

Russian Revolution Chinese Revolutions

Goals and Outcomes

Situation in Russia: 1917

- Revolutionary history (1905). Many different revolutionary groups.
 - Socialists, terrorists/anarchists
 - All basically wanted an end to autocratic rule by a Tsar.
- Almost all Russians
 - Very poor, exploited (working fields or in factories).
- WWI
 - Russians were slaughtered

Tsar quits = chaos



- Romanov tsars had clung to absolutism
 - Tsar Nicholas II not able to manage the war (WWI) last straw
 - Lack of food and equipment led to peasant riots and soldier mutiny.
 - Chaos descended ; soviets encouraged street riots
- When the tsar abdicated, the govt was up for grabs

Goals of protestors (peasants and soldiers)

- End to absolute (Tsarist) rule.
- Peace (out of WWI)
- Bread

The Russian Revolution and the Creation of the Union of Soviet Republics (cont)

- Provisional government
 - Kept Russia in WWI
 - Unpopular
- V.I. Lenin
 - Returned from exile
 - Led the Bolsheviks to a second revolution that toppled provisional govt



Lenin and Bolshevik goals

- Peace, Land, and Bread
 - Russia out of WWI
 - Improvements for peasants/workers/soldiers
 - Food, land, better conditions
- Marxism
 - But, Russia had a very limited industrial working class so Lenin preached a centralized version of Communism where a single government entity (the Bolsheviks/Communists) had power and facilitated armed, violent revolutionary change.

Lenin's communists vs. non-communist forces

- 1917 – 1921 = Civil War in Russia
 - Lenin's communist forces vs. non-communists (Whites), heavily funded/supported by Britain, France, U.S., Japan).
- Communists won.
 - Red Army led by Leon Trotsky, regained stability



Outcomes = Short term

- Russia quit World War I
- Single party authoritarianism
 - The Communist Party has power and authority.
 - Run by talented revolutionaries with humble backgrounds.
- Tsar = GONE -Aristocracy = GONE
- New Economic Policy
 - Small, private businesses and peasant landowning rights promoted by Communist Party.
 - Small businesses and peasants could freely buy and sell within open markets.
 - Communist government ran larger industry
 - Economy responded; food and production improved

Outcomes: Most long term

Totalitarian dictatorship: Joseph Stalin

- Lenin died without leaving a clear path to leadership
- Stalin comes to power
 - Becomes a totalitarian dictator.
 - Focused on “socialism in one country”
- Russia remained isolated for most of 1930's



Outcomes: More long term

5 Year Plans

- Economic goals over the course of 5 years.
- Promoted massive increases in industrialization and agricultural production.
- Communist Party (basically Stalin) completely took over at the expense of almost all Russians.
 - Russians forced to work long hours in poor conditions.
 - Peasant lands taken by communist party.
- Any opponents of Stalin murdered or taken to labor camps
 - Great Purge
 - Millions slaughtered



Chinese Revolutions

- Situation in China, 1911
 - Qing Dynasty is near collapse!
 - China decimated by foreign imperialism (spheres of influence and opium), internal corruption, and a failure to modernize.
 - Little industry
 - Weak navy
 - Peasant conditions miserable
 - Failed Taiping and Boxer rebellions
 - Crop failures =starvation
 - Self-Strengthening Movement (effort to modernize) resisted by Empress Dowager Cixi.

1911 Revolution



- Led by Sun Yat Sen

- Goals

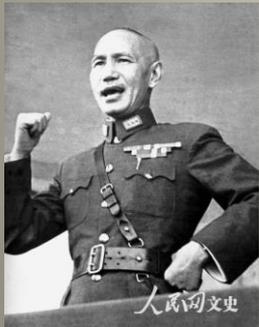
- Republican form of government to replace Dynastic system.
 - Modernize, especially China's navy.
 - Remove foreign influence
- In October, 1911, military forces began an uprising that successfully deposed the 3 year-old emperor.

1911 Revolution: Outcomes

- The Dynastic system collapses.
- A Republican government (Chinese Republic) was formed.
 - But it was ineffective. Real power was in the hands of regional land owners.
 - Power struggle emerges

The Struggle Continues

- Regional land owners
- Nationalists (Guomindang) – led by Chiang Kai Shek.
 - Goal = Unified, centralized, republican China representing middle and upper classes.
- Communists
 - Led by Mao Zedong. Heavily influenced by Lenin/Russian Revolution
 - Goal = Unified communist China
- Japan (the most influential foreign power in China).
 - Goal = Exploit natural resources. Power.



The Struggle Continues

- 1930's: Communists gain support of peasants.
 - Nationalists seen as ineffective vs. Japan.
- Though both groups focus efforts on fighting Japan, not each other, up until 1945.



1949 Revolution Outcomes

- Communist, authoritarian, one-party system dominates China's government.
 - Democratic dictatorship.
- Mao Zedong emerges as a totalitarian dictator.
 - 5 year plans (like Soviet Union)
 - Generally unsuccessful (China rural, agrarian, poor)
 - Efforts to implement true communist society backfire.
 - Great Leap Forward
 - Create huge farming communes = 15 million peasants starve to death.
 - Cultural Revolution
 - Violent repression of traditional and foreign influences.
 - Little Red Book
 - =People turn against Mao

