

# Red Uprising

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## How A Communist Superpower was Born

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## **A Conflict of Ideology**

In 1917, Russia was in a critical state of conflict with Tsar Nicholas the second, who was unwilling to compromise his power. Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the Bolsheviks, the Communist Party of Russia, and enemy to the Tsar, had promised to take the bourgeoisie (the ruling class who owned much of Russian industry) out of power and to give it to the proletariat (the peasant) workers. Russia's peasant majority had been strongly influenced by Lenin's message and had taken the Tsar out of power. Russia, one of the largest land empires on earth, was now divided among the Red Communist majority and the White Capitalist minority (opposition party to the Communists). The Reds had won the will of the people and the ensuing war. In a bitter compromise, other countries were forced to sign or willingly signed the Treaty of Creation to join the impactful Union of Soviets.

## **Historical Context**

Plenty of reasons as to why the Russian Revolution happened in 1917 can be attributed to the distrust between the people and Tsar Nicholas the Second. The people had no voice in the government and were harshly punished for complaining, often resulting in exile to Siberia.<sup>1</sup> After 370 years of tsarism, Russia was not in a peaceful state. The overwhelming majority of the Russian population were peasants; this did not sit well with the majority

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<sup>1</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 4.

of Russians.<sup>2</sup> Government oppression led to plenty of assassination attempts against Tsar Nicholas the Second. One such plot was led by Vladimir Lenin's (Vladimir Lenin was a pen name that he adopted, his real name was Vladimir Ulyanov) brother, Sasha Ulyanov, who was arrested and executed, a year after his father's death.<sup>3</sup> When Nicholas the Second was suddenly put in power, he was unprepared. He thought he would have another twenty years before becoming the Russian tsar. A week after being placed in power, Nicholas was married to a German princess, Alexandra Feodorovna, this would prove to be damaging to the relationship between the tsar and the peasants when World War I came around.<sup>4</sup>

On a Sunday morning on January 22, 1905, people gathered for a peaceful protest in St. Petersburg, marching towards the Winter Palace (the residence of the Tsar). The protesters were confronted with armed troops, who failed to disperse the crowd and instead opened fire on the protesters, killing 200 and wounding 80. This conflict was referred to as Bloody Sunday (see appendix I). As Vladimir Lenin said, "A turning point in Russia's history has been reached." This was without a doubt the primary factor in why the Russian people lost faith in the tsar.<sup>5</sup> Russia's ambassador tried to assure the United States, (who would later step in due to the rising threat of communism) that the only option the soldiers had was to fire upon the

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<sup>2</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 1.

<sup>3</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 102

<sup>4</sup> *The Russian*

<sup>5</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 38-39.

protesters. The ambassador's belief was that, Russian people still loved the Tsar so, this was not the start of a revolution.<sup>6</sup>

In October of 1905, the October Manifesto established a constitution for the Russian people. This new Manifesto intended to keep a revolution from occurring after Bloody Sunday. It worked as a compromise of power between the people and the Tsar. The October Manifesto gave the people of Russia freedom of press, however in practice the Russian population still lived under an oppressive regime. The manifesto also created the Duma, a legislative system where the people voted for members of different parties. The only power that the Duma held was to very narrowly control finances. The Duma had no power over the executive branch and were limited in overall influence within the government.<sup>7</sup> The October Manifesto may have not fixed the 'problem,' but it was enough to weaken revolutionary support. This allowed Nicholas to destroy what had been left of the revolution. This would later be referred to as 'the Failed Revolution of 1905.' Tsar Nicholas II had thought that the October Manifesto was not going to change his position of power, and that he did not need to follow what it said. However, he could not have been more wrong; it would later be used as evidence of tyranny.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 38-39.

<sup>7</sup> "October Manifesto,".

<sup>8</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 102.

## **A Conflict Between the Tsar and the People**

The Russian Revolution had two parts: The February Revolution and The October Revolution. During the February Revolution, the Tsar government was overthrown and replaced with the provisional government. A provisional government is a government that would replace a monarchy until new monarchs were found.<sup>9</sup> The Bolsheviks had convinced the peasants that if they wanted land, they would need to have a complete social revolution and make sure all Tsarist based ideals were no longer in place. With the status of peasants feelings about the tsar, these claims proved to be effective in gaining the people's support.<sup>10</sup> The peasants and workers had grown tired of World War I <sup>11</sup> When World War I broke out, Tsar Nicholas took control of the military. He was not successful in this role and this led to several defeats, which were seen as an embarrassment to the Russian people. Additionally when Nicholas took control of the military, his German wife was left to rule. At this point the Russian people hated the Germans because of World War I and were greatly upset when they were under the rule of a German. The Russian populace had enough of the government which had done such a terrible job, and had poured out all of the problems on the peasants.<sup>12</sup> The Tsar had failed to realize the state of the country and thus had fallen.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> "The October,".

<sup>10</sup> Radek, *The Paths*,.

<sup>11</sup> Radek, *The Paths*,.

<sup>12</sup> *The Russian*.

<sup>13</sup> "The Russian," Editorials/Leaders, 7.

On March 15, 1917, Tsar Nicholas relinquished his right to rule and power was transferred to his brother who resigned the very next day. A provisional government was created along with a new constitution which marked the end of the February Revolution.<sup>14</sup> The Duma were the ones to create this new Provisional Government.<sup>15</sup>

In the October Revolution, the Provisional Government was overthrown by the Bolsheviks (the communist party of Russia, not to be confused with the Mensheviks, who were more socialist than communist), for a communist government.<sup>16</sup> The cause of the October Revolution can be credited to one man: Vladimir Lenin. With the end of the tsar, and the establishment of the provisional government, Lenin could come out of exile from Switzerland. He was in exile due to anti-tsar activities. He rode with comrades to a station in Finland, where he was greeted as a Soviet hero. Lenin climbed on top of a car and did something no one had anticipated. He declared the Bolshevik's fight was not yet done, proclaiming that there would be no compromise, and that there must be a full socialist revolution. Lenin not only wanted the provisional government to come to an end, but a full socialist revolution throughout Europe.<sup>17</sup> This single speech changed the outcome of history forever, a true Soviet turning point.

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<sup>14</sup> Graham, "Decision of Tsar," News, 7.

<sup>15</sup> "The Russian," Editorials/Leaders, 7.

<sup>16</sup> "The October,".

<sup>17</sup> Anderson, "Lenin's Address," Big Site of History.

## Vladimir Lenin's Bolshevik Conflict

Lenin had a different personality from a typical intellectual Russian. Lenin's provocative charisma gained him a loyal following among some, however, this also initially made him solitary with most of the Russian population (see appendix II).<sup>18</sup> The execution of Lenin's brother, Sasha, led Lenin down the path of a revolutionary.<sup>19</sup> Lenin without a doubt, had complete faith with Soviet beliefs and a clear hate for the bourgeois.

Lenin had once spoken to the Congress of Soviets about why they should arrest 50 capitalists.<sup>20</sup> Lenin believed that there is only the bourgeois and socialists, there was no in between. He then came to the conclusion that criticizing socialists even in the slightest point, is to support the bourgeois.<sup>21</sup> Lenin believed that Karl Marx's theories of Communism were essential to the revolution, stating that without a revolutionary theory there can be no revolution.<sup>22</sup> Lenin also had ideas of his own, Lenin suggested the creation of a government where the proletariat and workers are the dictators. Though, he may have only promised this to gain worker and peasant support.<sup>23</sup> Lenin was also ruthless and thought nothing of executing thousands, though it did not give him joy. Though Lenin had a strong sense of how to lead militarily, he did not have the correct human values to lead.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 103.

<sup>19</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 102.

<sup>20</sup> Trotsky, *Lenin*, 77.

<sup>21</sup> Lenin, *What Is To Be Done?*, 41.

<sup>22</sup> Lenin, *What Is To Be Done?*, 27-28.

<sup>23</sup> Radek, *The Paths*.

<sup>24</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 105.

## **Russia Divided; The Conflict Continues**

In America and Great Britain, the Bolsheviks were treated as a strong minority that were destroying the Russian people. The truth of the situation was quite the opposite. Bolshevism and Communism were described as a 'plague'. The British and Americans had completely regarded some aspects of the Bolshevik's system as crazy.<sup>25</sup> Additionally to their anti-communist agenda, the British held a grudge against the Soviets for dropping out of World War I. After the Bolsheviks had overthrown the tsar and had created their own faction, the Reds (Bolsheviks.) Vladimir Lenin knew that they were in no position to fight the Germans and the Whites at the same time. Due to this, the Reds signed the Treaty of Brest Litovsk with the central powers, ending their involvement in World War I.<sup>26</sup> The Whites fought against communism, however none of them wanted to restore tsarism. Along with the Reds and Whites, there were a few other factions that popped up. The Greens were peasants who didn't align with anyone, and the Blacks were Anarchists. With these factions, and with the unorthodox and unorganized fighting lines the Civil War things became chaotic. For reference, the Bolsheviks were the main Marxist party of Russia, and the Reds were the official faction of the Bolsheviks.<sup>27</sup> The Red army's two main ways of beating the Whites was that they had much more supplies and men. They often had

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<sup>25</sup> "Struggling Russia," 20.

<sup>26</sup> Steinberg, "The Treaty," Russia's Great War and Revolution.

<sup>27</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 235-236.



double or more men than what the Whites had.<sup>28</sup> A year after the October revolution, Lenin had made an army of three million, a new Red Army; 80% of which were of peasant origin. The army was larger than any force the tsar had, even during peacetime. This army would be commanded by Leon Trotsky, an important figure during the power struggle between him and Joseph Stalin.<sup>29</sup> In 1918, the imperial family was captured and was forced to live under house arrest. The imperial family was then ordered to be executed by Lenin to prevent an anti-Bolshevik resistance. The family was brutally killed, no woman nor child was spared.<sup>30</sup> After this the House of the Romanovs who had been in power for 300 years was finally ended by the Soviets. This truly set an example as to how the Communists would rule.

The White army would have been crushed much earlier if it were not for the British, who were the strongest supporter of the Whites out of any other country. It should be noted that most of the fighting was between Russians, not the British, nor any other outside force.<sup>31</sup> Winston Churchill, a influential British politician and future prime minister, had said they should take the Bolshevik victories with 'the gravest unease.' The U.S. had also taken the rising threat of communism seriously. They arrested and deported communists within their own borders.<sup>32</sup> It was clear that no one was willing

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<sup>28</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 236.

<sup>29</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 245-246.

<sup>30</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 212-213.

<sup>31</sup> Pipes, *A Concise*, 248

<sup>32</sup> "Mr. Churchill's," Editorials/Leaders, 13.

to compromise on their convictions, and that the one who's ideals would survive would be a mere matter of attrition.

### **The Treaty of Creation, A Bitter Compromise**

The Russian SFSR or the Soviet Federative Socialist Republic was the original communist nation, satellite nations of Russia were either forced into joining or joined willingly.<sup>33</sup> On December 30th, 1922, the Treaty of Creation was signed by Russia SFSR, Ukraine SFSR, Transcaucasian SFSR (made up of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan); forming the USSR. However, the treaty would not take effect until January 31st, 1924.<sup>34</sup> The USSR would have the following republics later in time: Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Belorussia, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.<sup>35</sup> Estonia (who was never a country before), Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, and Poland all declared and won their independence after the Bolsheviks had overthrown the provisional government in 1917, though some declared their independence in 1918. The USSR claimed the baltic states (Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia), however, they had won their independence successfully.<sup>36</sup> When the end was nearing for the Whites, there was a lot of British fear of a Bolshevik victory and what it meant for other countries. They were most concerned of the

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<sup>33</sup> Buchanan, "Treaty on the Creation," Library of Congress.

<sup>34</sup> Slusser and Triska, *A Calendar*, 37.

<sup>35</sup> "USSR Established," History.

<sup>36</sup> Goldmanis, "Soviet and Russian," Numbers Station.

Soviets invading other countries, like Poland or, countries in Asia. This gave the British a reason to get involved in the war. However British's efforts would be in vain when the Bolsheviks became victorious.<sup>37</sup> The British had cared greatly about the future of Poland. When the Whites were crushed, the Bolshevik advanced to Poland. This upset the British, they described Bolshevik reports to be propaganda. They positioned the Bolsheviks as fighting peasants, despite what the communists had stood for.<sup>38</sup> The Polish military had struggled to fight against the Russians. The battles that were waged had been considered cruel and fierce. However, due to the famine the Bolsheviks were experiencing, the Polish had won their independence.<sup>39</sup> The USSR had six million deaths from the revolution and civil war. The USSR suffered from starvation and by 1926 had six million lives lost from famine. With all of this, Russia had twenty percent (or about twenty million) of the casualties in the world between 1914 and 1924. This number was estimated to rise to thirty-five percent in the next decade.<sup>40</sup> It took 16 years after the Civil War before the US bitterly decided to recognize the USSR as a Nation in 1933.<sup>41</sup> The USSR had a lasting impact to this day. They set an example for communist nations, and supported nations turning to communism, like

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<sup>37</sup> "The Military," Editorials/Leaders, 13.

<sup>38</sup> "A Red Offensive," News, 10.

<sup>39</sup> "Need of Action," 31.

<sup>40</sup> "THE FOUR," 16.

<sup>41</sup> "Recognition of the Soviet," The Office of the Historian.

Cuba, Vietnam, China, and North Korea. All of which are still communist nations to this day.<sup>42</sup>

## **Conclusion**

The wars leading up to the creation of the USSR can be described as ideological chess. They were wars that were fought for what each side believed in. In chess, capitalizing on your opponents mistakes is key to victory, which is what the Reds did after each mistake Tsar Nicholas made. Similarly, in chess the side which has less pieces is at a disadvantage, which was something that had plagued the Whites since the beginning of the war. Commanding the Bolsheviks and the feared Red Army was the king of the Soviets, Vladimir Lenin, who upon his return gave the Bolsheviks the direction needed for their victory. After many checkmates and pure man power, the Soviets could finally have their union which would influence the world heavily for the next century and beyond.

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<sup>42</sup> The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica, "Cold War," Britannica.

## Appendix I



A painting depicting when soldiers fired upon the protesters on Bloody Sunday of 1905.

Gale. "Revolution of 1905 (Russia)." World History in Context. Accessed March 16, 2018.

[http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/whic/ReferenceDetailsPage/DocumentToolsPortletWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&jsid=f5b38949ebe28c6778a8d82c3a2ac3b8&action=2&catId=&documentId=GALE|CX3446900705&u=lom\\_inac&zid=a591353cea0d1c83ce5dbeab1d6a4def](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/whic/ReferenceDetailsPage/DocumentToolsPortletWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&jsid=f5b38949ebe28c6778a8d82c3a2ac3b8&action=2&catId=&documentId=GALE|CX3446900705&u=lom_inac&zid=a591353cea0d1c83ce5dbeab1d6a4def).

## Appendix II



A portrait depicting Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin, showing off his confident look.

The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Cold War." Britannica. Accessed February 7, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

"Decision of Tsar." *The Times* (London, England), March 17, 1917, News, 7.

The Russian Tsar was stepping down from the position of Tsar due to the effects of the February Revolution. The tsar was replaced with the provisional government. This article was written at the time of the Russian revolution by a popular British newspaper. This shows the anti-communist agenda that the British had which gave them reason to get involved within the war.

Lenin, Vladimir. *What Is To Be Done?* N.p.: Martino Publishing, 2013.

A political pamphlet written by Bolshevik leader and revolutionary, Vladimir Lenin. It was written in 1902, however the translation I used was published 2013. The book criticizes Mensheviks and socialist, while making the argument that communism is the best and the only

true way to go. Lenin displays his strict agenda and his ideas as how the bolsheviks should progress. It becomes clear as to how this became Lenin's most influential piece.

*New York Times* (New York, NY). "THE FOUR HORSEMEN." June 5, 1926, 16.

This is article written years after the creation of the USSR and the World War I. It centers around the death totals and after effects of the both previously mentioned wars. It shows the impacts from the USSR by displaying the deaths from famine and from the war. This gives some insight into the standard of living in the communist nation.

*New York Times* (New York, NY). "Need of Action Now to Save the Russians."

June 30, 1922, 31.

With the Whites defeated, there was fear of what the Bolsheviks next step would be. An invasion of Asia or of Poland was the main concern, especially for the British. This article further proves this, with the clear bias against the Reds. This shows that the British were more than ready and willing to battle the Bolsheviks.



*New York Times* (New York, NY). "NOT REVOLUTION -- CASSINI.: Russian Ambassador Says Russian People Still Love the Czar." January 24, 1905, 2.

The Russian Government was more than eager to play down the tragedy of Bloody Sunday. They attempt to make it seem like it was a simple mistake, while taking steps to gear it away from it's massacre reality. They had attempted this by sending an ambassador to America.

*New York Times* (New York, NY). "Struggling Russia." May 4, 1919, 20.

Russia's communist policies and government were viewed as insane and cruel by the United States. They had stated a clear opinion against Bolshevism. It points out facts that are 'interesting' about the Communists, but the majority of these comments are more than negative and reflect the opinions of the times.

Radek, Karl. *The Paths of the Revolution*. N.p., 1922.

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/radek/1922/paths/ch01.html>.

This was political book written by a Russian intellectual around the time of the civil war. The author interpreted on the Russian Revolution

on a more ideological standpoint, giving reasons as to why the reasons why the Mensheviks weren't the ideological leader opposed to the Bolsheviks due to their weak policies.

*The Times* (London, England). "The Military Situation in Russia." January 23, 1920, Editorials/Leaders, 13.

This article originally focuses on the tyranny of the Bolsheviks regime, but then switches its attention to the danger other nations were in, specifically Poland. There was clearly great fear and shame that Poland was in this situation. This article clearly shows great amount for British involvement within the war.

*The Times* (London, England). "Mr. Churchill's Speech." January 5, 1920, Editorials/Leaders, 13.

Winston Churchill, a influential British politician and future prime minister gives a speech about the growing threat of communism and the Bolsheviks. Churchill he makes that it is not just a conflict of Russia, but for the world. He specifically worries about the threat of communism in China or Poland.

*The Times* (London, England). "A Red Offensive." August 30, 1920, News, 10.

This described the fight between the Bolsheviks against the Polish for their independence. It gave a sense of how the British had felt that Poland was going to be a major factor in the world if it were to fall to the Bolsheviks. It had also accused the Bolsheviks of propaganda, that the reports that had been released by the Bolsheviks were incorrect.

*The Times* (London, England). "The Russian Revolution." March 16, 1917, Editorials/Leaders, 7.

This article is written a few months after the February Revolution and the fall of the Tsar. It reflects upon the events and how quickly the Duma grew to power. With their newly found power the Duma created the Provisional Government. It's an important article that gave me the understanding as to what had happened at the time. Additionally, this was the only source I found written about the involvement of the Duma with the creation of the Provisional Government.

Trotsky, Leon. *Lenin*. Toronto: G.P. Putnam's Son, 1971.

This was a biography describing Lenin by a close friend and comrade, Leon Trotsky. It was written after Lenin's death because Trotsky was convinced by Stalin that he wouldn't be able to make it to Lenin's funeral. It gave details as to Lenin's leadership within the Bolsheviks and his loyalty to the Soviets.

### Secondary Sources

Anderson, Marge. "Lenin's Address at the Finland Station." Big Site of History. Last modified June 17, 2008. Accessed December 18, 2017.

<https://bigsiteofhistory.com/lenins-address-at-the-finland-station/>.

Lenin had arrived at the train station after being in exile for 10 years. He had stated that "the peoples will turn their arms against their own capitalist exploiters." The author writes this article without any bias and simply leaves the information with transcripts to back it up. In fact the majority of the article is made up of a first hand account by a journalist at the time.

Buchanan, Kelly. "Treaty on the Creation of the Soviet Union - Signed, Sealed, Delivered?" Library of Congress. Last modified January 8, 2013. Accessed December 5, 2017.

<https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2013/01/treaty-on-the-creation-of-the-soviet-union-signed-sealed-and-delivered/>.

When soviets had achieved victory, they had decided to unify into one single communist nation, the USSR. This led to the treaty creating it. It created much debate over what to include. The Library of Congress is a research library that serves the US government. The author has been writing for the Library of Congress for nearly a decade.

The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica, "Cold War," Britannica, accessed February 7, 2018.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>.

The Cold war had been initiated at the end of World War II as a battle of ideology between the Soviet Union and the United States. The Cold War was considered a proxy war, but a very important one in history.

This source was created by Britannica, a well respected organization that uses information of experts to create their articles.

Goldmanis, Maris. "Soviet and Russian Invasions since 1917." Numbers Stations. Accessed December 20, 2017.

[http://www.numbers-stations.com/articles/soviet-and-russian-invasions-since-1917/#Estonia\\_1917](http://www.numbers-stations.com/articles/soviet-and-russian-invasions-since-1917/#Estonia_1917).

As soon as the Bolsheviks were a force to reckoned with they began invading other countries in order to spread ideology. They first started with the countries/territories that were formerly a part of the Russian Empire. This article was given incredible amounts of detail and thought. The amount of research and effort that was put into it really is shown.

"October Manifesto | Russia [1905]." In *Britannica*. Britannica. Accessed December 15, 2017.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/October-Manifesto>.

The October Manifesto was a document used to help stop a revolution from happening. Due to the unfortunate events of the Bloody Sunday

the Russian people were angry and ready for revolution. The Tsar acted quickly and in acted the manifesto. The manifesto hadn't really done much in practice. This article came from the Britannica Encyclopedia, a well researched organization that uses experts for the information provided.

"The October Revolution." In *Marxist Internet Archive*.

<https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/events/revolution/index.htm>.

The Russian Revolution contained the February and October Revolutions. The Russian Revolution progresses a Tsar to the Provisional Government and finally to the Soviet Union. The Marxist Internet Archive is a website dedicated to all historic communist events. Not only do they provide easy understand articles, but first hand sources that offer more depth into the subject.

Pipes, Richard. *A Concise History Of The Russian Revolution*. New York: Vintage Books, 1995.

The revolt of the Russian peasants against Tsar Nicholas the Second was predictable and inevitable. That same idea is applied to the Russian Civil war, this book piles on fact after fact that shows that Soviet domination was clearly going to happen at some point or another. The author Richard Pipes is an expert on Russian history and has written several books on the Russian Revolution. He is well regarded as a researched historian and author.

"Recognition of the Soviet Union, 1933." The Office of the Historian.

Accessed March 23, 2018.

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1921-1936/ussr>.

The capitalist nations of Europe as well as the United States were better about the result of the Russian Civil War and had refused to recognize it as a nation. When President Roosevelt was elected he immediately ended this restoring communications with the USSR and during 1933 had decided to fully recognize the Soviets as a country. This website is ran by the historians of the U.S. Department of State.



*The Russian Revolution*. Directed by Cal Seville. Netflix, 2017.

The Russian Revolution was led by motive and conviction. In this documentary it evidences that with Lenin's past with his brother, and his path towards revolutionary. As well Tsar Nicholas the Second's unsolid foundations of motive led to his demise as a leader. This documentary features appearances of different authors who are well research on the Russian revolution.

Slusser, Robert M., and Jan F. Triska. *A Calendar of Soviet Treaties 1917-1957*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University, 1959.

The beginning of Soviets as a recognized nations starts with the Russian SFSR. As soon as this happens this books allows me to see how active the Soviets were in terms of diplomatic trade or agreements. It cleared up a misunderstanding I had with the dates of the USSR being formed and the creation. The publisher is an ivy league college, and given it's amount of extensive content within the book it is shown to be well researched.

Steinberg, John W. "The Treaty of Brest Litovsk." Russia's Great War and Revolution. Accessed March 15, 2018.

<http://russiasgreatwar.org/media/international/brest.shtml>.

Once the Civil war had broken out, the Bolsheviks had gained the support of the vast majority of Russia. Vladimir Lenin was always against the involvement of Russia in World War One, so it was unlikely that he would decide to stay in the war. Additionally, he had realized that he couldn't fight the central powers and the Civil war at the same time. This all led to him pulling out of the war in the treaty of Brest Litovsk. This website is dedicated to the telling of the Russian Revolution and Civil war.

"USSR Established." History.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/ussr-established?scrllybrkr=83689128>.

On December 30th 1922, the USSR was formed by the Treaty of Creation. Initially the USSR made up of four republics. Later in the USSR's history they would be made up of 15 republics. This article is

written by History.com. A website that is so dedicated to history they have a extensive list of events that occurred in that day within history. Each of those articles are well written historical resources.