

Lenin's Russia

Bolshevik Popularity

5

How significant were the social and economic effects of the war in allowing the Bolsheviks to increase their popularity? Explain your answer.

YES

March Revolution had not led to an ending of the war for Russia, despite huge losses and economic hardship; Bolsheviks only party that directly opposed the war and the Provisional Government's policy of continued fighting; economic hardship continued in Russian cities due to the war; Lenin's popular slogan 'Peace, Bread, Land' promised an end to the war and drew support from workers and soldiers; Summer Offensive by Kerensky massive failure and sparked July Days revolts; Petrograd Soviet anti-war by October 1917 with Bolshevik control, etc.

NO

Provisional Government failed to deal with other pressing issues in Russia – poor living and working conditions in the cities; land issue in the countryside; dual power shared between Provisional Government and Soviets of workers and soldiers; Kornilov Coup led to surge in Bolshevik support as saviours of the Revolution; leadership of Lenin and later Trotsky; Bolshevik propaganda – 'pravda', etc.

Bolshevik Revolution

| Question | Answer |
|----------|---|
| 6 | <p>How significant was Trotsky in the Bolshevik seizure of power in November 1917? Explain your answer.</p> <p>YES – Trotsky became Chairman of the Petrograd Soviet in September 1917; Bolsheviks dominated the Soviets in Moscow and other industrial centres as well; Trotsky formed the Military Revolutionary Committee to help prepare seizure of power; formed Red Guard to storm Winter Palace; planned seizure of power; intellectual; good leader and speaker etc.</p> <p>NO – More significant – Lenin was the leader of the Bolsheviks and was responsible for the timing of the seizure of power; he was the ideological strength (April Theses) of the Bolsheviks and convinced other leaders the time was right to seize power in November 1917; weakness of the Provisional Government (land issue/First World War); Kornilov affair had armed Bolsheviks etc.</p> |

Specimen Paper - 2020

| Question | Answer | Marks |
|----------|--|-------|
| 6 | <p>How significant were Lenin's April Theses as a reason for Bolshevik success by November 1917? Explain your answer.</p> <p>YES</p> <p>Lenin's leadership and April Theses had united Bolshevik leaders under the slogans of 'Peace, Bread, Land'; only socialist party to refuse to cooperate with Provisional Government; 'All power to the soviets' was popular with workers, soldiers and sailors; promised land to peasants; Kerensky's Summer Offensive had increased opposition to the war – only the Bolsheviks had called for an immediate end to the war; Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries continued to call for a defensive war; Bolshevik membership increased by August 1917 to take control of Petrograd Soviet and Moscow Soviet.</p> <p>NO</p> <p>Provisional Government continued the war which led to continued food and fuel shortages; land issue was not solved by the Provisional Government – they would wait until election of a Constituent Assembly after the war; Provisional Government increasingly viewed as liberal and counter-revolutionary by many radical socialists in major cities; Petrograd Soviet issued Soviet Order Number One in March 1917 which gave them effective control over the military, communications and postal service; failure of Summer Offensive launched by Kerensky; Kornilov was appointed by Kerensky in July 1917 and promised to support him in restoring order and the authority of officers; this made Kerensky look as though he was betraying the gains of the March Revolution; Provisional Government and Soviets more polarised and support for Kerensky's government decreased; Kerensky lost his nerve as Petrograd panicked and armed Bolshevik Red Guard; Kornilov's troops were persuaded by Bolsheviks to abandon the coup; demonstrated how Provisional Government was dependant on support from soviets; propaganda victory for Bolsheviks; Red Guard kept their rifles; Petrograd and Moscow soviets under Bolshevik leadership by September 1917; Trotsky also effective Bolshevik leader and chairman of Petrograd Soviet; Trotsky effectively organised seizure of power when Lenin returned from Finland, etc.</p> | 40 |

| Question | Answer |
|----------|--|
| 6 | <p>How significant was strong leadership as a reason why the Bolsheviks were able to seize power in November 1917? Explain your answer.</p> <p>YES – Lenin's April Theses became official Bolshevik policy due to Lenin's persuasive leadership; Lenin responsible for persuading Bolsheviks to launch seizure of power in November 1917; Trotsky chaired the Petrograd Soviet from September 1917; organised the PRC and Red Guard, etc.</p> <p>NO – More significant – failure of Provisional Government to solve Russia's social and economic problems: land issue, food and fuel shortages, high inflation; PG's policy of continuing the war; Dual Power in Petrograd shared between more radical Petrograd Soviet and PG; failure of Kerensky's June Offensive; Kornilov's attempted coup, etc.</p> |

5

How important was the Kornilov Affair as a reason for Bolshevik success in November 1917? Explain your answer.

YES

Kornilov was Commander-in-chief of Russian military, appointed by Kerensky; attempted to shut down Provisional Government and reestablish authoritarian rule; Kerensky forced to release Bolshevik leaders and arm Red Guards of Soviet; Bolsheviks seen as saviours of Revolution, etc.

NO

More important – Lenin's return in April 1917; April Theses – Peace, Bread, Land, All power to the Soviets; Trotsky's control of Petrograd Soviet in late 1917; use of PRC and Red Guard; support of Kronstadt sailors and Petrograd Garrison; continuation of war unpopular; food and fuel shortages; inflation; land issue, etc.

6

**How significant was Lenin to Bolshevik success in November 1917?
Explain your answer.**

YES Lenin was the undisputed leader of the Bolshevik Party after April 1917 and his return from exile; united party; committed to revolution using committed revolutionaries; April Theses promised Peace, Bread and Land; 'all power to the Soviets'; Lenin was an intellectual who adapted Marxism to Russia's situation – Marxism-Leninism; gained support from urban workers, sailors and some soldiers; appealed to poor peasants by encouraging them to seize land; Lenin's role in the seizure of power was crucial in terms of timing, etc.

NO Lenin was in exile for many years; more significant – failures of Provisional Government in dealing with Russia's problems: continuation of war, failed Summer Offensive, land issue not solved etc.; Kornilov Affair – armed the Red Guard and Bolsheviks were viewed as heroes of the revolution; Petrograd Soviet seen as representative government by many workers, soldiers and sailors, mutiny of sailors and soldiers; Trotsky's role as Chairman of the Petrograd Soviet and head of the PRC – organised the seizure of power; Bolshevik majorities in Petrograd, Moscow and most other industrial towns; increased Bolshevik membership, etc.

6 How significant were Lenin's April Theses as a reason for Bolshevik success by November 1917? Explain your answer.

YES Lenin's leadership and April Theses had united Bolshevik leaders under the slogans of 'Peace, Bread, Land'; only socialist party to refuse to cooperate with Provisional Government; 'All power to the soviets' was popular with workers, soldiers and sailors; promised land to peasants; Kerensky's Summer Offensive had increased opposition to the war – only the Bolsheviks had called for an immediate end to the war; Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries continued to call for a defensive war; Bolshevik membership increased by August 1917 to take control of Petrograd Soviet and Moscow Soviet.

NO Provisional Government continued the war which led to continued food and fuel shortages; land issue was not solved by the Provisional Government – they would wait until election of a Constituent Assembly after the war; Provisional Government increasingly viewed as liberal and counter-revolutionary by many radical socialists in major cities; Petrograd Soviet issued Soviet Order Number One in March 1917 which gave them effective control over the military, communications and postal service; failure of Summer Offensive launched by Kerensky; Kornilov was appointed by Kerensky in July 1917 and promised to support him in restoring order and the authority of officers; this made Kerensky look as though he was betraying the gains of the March Revolution; Provisional Government and Soviets more polarised and support for Kerensky's government decreased; Kerensky lost his nerve as Petrograd panicked and armed Bolshevik Red Guard; Kornilov's troops were persuaded by Bolsheviks to abandon the coup; demonstrated how Provisional Government was dependant on support from soviets; propaganda victory for Bolsheviks; Red Guard kept their rifles; Petrograd and Moscow soviets under Bolshevik leadership by September 1917; Trotsky also effective Bolshevik leader and chairman of Petrograd Soviet; Trotsky effectively organised seizure of power when Lenin returns from Finland, etc.

Civil War Victory

6

How significant were the weaknesses of the Whites as a reason for the Bolshevik victory in the Russian Civil War? Explain your answer.

YES – White armies were geographically spread out around Bolshevik controlled Russia. This led to a lack of effective communication and poor tactics; different aims of the various political groupings in the White armies – SRs, Mensheviks, liberals and monarchists – led to disagreements over the future of Russia; Whites' treatment of the peasant populations – atrocities committed by the Whites were used effectively in Bolshevik anti-White propaganda to secure support from some peasant communities; Whites' used foreign troops from the USA, Japan and Britain. Many of these countries were too exhausted from the First World War to offer much in the way of military and financial support etc.

NO – More significant – Organisation and rapid growth of the Red Army – Trotsky rapidly created an army of over 300 000 troops from former Red Guards and soldiers; former Tsarist officers used to lead Red Army troops helping with discipline and strategy; Trotsky's effective leadership and propaganda – He used an armoured train to travel around Bolshevik controlled Russia and give motivating speeches; Reds had superior transport and communication links that were already established; Reds geographically centralised near major industrial centres of Moscow and St Petersburg; Lenin's leadership and the implementation of War Communism – This nationalised industries and ensured soldiers and workers were fed and supplied adequately; Red Terror used to secure grain and arrest/execute opponents etc.

5

How important was Trotsky in bringing about Bolshevik victory in the Russian Civil War? Explain your answer.

YES Trotsky was a brilliant organiser; good orator to raise morale of troops; competent commander of Red Army; promoted soldiers based on their performance in combat; used his own armoured train and visited troops on the front line; made sure the Red Army was well supplied and well organised; Trotsky used ex-Tsarist officers to gain military experience for the new Red Army; instilling harsh discipline and punishments etc.

NO More important – role of Lenin – controlled the supplies that went to the Red Army; prioritised soldiers, then urban workforce to ensure victory; War Communism used as Bolshevik policy to organise economy and society for war; Cheka used to silence opposition; effective Bolshevik propaganda; Reds controlled urban areas in central Russia; Reds united whilst the White armies were divided, both geographically and ideologically; role of foreign nations helped promote sense of patriotism amongst Reds etc.

6 How important was Lenin's role in winning the Russian Civil War? Explain your answer.

YES Lenin used War Communism to keep the Red Army supplied; state took control of industry and created command economy to fight Civil War; strict discipline of workers; no trade unions to stop industrial disputes; workers prevented from leaving towns; decreased wages; food rationing – workers and soldiers received the most; Lenin ordered Cheka to requisition food from peasants by force to feed Red Army and workers; Red Terror – use of Cheka violence and labour camps, etc.

NO White armies were not unified in their goals and Reds were; Whites were made up of many different left and right wing parties; Whites had help from USA, Britain and France which helped the Reds unify Russians; effective Bolshevik propaganda; many peasants thought life would still be better under Reds than Tsarists; role of Trotsky and organisation and discipline of Red Army; Reds had geographical advantages over the Whites, etc.

5 How significant was War Communism in the achievement of victory by the Bolsheviks in the Russian Civil War? Explain your answer.

Yes Controlled the economic resources of the state; in industry factories were largely nationalised; private trade was banned; food and grain was seized from the peasant to feed town workers and troops. It was important as it enabled the government to survive the Civil War; even though it was unpopular, Whites were more hated for atrocities and foreign supporters, etc.

No It led to peasants seeing no point in working hard only to have their produce taken with no compensation; drop in production to feed only themselves led to severe food shortages and, together with droughts in 1920–21, famine and death; industry at a standstill; led to Kronstadt Rising in 1921, put down by Trotsky; led Lenin to introduce New Economic Policy – unpopular with many Bolsheviks as it introduced capitalism again. Candidates might offer as a counter argument to the above that Red Army and Trotsky were more significant; that the disunity among Whites was more significant; effective Bolshevik propaganda, etc.

Introduction of NEP

6

How significant was the desire to increase production as a reason for Lenin's introduction of the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1921? Explain your answer.

YES – Civil War had led to huge number of casualties, poor living and working conditions, famine in rural areas, food and fuel shortages, and bartering as currency collapsed; War Communism had led to grain requisitioning and Red Terror led to use of Cheka; by 1918 wages had fallen to one-quarter that of 1913; total 8 million died in the Civil War including 800 000 soldiers etc.

NO – More significant – Kronstadt Uprising forced Lenin to rethink War Communism; Red Army needed to stop rebels; Lenin needed to regain support of the peasants and workers by improving economic conditions; electrification was required to help improve social conditions and lay foundations for industrialisation; currency needed stabilising; production needed to increase; foreign trade was required so economic improvements were needed; pace of socialist revolution needed to be slowed and become a more gradual change; production levels needed to return to help build military in the future to protect Russia from foreign invasion, etc.

5 How significant was the Kronstadt Rebellion as a cause of Lenin's introduction of the New Economic Policy in 1921? Explain your answer.

Yes March 1921 sailors at Kronstadt naval base staged an uprising based on strong anti-Communist Party sentiment; Kronstadt sailors were well known in 1917 Revolutions and well trained, elite troops; Lenin worried about the uprising sparking off another revolution against Communist rule; Lenin shocked by rebellion as 'Red Kronstadters' had been strong supporters of the Bolsheviks in 1917 and now wished to oppose them – Lenin said the rebellion was "the flash that lit up reality"; social, political and economic consequences of Russian Civil War had made them oppose Lenin's dictatorial rule; Kronstadt sailors' demands included freeing of socialists, civil rights and new elections, etc.

No War Communism, by 1921, had ruined the economy; industrial output lower than pre-WWI levels; grain production under half of 1913 levels; crime and black market in the towns and cities was rife (Bagmen); forced grain requisitioning and use of Cheka under Red Terror had seen many perish; famine killed around 5 million; US aid embarrassed Soviet government, etc.

5 How important to the Russian people was the introduction of Lenin's New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1921? Explain your answer.

Yes After the deprivations of War Communism, which was hated by the peasants, and the Kronstadt Rebellion in 1921, Lenin allowed, as a temporary measure, the New Economic Policy. This allowed peasants to keep surplus produce after paying tax representing part of the surplus; re-introduced private trade and incentives; food production increased; small industries and trade in their products and some private ownership allowed; economy began to recover and good progress made in the electrification of industry (a pet project of Lenin's); by the end of 1927, Russians were, on average, better off than they had been since 1924 etc.

No It was anti-communist and disliked as it introduced capitalist systems like incentives, bonuses, piece rates; it brought old managers back to industry; Kamenev and Zinoviev disliked it as they believed it encouraged the development of the kulak class of peasants who would be hostile to communism; it was abandoned after Lenin's death when Stalin introduced Five Year Plans and collectivisation; heavy industries such as coal, iron and steel, together with banking transport and power, remained under government control; Nepmen etc.

Bolshevik Rule

6

How important was the Kronstadt Rising in ensuring the continuance of Bolshevik rule after 1921? Explain your answer.

YES – 1921 Kronstadt sailors revolted and demanded greater democracy and representation; opposed continuation of policy of War Communism during the Civil War; lasted nearly 3 weeks until it was suppressed by Red Army; showed Lenin something needed to change and forced him to take a more reformist and realistic approach; Lenin initiated the NEP in 1921 to regain support of peasantry and workers and increase levels of production; helped end harshness of War Communism and grain requisitioning and maintain Bolshevik control etc.

NO – Rebellion was easily crushed by Red Army led by Trotsky; Kronstadt leaders executed; more significant – victory in Civil War – Trotsky and his leadership of the Red Army; Lenin and effective Bolshevik propaganda; White atrocities; War Communism and Red Terror by Cheka and requisitioning squads; Lenin's decrees on labour, workers, land, war etc. in 1917; NEP etc.

6

How significant was War Communism in the consolidation of Bolshevik rule to 1924? Explain your answer.

YES – War Communism nationalised all industries and the banks; put under direct control of Bolshevik government; state planning of production under GOSPLAN; Vesenka used to coordinate and requisition grain from countryside; allowed for Red Terror – Grain Requisition Squads and executions of counterrevolutionaries; strict discipline in factories and strikers could be shot; food rationing; free enterprise made illegal; allowed government to support Red Army and win Civil War, etc.

NO – War Communism led to terrible famine, harsh social policies; one reason for Kronstadt Rebellion; more significant – Bolshevik victory in Russian Civil War; Lenin's Decrees on peace, land, women and workers delivered some Bolshevik promises; use of Cheka; creation of Sovnarkom and shutting down of Constituent Assembly after one day; Bolshevik politburo effectively leading committee in Russia – chaired by Lenin; one-party dictatorship established by Lenin; Decree against forming of factions in the Communist Party; NEP, etc.

6

How significant were the actions of Lenin in establishing Bolshevik rule between 1917 and 1921? Explain your answer.

YES – Lenin crucial for timing of the October seizure of power; Lenin closed down the Constituent Assembly in January 1918 using the Red Guard (Lenin claimed it was too representative of the bourgeois classes) which ended hopes of a democratic government; established Sovnarkom – Lenin became Chairman as well as leading member of the Bolshevik Central Committee and Politburo; Lenin issued decrees on working hours, on land and peace to appease workers and peasants; Lenin established the Cheka to root out political opposition (Mensheviks, SRs; liberals etc.); Red Terror during Civil War – Cheka used to remove opposition to Bolsheviks; grain requisitioning squads seized grain from peasant families who were accused of hoarding; War Communism kept soldiers and sailors fed and aided the Bolshevik victory over the Whites; Bolshevik anti-White propaganda; 1921 NEP introduced limited capitalism and prevented the Bolshevik system collapsing after the Civil War; decree banning factions in the Bolshevik Party (1921) and expulsion of faction leaders in 1923 etc.

NO – Lenin's actions actually caused problems for the maintenance of the dictatorship: closing down of Constituent Assembly and Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918) helped lead to Civil War, War Communism and Red Terror helped lead to Kronstadt Rebellion in 1921 which pushed Lenin to make concessions – NEP established to replace War Communism; more significant – Trotsky and his command of the Red Army; effective leadership and tactics of Trotsky during the Civil War; weakness of the White armies – geographical location, atrocities against the peasants, lack of communication and retreat of foreign assistance; suppression of nationalities by Stalin etc.

5

How important was the New Economic Policy (NEP) in consolidating Bolshevik control of Russia after 1917? Explain your answer.

Yes

1921 Kronstadt Rebellion – sailors angry at lack of democracy and the policy of War Communism; showed Lenin that the Bolsheviks were losing their grip on loyal revolutionaries; NEP signed by Lenin in 1921; allowed limited capitalism – private ownership, foreign trade allowed but the state maintained control over big industry and the banks; ended food requisitioning; allowed peasants to start selling surplus food again; revitalised the economy; took away the worst consequences of War Communism; allowed kulaks and Nepmen to make profits; brought stability; production returned to 1913 levels, etc.

No

NEP not popular with left-wing members of the Communist Party – saw it as a return to capitalism and a step backwards in the revolution; workers resented the success of the kulaks and Nepmen; more important – 1917 closing down of Constituent Assembly; Lenin's decrees (land, working conditions, etc.); war decree – Treaty of Brest-Litovsk; Red Terror and use of cheka; Bolshevik propaganda, especially during the Civil War, maintained the support of sections of the peasantry; fear of gulags and execution; Trotsky's Red Army; Civil War victory – War Communism, etc.

5

How important was the Cheka in the Bolsheviks' consolidation of power to 1921? Explain your answer.

YES

Bolsheviks dealt ruthlessly with political opponents; Cheka set up to hunt out counter-revolutionary elements and class enemies; Red Guard used to close down National Assembly and protests afterwards; Trotsky controlled Red Army officers by taking families hostage and appointing commissars to watch them; beatings, hangings and shooting of opponents – Red Terror; grain requisitioning; Tsar and family murdered in July 1918; growth of Red Army, etc.

NO

More important – Lenin's Decrees on Land, Working Conditions, and the Treaty of Brest Litovsk made it seem as if the Bolsheviks were delivering on Lenin's promises; Lenin used Soviet Congress to pass laws; set up Sovnarkom with Lenin as chairman; Bolshevik propaganda attracted new members and kept some peasants on side during the Civil War; War Communism; NEP, etc.

6 How significant was the contribution of Trotsky in preserving the Bolshevik Revolution in the period 1917–24? Explain your answer.

Yes Pivotal figure in the November Revolution. 1917, People's Commissar for External Affairs, concluded the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk which extracted Russia from war with Germany; Defence Minister from March 1918, largely responsible for Red Army's success in the Civil War. Great organiser, motivator. Seen by many as the natural successor to Lenin but too arrogant, detached and an old Menshevik.

No Work of many others, especially Lenin until 1922 – established War Communism to feed troops and workers, control production, and then New Economic Policy to increase production. Disunity among opponents during November Revolution; disunity among the Whites in the Civil War. Foreign intervention meant Bolsheviks could argue they were defending mother Russia. If his contribution was so significant, why did he not succeed Lenin? etc. [40]

6 How important was Trotsky in the establishment of Bolshevik rule to 1924? Explain your answer.

Yes Late convert from Mensheviks; close to Lenin; articulate and a great orator; Chairman of Petrograd Soviet in 1917; remained in Russia throughout the July Days; planned and executed the coup on the night of 6–7 November; negotiated the quick exit from the war with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk; commanded the Red Army in the Russian Civil War – outstanding commander, disciplinarian and inspirational leadership; dealt with Kronstadt Mutiny, etc.

No Late convert and his success made him vulnerable to gossip and conspiracies by less active but ambitious members of the Politburo; his arrogance and closeness to Lenin made him increasingly vulnerable after Lenin's strokes and death; lack of a support base found him sacked as Commissar for War, internally exiled, exiled from Russia and eventually assassinated. Comparisons of Trotsky's efforts against Lenin's, Stalin's and other Bolsheviks; he negotiated at the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk the loss of one third of the Russian population, loss of one third of its farmland, loss of two thirds of its coal mines and half of its heavy industry; Lenin's Decrees on Party Unity and factions more important; Kronstadt Mutiny ordered by Lenin; War Communism; Red Terror and use of Cheka; NEP re-established Bolshevik control; shutting down of Constituent Assembly 19 January 1918; execution of Tsar and family, etc.