

Name: _____

Date: _____

Global Studies

The Russian Revolution

In March 1917, the people of Russia overthrew Czar Nicholas II. The Russian Revolution ended the rule of the Czars and set up a republic in Russia. Many of the causes of the Revolution of 1905 caused the March 1917 Revolution. For example, the Russian people still wanted freedom, jobs, and an education. Once again, Russia was in a war. In 1905, Russia fought Japan, and in 1917, Russia was involved in World War I against Germany. Millions of Russians had died in World War I. There was starvation throughout the country. Most people wanted peace. The main difference between 1905 and 1917 was the army. In 1905, the army supported the Czar. However, that had changed by 1917. The army no longer supported the Czar. When Nicholas II realized this, he **abdicated** the throne. A new government was set up which promised the Russian people new freedoms. The one mistake the new government made was to keep Russia in World War I. When the Germans saw the problems in Russia, they attacked even harder. In the summer of 1917, millions of Russians died.

Another group was trying to take control of Russia. They were called **Bolsheviks**. Bolsheviks were Russian Communists who believed in the ideas of Karl Marx. The leader of the Bolsheviks was Vladimir Ulyanov, known in the west as Nikolai Lenin. Lenin demanded 'PEACE, LAND, AND BREAD' for the Russian people. Soon, many Russians started to listen to him. As winter came, conditions in Russia got even worse. In November 1917, Lenin and the Bolsheviks made their move. In one night they **seized** the government of Russia. The world's first Communist country came into existence.

DIRECTIONS: Use the reading above to answer the questions.

1. Discuss three ways that the Revolution of 1905 and the March 1917 Revolution were similar.

2. Why was the March 1917 Revolution a success? _____

3. What did Lenin mean by "Peace, Land, and Bread?" _____

4. If you lived in Russia in 1917, would you have supported Lenin? Explain your answer.

