

CAUSE AND EFFECT OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Readings on the webpage at <http://www.cccsd.org/webpages/smccannon/>

CAUSE ONE: NICHOLAS II, CZAR OF RUSSIA

19TH CENTURY RUSSIA In the 19th century, Russia was a vast, multinational empire controlled by the **Romanov Dynasty**. A dynasty is when control of a country is passed from family member to family member. For centuries, Russia was relatively isolated from the affairs of Western Europe due to their cold climates and long distances. They were a strongly agricultural country who still relied on the principals of serfdom to plant crops. This policy of tying the peasants to the land had long since been abolished in the rest of Europe and prevented Russia from advancing. Serfdom was finally abolished in 1861.



NICHOLAS II TAKE CONTROL 1894 Nicholas II had ruled Russia as Czar since the death of his father in 1894. Like his father, Nicholas wanted an **autocratic rule** in which he alone made all the laws and determined all foreign policy. When he took control, Russia was very far behind the industrial production of the Western European countries such as Britain and Germany. Nicholas increased industrial production in Russia but at the same time created a larger class of urban poor. Most people in Russia, however, still lived on farms.

BLOODY SUNDAY JANUARY 9, 1905 The urban poor worked in factories for long hours, horrible conditions and little pay. In 1905, they asked the Czar for help by presenting a petition to the Winter palace. The Czar was not at home and his generals ordered the troops to open fire on the people. Over 500 unarmed people were killed in an incident that became known as Bloody Sunday. The Czar was forced to give up some of his power to a legislative branch called the **Dumas**.

DOCUMENT A: Petition Prepared for Presentation to Nicholas II on "Bloody Sunday" (January 9, 1905)

Sovereign!

We, workers and inhabitants of the city of St. Petersburg ... our wives, children, and helpless old parents, have come to you, Sovereign, to seek justice and protection. We are impoverished and oppressed, we are burdened with work, and insulted. ...And we have suffered, but we only get pushed deeper and deeper into a gulf of misery, ignorance, and lack of rights ...And so we left our work and declared to our employers that we will not return to work until they meet our demands. We do not ask much; we only want that without which life is hard labor and eternal suffering....to reduce the working day to eight hours ... to increase the wages of unskilled workers and women to one ruble per day; to abolish overtime work; to provide medical care attentively and without insult; to build shops so that it is possible to work there and not face death from the awful drafts, rain and snow.

NICHOLAS ABOLISHES THE DUMA 1906 The Dumas supported a constitutional monarchy that would leave Nicholas as Czar, but it wanted to put the real power of Russia in the hands of the democratically elected Dumas. Nicholas opposed losing any of his power. As soon as he could, he dissolved the Dumas and made many people in Russia very angry.

DOCUMENT C: The Russian Fundamental Law of 23 April 1906

- The Sovereign Emperor approves laws; and without his approval no legislative measure can become law.
- The sovereign emperor takes charge of all the external relations of the Russian State. He determines the direction of Russia's foreign policy
- The Sovereign Emperor alone declares war, concludes peace, and negotiates treaties with foreign states.
- The sovereign emperor is the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian army and navy.
- The sovereign emperor appoints and dismisses the Chairman the Council of Ministers and individual Ministers....
- The Sovereign Emperor has the right to coin money and to determine its physical appearance.

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CAUSE NUMBER TWO: WORLD WAR ONE COMPLICATES THINGS

WORLD WAR ONE BEGINS 1914 At the turn of the twentieth century, Europe was in an increasingly complex situation. Countries like Austria and Germany seemed to want to grow bigger and bigger and other countries like France and Britain built up their armies to be able to defend themselves. Russia chose to ally themselves with the French and British and at the same time they formed an alliance with another Slavic nation, the small newly independent nation of Serbia.

In July 1914, a Serbian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip shot and killed the archduke to the Austrian throne setting off a series of events that started World War One. Faced with a very angry and demanding Austria, Serbia looked to Russia for help. Nicholas agreed to back Serbia in a war against the Austrians...and World War One began.



DOCUMENT D: Serbian telegram to Russian Czar July 1914

We have been given too short a limit..We can be attacked after the expiration of the time-limit by the Austro-Hungarian Army which is concentrating on our frontier...It is impossible for us to defend ourselves, and we supplicate your Majesty to give us your aid as soon as possible.

CZAR NICHOLAS TAKES COMMAND OF ARMY 1915 Russian troops were not as strong as the Western European industrial nations of Germany and Austria. The war went badly with many Russian casualties. At home, citizens were becoming more and more upset and angry over the deaths of their sons and fathers. Over fifteen million men were drafted into the Russian army from farms and factories. Food and other supplies were in desperate need for the people. Nicholas finally decided to go to the Eastern Front and lead his own troops.

DOCUMENT E: Russian Czar Nicholas II to his commander in chief of the army. 5 September 1915

My duty to my country, which has been entrusted to me by God, impels me to-day, when the enemy has penetrated into the interior of the Empire, to take the supreme command of the active forces and to share with my army the fatigues of war, and to safeguard with it Russian soil from the attempts of the enemy.

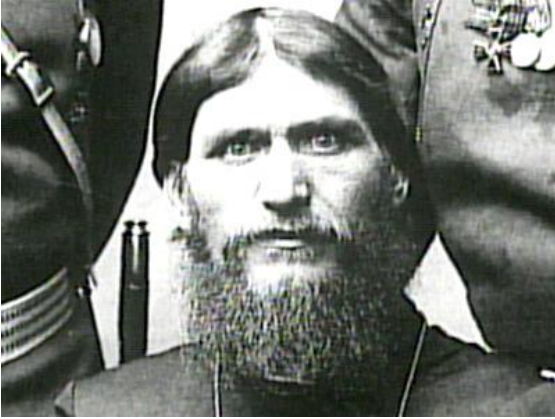
DOCUMENT F: Death toll, WORLD WAR ONE

	Mobilized	Dead	Wounded	Missing/PoW
Russia	12,000,000	1,700,000	4,950,000	2,500,000
Germany	11,000,000	1,773,700	4,216,058	1,152,800
Great Britain	8,904,467	908,371	2,090,212	191,652
France	8,410,000	1,375,800	4,266,000	537,000
Austria-Hungary	7,800,000	1,200,000	3,620,000	2,200,000
Italy	5,615,000	650,000	947,000	600,000
US	4,355,000	126,000	234,300	4,526
Turkey	2,850,000	325,000	400,000	250,000
Bulgaria	1,200,000	87,500	152,390	27,029
Japan	800,000	300	907	3
Rumania	750,000	335,706	120,000	80,000
Serbia	707,343	45,000	133,148	152,958
Belgium	267,000	13,716	44,686	34,659
Greece	230,000	5,000	21,000	1,000
Portugal	100,000	7,222	13,751	12,318

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CAUSE NUMBER THREE: RASPUTIN THE CRAZY GUY



RASPUTIN AND THE CZARINA 1916: The decision by the Czar to leave St. Petersburg to coordinate battle plans in World War I proved to be a fatal one. It caused him two major problems. First, his presence at the front made it even easier to blame him. Second, he left the control of his government in the hands of his wife, the Czarina Alexandra who proved to be ill-prepared to lead the country under the influence of Gregory Rasputin. The Czarina was convinced that only Rasputin could save the life of her young son, Alexi. Like many other members of the Czarina's family, Alexi suffered from a life threatening genetic disease. False rumors soon spread that Rasputin was the Czarina's lover. Led by a cousin of Nicholas' young nobles became increasingly concerned about Rasputin's influence over the Czarina and murdered him. The damage to

the reputation of the royal family, however, remained.

Document G: Alexander Kerensky, *Russia and History's Turning Point* (1965)

The Tsarina's blind faith in Rasputin led her to seek his counsel not only in personal matters but also on questions of state policy. General Alekseyev, held in high esteem by Nicholas II, tried to talk to the Tsarina about Rasputin, but only succeeded in making an implacable enemy of her. General Alexseyev told me later about his profound concern on learning that a secret map of military operations had found its way into the Tsarina's hands. But like many others, he was powerless to take any action

Document H: Assassination of Rasputin, 29 December 1916

A small table was spread with cakes and rare wines - three kinds of the wine were poisoned and so were the cakes. We were seized with an insane dread that this man was inviolable, that he was superhuman, that he couldn't be killed. It was a frightful sensation. He glared at us with his black, black eyes as though he read our minds and would fool us.

And then after a time he rose and walked to the door. We were afraid that our work had been in vain. Suddenly, as he turned at the door, some one shot at him quickly. With a frightful scream Rasputin whirled and fell, face down, on the floor. The others came bounding over to him and stood over his prostrate, writhing body.

It was suggested that two more shots be fired to make certain of his death, but one of those present said, "No, no; it is his last agony now." Suddenly we heard a strange and unearthly sound behind the huge door that led into the library. The door was slowly pushed open, and there was Rasputin on his hands and knees, the bloody froth gushing from his mouth, his terrible eyes bulging from their sockets. With an amazing strength he sprang toward the door that led into the gardens, wrenched it open and passed out.

As he seemed to be disappearing in the darkness, F. Purishkevich, who had been standing by, reached over and picked up an American-made automatic revolver and fired two shots swiftly into his retreating figure. We heard him fall with a groan, and later when we approached the body he was very still and cold and - dead.

We bundled him up in a sheet and carried him to the river's edge. Ice had formed, but we broke it and threw him in.

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CAUSE NUMBER FOUR: MARCH REVOLUTION OF 1917

REVOLUTION OF MARCH 1917 With Nicholas was away leading the war, the situation in St. Petersburg grew more and more serious. Workers began to strike and soldiers began to desert their posts. Politicians from all over the world advised Nicholas to begin reform movements and bring democratic change to Russia but Nicholas ignored them. He stayed away from St. Petersburg at the front lines. Rioters were breaking into stores to steal food and supplies. Troops refused to keep order and they joined the rioters. Eventually, the Czars' wife and children were held prisoner. Faced with this, the Czar was finally forced to **abdicate** which means give up his power.

Document I Decree of Abdication March 15, 1917

...In agreement with the Imperial Duma, We have thought it well to renounce the Throne of the Russian Empire and to lay down the supreme power. As We do not wish to part from Our beloved son, We transmit the succession to Our brother, the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, and give Him Our blessing to mount the Throne of the Russian Empire.

We direct Our brother to conduct the affairs of state in full and inviolable union with the representatives of the people in the legislative bodies on those principles which will be established by them, and on which He will take an inviolable oath. (SIGNED) NICHOLAS II

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER: SPRING 1917 When Nicholas abdicated, he left his power to his brother, who promptly refused to take it. Leaders of the revolution attempted to set up a **provisional** or temporary government. Their intent was to set up a government based upon the democratic principles of the Western world. The Dumas was reinstated and new leaders were chosen. Despite their good intentions, however, the provisional government was struggling to keep control.

This is the last known picture of Nicholas II, taken while in captivity shortly before his death.



Document J : Resolutions adopted by the First All Russian Congress of Soviets June 1917

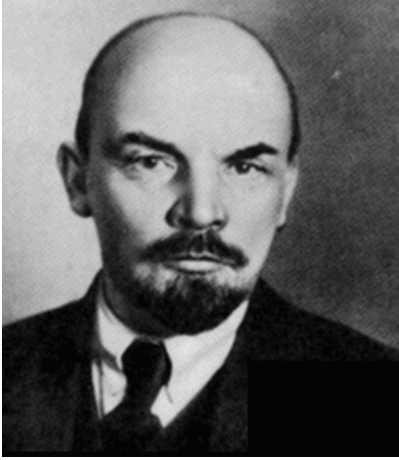
The Congress . . . agrees that:

- *1. ... it would have been a severe blow to the revolution to have handed over power to the bourgeoisie alone; and*
- *2. That it would have greatly weakened and threatened the revolution to have handed over all the power, at this time, (to the workers and soldiers), For these reasons, (all parties) approve the action in forming a coalition government on a definite democratic platform, both in foreign and domestic affair*

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CAUSE NUMBER FIVE: THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION OF 1917



THE BOLSHEVIKS RETURN SPRING 1917 *Bolsheviks* were the communist followers of Karl Marx in Russia. Factory workers who had been treated so badly during the early industrial period were looking for a change. The gap between the rich and the poor in Russia was huge. Communism appealed to the poor who had little to lose. The leader of the communist party in Russia was **Vladimir Lenin**. Due to the threat he represented to the Czar, Lenin had been in exile in Western Europe during the first part of the war. The German government saw Lenin as a means to upset the delicate balance in Russia and helped him to escape back to St. Petersburg. With the provisional government struggling, Lenin saw this as a chance to take control for communism. They promised war torn Russians the three things needed most, **Peace, Land and Bread.**

Document K Lenin's Call to Power Speech October 24 1917

I am writing these lines on the evening of the 24th. The situation is critical in the extreme. In fact it is now absolutely clear that to delay the uprising would be fatal... The government is tottering. It must be given the death-blow at all costs.

THE BOLSHEVIKS TAKE POWER: REVOLUTION OF OCTOBER 1917 In October 1917, Lenin and his followers began a take-over of St. Petersburg. Bolsheviks faced little opposition in taking over government buildings. The provisional government quickly collapsed and its leaders fled the city. The Bolsheviks began taking charge of Russia and immediately began a Civil War between the **Red Bolshevik Army** and the **White Anti-Bolshevik forces**.

DOCUMENT L: BOLSHEVIK DECREE AGAINST THEIR ENEMIES

The Commission is to be named the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission ... is to make war on counter-revolution and sabotage The duties of the Commission will be:

- 1. To persecute and break up all acts of counter-revolution and sabotage all over Russia, no matter what their origin.
- 2. To bring before the Revolutionary Tribunal all counter-revolutionaries and saboteurs and to work out a plan for fighting them.

The Commission will be formed tomorrow..... The Commission is to watch the press, saboteurs, strikers, and the Right Social-Revolutionaries. Measures [to be taken against these counter-revolutionaries are] confiscation, confinement, deprivation of [food] cards, publication of the names of the enemies of the people, etc.

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EFFECT ONE: END OF WORLD WAR ONE FOR RUSSIA

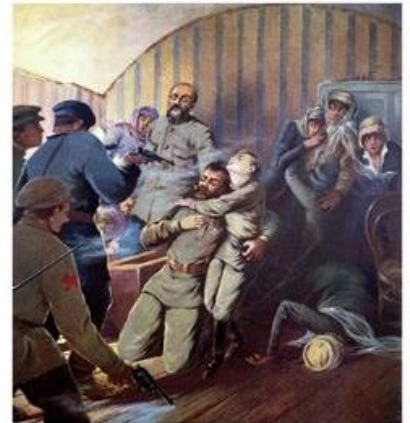
END OF WORLD WAR ONE FOR RUSSIA MARCH 1918. Anxious to end Russian involvement in World War One, Lenin met with their former enemies, Austria, Germany and The Ottoman Turks. In March of 1918, the Russians signed a separate peace agreement called the Treaty of Brest Litovsk with the Germans, Austrians and Ottoman Empires. With little to bargain, Russians lost territory including Poland, Finland and the Ukraine. The World War continued until November 1918 when the Germans, Austrians and Ottomans surrendered. The Russians were to gain much of this lost territory back over the next few years.

DOCUMENT M : Primary Documents: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, 3 March 1918.

Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, for the one part, and Russia, for the other part, declare that the state of war between them has ceased.

They are resolved to live henceforth in peace and amity with one another... The Ukrainian territory will, without delay, be cleared of Russian troops and the Russian Red Guard. Esthonia and Livonia will likewise, without delay, be cleared of Russian troops and the Russian Red Guard... Finland and the Aaland Islands will immediately be cleared of Russian troops and the Russian Red Guard, and the Finnish ports of the Russian fleet and of the Russian naval forces....

DEATH OF NICHOLAS II AND HIS FAMILY JULY 1918 Upon his abdication to the provisional government, the Czar and his family were kept under house arrest. When the Bolsheviks did take power in October 1917, talk of putting Nicholas on trial increased. Fearful that the White Army was advancing to set Nicholas free, the royal family was moved again and finally ended up in the town of Ekaterinburg in 1918. Again, the White Army and possible rescue advanced on the town. Nicholas and his family were awakened in the middle of the night, moved to the basement and shot. Their bodies were burned with acid and thrown down a well. Eight days after the executions, the town of Ekaterinburg was captured by the White Army.



DOCUMENT N: DEATH OF NICHOLAS II AND HIS FAMILY

Yurovsky said to me, 'We must shoot them all tonight; so notify the guards not to be alarmed if they hear shots.' I understood, therefore, that Yurovsky had it in his mind to shoot the whole of the Tsar's family, as well as the doctor and the servants who lived with them, but I did not ask him where or by whom the decision had been made... and upon entering the room where the execution had taken place, I saw that all the members of the Tsar's family were lying on the floor with many wounds in their bodies. The blood was running in streams. The doctor, the maid and two waiters had also been shot. When I entered the heir (Alexi) was still alive and moaned a little. Yurovsky went up and fired two or three more times at him. Then the heir was still."

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EFFECT NUMBR TWO: COMMUNIST TAKE OVER

CREATION OF THE UNITED SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC/ THE USSR 1922 Led by Vladimir Lenin, Russia was expanded to include several smaller territories such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. These countries adopted the name **United Soviet Socialist Republic or USSR** as a sign of their commitment to communist ideas. People also call this the Soviet Union. The word Soviet represented the workers unions in Russia.

END OF THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR 1923. *The Russian Civil War* lasted from 1917 to 1923 between the Red Bolshevik forces and those that opposed them, the White Army. The White Army was aided by nationalists groups such as the Ukrainians and for a time, the US, French and British forces of World War One. Despite this assistance, the Red Army and the Bolsheviks eventually won. The Civil War devastated Russia and over 15 million people died. That number was in addition to the 5 million people who died in World War One. The country was exhausted and near ruin. Roads, factories, farms and railroads were destroyed. Famine and drought in the early 1920's only made this worse.

DEATH OF LENIN There were several assassination attempts against Lenin during the Revolution and during his rule of Russia. The most serious of which was in 1918 when a bullet pierced his jaw and neck. It was decided that it was too dangerous to remove the bullets so they were left in his body. His health declined at this point and he later suffered a series of strokes that eventually left him bedridden and unable to speak. Lenin's death in 1924 brought a new leader to the USSR. Josef Stalin was harsh and cruel and established total control within the communist country. He ruled the USSR for over thirty years.

This 1920 poster reads: "**Comrade Lenin Cleans the World of filth.**" It shows him sweeping away monarchs, priests, and capitalists.



**Тов. Ленин ОЧИЩАЕТ
ЗЕМЛЮ ОТ НЕЧИСТИ.**

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ILLUSTRATED TIMELINE: THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION MONARCHY TO COMMUNISM

<p>CAUSE ONE: 19th Century Russia</p>	<p>CAUSE ONE: Czar Nicholas takes Control 1894</p>	<p>CAUSE ONE : BLOODY SUNDAY JANUARY 1905</p>	<p>CAUSE ONE: NICHOLAS ABOLISHES DUMA 1906</p>
<p>1. <i>What family controlled the Russian Empire in the 19th century?</i></p> <p>2. How did most people make their living in Russia in the 19th century.</p> <p>3. When was serfdom finally abolished in Russia?</p>	<p>4. <i>When did Nicholas become Czar?</i></p> <p>5. <i>What was the industrial capability of Russia compared to the rest of Western Europe?</i></p> <p>6. What was the result of increased industrial production in Russia on the poor?</p>	<p>7. <i>What happened to the people at the Winter Palace when they asked the Czar for help?</i></p> <p>DOCUMENT A: Name two specific complaints the people had in their petition.</p> <p>DOCUMENT B: Did this American cartoonist like or dislike the Czar's rule?</p>	<p>8. <i>What was the Dumas?</i></p> <p>9. Why did Nicholas oppose the Dumas?</p> <p>DOCUMENT C: Name two specific powers that the sovereign (Czar) had according to this document.</p>

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<p>CAUSE TWO: WWI BEGINS July 1914</p>	<p>CAUSE TWO: CZAR NICHOLAS COMMANDS ARMY 1915</p>	<p>CAUSE THREE: RASPUTIN AND THE CZARINA 1916</p>	<p>CAUSE FOUR: REVOLUTIONS OF MARCH 1917</p>
<p>10. With whom did the Russians ally before World War One?</p> <p>11. What incident made the Austrians mad at the Serbians?</p> <p>DOCUMENT D: What reason do the Serbs give for needing Russian help?</p>	<p>12. What were some of the problems facing the Russian people in World War One?</p> <p>DOCUMENT E: What incident convinced Nicholas that the battle situation was serious enough to take command of his troops?</p> <p>DOCUMENT F: How many Russians died in World War One?</p>	<p>13. With whom did Nicholas leave control of the country to when he went to war?</p> <p>14. Why did Rasputin have so much influence over the Czarina?</p> <p>DOCUMENT G Did the Czarina listen to her advisors about Rasputin?</p> <p>DOCUMENT H What did it take to kill Rasputin?</p>	<p>15. What did workers do to show they were unhappy in 1917?</p> <p>16. How did troops react to the violence?</p> <p>17. What does it mean to abdicate the throne?</p> <p>DOCUMENT I: To whom did Nicholas leave his throne?</p>

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<p>CAUSE FOUR: THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER SPRING 1917</p>	<p>CAUSE FIVE: THE BOLSHEVIKS RETURN SPRING 1917</p>	<p>CAUSE FIVE: THE BOLSHEVIKS TAKE POWER REVOLUTION OF OCTOBER</p>	<p>EFFECT ONE: END OF WWI FOR RUSSIA MARCH 1918</p>
<p>18. What kind of government did the provisional/temporary leadership hope to set up?</p> <p>19. How successful was the provisional government?</p> <p>DOCUMENT J: Why didn't provisional leaders give power to the bourgeoisie rich?</p>	<p>20. Who were the Bolsheviks?</p> <p>21. Why did communism appeal to the working class poor?</p> <p>22. What three things did Lenin promise the people?</p> <p>DOCUMENT K: What does Lenin tell the people to do on October 24, 1917?</p>	<p>23. What conflict did Lenin and his followers begin in October 1917?</p> <p>24. Who did the Red Army support?</p> <p>25. Who did the White Army support?</p> <p>DOCUMENT L: With the Bolsheviks in power, what actions did they take to keep it?</p>	<p>26. What did Russians lose in their treaty to end World War One in March 1918?</p> <p>27. How long was it between the time the Russians surrendered to the Germans and the Germans surrendered to our allies?</p> <p>DOCUMENT M What was the purpose of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk?</p>

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<p>EFFECT ONE: DEATH OF NICHOLAS II JULY 1918</p>	<p>EFFECT TWO: CREATION OF THE USSR 1922</p>	<p>EFFECT TWO: END OF RUSSIAN CIVIL WARS 1922</p>	<p>EFFECT TWO: : DEATH OF LENIN</p>
<p>28. Why did the royal family get moved to Ekaterinburg?</p> <p>29. What happened to the royal family?</p> <p>DOCUMENT N: According to the document, who was the last of the royal family to die in the murder?</p>	<p>30. What was the new name of Russia under Lenin?</p> <p>31. What additional countries did the new empire include?</p> <p>32. What are two “nicknames” for the country?</p>	<p>33. Who won the Russian Civil Wars?</p> <p>35. What happened to Russia during the wars?</p>	<p>36.. Why was Lenin bedridden through the last years of his reign?</p> <p>37. Who took control of the USSR in 1924?</p> <p>38. How long did he rule?</p>

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