



Summary

The events of 1917 in Russia led to the creation of the first Communist superpower in the world. However, the revolution took time to take hold. In 1917, two revolutions, in February and October, both changed the leadership of Russia dramatically. Once established, Lenin set about securing his Communist society, but unfortunately this was cut short with his death in 1924. In the power vacuum that Lenin's death left, Joseph Stalin rose to power. His rise would bring about a new direction for Russia, that would develop rapidly, but also be at the mercy of Stalin's iron reign until 1953. Throughout all of this, Russia's society, industry, and culture change dramatically also.

Key events:

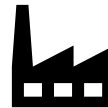
February Revolution – The overthrow of Tsar Nicholas II by the Provisional Government.

October Revolution – The overthrow of the Provisional Government by the Bolsheviks, led by Lenin.

Death of Lenin – 1924, Lenin dies after a long struggle against the aftereffects of a stroke.

The first 5 Year Plan – launched in 1928, this policy aimed to quickly modernize all aspects of Russia.

Death of Stalin – 1953, after 29 years of ruling Russia, Stalin died.



Key Vocabulary

Revolution – a short period of time in which a dramatic change occurs.

Tsar – Russian 'king'.

Abdication – When a monarch

Mutiny – a rebellion by soldiers or sailors

Bolsheviks – a Communist group who believed that Russia was ready for revolution in 1917

Rebellion – an act of armed resistance to an established government or leader

Emancipate – to set free, especially from legal, social, or political restrictions

Legislation – a law

Industrialisation - the development of industries (factories and mass production of manufactured goods) in a country or region

Collectivisation – the abolition of private ownership; farmland was taken from private owners and given to the Communist state in Russia.

Challenge
 Do you think the revolution was inevitable?

