Secretary Office detailing the vast number of Bolshevik agents and Communist sympathizers who were now embedded in this assemblage of Western, Central and Eastern European nations, particularly Germany.<sup>102</sup> An extra section of this report would show that the British government believed there was no doubt that these same agents were attempting to influence several of these returning soldiers' attitudes on their current

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<sup>96</sup> "Germany; Weimer Republic, 543.

<sup>97</sup> "Germany; Weimer Republic, 543.

<sup>98</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 25.

<sup>99</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 25.

<sup>100</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 25.

<sup>101</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 26.

<sup>102</sup> "The Progress of Bolshevism", report (London, 1919), Western and General Report No. 101, United Kingdom National archives.



government and the upside to supporting a Bolshevik Revolution. In this excerpt, it goes into their proofs of Bolshevik attempts to corrupt and influence returning Allied and Central Powers soldiers.

There is undoubted evidence to show that systematic attempt to corrupt the morale of the Allied troops in occupation is being made. The German Legations in Copenhagen, The Hague, and Berne have been left untouched, both in personal and in policy. They appear to think that their best chance of saving something from the wreck is provoke Bolshevik disturbances in the Allied countries, and to this end they are printing leaflets and employing returned prisoners as agents to go among the troops and incite them to depose their officers. Agents have also been taken on for service in England and France. They are especially active among American troops of occupation, and it is perhaps significant that a considerable number of Americans are reported to have deserted into Germany. These may perhaps be merely men who are determined to escape from military discipline at all the hazards and who have taken the line of the least resistance in hopes of securing a passage home to America. Besides the German sources of Propaganda, there is another stream flowing from Russia. These agents are for the most part returned prisoners of war, well supplied with money and passes and leaflets on Bolshevik principles. The chief Bolshevik organ for propaganda is the Velt Revolution, published weekly in several languages under the auspice of the international Federation; the editor of edition in English is Phillips Price, formerly correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.<sup>103</sup>

It would start from a single trigger event matching what happened in Petrograd a year before. A group of German sailors at an Imperial Navy base in Kiel Germany would be given a task they considered a suicide mission.<sup>104</sup> A sailors' revolt would start in Kiel and spread nationwide, which would later "force the later abdication of the Kaiser in November 1918."<sup>105</sup> Like their Army cohorts, many German sailors had lost faith in their officers, their admirals, the Kaiser, and Germany itself.<sup>106</sup> Due to unforgiving conditions, lack of food due to the continuing British Blockade, and vicious authoritarianism by officers and senior enlisted, disenfranchised sailors who were already on their last legs would be given a horrendous order that would change

<sup>103</sup> "The Progress of Bolshevism", 1.

<sup>104</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 26.

<sup>105</sup> Alison Smale, "Militarism and Humiliation Cast Shadow on Germany", *New York Times*, 2014, accessed March 17, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/27/world/europe/in-germany-world-war-i-still-resonates.html>.

<sup>106</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 27.

history.<sup>107</sup> The crews of multiple ships were ordered to cruise up to the North Sea and take on an overwhelming enemy force who out-gunned them and would most likely sink them without much effort.<sup>108</sup> What many sailors' "dubbed the death cruise" ignited a spark that would start a revolution in parts of Germany.<sup>109</sup> A full mutiny now occurred; local military prisons were taken over and prisoners freed. Weapons were seized by both Union dockworkers and sailors.<sup>110</sup> A general strike was also called by the dockworkers as they marched through the port city.<sup>111</sup> A small revolution was now in its infancy. The Kaiser would order his admirals and the German Imperial Battleship Koenig to repulse this Socialist mutiny: as the ship sailed upon the port it was to fire its guns.<sup>112</sup> When the mutineers fired back, the enlisted crewmembers on the Koenig would join the mutineers and seize the battleship. The Imperial German flag was replaced by a red flag on the ship's mast.<sup>113</sup>

Word of the mutiny would spread all the way to Petrograd. Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin had finally achieved their German Bolshevik Revolution, which they had dreamed about since their meeting back in Western Europe before the revolution. In Berlin, Prince Max von Baden, who was now Chancellor of Germany, was still trying to find a solution without surrendering when he received word of the Imperial Navy uprising.<sup>114</sup> At the same time as word got to the Chancellor, many of Germany's extremist or hard-core radicals and leftists would also hear of the uprising as well. An opportunity much like the one in Hungary was now appearing. In the shadows of Berlin

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<sup>107</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 27.

<sup>108</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 27.

<sup>109</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 27.

<sup>110</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 27.

<sup>111</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 27.

<sup>112</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 27.

<sup>113</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 27.

<sup>114</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 27.

waited an assortment of Bolshevik Revolutionaries, Socialists and far left Social Democrats who were ready to now strike at the German government. On November 9th, the Kaiser of Germany and its Chancellor failed to broker a last-ditch peace deal with radical revolutionaries who were now spreading like locusts throughout Germany.<sup>115</sup> Both men concluded they must abdicate. Both attempted to select their replacements before seeking refuge away from Berlin. A decision was made to transfer the Kaiser's power over to a Social Democratic by the name of Friedrich Ebert.<sup>116</sup> This decision was made in hopes of pacifying the radical fringe that was now in the process of taking over Berlin. Once word got out about the Kaiser stepping down, a fellow Social Democrat by the name of Phillip Schneiderman would declare a "new German Republic."<sup>117</sup> A few hours later the radical leftists made their move.<sup>118</sup> Now with Germany surrender and the Kaiser's abdication, the SPD would now become the principal party in the Reichstag.<sup>119</sup> Radical forces now made a power play for influence and recognition as an alternative political choice for the proletariat.

They called themselves the "Spartacus's Group," led by Karl Liebknecht, son of Wilhelm Liebknecht, a German socialist and one of the principal founders of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) , and Rosa Luxemburg who was a well-known radical Socialist and a longtime friend of Lenin. Liebknecht was a former member of Social Democratic party until he voted against the war.<sup>120</sup> He would be ejected from the party for his anti- war stance, later creating the party of the

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<sup>115</sup> Jennifer Llewellyn, Jim Southey and Steve Thompson, "The German Revolution", Alpha History.Com, last modified 2014, accessed March 21, 2018, <http://alphahistory.com/weimarrepublic/german-revolution/>.

<sup>116</sup> Llewellyn, "The German Revolution", 1.

<sup>117</sup> Llewellyn, "The German Revolution", 1.

<sup>118</sup> Llewellyn, "The German Revolution", 1.

<sup>119</sup> D.M Giangreco and Robert E. Griffin, "Road to Confrontation", document (Independence Missouri, 1988), Airbridge to- Berlin---The Berlin Crisis of 1948, its Origins and Aftermath, Truman Library & Museum, 1-8.

<sup>120</sup> Giangreco, Road to Confrontation, 1.

USPD or Independent Socialist Democratic Party <sup>121</sup> Luxemburg would later be arrested and serve several months in German prisons for her revolutionary views and activities against the Imperial German Government during this period. She would miss the Russian Revolution due to her incarceration at Barnimstrasse Prison. <sup>122</sup> She would be later transferred to the fortress prison in Posen. <sup>123</sup> Many of the prison staff admired her beliefs and would make special provisions for her to continue her writings. <sup>124</sup> Historians believe Luxemburg was an agent of Lenin; it is still debated today whether she fully supported the Bolshevik cause. In her writings she made clear she thought the Russian Revolution “was merely the logical consequence of the spontaneous February uprisings in St Petersburg.” <sup>125</sup> Fundamentally, she believed the Russian Revolution materialized by accident. In her writings, she believed “the masses acting independently as subjects of a revolution with support of the party but not under the dominance which she rejected.” <sup>126</sup> Historians think that Luxemburg wanted to expand the Spartacus movement and believed that the Socialist parties needed to act more independently as “subjects of the revolution” needed to be controlled by one central council.

Luxembourg’s friendship with Lenin went back as far as 1907, when Lenin met up Luxemburg in London. <sup>127</sup> They would spend several evenings in the Tower House district discussing their Socialist strategies during the Fifth Congress of the Russian Social Democratic

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<sup>121</sup> Giangreco, *Road to Confrontation*, 5.

<sup>122</sup> Alexander Kemmerer, "Editing Rosa: Luxemburg, The Revolution, And the Politics of Infantilization", *The European Journal of International Law* 27, no. 3 (2016): 854-864.

<sup>123</sup> Kemmerer, "Editing Rosa", 856.

<sup>124</sup> Kemmerer, "Editing Rosa", 856.

<sup>125</sup> Kemmerer, "Editing Rosa", 856.

<sup>126</sup> Kemmerer, "Editing Rosa", 856.

<sup>127</sup> Kemmerer, "Editing Rosa", 856.

and Labor Party meeting.<sup>128</sup> Later Lenin wrote her a letter “asking her if she received a book he had sent her.”<sup>129</sup>

May 18, 1909

Werte Genossin,

I sent you yesterday by registered book-post a copy of my book on philosophy—in memory of our conversation about Mach when we last met. If possible, I should like to ask you to write a note about this book for *Neue Zeit* for the “Verzeichnis der in der Redaktion eingelaufenen Druck- Schriften. If this necessitates any formality, such as sending the book direct to the editors (who do not understand Russian), please drop me a line about it and I shall try to send a special copy to the editors of *Neue Zeit*. You, of course, have heard from Comrade Tyszka about our internal struggle among the Bolsheviks. Your article against the otzovists and ultimatumists has pleased everyone very much; it is a pity that you write so rarely in Russian; you prefer the rich Social-Democratic Party of the Germans to the poor Social-Democratic Party of the Russians.

All the best! Regards to Tyszka. With greetings. N. Lenin

P.S. The note of the *Die Neue Zeit* editors to Rothstein’s (excellent) article in No. 33 leads me to think that Kautsky himself is none too pleased now with his defense of the I.L.P. in Brussels.... Am I right?<sup>130</sup>

There can be no doubt of the many influences Lenin had upon the Spartacus’s Group. Now that Germany was a republic, Liebknecht and Luxemburg were confident that they could spread far-left opinions amongst the masses in Berlin.<sup>131</sup> Both Liebknecht and Luxemburg decided to withdraw from SPD or independent Socialist Democratic Party.<sup>132</sup> They created what is still known today as the KPD or German Communist Party.<sup>133</sup> This party would be far more Leninist and far more radical than the USPD ever was. As the Spartacus’s Group gained more followers,

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<sup>128</sup> Morris, "Stalin And Lenin's Forgotten London Hangouts", 1.

<sup>129</sup> V. I. Lenin, "ROSA LUXEMBURG", Letter (Berlin, 1909), *Lenin Collected Works*, Progress Publishers, 1974, Moscow, Volume 34, page 397., <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1909/may/18rl.htm>.

<sup>130</sup> Lenin, "ROSA LUXEMBURG", 397.

<sup>131</sup> Giangreco and Robert E. Griffin, "Road to Confrontation", 4.

<sup>132</sup> Giangreco and Robert E. Griffin, "Road to Confrontation", 4.

<sup>133</sup> Giangreco and Robert E. Griffin, "Road to Confrontation", 4.

both Liebknecht and Luxemburg gained more assurance that it was just a matter of time before they would take power. Between December 1918 and June 1919, Berlin was rocked by massive strikes. A power play was now at its peak. By January 5th, the Spartacus's Group attempted a takeover of Berlin.<sup>134</sup> Utilizing their version of armed Red Guards, they took over all government buildings, transportation hubs, and telegraph offices.<sup>135</sup> During this crisis, British and American agents living in Berlin reported back to their countries on the progress of the revolution. One report sent to the Home Secretary of Great Britain states: "the present position appears to be that the Spartacus Group has succeeded in seizing power in Berlin. It has already predominated in Hamburg."<sup>136</sup> Initially the uprising was considered successful due to catching the Berlin Police and other governmental agencies off guard.<sup>137</sup> It was reported that KPD and Liebknecht and Luxemburg had the support from hundreds of thousands of Berliners in securing the city.<sup>138</sup> Unbeknownst to Liebknecht, the SPD was organizing a counter-attack upon KPD, utilizing Prussian Nationalist and ex-military men who called themselves the Freikorps (Free Corps).<sup>139</sup> It was organized by Wilhelm Groener, a former general who had pledged his loyalties to Field Marshal von Hindenburg and the new German Republic that was created in 1918.<sup>140</sup> He enlisted former soldiers into his private armies, who would also pledge their loyalties to both men. These men saw their first conflict protecting the Eastern Polish border. During these skirmishes they proved themselves as credible fighting men.<sup>141</sup> In January a call went out from

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<sup>134</sup> Llewellyn, "The German Revolution", 1.

<sup>135</sup> Llewellyn, "The German Revolution", 1.

<sup>136</sup> Llewellyn, "The German Revolution", 1.

<sup>137</sup> Llewellyn, "The German Revolution", 1.

<sup>138</sup> Llewellyn, "The German Revolution", 1.

<sup>139</sup> "The Bolshevik Threat", document (London England, 1919), Catalogue reference: AIR 1/2312/221/41 no. 38,455. Ezekiel Goldberg, "Commies Getting Removed by Freikorps", YouTube, last modified 2016, accessed March 23, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaMorqMRovo>.

<sup>140</sup> Robert M. Citino, "Meet the Freikorps", Military History, 2012, 64.

<sup>141</sup> Citino, "Meet the Freikorps", 64.

Minister of defense Gustav Noske requesting help from the Freikorps and its leaders.<sup>142</sup> Noske offered up a temporary headquarters in a girl's school in Dahlem. Approximately 3000 volunteers were organized by the Freikorps to take back the city from the KPD.<sup>143</sup> Once organized in Dahlem, the Nationalist soldiers launched their counter-attack on the Spartacus Group. It would only last a week, according to historian Robert M. Citino, author of "Meet the Freikorps." Men like Colonial Reinhard and Major Franz von Stephani would out-think and out-manuever the German Red Army.<sup>144</sup> In matter of days, both Liebknecht and Luxemburg were captured and most likely tortured by Freikorps. Both were murdered under suspicious circumstances shortly after being captured. The Freikorps reported that Liebknecht was shot trying to escape. According to Guardian reporter Andrew Murry, both Liebknecht and Luxemburg were murdered by German officers under orders by leaders of the Freikorps.<sup>145</sup> Liebknecht was the most hated man by most of Germany's military elite, especially Prussian nationalists who never forgave him for voting against the war in 1914.<sup>146</sup> Murry believed that the extreme hate for Liebknecht by the military was the perfect motive for killing him. Like Liebknecht, hundreds of other Spartacus movement members died under mysterious circumstances while imprisoned.<sup>147</sup> Luxemburg's body was found days after being captured, shot and headless, in a Berlin canal. The blame for her death was placed on low ranking-soldier by name of Otto Runge. He would be convicted and serve a two-year sentence for her murder.

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<sup>142</sup> Citino, "Meet the Freikorps", 64.

<sup>143</sup> Citino, "Meet the Freikorps", 64.

<sup>144</sup> Citino, "Meet the Freikorps", 64.

<sup>145</sup> Andrew Murray, "Fallen Heroes, Sacred Facts", The Guardian, 2008, accessed March 23, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentsfree/2008/jan/18/fallenheroessacredfacts>.

<sup>146</sup> Murray, "Fallen Heroes, Sacred Facts", 1.

<sup>147</sup> David Wroe, "Rosa Luxemburg Murder Case Reopened", The Telegraph, 2009, accessed March 23, 2018, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/germany/6840393/Rosa-Luxemburg-murder-case-reopened.html>.

Various historians believe he was framed to placate the many KPD supporters that still believed in the communist movement in Berlin.<sup>148</sup> In later years, the Freikorps commander would state the order came directly from Chancellor Friedrich Ebert himself.<sup>149</sup> Berlin now fell under the authority of SPD once more. What was left of the Communist party would regroup in Hamburg until 1933.<sup>150</sup> Then-Chancellor Adolf Hitler would order the German Communist Party to be disbanded that year, later gathering up its leadership and placing them in concentration camps.

The south of Germany, mostly in Munich and the city of Dresden, which for centuries had been the capital for Polish kings and now German nobility and Bavarian kings, was now under attack from Socialist, Bolsheviks and leftist sympathizers.<sup>151</sup> On November 8th, a great victory for the Socialists would occur in the semi-independent kingdom of Bavaria. Cities within this region like Wurttemberg and Baden were in “open rebellion” against the monarchical federal state.<sup>152</sup> By November 11, Berlin had been momentarily liberated from the Bolshevik menace, but the Bavarian Bolshevik problem was now just beginning. On this same day, protests and demonstrations broke out. So fierce were these demonstrations the King Ludwig III and his family left Dresden and sought protection and refuge away from the anti-monarchists.<sup>153</sup> Now with the king in hiding, soldiers, worker councils, and peasants met in a variety of local beer halls to discuss their plans for creating a Socialist “Bavarian Republic.” Kurt Eisner, who was the now in charge of the Socialist Democratic Party was now be looked upon to lead this new

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<sup>148</sup> Wroe, "Rosa Luxemburg Murder Case Reopened", 1.

<sup>149</sup> Wroe, "Rosa Luxemburg Murder Case Reopened", 1.

<sup>150</sup> Giangreco and Robert E. Griffin, "Road to Confrontation", 5.

<sup>151</sup> Dr. Manfred Mühlner, Katrin Nitzschke and Valentin Weber, "Essays - Dresden: Treasures from The Saxon State Library | Exhibitions - Library of Congress", Loc.Gov, last modified 2018, accessed March 23, 2018, <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/dres/dreshist.html>.

<sup>152</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 33.

<sup>153</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 33.



republic.<sup>154</sup> Eisner had been in jail just prior to the start of the Bavarian Revolution. He had been convicted for leading a major protest at a munitions plant in 1918.<sup>155</sup> Eisner's anti-military, anti-Prussian, and most importantly anti-war beliefs made him a perfect candidate during this period in Munich. Surprisingly, his party "did not poll more than three percent of the votes in the recent elections for the Bavarian Diet."<sup>156</sup> Regardless of his party's low approval rate, he was the leading voice to declare Bavaria and Munich a free republic.<sup>157</sup> On the same day he called for a major demonstration in the city, and over 80,000 supporters heeded his call.<sup>158</sup> It was reported that thousands of supporters took over Munich's largest beer hall, the Mathäserbrau for meetings between soldiers' councils and workers' councils of.<sup>159</sup> During a separate meeting with the councils of workers, it was determined that Kurt Eisner should be elected the chairman and run this newly created republic.<sup>160</sup> Armed soldiers would be recruited and sent throughout Munich to take over all government buildings and transportation hubs and shut down all newspapers and printing establishments. Munich was now a socialist republic; its revolution would once again mimic the Russian October Revolution in many ways. On November 8th, a red flag was posted on all major buildings, including churches.<sup>161</sup> Eisner would make some societal changes; his focus would be on the Catholic Church due to its power in the region.<sup>162</sup> He would direct that all Catholic schools be closed.<sup>163</sup> "Eisner proposed transforming the education system, and to

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<sup>154</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 33.

<sup>155</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 33.

<sup>156</sup> "Central Powers", *America*, 1919, 3.

<sup>157</sup> "Central Powers", *America*, 1919, 3.

<sup>158</sup> "Central Powers", *America*, 1919, 3.

<sup>159</sup> "Central Powers", *America*, 1919, 3.

<sup>160</sup> "Central Powers", *America*, 1919, 3.

<sup>161</sup> "Central Powers", *America*, 1919, 3.

<sup>162</sup> "Central Powers", *America*, 1919, 3.

<sup>163</sup> N. Hopkins, "Charisma and Responsibility: Max Weber, Kurt Eisner, And the Bavarian Revolution Of 1918", *Max Weber Studies* 7, no. 2 (2007): 185-211.

educate the masses.”<sup>164</sup> Education would now become purely a state affair in Bavaria.<sup>165</sup> He instructed schools to remove all religious teachings.<sup>166</sup> But Eisner was naïve to the power of the Catholic Church in this region. Bavaria’s Catholics accounted for 57 percent of the population, the highest proportion in Germany after the tiny state of Saarland.”<sup>167</sup> This was Germany, not Russia and it was not going to be easy to eliminate Catholic Church from this region.<sup>168</sup> In January of 1918, socialists, anarchists, and revolutionaries were growing weary of Eisner’s leadership.<sup>169</sup> Many of them wanted more of a Berlin-type Bolshevik government that mirrored Russia, unlike this watered-down form of socialism created by Eisner.<sup>170</sup> Radicals were now forming Spartacus-like groups and councils that rivaled their cohorts in Berlin before their eventual demise.<sup>171</sup> Many of these radicals wanted an end to parliamentary democracy and more Soviet-style councils. Elections would soon be held, and over 83 percent of voters would vote against Eisner and his beliefs on parliamentary democracy.<sup>172</sup> They did not have to wait very long before a mining crisis would bring about Eisner’s downfall. Socialist leaders who claimed to support a miner’s strike took on the Eisner administration in an attempt to weaken him.<sup>173</sup> In Essen, a group of men calling themselves the “Commission of Nine” claimed to negotiate for the striking miners. Prime Minister Eisner refused to acknowledge these individuals as representatives to the on-going talks that were in place to end the strike.<sup>174</sup> Throughout this strike,

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<sup>164</sup> Hopkins, "Charisma and Responsibility", 195.

<sup>165</sup> Hopkins, "Charisma and Responsibility", 195.

<sup>166</sup> "Central Powers", *America*, 1919, 3.

<sup>167</sup> Gunther Simmermacher, "Bavaria: A Catholic Heartland - The Southern Cross", *The Southern Cross*, last modified 2015, accessed March 19, 2018, <https://www.scross.co.za/2015/02/catholic-bavaria/>.

<sup>168</sup> Simmermacher, "Bavaria: A Catholic Heartland", 1.

<sup>169</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 113.

<sup>170</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 114.

<sup>171</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 114.

<sup>172</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 114.

<sup>173</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 114.

<sup>174</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 114.

Eisner repeatedly ordered the use of force against the miners and their so- called representatives. Due to the use of Freikorps who were used extensively to attack violent miners during the strike, many socialists lost whatever faith they had left in Eisner.<sup>175</sup> These Freikorps were the same nationalistic Prussian nationalist military men who had quashed the Berlin Revolution months prior to this event.<sup>176</sup> Kurt Eisner would now be looked upon by a majority of socialists as an impostor after his use of force against the miners, as no true socialist would have used such horrific strategies and methods to end this strike.<sup>177</sup>

It would all end on February 19th, when 600 leftist sailors would enter Munich at the request of Gustav Landaur, a fellow member of Socialist Democratic Party, after tiring of Eisner and his moderate beliefs.<sup>178</sup> They would once again use force to take over major transportation hubs and force their way in the Lantag building, which was used as the seat of the new government.<sup>179</sup> Eisner would have no choice but resign on February 21st, 1919. The radicals and Bolsheviks had once again accomplished their mission: eliminating all moderate opposition to their cause. That same day Eisner was assassinated by a German nobleman named Count Anton Arco-Valley.<sup>180</sup> His uniform was torn from his body, and his badges removed by his former comrades.<sup>181</sup> The funeral turnout was overwhelming, and it was reported to be “as grand as any Bavarian King.”<sup>182</sup> By April 1919, the Munich Soviet Republic was created, led by members of the USPD Weimar Communist Parties.<sup>183</sup> Many of the men who came down to Bavaria were

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<sup>175</sup> Hopkins, "Charisma and Responsibility: Max Weber, Kurt Eisner, And the Bavarian Revolution Of 1918", 195.

<sup>176</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 114.

<sup>177</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 114.

<sup>178</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 115.

<sup>179</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 115.

<sup>180</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 115.

<sup>181</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 115.

<sup>182</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 115.

<sup>183</sup> Llewellyn, "Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)", 1.

veterans of the Berlin Uprising. One of the leading members who had fled Berlin and take up the leadership role in Munich was a Russian-born Bolshevik sympathizer by the name of Eugene Levine.<sup>184</sup> Prior to entering Germany to attend school, the young Levine had had many Bolshevik influences in his life.<sup>185</sup> One major belief he held was that acts of terrorism were permissible against certain individuals and politicians who opposed socialism. In 1905, he helped fight against the Czar and his forces after leaving Germany to participate in the revolution. He was a full-time affiliate of the SPD by 1914.<sup>186</sup> As soon as World War I started, Levine was drafted and worked as a high-ranking interpreter. He would eventually lose his job due to his radical anti-war beliefs. Once he returned home he soon joined the radical Bolshevik subversive group known as the “Spartacus League.”<sup>187</sup> He would gain the trust of many of the high-ranking Russian Bolsheviks during this period as well, so much so that he was asked to join the ROTA Soviet News Agency, whose main purpose was to spread propaganda throughout Germany.<sup>188</sup> He would befriend Karl Liebknecht, mentioned above one of the main plotters during the Berlin Spartacus Revolution.<sup>189</sup>

Now in Munich, Levine ordered all so-called upper and middle-class bourgeois luxury flats owned by supposedly rich landowners to be seized.<sup>190</sup> He ordered all industry to fall under the control of his government.<sup>191</sup> Finally, he ordered that all paper money be abolished as soon as possible.<sup>192</sup> He believed that a Russian style Red Army must be established quickly to protect the

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<sup>184</sup> Llewellyn, “Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)”, 1.

<sup>185</sup> Llewellyn, “Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)”, 1.

<sup>186</sup> Llewellyn, “Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)”, 1.

<sup>187</sup> Russell Tarr, Spartakist Uprising 1919, video YouTube, (United Kingdom: Russell Tarr Active History, 2009).

<sup>188</sup> Llewellyn, “Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)”, 1.

<sup>189</sup> Llewellyn, “Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)”, 1.

<sup>190</sup> Llewellyn, “Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)”, 1.

<sup>191</sup> Llewellyn, “Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)”, 1.

<sup>192</sup> Llewellyn, “Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)”, 1.

new government.<sup>193</sup> All these mandates would mirror what had taken place during the October Revolution. From the start, opposition would grow against this new German-Russian Bolshevik regime. Johannes Hoffmann, a member of the Social Democrat Party would now take the lead to overthrow this non- German, Russian Bolshevik agent of Russia who claimed to be Munich's new leader.<sup>194</sup> He rapidly organized a volunteer army to counter Levine's control over the city.<sup>195</sup> Johannes Hoffmann's army would later clash with another famous Bolshevik by the name of Ernst Toller, who led an army in Dachau.<sup>196</sup> Losing the battle, Hoffman quickly retreated with his army away from Bavaria. Hoffman would later return and attempt to propagandize the masses against Levine, focusing on his Russian nationality.

Unexpectedly on April 26th, Ernst Toller, a poet, artist and moderate socialist, attacked the so-called leaders of the German Communist Party in Munich.<sup>197</sup> His purpose was to set up a Second Bavarian Soviet Republic.<sup>198</sup> His reasoning for attacking Levine, was "I consider this government a failure."<sup>199</sup> Toller believed that Levine and his beliefs were too punitive for Bavaria and Germany. Toller self-identified as a moderate socialist, which made him a very hated man during this period. Both right-wing nationalist and left-wing Bolsheviks would place the blame upon Toller for his role in the revolution. Leftist intellectuals would later label him as weak leftist; the right just saw him as another Bolshevik. Toller was just another victim pushing a Communist Revolution that most of Germany really didn't want or believe in. Due to Munich's

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<sup>193</sup> Llewellyn, "Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)", 1.

<sup>194</sup> Llewellyn, "Weimar Communist Parties (KPD and USPD)", 1.

<sup>195</sup> Ellis Madison, *Ernst Toller And German Society: Intellectuals as Leaders and Critics, 1914–1939* (New Jersey: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2013).

<sup>196</sup> s, "Eugen Levine", Spartacus Educational, last modified 1977, 1. 512.

<sup>197</sup> Simkins, "Eugen Levine", 1.

<sup>198</sup> Simkins, "Eugen Levine", 1.

<sup>199</sup> Simkins, "Eugen Levine", 1.

large Catholic population and the lack of real communist support he saw from the start, Levine knew it was just a matter of time before his revolution would fail. On May 1st, it would end just like Berlin, when 30,000 Freikorps marched into Munich and attacked the weak Red Guards who surrendered after a short battle.<sup>200</sup> It was estimated that over 500 individuals were captured and later executed by the Freikorps.<sup>201</sup> Levine was executed by a firing squad on July 5th, after a short show trial by the Freikorps.<sup>202</sup> This concluded the spread of Bolshevism into the heart of Germany. The Freikorps would later evolve into one of most murderous organizations known to western civilization. They would become the shameful Sturmabteilung SA, or Storm Detachment. Some Freikorps veterans would include Nazi's Heinrich Himmler, Rudolph Hess and Reinhard Heydrich.<sup>203</sup> Once more Lenin and Bolshevism, and now German communists had failed to persuade the masses it was the schema for them. It is unknown what Germany would look like today if Bolshevism had taken hold of the entire country; due to its short existence in both Berlin and Bavaria, it had no real time to make changes on the people, church and their societal norms. Dr. Ralph Lutz a professor at Stanford University in 1922, would define the German Revolution impeccably when he said:

The fundamental characteristics of the German revolution was the efficient control of movement by the forces of the barracks and the labor unions. Unsupported by the intellectuals and lacking therefore great leaders, the revolution developed rapidly and overthrew the empire without apparent effort. The explanation of this success is of course the fact that the imperial system ceased to be recognized by the people and functioned merely as an apparatus. Every genuine revolution possess an ideal, uses force to achieve its ends, and organize s society in conformity of principles. In Germany the ideal of political and economic democracy, grasped by the great masses of the nation, over threw the power of the imperial government.<sup>204</sup>

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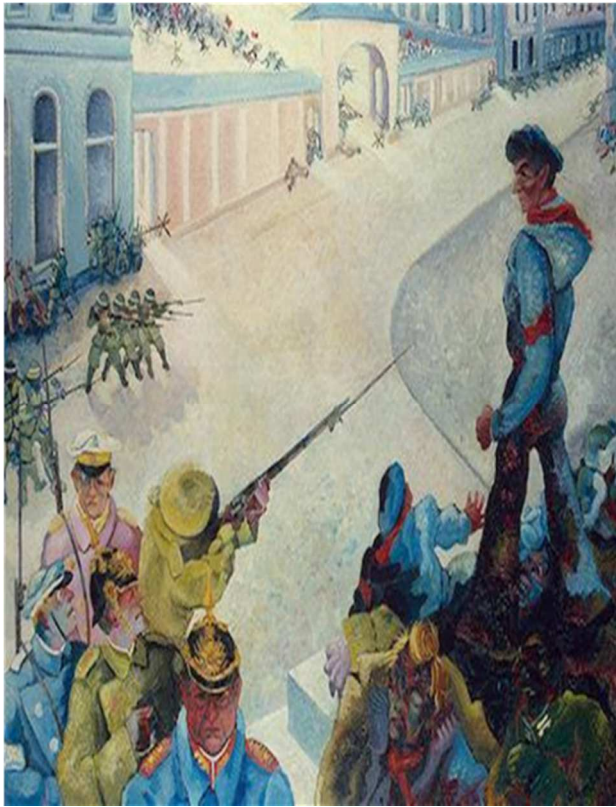
<sup>200</sup> Deac Wil, "Germany's Freikorps Helped Pave the Way for Adolf Hitler", World War II 11, no. 7 (1997), 8.

<sup>201</sup> Wil, "Germany's Freikorps Helped Pave the Way for Adolf Hitler", 8.

<sup>202</sup> Wil, "Germany's Freikorps Helped Pave the Way for Adolf Hitler", 8.

<sup>203</sup> Wil, "Germany's Freikorps Helped Pave the Way for Adolf Hitler", 8.

<sup>204</sup> Lutz, "Full Text Of "The German Revolution, 1918-1919," 1.



**Figure 3: Heinrich Ehmsen, Execution by Firing Squad of the Sailor Egelhofer, 1931.**

## Chapter 6: Bolshevik Atrocities: Murder, Famine and Genocide

In the Ukrainian language, the word “Ukraine” means “borderland.”<sup>1</sup> This borderland is sandwiched between Poland and Russia, and over time it developed its own language called Ruthenian as well as a distinct culture and society.<sup>2</sup> Russian scholars and leading intellectuals disagreed with this belief of separate cultures so much they would coin the term “little Russia,” due its many similarities in dialect and some aspects of communal histories. Several Russian nationalist thinkers and scholars like Vissiron Belinsky would echo these shared similarities.<sup>3</sup> Throughout much of Ukrainian history, large numbers of Jews and Poles would also occupy territories claimed by Ukraine. Their language and cultural influences would also influence both the language and the values of Ukrainian society.<sup>4</sup> Like other areas within Eastern Europe, anti-Semitism was pervasive throughout Ukraine.<sup>5</sup> By 1917, unincorporated territories of Ukraine would begin to seek out its independence from its imperial Russian overlords.<sup>6</sup> Focused on the recent dethroning of Nicolas II, many Ukrainians now felt it was time to separate from “Mother Russia.”<sup>7</sup> Other Russian provinces like Finland had already begin to fight for independence during this period. In Finland during this period many saw this as an ample opportunity to shed themselves of Russia and its influences as well.<sup>8</sup> In 1917, by a vote of 70 votes to 37 votes, Finland would vote to separate from Russia.<sup>9</sup> Back in Ukraine intellectuals were working to

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<sup>1</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 3.

<sup>2</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 3.

<sup>3</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 6.

<sup>4</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 3.

<sup>5</sup> Desider Kiss, "Eastern European Jews", *Foreign Affairs* 15, no. 2 (1937), 331.

<sup>6</sup> John Newsinger, "Revolution and Counter-Revolution: The Case of Finland in 1917-1918", *Monthly Review*, 1990, accessed March 29, 2018, <http://monthlyreview.org.ezproxy.edu/>.

<sup>7</sup> Newsinger, "Revolution and Counter-Revolution", 1.

<sup>8</sup> Newsinger, "Revolution and Counter-Revolution", 1.

<sup>9</sup> Newsinger, "Revolution and Counter-Revolution", 1.



highlight the differences between their traditional culture and Russia's.

In Kyiv (Kiev in English), the Central "Rada," which means Central Council in Ukrainian, came together in 1917 to try and vote for independence from the newly controlled Bolshevik Russia.<sup>10</sup> Backing this Central Rada plan were over 350,000 Ukrainian soldiers who had just recently returned home from fighting either for Russia or the Central Powers of Germany.<sup>11</sup> On November 3rd, a vote to confirm independence took place, and the sovereign nation of Ukraine was born. Countless rival governments controlled by Soviets, Bolsheviks and Communists were set up after the nationalist declared independence from Russia. In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city located in the northeast, an oppositional Bolshevik government calling itself the "Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic" was set up.<sup>12</sup> Its purpose was to counter the nationalist independence movement in Kiev and declare itself the true government of Ukraine.<sup>13</sup>

Prior to the Central Rada declaring Ukrainian independence, there were over 22,000 Bolsheviks living in Ukraine.<sup>14</sup> Many of these Ukrainian Bolshevik party members spoke only Russian and considered themselves exclusively Russian.<sup>15</sup> One of these main Ukrainian Bolshevik leaders during this period was Heorhii Piatakov. He would be one biggest anti-separatist leaders opposing independence. He disdained anyone who believed Ukraine was a sovereign nation.<sup>16</sup> Comparable to Piatakov, all current and previous Russian political parties would ignore talk of Ukrainian independence.<sup>17</sup> Now with Lenin in power, he too would rebuke the idea of free

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<sup>10</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 19.

<sup>11</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 19.

<sup>12</sup> "Ukrainian National Republic | Making History", YouTube, last modified 2017, accessed March 30, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veWg-oy0EmY>.

<sup>13</sup> "Ukrainian National Republic | Making History", 1.

<sup>14</sup> Ukraine Profile", BBC News, last modified 2018, accessed March 29, 2018, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18010123>

<sup>15</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 19.

<sup>16</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 20.

<sup>17</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 21.

and independent Ukraine. Prior to declaring Ukrainian independence, Lenin and Stalin attempted to head off this independence movement by utilizing the Bolsheviks' greatest modes of getting the word out: propaganda and Pravda, a Russian daily newspaper, founded in 1912 and from 1918 to 1991 the official organ of the Soviet Communist Party.<sup>18</sup> Stalin would quickly use Pravda to denounce anything the Central Rada decreed.<sup>19</sup> Stalin would focus his attacks on the big landowners, or Ukrainian Kulaks.<sup>20</sup> It is unknown if this messaging had any effect, due to some areas local Bolsheviks in Ukraine continued to try and establish small Soviet republics.

On December 24, 1917, strength and violence was required. Propaganda was not working fast enough to stop the nationalist movement in Kiev.<sup>21</sup> The Bolshevik leadership in Petrograd needed another option. General Mykhail Muraviev would lead Bolshevik troops into Ukraine from Russia, with the intent to retake power from the nationalists and place it under the control of Lenin.<sup>22</sup> By January 1918, the Bolsheviks would conquer major industrial areas and secure some main railroad lines. The general was stopped just short of Kiev.<sup>23</sup> At the railway station of Kruty in the Chernihiv region, advancing Bolshevik forces containing mostly sailors from the Baltic Fleet and a mixture of other Bolshevik military units from Petrograd would meet in battle. Four hundred Ukrainian student cadets would hold off the Bolsheviks for over five hours, allowing Kiev "to obtain from the international community the recognition of independent Ukraine."<sup>24</sup> The Battle of Kruty" is still recognized by Ukrainians today as a huge victory for their people's attempted

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<sup>18</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 22.

<sup>19</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 23.

<sup>20</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 23.

<sup>21</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 23.

<sup>22</sup> Ihor Siundiukov, "The Battle of Kruty: Legend and People", *The Battle of Kruty: Legend and People*, last modified 2018, accessed March 29, 2018, <https://day.kyiv.ua/en/article/day-after-day/battle-kruty-legend-and-people>.

<sup>23</sup> Siundiukov, "The Battle of Kruty: Legend and People", 1.

<sup>24</sup> *The Guardian*, "16 February 1918: Little by Little the Counter-Revolutionaries Were Forced Back by Artillery and By Bayonets", 1918, accessed March 30, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/16/bolsheviks-capture-kiev-archive-1918>.

independence from Russia during this era.<sup>25</sup> Days after the Battle of Kruty, Bolsheviks forces took Kiev on February 9th, forcing the Central Rada to evacuate the city.<sup>26</sup> “General Mykhail Muraviev ordered the execution of suspected Ukrainian nationalists. His men shot anyone heard speaking Ukrainian and destroyed any evidence of Ukrainian rule, including the Ukrainian street signs that had replaced Russian street signs only weeks before.”<sup>27</sup> Fortunately for the citizens of Kiev, the Bolsheviks would evacuate the city just a few months after securing it.<sup>28</sup> Before withdrawing from Kiev, an unknown number of supposed nationalists may have been murdered by Mykhail Muraviev and his Russian Bolshevik troops. Today it is still unknown how many Ukrainians lost their lives during and after the Kiev invasion. Some photos still exist today of mass burials and pictures of dead bodies, from Bolshevik executions after taking control of Kiev.<sup>29</sup>

The Ukrainian Civil War would swing in another direction when Imperial German troops took over Kiev at the request of the Ukrainian Nationalist and the Central Rada.<sup>30</sup> Prior to this request, the Ukrainians and the Central Rada set their own peace terms with Germans and the Central powers.<sup>31</sup> During the negotiations the Germans enthusiastically recognized Ukraine as an independent state. The biggest stipulation asked for in return for this acknowledgement was to send as much food as possible to Germany, which was still under the British blockade.<sup>32</sup> Field Marshall von Einhorn would invade Western Ukraine once the treaty had been signed.<sup>33</sup> Kiev now

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<sup>25</sup> The Guardian, 1.

<sup>26</sup> Brian Bonner, "Putin's Inheritance from Stalin: Fear of Ukraine", Kyiv Post, 2017, accessed March 30, 2018, <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/putins-inheritance-stalin-fear-ukraine.html>.

<sup>27</sup> Bonner, "Putin's Inheritance from Stalin: Fear of Ukraine", 1.

<sup>28</sup> Bonner, "Putin's Inheritance from Stalin: Fear of Ukraine", 1.

<sup>29</sup> Burial of Maximalist Officers in Kiev, Ukraine, 1918. Photograph: UIG Via Getty Images, image, 1918, accessed March 30, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/16/bolsheviks-capture-kiev-archive-1918>.

<sup>30</sup> Xenia Joukoff Eudin, "The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918", Russian Review 1, no. 1 (1941): 90-105.

<sup>31</sup> Eudin, "The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918", 91.

<sup>32</sup> Eudin, "The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918", 91.

<sup>33</sup> Eudin, "The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918", 92.

fell under the control of Germany.<sup>34</sup> In the East the Bolshevik Ukrainian counter government led by its own Rada of Ukrainian Soviets would comment on this treaty by saying:

Guarded by German bayonets, the Central Rada does not hesitate to assume openly a policy of hostility to the people and to take measures against the workers and peasants, conditions worse than those of Nicholas time are reestablished. Not only is freedom of the people being taken away life is being destroyed because of the Rada, which sold itself to Germany.<sup>35</sup>

The intended goal of the Ukrainian Soviet was to mobilize the rural peasantry to oppose “with all your might the illegal, spurious government known as the Central Rada.”<sup>36</sup> The Central Rada was now caught in a difficult quandary trying to justify the purpose of the Germans and Austro- Hungarians occupying their country. Germany understood that partnering with the Central Rada would allow Germany to obtain food. Discontent now swept throughout Ukraine; Soviet propaganda had done its job. Workers in cities would join with peasants to show their disdain for the German occupation.<sup>37</sup> To rid Ukraine of the German menace, a plan was hatched by the Ukrainian Bolsheviks to murder some of the German brass, including Field Marshall von Eichhorn.<sup>38</sup> On August 3rd, 1918, Field Marshall von Eichhorn was reported by numerous newspapers to have been murdered by “Northern Russian” Bolshevik sympathizers.<sup>39</sup> This same tactic that was used so effectively against ridding Russia of Bolshevik enemies, including the Czar himself, would once again show its effectiveness in von Eichhorn’s demise.<sup>40</sup> Once again, the Bolsheviks used viciousness to rid themselves of their enemies.

The German occupation of Ukraine came to a quick end with the signing of the Western

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<sup>34</sup> Eudin, "The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918",92.

<sup>35</sup> Eudin, "The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918",94.

<sup>36</sup> Eudin, "The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918",91.

<sup>37</sup> Eudin, "The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918",91.

<sup>38</sup> Eudin, "The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918",104.

<sup>39</sup> Prahra Telegraph, "Eichhorn Death", 1918.

<sup>40</sup> Eudin, The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918,104.

Powers Armistice with Germany in 1918.<sup>41</sup> Germany left the Ukraine and the Central Rada to fend for themselves. The Central Rada retook control of Kiev once more, and the final chapter of this civil war began on April 25, 1920.<sup>42</sup> On this date the government of France, under the leadership of French president Georges Clemenceau, supported Poland in an unprovoked invasion of the so-called Soviet territories.<sup>43</sup> Territories known as “Western White Russia” were now under attack by Polish troops who had a large disdain and hate for all things Bolshevik.<sup>44</sup> Poland, like France, saw the Bolshevik expansion as a menace to Eastern and Central Europe. Poland created a policy to allow the annexation of Ukrainian territories to quell their fears of Bolshevik expansion.<sup>45</sup> Its purpose was twofold: first it would allow conquered buffer states to lay in between Poland and the aggressive Bolshevik Soviet States.<sup>46</sup> Secondly, it would allow Poland to double its size and its population and gain needed natural resources.<sup>47</sup> Most of these territories only contained about eight percent of people with Polish heritage.<sup>48</sup> Polish forces marched their troops as far as Kiev.<sup>49</sup> In Petrograd the Russians absurdly celebrated these Polish victories as a move toward securing and eliminating Russia’s biggest headache, the Central Ukrainian Rada.<sup>50</sup> At the beginning of May, Russia asked the Poles to come to the bargaining table. Russia saw this peace treaty as temporary fix, similar to the Brest-Litovsk Treaty with the Germans. Some historians believe Russia saw this as a short-term takeover of its sovereign lands. Back in Poland, the call for peace by Soviet Russia would be received with enthusiasm and with some skepticism. Treaty of Riga was signed in Riga

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<sup>41</sup> Eudin, *The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918*, 104.

<sup>42</sup> Eudin, *The German Occupation of The Ukraine in 1918*, 104.

<sup>43</sup> H.N. Brailford, "The Russo-Polish War.", *New Republic* 22, no. 284 (1920): 343-346.

<sup>44</sup> Mueller, "Poland's 1920 Soviet Invasion Planted Seeds of Hitler-Stalin Pact", *New York Times*, 1990, 1.

<sup>45</sup> Brailford, "The Russo-Polish War.", *New Republic* 22, 345.

<sup>46</sup> Brailford, "The Russo-Polish War.", *New Republic* 22, 345.

<sup>47</sup> Russo-Polish War, 1919-1920; *War Peace World*", *New Republic* 24, no. 300 (1920): 4-5.

<sup>48</sup> Russo-Polish War, 1919-1920, 5.

<sup>49</sup> Mueller, "Poland's 1920 Soviet Invasion Planted Seeds of Hitler-Stalin Pact", 1.

<sup>50</sup> Mueller, "Poland's 1920 Soviet Invasion Planted Seeds of Hitler-Stalin Pact", 1.

on March 18, 1921 between Poland, Soviet Russia, Soviet Belarus and most importantly, Soviet Ukraine. The Central Rada was not invited to these negotiations. Ukraine was divided up amongst Poland and Soviet Ukraine.<sup>51</sup> The Western part of Ukraine was now under Polish control; the Central Rada and the independent state of Ukraine no longer existed.

While the Ukrainian war of independence concluded in 1921, another war would occur during this same period and was aimed against all the Ukrainian people.<sup>52</sup> Unlike the well-known and well-documented Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, where an estimated 6 million Ukrainians, mostly children, died as a direct result of the policies of Stalin and the communist party of 1932-33.<sup>53</sup> This first famine would be less well known, but it would claim millions of victims as well. In fact, an estimated 2 million would die.<sup>54</sup> In these last few pages, evidence will be shown that the Bolsheviks committed mass murder on a scale that should never have been seen again, but was visited, sadly, on the same people a mere ten years later.

According to Anne Applebaum, this era would help shape the understandings of future Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin.<sup>55</sup> He would not forget this period; in fact, he would repeat it ten years later by killing 6-10 million more Ukrainians.<sup>56</sup> Previously, in this chapter, Stalin was tasked by the Bolshevik leadership to utilize Propaganda and the media in the attempt to quash the independence movement before it gained momentum in Western Ukraine.<sup>57</sup> Later he sent the Cheka to Ukraine to steal grain and crush nationalism with violence and murder.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Mueller, "Poland's 1920 Soviet Invasion Planted Seeds of Hitler-Stalin Pact", 1.

<sup>52</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 280.

<sup>53</sup> Roman Serbyn, "The First Man-Made Famine in Soviet Ukraine 1921-1923", *The Ukrainian Weekly* LVI, no. 45 (1988), 1.

<sup>54</sup> Serbyn, "The First Man-Made Famine in Soviet Ukraine 1921-1923", 1.

<sup>55</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 23.

<sup>56</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 280.

<sup>57</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 23.

<sup>58</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

Now with the eastern part of Ukraine under the thumb of Lenin and his Bolsheviks, it was now time to introduce a new plan and strategy that would not only indoctrinate Ukrainian peasants but bring them into the sphere and control of Russia itself. In order to control Ukraine, the Bolsheviks first tried traditional methods, including propaganda and violence that were incorporated from the Czar and his forces prior to the October Revolution, and taking control of newspapers, schools, and theaters.<sup>59</sup> Next, they would close down churches and arrest thousands of teachers. They ordered English literature books out of schools and libraries.<sup>60</sup> Newspapers were given lists of Ukrainian words that were forbidden and new Russian words that were now to be used.<sup>61</sup> Fake show trials would now begin throughout the country to make an example out of teachers and intellectuals.<sup>62</sup> During this societal purge, a new scheme and strategy was being shaped by the Bolshevik fathers of 1918. It was called “War Communism.” Simply put, it was intended to control all factories, mines, workshops and railways.<sup>63</sup> Workers could now be forced to work in government-controlled factories.<sup>64</sup> Grain could be taken from peasants by force if needed. Government would now control all private banks, with no exceptions.<sup>65</sup> Private trade would now be against the law. Lastly, food was to be rationed by the Bolshevik government as needed.<sup>66</sup> A more sophisticated definition comes from Dr. Applebaum who states that “War Communism” is the militarization of all economic relationships.<sup>67</sup> Both definitions really shed light on its alleged meanings; in actuality its real meaning meant dooming millions of Ukrainian and other Soviet

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<sup>59</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>60</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>61</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>62</sup> Adam Hochschild, "Stalinist Crimes in Ukraine That Resonate Today", *The New York Times*, 2017, accessed April 2, 2018, <https://cn.nytimes.com/culture/20171020/red-famine-stalin-ukraine-anne-applebaum/en-us/>.

<sup>63</sup> "BBC - Standard Grade Bitesize History - War Communism: Revision", *BBC.co.uk*, last modified 2018, accessed April 2, 2018, [http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/standard/history/russia\\_1914\\_1941/war\\_communism/revision/1](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/standard/history/russia_1914_1941/war_communism/revision/1)

<sup>64</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>65</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>66</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>67</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 29.

citizens to premeditated starvation and ultimate control.

Ukraine has always been a source of food to the Soviet Union. The country would be notably known for its dual growing seasons and its extremely fertile soil, known as “black soil,” which was considered some of the best soil in all of Europe.<sup>68</sup> Based on these two reasons alone, the new government created a shock wave of fear throughout the leadership of both the Provisional Government led by Alexander Kerensky and now the Bolsheviks, who needed Ukraine to feed its masses. Losing their most effective producer would be a mistake.

By late 1918, “War Communism” was now taking a toll on the peasantry and creating food shortages throughout Ukraine, so black markets sprang up to.<sup>69</sup> As word got out to the Soviet leadership about these so-called food shortages, they would immediately place blame on the Ukrainian grain growers, speculators and the food marketers instead of looking inward at their new strategy and policies.<sup>70</sup> With winter looming in the Soviet Union, and grain surpluses becoming smaller and smaller, Lenin and his congress of Soviets believed a nationalistic conspiracy was afoot to deprive Russia of desperately needed grain.<sup>71</sup> He sent his Cheka Secret Police along with Stalin to deal with Ukrainian shortages.<sup>72</sup> As soon as they reached Ukraine soil, Stalin created a “revolutionary military council” and a division of Cheka to purify Ukraine of “Tsaritsyn of counter revolutionaries, denouncing local generals as bourgeois specialist and lifeless pen pushers completely ill-suited to fight a Civil War.”<sup>73</sup> Stalin unleashed his Cheka police upon the Ukrainian masses. His Red Army would rob “local merchants of their grain” and make up fake criminal

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<sup>68</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 29.

<sup>69</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 29.

<sup>70</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 31.

<sup>71</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 31.

<sup>72</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 31.

<sup>73</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.



charges to sweep them away.<sup>74</sup> Stalin would also order the mass arrest of anyone speaking Ukrainian. “Red Terror” had been unleashed on the Ukrainian people and there was nothing they could do about it.<sup>75</sup> These actions would make a bad situation even worse for the now-starving Ukrainians. In 1919, the Collective would be introduced to Ukrainian farmers. Much of the land used for these co-ops had been stolen from Kulak farmers already eradicated by the Cheka.<sup>76</sup> A Kulak was negative connotation created to demonize a medium-to-small Soviet or Ukrainian landowner.<sup>77</sup> Bolsheviks created labels for the peasantry in Ukraine and other parts of the Soviet Russia to create an unending parade of enemies.<sup>78</sup> According to Applebaum, this labeling allowed the “rigid Marxist” to create categories for good and bad peasants.<sup>79</sup> The worst category was the rich Kulak, who would later be blamed for the grain shortages in both 1918 and 1919.<sup>80</sup> Lenin authorized his Bolshevik agents to rid the country-side of Kulaks. Lenin sent a letter to the regional Communist leadership ordering the hanging of Kulaks:

11-8-18, Comrades!

The revolt by the five Kulak volosts, traditional administrative subdivision in Eastern Europe must be suppressed without mercy. The interest of the entire revolution demands this because we have now before us our final decisive battle “with the Kulaks” We need to set the example.

- 1) You need to hang (hang without fail, so the public sees at least 100 notorious Kulaks, the rich and the bloodsuckers).
- 2) Publish their names.
- 3) Take away all of their grain.
- 4) Execute the hostages- in accordance with yesterday’s telegram.
- 5) This needs to be accomplished in such a way that the people for hundreds of miles around will see, tremble, know and scream out: let’s choke and strangle those

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<sup>74</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>75</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>76</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>77</sup> Sheila Fitzpatrick, “Red Famine by Anne Applebaum Review – Did Stalin Deliberately Let Ukraine Starve?”, *The Guardian*, last modified 2017, accessed April 2, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/aug/25/red-famine-stalins-war-on-ukraine-anne-applebaum-review>.

<sup>78</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>79</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

<sup>80</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 32.

blood-sucking Kulaks.

Telegraph us acknowledging receipt and execution of this.

Yours Lenin

P.S. Use the toughest people for this.<sup>81</sup>

The Bolsheviks used class warfare as a means to pressure those individuals believed to be holding out on turning over grain surpluses to the Cheka or private grain collectors.<sup>82</sup> For the most part this class warfare schema did not accomplish much. Another method utilized by the Bolsheviks was to employ “private warlords” to send out their own armies to collect grain from Ukrainian cities and criminal organizations that specialized in hiding grain.<sup>83</sup> By the 1919 and 1920 between “War Communism” and Ukrainian Civil War and Cheka retributions, grain production would decline even more. It was reported that some 8.5 million pounds (or 139,000 metric tons) of grain was collected.<sup>84</sup> This was just a quarter of the grain that had been demanded by the Bolshevik leadership.<sup>85</sup> By the beginning of 1921, the Bolsheviks were in full control of what was left of Ukraine after the Civil War and the Russo- Polish War.<sup>86</sup> Starvation had spread through the whole country. Extraordinarily enough, it would have taken just half a million tons of grain to save the starving population of Ukraine.<sup>87</sup> Due to Bolshevik control, greed and revenge, most of the grain that should have fed the starving Ukrainian was shipped to either Russia or pilfered to make profits for the Russian Bolsheviks overseas.<sup>88</sup> Most of the confiscated grain was sent to other European nations who were

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<sup>81</sup> Vladimir Lenin, "Letter from Lenin, August 1918, To Regional Communist Leadership Ordering the Hanging of Kulaks", letter (Washington D.C., 2018), "Revelations from the Russian Archives exhibit, Library of Congress European Division.

<sup>82</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 37.

<sup>83</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 37.

<sup>84</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 37.

<sup>85</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 37.

<sup>86</sup> Applebaum, *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*, 37.

<sup>87</sup> Serbyn, "The First Man-Made Famine in Soviet Ukraine 1921-1923", 1.

<sup>88</sup> Serbyn, "The First Man-Made Famine in Soviet Ukraine 1921-1923", 1.

presently receiving help from the United States.<sup>89</sup>In Ukraine, cities would report hundreds of thousands of adults and children dying every day.<sup>90</sup>In the city of Katerynoslav, over 530,000 people were without food, 200,000 of them children.<sup>91</sup> In the end, an estimated 1.5 to 2 million Ukrainians would lose their life to manmade Bolshevik famine.<sup>92</sup>



**Figure 4: Nina Marchenko, The Last Road, 1932-1933.**

<sup>89</sup> Serbyn, "The First Man-Made Famine in Soviet Ukraine 1921-1923", 1.

<sup>90</sup> Serbyn, "The First Man-Made Famine in Soviet Ukraine 1921-1923", 1.

<sup>91</sup> Serbyn, "The First Man-Made Famine in Soviet Ukraine 1921-1923", 1.

<sup>92</sup> Serbyn, "The First Man-Made Famine in Soviet Ukraine 1921-1923", 1.



**Figure 5: Nina Marchenko, Holodomor famine-genocide, 1932-1933.**

## Conclusion

Throughout, this paper I have presented empirical evidence that the fathers of Bolshevism had a plan from their earliest beginnings to try and change the world's social structure and economic structure to push a Marxist agenda. The tool they used was called Bolshevism. The reasoning behind the theory of Bolshevism was simple: by using propaganda, violence and lies, Marxism may be accepted by a country, people, or minority of people that are currently struggling to survive. Once it takes hold inside a nation or group or people it will unleash violence and lies for its own self-preservation. From its onset in the early nineteenth century until today, Bolshevism, Communism, or Marxism has brought economic ruin and death to countless countries. Nations like Russia, Ukraine, Romania, East Germany, and numerous others from Europe to Asia to present-day Venezuela.<sup>1</sup>

In Venezuela, it has been reported that the average adult has lost on average 24 lbs. in body weight last year and almost 90 percent now live in poverty, according to a new university study.<sup>2</sup> Venezuela at one time led South America in oil production and wealth in South America; it now struggles to survive due to corruption, bad policies and now low oil prices on the world market.<sup>3</sup> Its move to a one-party system and opposition to all other parties, especially anything they believed to be capitalist. Today every aspect used in Venezuelan politics copies the language used by communists of years past, including terms like "collectives to commune."<sup>4</sup> It is

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<sup>1</sup> Will Englund, "Red Century", Washington Post, 2017, accessed April 3, 2018, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/world/100-years-of-communism/?utm\\_term=.ff4d5e7d7432](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/world/100-years-of-communism/?utm_term=.ff4d5e7d7432).

<sup>2</sup> "Venezuelans Are Starving Amid Economic Crisis, Food Shortages", New York Post, Nypost.Com, last modified 2018, accessed April 2, 2018, <https://nypost.com/2018/02/22/venezuelans-are-starving-amid-economic-crisis-food-shortages/>.

<sup>3</sup> Kenneth Raposza, "It's 2017, But Venezuela Looks Set to Be Choosing Communism", Forbes.Com, last modified 2017, accessed April 3, 2018, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2017/05/03/its-2017-but-venezuela-looks-set-to-be-choosing-communism/#7d89ea385cd5>.

<sup>4</sup> Raposza, "It's 2017, But Venezuela Looks Set to Be Choosing Communism", 1.

believed that, due to by current undertakings by the Venezuelan president to change the constitution to a one-party system, it is just a matter of time before he declares himself the leader of a communist Venezuela. Today over 70 percent of church-goers people in Venezuela consider themselves Catholics. Like Europe of 1917, the Communist and the Catholic Church do not get along. In the past Hugo Chavez and his subordinate, Maduro, who now leads Venezuela locked horns repeatedly with the Catholic Church, challenging their doctrine.<sup>5</sup> “Venezuelan Archbishop Diego Padron drew connections between the country's economic collapse and the political system” of today.<sup>6</sup> This led to a divided relationship and a backlash from Maduro communist supporters, accusing church leaders of “being in bed with the elite and wealthy.”<sup>7</sup> Recent incidents have been become angrier and violent. The capital Caracas's main cathedral was stoned in the middle of the night by masked assailants with rifles who also raided and threatened an assembly of monks at a monastery in the city of Merida.<sup>8</sup> A few months previously, anti-church criminals assaulted and stripped some students at a Catholic school.<sup>9</sup> As the church grows more outspoken against this communist regime, the trend of violence is now becoming epidemic against the Church. Once again, Bolshevik echoes of the past are being heard in the Venezuela of today. As of August 2017, the United Nations reported that over 5,000 people have been detained in Venezuela since April of that year.<sup>10</sup> “Credible reports of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment by security forces. The country’s economy is in freefall, while shortages of

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<sup>5</sup> Raposza, "It's 2017, But Venezuela Looks Set to Be Choosing Communism", 1.

<sup>6</sup> Amanda Erickson, "Analysis | The Vatican Calls on Venezuela To Suspend Its Constituent Assembly", Washington Post, last modified 2018, accessed April 3, 2018, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/08/04/the-vatican-calls-on- venezuela-to-suspend-its-constituent-assembly/?utm\\_term=.6cbc39374f9d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/08/04/the-vatican-calls-on- venezuela-to-suspend-its-constituent-assembly/?utm_term=.6cbc39374f9d).

<sup>7</sup> Erickson, "Analysis | The Vatican Calls on Venezuela To Suspend Its Constituent Assembly", 1.

<sup>8</sup> Erickson, "Analysis | The Vatican Calls on Venezuela To Suspend Its Constituent Assembly", 1.

<sup>9</sup> Erickson, "Analysis | The Vatican Calls on Venezuela To Suspend Its Constituent Assembly",

<sup>10</sup> Don Phillips, "'Totally Divided': How Venezuela's Crisis Split the Latin American Left", The Guardian, 2018, accessed April 3, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/10/venezuela-crisis-left-divided-maduro-hugo-chavez>.

food and medicine have triggered a humanitarian crisis.”<sup>11</sup> Venezuela is just one example of many where Bolshevism or Communism is rearing its ugly head once again in today’s world.

A second example that sheds light on the current undertakings of a today’s Russia and its rise since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, is the continued issue of Russian aggression. In the last two decades the former Soviet Union has invaded its former republics, including Ukraine. Large portions of their lands been annexed by the new Russian Empire. In 2008, Russian president Vladimir Putin ordered his troops into two separate Georgian territories and takeover Abkhazia and South Ossetia.<sup>12</sup> This unprovoked attack showed the world that Russia was on the rebound once again. In today’s world the resemblance to 1917 is unsettling. If you add up all the former and current territories that have recently been attacked or taken over, it should provoke some fear of years past. From 2008 to 2018, Russia has invaded or annexed parts of Georgia, Ukraine, Crimea, and now positioned itself in Syria.<sup>13</sup> Another comparison that should make some feel very uncomfortable in today’s world is Russia new usage of propaganda. In the past, Lenin sent his Bolshevik agents, Wobblies, or IWW activists to stir up trouble in another country; now Russian agents sit at their offices, military bases or even at home, hacking into Facebook and other applications to influence politics and culture around the world<sup>14</sup>. In America’s 2016 election, alleged Russian interference has gotten the world’s attention once more.<sup>15</sup> Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russian interference and election meddling

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<sup>11</sup> Phillips, "Totally Divided': How Venezuela's Crisis Split the Latin American Left", 1.

<sup>12</sup> Walker, Harriet Salem and Ewen Macaskill, "Russian Invasion' Of Crimea Fuels Fear of Ukraine Conflict", 1.

<sup>13</sup> Walker, Harriet Salem and Ewen Macaskill, "Russian Invasion' Of Crimea Fuels Fear of Ukraine Conflict", 1.

<sup>14</sup> Read, *The World on Fire*, 93-96.

<sup>15</sup> Zy Kovacs, "Lenin’s Bolshevism vs Putin’s Russia", @Business line, last modified 2018, accessed April 11, 2018, <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blink/know/lenins-bolshevism-vs-putins-russia/article22297640.ece>.

has been documented in Ukraine in 1994, and a recently in France and Germany.<sup>16</sup> Other countries who have had Russian interference in their elections as 2016 are the Czech Republic and Great Britain during its Brexit elections.<sup>17</sup> The last reference and comparison that should bring some people to think about the resemblance of years past, is Russia's recent move to have only a select few who hold power amongst the people. In every election, Putin like Lenin, Stalin and other Communists of years past, gains more power and more control. Unlike his predecessor Boris Yeltsin, Putin has control over his oligarchs, and every election he grows stronger.<sup>18</sup>

A recent poll in Russia and some of its former republics asked, was life better in Soviet Union compared to now? 64 percent of Russians stated it was better under Soviet Control. In Armenia, over 71 percent said it was better.<sup>19</sup> "Today, while America takes down Confederate statues to rid themselves of the past, Russia is erecting new statues of Joseph Stalin."<sup>20</sup> An article by Anna Arutunyan titled "As Confederate Statues Fall in U.S, Russians Are Erecting Statues of Stalin" was published in USA Today earlier this year.<sup>21</sup> This article goes to the heart of the current opinions of the Russian people, who believe Stalin was justified in his horrific actions and is still a Russian hero. Can you imagine if Germany erected a statue of Adolf Hitler? Putin is no Stalin, but his actions of late should create fear in all who want a peaceful world. In this paper, my goal was to show the many evils of Bolshevism, on society, the organized church and the people of Russia and Europe. I believe that the evidence, archives and proof that have

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<sup>16</sup> Kovacs, "Lenin's Bolshevism vs Putin's Russia",1.

<sup>17</sup> Kovacs, "Lenin's Bolshevism vs Putin's Russia",1.

<sup>18</sup> Kovacs, "Lenin's Bolshevism vs Putin's Russia",1.

<sup>19</sup> Anna Artunyan, "As Confederate Statues Fall In U.S, Russians Are Erecting Statues for Dictator Stalin", USA Today, 2017, accessed April 11, 2018, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/new/world/2017/08/16/sovietunion-terror-josef-stalin-popularity/556625001>.

<sup>20</sup> Artunyan, "As Confederate Statues Fall In U.S, Russians Are Erecting Statues for Dictator Stalin",1.

<sup>21</sup> Artunyan, "As Confederate Statues Fall In U.S, Russians Are Erecting Statues for Dictator Stalin",1.



been set down here show that Bolshevism became a true threat to Europe's social, religious and political future after World War I.

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