

# ***PERTEVMUN'25***



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# 1.Letter From The Secretariat

Esteemed Delegates and Distinguished Guests,

First of all we are more than honored to welcome you all to the second annual session of PERTEVMUN, which will take place at our precious home, Pertevniyal Anatolian High School on 18th, 19th and 20th of April 2025.

Since the beginning of high school, as your Co-Secretary Generals, we have been doing literally everything together. We started doing MUNs together, we were Co-Director Generals at PERTEVMUN'24, moreover we are currently and proudly standing here as the club presidents and Co-Secretaries General. We can not thank enough to our school and our advisors, Gülşah Teacher and Yaprak Teacher for providing us the opportunity to organize this conference.

Throughout our committee preparations, we have the chance to meet with excellent MUNers and expand our knowledge. Accordingly, your USG's Esad and Berfin were two of these amazing people. We simply do not know how to express our gratitude for them!!

Last but not least we could not forget our excellent organization team and their hard work. Our Co-Director Generals İnci and Yiğit have worked so hard to prepare you for the most unforgettable conference.

We know that the best is soon, see you in rewinded springs.

Yağmur Raife APAYDIN & Beyzanur ÖZSİĞİNAN  
Co-Secretaries General of PertevMUN'25

## 2. Letter From The Under-Secretary Generals

Most esteemed Participants,

It is our great honor to welcome you to the second annual session of PERTEVMUN and to the Historical Crisis Committee: Communist International.

The Third International, officially known as the Communist International or Comintern, was a revolutionary organization founded in March 1919 in Moscow, Soviet Union, under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It emerged in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution of 1917, with the primary goal of uniting and coordinating communist movements worldwide to overthrow capitalist systems and establish a global proletarian revolution.

We expect you all to read the study guide and do your own separate research before the conference. If you have any questions about the committee, feel free to contact us through our contact information below.

-Berfin Kılınçaslan & Esad Gözlemeci

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### 3. Table of Content

#### a. The Birth of Communism

Communism is thought by most people to have been first coined by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the Manifesto of the Communist Party. First of all, in Plato's book *The State*, Plato saw communism as a golden age and thought that communism would rule all the countries in the world and break the current corrupt and class-divided whole of the people (he talks briefly about the Dictatorship of the Proletariat). Besides, the pre-Columbian Native Americans and most early Christian sects had the communist characteristics of “communal living, common property, no class distinctions”.

Marxism, a variant of communism, also known as communism in its contemporary form, began with the industrial revolution and labor movements of the 19th century. The working class was forced to work long hours in poor conditions, with no rights and little pay. In 1818, the first trade unions opened in Manchester could not support the workers sufficiently. Workers and communist politicians were therefore looking for international action.

Although there are many varieties of communism and anarchism, Marxism was first published on February 21, 1848 by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the Manifesto of the Communist Party. The principles of this party were to establish an anti-militarist utopia without class distinction, without bourgeois power, without judging people on racism. Of course, this was a bit difficult because of the society that is now poisoned by capitalism and oligarchy. So in the Marxist country that emerged, the “dictatorship of the proletariat” was proclaimed in order to take society and the economy away from the bourgeois class and give it back to the working class. Even though this action has a bad name because it contains the word “dictator”, this method is important for the reorganization of the country.



*Marx And Engels in 1860*

## b. Factions

### i. Marxism

Marxism is a method of socioeconomic analysis that views class relations and social conflict using a materialist interpretation of historical development and takes a dialectical view of social transformation. It originates from the works of 19th century German philosophers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Classical Marxism is the economic, philosophical and sociological theories expounded by Marx and Engels

Under the capitalist mode of production, this struggle materializes between the minority (the bourgeoisie), who own the means of production, and the vast majority of the population (the proletariat), who produce goods and services. Starting with the concept that social change occurs because of the struggle between different classes within society who are under contradiction against each other, a Marxist would conclude that capitalism exploits and oppresses the proletariat, therefore capitalism will inevitably lead to a proletarian revolution. In a socialist society, private property—in the form of the means of production—would be replaced by co-operative ownership. A socialist economy would not base production on the creation of private profits, but on the criteria of satisfying human needs—that is, production would be carried out directly for use. As Friedrich Engels said: "Then the capitalist mode of appropriation, in which the product enslaves first the producer, and then the appropriator, is replaced by the mode of appropriation of the product that is based upon the nature of the modern means of production; upon the one hand, direct social appropriation, as means to the maintenance and extension of production - on the other, direct individual appropriation, as means of subsistence and of enjoyment".

In short, Marx looked more at the economic and social causes and consequences of communism rather than its revolutionary aspects. Although he does not give as much information about revolution as in other areas, he thinks, as in Leninism, that the working class will liberate itself through an armed revolution.

### ii. Leninism

Leninism holds that the revolution begins with armed resistance, with the support of the workers through a revolutionary vanguard party. In this way, the “dictatorship of the proletariat”, which we have already mentioned, has an important and definitive place in the reorganization of society according to Lenin. In addition to this, Leninism in general has also been characterized by its economic aspects, such as the “New Economic Plan (NEP)”. Marxism. Leninism emerged because it found Marx's interpretations of revolution incomplete, and was more about how to make a revolution and how to organize it. So in general Marxism and Leninism compliment each other.

### iii. Marxism/Leninism

Marxism/Leninism is a political ideology developed by Lenin, finalized and spreaded by Stalin in the late 1920's until 1933 when Stalin declared Socialism in one country with Bukharin.

The purpose of Marxism–Leninism is the revolutionary transformation of a capitalist state into a socialist state by way of two-stage revolution led by a vanguard party of professional revolutionaries, drawn from the proletariat. To realise the two-stage transformation of the state, the vanguard party establishes the dictatorship of the proletariat and determines policy through democratic centralism. The Marxist–Leninist communist party is the vanguard for the political, economic and social transformation of a capitalist society into a socialist society which is the lower stage of socio-economic development and progress towards the upper-stage communist society which is stateless and classless, yet it features public ownership of the means of production, accelerated

industrialisation, pro-active development of society's productive forces (research and development) and nationalised natural resources.

#### iv. Mensheviks

The Mensheviks were a faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party, which was divided into two main groups in the early 20th century: the Mensheviks and the Bolsheviks. The Mensheviks, led by figures like Julius Martov, were more moderate in their approach to revolution. They believed that Russia needed a bourgeois democratic stage before it could transition to socialism, advocating for a more gradual and inclusive process of political change.

In contrast, the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, pushed for a more immediate and radical revolution. Over time, the Mensheviks lost influence, especially after the Bolshevik takeover in the October Revolution of 1917. They were opposed to Lenin's methods and vision, which led to a significant ideological split that defined Russian politics for years to come.

#### V. Trotskyism

Leon Trotsky and his supporters organized into the Left Opposition and their platform became known as Trotskyism. Trotskyism supports the theory of permanent revolution and world revolution instead of the two-stage theory and socialism in one country. It supported proletarian internationalism and another communist revolution in the Soviet Union which Trotsky claimed had become a degenerated worker's state under the leadership of Stalin in which class relations had re-emerged in a new form, rather than the dictatorship of the proletariat. During the Third International he actively advocated for permanent revolution. As Minister of War in the Soviet Union, he helped the communists of Germany, Poland, China, France and Turkey. According to Trotsky, the principle of socialism in one country was doomed to collapse, trapped between the capitalist and bourgeois governments of other countries, and therefore the whole world revolution had to be promoted to eradicate capitalism, liberate the working classes in other countries, and fulfill the purpose for which the International was founded.

Although Trotsky knew that Stalin's dictatorship would come about and tried to prevent it with Lenin, he managed to seize Stalin's power with Lenin's death in 1924. Although Trotsky tried to cooperate with other opposition groups (important leaders such as Zinoviev, Kamenev, Pyatakov, Radek), he was exiled from the Soviet Union in 1929. Trotsky, who stayed in Turkey, France and Norway for a short time, finally managed to get a Mexican visa and started living in Mexico City. Here he continued his actions against Stalin, founded the 4th International, which is considered the last one, and gathered world parties against Stalin. However, Stalin was already disturbed enough by Trotsky, who was spreading the existing chaos to the outside world, and this was the last straw. On August 21, 1940, he was killed with an ice axe by an NKVD agent in his office in Mexico.

After Trotsky's death, purges were carried out by Stalin and his supporters all over the world to eradicate Trotskyism. However, this did not stop Trotsky's ideas, especially in the 1960s, Trotskyism gained great support in many South American, Asian and African countries.





*Trotsky and the members of Left Opposition*

## vi. Stalinism

Stalinism is the means of governing and related policies implemented from 1933 by Stalin and his supporter Bukharin (later he was accused by Stalin and executed in 1938.) Stalinist policies and ideas that were developed in the Soviet Union included rapid industrialisation, the theory of socialism in one country, collectivisation of agriculture, intensification of the class struggle under socialism, and subordination of the interests of foreign communist parties to those of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), deemed by Stalinism to be the leading vanguard party of communist revolution at the time.

He found himself at odds with Trotsky and other communists over the idea of "socialism in one country", but managed to remain at the head of the country and establish a dictatorship that he controlled through terror for the duration of his rule. He was widely criticized by socialists and communists in other countries and was called "the gravedigger of communism".



*Stalin and Bukharin in 1935*



## vii. Left communism

The Left Communists were those Marxists who supported the 1917 Russian Revolution (i.e. the uprising of the peasants and workers), but differed with the Bolsheviks over a number of issues including the formation of the Soviet government in the U.S.S.R., the reformist tactics of the Comintern in Europe and America, the role to be given to autonomous and spontaneous organizations of the working class as opposed to the political parties, participation in Parliament, the relationship with the liberal trade unions and the trade union leadership

There are two main currents of “Left Communism”: on one hand, the Communist Left or “Council Communists” (the term used by the Dutch and German Left Communists after 1928) criticized the elitist practices of the Bolshevik Party, and increasingly emphasized the autonomous organizations of the working class, reminiscent in some ways of the anarcho-syndicalists and left communists of the pre-World War One period, rejecting compromise with the institutions of bourgeois society and the dictatorship over the proletariat.

The main point of difference with the Bolsheviks was over the role of the Party and a “workers' state”. On the other hand, there were “Ultra-Left” communists (especially some of the English and the Italians) who upheld the role of a Party in leading the working class and the aim of a workers' state, but criticized the Bolsheviks for various forms of opportunism, such as advocating participation in Parliament and the conservative trade unions.

The main figures of Left Communism were: Karl Korsch, Anton Pannekoek, Paul Mattick, Herman Gorter, David Wijnkoop, Otto Rühle and Willie Gallacher; Amadeo Bordiga, Sylvia and Adela Pankhurst represent other ultra-left currents. Not all of these remained Left-wing Communists throughout their life.

The “orthodox” criticism of Left Communism is contained in Lenin's 1920 book: “Left-Wing” Communism – An Infantile Disorder and the classic statement of the position of Left Communism is contained in Herman Gorter's response: Letter to Comrade Lenin.

## c. International Workingmen's Association

International workers' union, also known as the First International. Unlike the second and third international, this international was attended by all ideologies that were considered “leftist”. It was therefore more important than any meeting that had preceded it, and was permanently etched in history. At the same time, this action was of great importance as it was the first worldwide uprising against the bourgeoisie and empires. But the unification of people with so many differences of opinion also meant that its impact was short-lived.

### i. St. Martin's Hall Meeting (1864)

It first met at St. Martin's Hall, where it hosted important leftists such as Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and Mikhail Bakunin. Although no promises were made to these important future figures, it was at this meeting that the IWA's publicity and conferences were officially launched.

## ii. Geneva Congress (1866)

The first official International began in Geneva on September 3, 1866. IWA members were joined by French, German and Swedish trade unions. Here, for the first time, the first cracks began to appear in the united community. There were major clashes between the speaker Marx and Bakunin. Bakunin wanted a form of government where there was no government and the people were free (anarchism), while Marx was a strict communist. There were also social democrats and conservative socialists who advocated cooperation with the bourgeoisie. This 5-day meeting was finally adjourned to another time. But it was at this international that for the first time the parties realized that they had different views from each other.

## iii. Lausanne Congress (1867)

The next international conference began in Lausanne in 1867. Trade unions from Sweden, France and Germany also participated, as well as delegates from the UK, Italy and Belgium. As in the previous conference, anarchists, socialists and communists participated, but the social democrats, known for their closeness to the bourgeois class, could no longer afford to stay with these too radical groups. Although there are still ideological divisions within this international community, there is now a serious international environment. At this congress, important issues such as compulsory education, 8-hour work, labor rates were clarified. In addition, for the first time internationally, collective property was recognized by all parties.

## iv. Basel Congress (1869)

The Basel congress, which was recognized as the 3rd congress in 1869, was additionally composed of delegates from America, Austria and Spain. The conference was mainly marked by the clash between the Proudhonian mutualists (anarchists) and the collectivist position defended by Marx's envoy to the General Council and Bakunin. However, the Belgian socialist de Paepe played a decisive role in the Belgian delegation's shift to the collectivist side and in isolating the mainly French Proudhonists. In short, in general, the collectivist position was accepted by the majority at this international congress.

## v. Hague Congress (1872)

The Hague Congress, the last international congress, began in 1872. The commune government in Paris in 1871 and the Polish revolts that began in 1868 and ended in 1872 also failed. With these failures, the international was reconstituted. On the one side was Bakunin, who lost his support and alliance with the newly formed social democrats due to allegations of "pedophilia", and on the other side was Karl Marx, who supported both rebellions by traveling to the countries, was loved by the congressmen, and was called the father of ideas. In response to the pressure and the sense of loss, Bakunin officially left the IWA with his supporters. This was officially the last congress of the IWA.

At this congress Marx stated that in order to achieve a communist order, a ruling "party" backbone was needed. The first example of this was created in Portugal in 1875.

## d. The Socialist Schism, Anarchism vs. Marxism

Years of confrontation between Marxism and Anarchism led to the collapse of the IWA. Marxists considered anarchists too radical and anarchists considered Marxists too reactionary. The anarchist notion of “no government and no rulers” was a very wrong idea for the Marxists. It was because of these differences of opinion that the leaderships of the Paris Commune, the Polish riots and the London workers' strikes were led to failure. In addition, trust in the IWA declined because the social democrats and socialists acted on orders from the bourgeoisie and because of the outbreak of bribery. Anarchists and Marxists continued to clash over the years.

Dear Frederick,

My family has been back for **about** 10 days. Little Jenny is much better and has stopped coughing. She is now taking salt water baths at home, i.e. baths with sea salt. **About** 2 months ago I, too, started taking a bath at home every morning, sluicing myself with cold water from head to foot, since when I have been feeling much better.

The most interesting acquaintanceship I have struck up here is that of Colonel *Lapinski*. He is without doubt the cleverest Pole — besides being an *homme d'action* — I have ever met. His sympathies are all on the German side, though in manners and speech he is also a Frenchman. He cares nothing for the national struggle and only knows the racial struggle. He hates all Orientals, among whom he numbers Russians, Turks, Greeks, Armenians, etc., with equal impartiality. He spent some time here in company with *Urquhart*, but, not content with describing him as a ‘humbug’, he actually doubts his probity, which is unjust.

The ‘Circassian’ princes exhibited in England by Urquhart and Lapinski were two — menials. Lapinski maintains that Urquhart is being well and truly led by the nose by Zamoyski, who in turn is himself simply a tool of Palmerston’s and hence, by this circuitous route, of the Russian Embassy. Although of Catholic stock, he (Lap.) finds Urquhart’s relations with the Catholic bishops in England highly suspect. As soon as ‘action’ was called for, he says, — e.g. the equipping of a Polish corps to invade Circassia, which L., too, regards as the best diversion — Urquhart allowed himself to be dissuaded by Zamoyski. By and large, Urquhart only wants to ‘talk’. He is a ‘big liar’ and he (Lap.) took it particularly amiss that he should have made him (L.) his co-liar without consulting him beforehand. Not a soul in Circassia knows Urquhart, who spent only 24 hours there and doesn’t speak the language. By way of illustrating U.’s imaginative powers, he mentioned the latter’s boast that he (Urq.) had killed *Chartism* in England!

There has been another purge of the National Government in Warsaw. This had been infiltrated by Czartoryski’s supporters as a result of the intrigues of Bonaparte and Palmerston. Three of these were *stabbed* and that, *pro nunc* has intimidated the rest. (The said Czartoryski party was headed by Majewski.) The power of the National Government is evident from the fact that the Grand Duke Constantine accepted a *passport* from it for a journey abroad. According to L., Herzen and Bakunin are thoroughly **chapfallen** because your Russian, upon being scratched a little, has again revealed himself to be a Tartar.

Bakunin has become a monster, a huge mass of flesh and fat, and is barely capable of walking any more. To crown it all, he is sexually perverse and jealous of the seventeen year-old Polish girl who married him in Siberia because of his martyrdom. He is presently in Sweden, where he is hatching ‘revolution’ with the Finns.

*A letter from Marx when he was in Manchester to Engels 1863*

## e. The Fate of the Paris Commune and Dark Age

Starting on July 19, 1870, the Franco-Prussian war was very important for the history of the IWA. The French army was led by Napoleon III, Napoleon's grandson, but was defeated. Under the leadership of Bismarck, the troops of the Kingdom had entered the interior of France. After the Battle of Sedan and the capture of Emperor Napoleon III by the Prussian army, the French government resorted to desperate defense and guerrilla tactics. After overthrowing the empire and establishing the republic, the French government still lost Paris. With the loss of Paris, peace was signed with the Kingdom of Prussia. After the peace signing in Versailles, the French lost an important land like Alsace-Loren and went into debt. In accordance with the terms of the peace treaty, Paris was first garrisoned by the Germans for a short time, but was soon abandoned. After the abandonment, the National Guard and the commune guards revolted and, with the participation of the workers, Paris officially came under full commune authority. In addition, when members of the army and police joined, the government fled to Versailles. Marx and Engels came here to support and assist. Marx, who later described his ideas, claimed that the Commune was "no longer a 'state' in the usual sense, because of the self-government of the neighborhoods and similar factors: it was a transitional form, a transition towards the extinction of the state." The Commune collapsed in 70 days due to internal turmoil, opportunism and the inadequacy of the army, and the government moved back to Paris. After this, the dark age began for leftist organizations with the dissolution of the IWA. No movement was seen until the Second International.



*Barricades during siege of Paris 1871*

## f. The Second International

The Socialist International was known also as the Second International, following as it was, the First International (1864 through 1876) founded by Marx and Engels. Organized in 1889 with the help of Engels, and based, in large part upon the organizational success of its largest section, the German Social Democratic Party, it existed as a loose federation of the world's socialist parties, most of whom described themselves as "Marxist". It included openly reformist type organizations that saw a gradual implementation of reforms of capitalism to achieve socialism; socialist parties based on unions, or "Labor" parties; and revolutionary workers parties that saw the need to openly smash the capitalist state structure.

The Socialist International was seen as an instrument of socialist revolution, cutting across international boundaries thrown up to divide the working class. After Engels' death and continuing into the early 20th century, the class struggle in the United States and Europe heated up, opening fissures in the Socialist International. Several conferences, in 1907 and 1911 strengthened the internationalist perspective, opposing war and colonialism, but revealing these fissures. The German Social-Democracy, for example, voted at these conferences against the resolutions against colonialism, albeit they too were divided on this issue.

August 1914, the start of the First World War, marked, as Russian Marxist Leon Trotsky said "the effective death of the International." He made this statement in response to the failure of the International to oppose the imperialist war. Instead of opposing the war, calling for the overthrow of their own capitalists and organizing strikes against it, the various International sections in France, Germany and Britain, voted for war credits and effectively sided with their own capitalist class to wage war.

This was met with opposition within the ranks of all these sections to form Marxist and Internationalist factions that would work against this capitulation. Most notable were the Russian Marxists of the Russian Social-Democratic and Labor Party (Bolsheviks), who, 11 years earlier had split from their more reformist comrades in the Menshevik wing of the RSDLP. Along with Leon Trotsky (independent of any RSDLP faction), Vladimir Lenin from the Bolsheviks, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht of the revolutionary wing of the German Social-Democracy and the majority of the Socialist Party of America led by Eugene V. Debs, a broad internationalist response to this capitulation on behalf of the International started to coalesce.

Various international conferences of Internationalist social-democrats occurred, the most famous one being the Zimmerwald conference of 1916. While failing to build an alternate Socialist International, it did bring together many of the forces that eventually built, in 1919 and under the auspices of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the 3rd, or Communist International.

While the Socialist International remained a corpse throughout the war years, it did regroup, this time without its internationalist wing, now in the Communist International, in 1920 and 1921. By now organized as an "anti-Communist" but "pro-socialist" current, it included parties that had now shared state power, including the Australian and British Labour Parties, the German Social-Democracy, and, into the 30s, in many European countries. Clearly only interested in mild reforms in labor legislation and social welfare, the Socialist International clearly went over to the perspective of reforming capitalism, rather than overthrowing it.

## g. Failure of the Second International

### i. The Outbreak of World War I

One of the most significant reasons for the collapse of the Second International was the outbreak of World War I. The International had been founded on the principle of solidarity among

workers of all nations, but when war broke out, the member parties of the Second International were sharply divided. Many of the socialist parties in the various countries, instead of opposing the war, supported their respective national governments.

The French Socialist Party, the German Social Democratic Party (SPD), and others endorsed the war efforts, thus betraying the core principle of anti-war socialism. This division was catastrophic, as it revealed deep fractures within the movement and marked the end of the unity the International had aimed to create.

## ii. Ideological Differences and Nationalism

In addition to these divisions, revolutionary movements began to take hold in certain countries, particularly in Russia, where the 1905 Revolution and later the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution would ultimately overthrow the Tsarist government. The Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP), initially part of the International, was deeply divided between the Mensheviks and the Bolsheviks, further contributing to tensions within the organization.

The Bolshevik takeover in Russia, which eventually led to the creation of the Soviet Union, was a sign of the rise of more radical forms of socialism that rejected the more moderate approach of the Second International.

## iii. Failure to Address the Challenges of the Time

The Second International was unable to adapt to the changing political landscape. The rise of imperialism, the increasing power of capitalist monopolies, and the complex political realities of the early 20th century required a new kind of socialist strategy that the International failed to provide.

The leadership of the International, particularly figures like Eduard Bernstein and Jean Jaurès, was unable to effectively address these challenges. Bernstein, for example, advocated for a revisionist approach that sought to achieve socialism through gradual reforms rather than revolution, which alienated more radical factions.

## iv. The Split into Competing Socialist Factions

The tensions between different factions within the socialist movement led to splits in the International. The reformists and revolutionaries were increasingly at odds, and after World War I, the Third International (Comintern), led by the Bolsheviks, was founded in 1919 to pursue a more revolutionary path, further diminishing the influence of the Second International.

# h. First World War and Rise of Leninism

The First World War began with the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary on July 28, 1914. The war was greeted with enthusiasm among nationalist peoples, from France to Japan. But the socialist and bolshevik parties and their members did not join this enthusiasm. According to these parties, this war was rejected because it was aimed at “strengthening the imperialism and bourgeois rule of the European monarchies” and because the proletariat was sent to the front. The only difference was that the young Benito Mussolini, director of the newspaper “Avanti” in the Italian Socialist Party, thought that this war would end imperialism itself, but he was soon expelled from the Socialist Party.

When the war began, the German armies won victories faster and more successfully than expected. German armies invaded France, Belgium, Belarus, Ukraine and the Baltic states (then part of the Russian Empire). The occupied countries were plundered by Imperialist German armies. The Russian Empire suffered the most.

The Russian Empire was already in the process of collapse before the war began. The newly crowned Nicholas II made a series of chaotic decisions, and in 1905 went to war with Japan over Manchuria, but suffered a major defeat, his international prestige declined and his army collapsed. The German army, far more powerful than the Japanese, crushed the Russian army. The already restless population rose up in rebellion. Workers and partisans in France, Italy, Germany and Austria-Hungary also attempted general strikes and revolts, but none were as effective as in the Russian Empire.

The revolts in Russia were led by groups generally recognized as communists, referred to as “Bolsheviks”. These groups were led by people like Trotsky, Zinoviev, Kamenev and Lenin, who would write their names in history. This started the rise of Leninism.



*German soldiers at the frontlines 1915*

## i. Russian Civil War

### i. February Revolution and dissolution of the Romanov dynasty

Unrest in Russia had risen dramatically. Tsar Nikolai's decision to leave the government to his wife, a German princess, to head the army despite his lack of experience, to appoint the rapist and alcoholic priest Rasputin to important positions in the country and to refuse to accept reforms led the people to revolt. Members of the army fled and joined the partisans. Eventually they reached the limit and members of the Russian parliament (Duma) and members of the reformist army called for a general strike and stopped the Tsar's train. On March 16, 1917, the Tsar renounced on behalf of himself, his son and his brother. Thus ended 500 years of the Romanov dynasty.

Thus the “February Revolution” took place. But things didn't work out with the February revolution. This time, the “Petrograd Soviet” government was formed under the leadership of the social democratic Duma administration and the ultra-radical “Bolshevik” group we have already



described. The Menshevik-Kadet-SRs government was formed, which enjoyed good relations with the aristocrats and bourgeois support. Although at the beginning they carried out reforms that were appropriate and necessary for the benefit of the people, they were soon interrupted by the continuation of the war and the competition for power with the Petrograd Soviet government, which led to a loss of confidence in their government.

## ii. Kornilov Affair

The war had moved from Ukrainian territory to Russia. Although many communists (including their 2nd leader Trotsky) were arrested as internal security, the people and the army were against the government because the victory over the Germans was still not realized. Finally, the war minister Alexander Kerensky (a member of the Cadet) used the last remaining morale, ammunition and logistics of the army in the “Brusilov Offensive” against Austria-Hungary, which also failed with the help of the German army. This was the last straw for conservative officers and generals in the army. The chief of the General Staff, Lavr Kornilov, marched with loyal infantry and officers to the capital Petrograd. Since the Duma did not have an army loyal to it, prime minister Kerensky (promoted to prime minister at the time of the coup) fled Petrograd, freeing the soviet militants and their leader Trotsky and handing over the garrison arms. Armed Bolsheviks called for a general strike and managed to stop Kornilov's army. On February 13, 1917, Kornilov formally surrendered to the Duma.



After the coup was averted, Kerensky reorganized the army, but the weapons he had given to the Soviet militants were not returned to the government. Thus Kerensky armed the Soviets with his own hand.

### iii. October Revolution and Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

A month after Kornilov's failed coup, Soviet militants and workers went on strike in Petrograd, which grew into a rebellion. Kerensky then left the winter palace, leaving the government defenseless (he would flee to America shortly afterwards.) The isolated Duma members were arrested by the Soviet authorities and on November 7 Soviet Russia was officially established. Initially in control only in the working class-dominated industrial areas, by 1922 the Soviet government had almost the entire territory of the former Russian Empire under its control.

After the October revolution, Trotsky was elected chief of staff and the army was reorganized. In addition, the first negotiations with the Germans began. Realizing that it could not win the war, the Soviet government was forced to sign the Treaty of Brest Litovsk with the allied states on March 3, 1918. With this agreement, the Soviet government lost 35% of its territory and important resources. Although peace was made with the Germans, this treaty led to chaos in the country again. The anti-government traditionalists, social democrats and social revolutionaries (SRs) united against the soviet government, but the majority of the old government-supporting Mensheviks decided to join the Bolsheviks. These riots were easily suppressed at first, but turned into a civil war when the armed Czechoslovak Legion officially arrived in Chita.

*Soviet lands after October Revolution 1917*



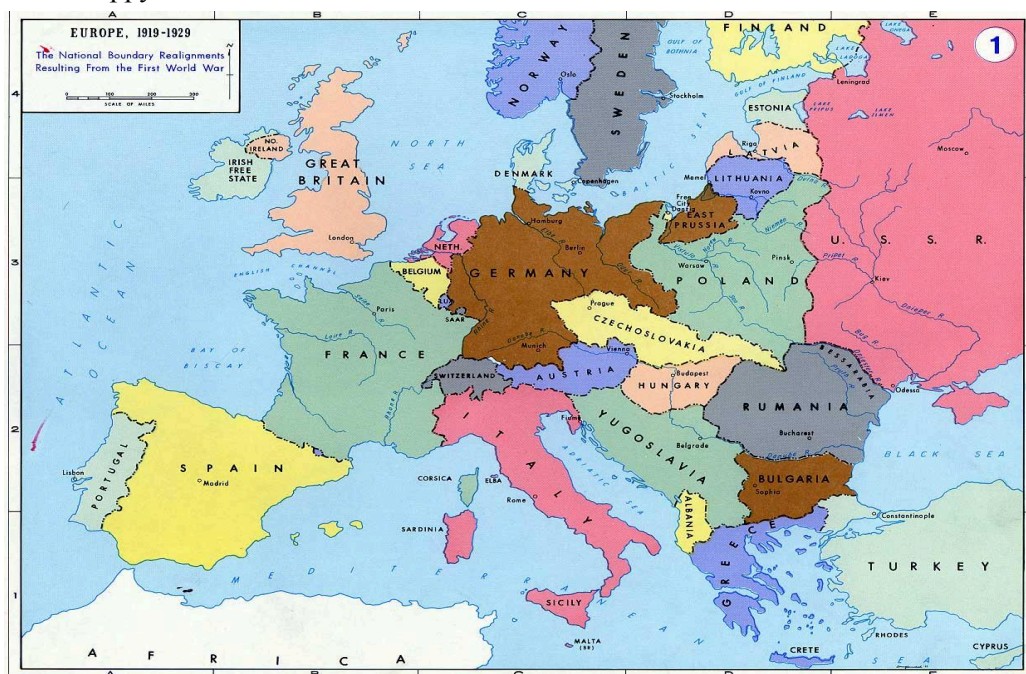
#### iv. Russian Civil War

The conservatives and Duma supporters united to form a government in Siberia called the "White Army". The government, which had no permanent leader for a long time, eventually transferred all its powers to Admiral Aleksandr Kolchak and was recognized by the Western powers. The White Army initially launched successful incursions into Soviet territory, besieging important cities such as Tsaritsyn, but then collapsed due to the harsh conditions in Siberia. It collapsed because the Soviets controlled the industrial areas and the large number of men who could be drafted into the army. The last collapsed completely when the failed attempt to rescue the Tsar in Ekaterinburg was followed by the massacre of the Tsar and his family, and when the Czechoslovak legion betrayed Prime Minister Viktor Pepelyayev and Admiral Kolchak to the Soviets in Irkutsk in 1920, who executed them.

Alongside the White Army, the Soviet government had to fight against the former Tsarist states that had declared independence: Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Finland. Most of these countries had gained independence by making peace with the Soviet government, while some had been occupied by the Soviet government.

#### j. End The First World War

The Central Powers officially surrendered to the Allied Powers on June 28, 1919. For a long time, the Spartacus League and rebellions led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg throughout Germany had been suppressed by the conservative army members returning from the front. With the collapse of Germany, the Soviet government occupied Belarus, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia, which were under German defense according to the Brest-Litovsk Treaty. For the first time, Soviet Russia (which became the Soviet Union with the occupation of these countries) took the title of defender of all workers. However, the foreign powers that supported the White Army during the civil war were not happy with this.



Map

*Europe after World War I*

of

## k. German Revolution

### i. First stage of the revolution, Kiel mutiny

While the First World War was going on, the Hundred Days Offensive decided by Ludendorff had begun, and all the remaining logistics of the German army were used in this offensive. However, France still could not be conquered. After this incident, the sailors in the front and the Kiel navy were ordered to commit suicide, and general strikes and rebellions began. Soldiers on the front were deserting and joining the partisans and the Spartacus League. These rebellions spread quickly, spreading to cities such as Hamburg and Bremen. They were so fast that Soviet governments were briefly established in the Bavarian and Alsace-Lorraine regions. The social democratic SPD government, which was thought to support these rebellions, changed its mind at the last moment and sided with the army.

### ii. Abdication of Hohenzollern and Opposition from the Right

Although soviet governments were established in Bavaria and other regions, the state was still in the hands of the SPD and Prime Minister Ebert. On June 28, 1919, the Versailles Treaty was officially signed and Germany left the war. The monarchy was then overthrown and a republican government was established. However, the communist groups were expecting a radical Bolshevik government. The leaders of these groups were revolutionary Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. However, due to the lack of support from foreign countries and the lack of support from the conservative part of the population, the communist groups were limited to Kiel, Hamburg, Bavaria and the Alsace-Lorraine region. This gave the government enough time to protect itself.

### iii. Formation of the Freikorps

During the quiet period between the chaos, the Ebert government gathered the disbanded army officers and anti-communist militants and formed army groups called "Freikorps". These army groups were educated, old soldiers and traditionalists, unlike the militants on the communist side. Although most of the army officers also hated the social democrats, they agreed to join the army because they hated the communist rebellion for the time being and because they needed to bring money to the households. This incident, which violated the article of the Versailles Treaty that "the army officers shall be limited to 100,000 men", could only be ended after the communist rebellion was suppressed. The Freikorps armies were dispersed by the police and the army officers loyal to the republic in March 1920 due to the attempted "Kapp Putsch" coup.

### iv. Battle of Berlin

After the Ebert government prepared itself and the Freikorps groups were formed, the rebellious sailors stormed Ebert's office and demanded that he resign and give authority to the Soviets. Ebert, who refused, used the Freikorps groups formed to capture sailors in the Berlin palace. However, with the support of the armed resistance around, the Freikorps groups were defeated and had to retreat. Shortly thereafter, on January 1, 1919, the German Communist Party (KPD) was officially opened.

However, on January 11, the directions changed with the tank and artillery support of the Freikorps groups of the British and French governments. The Freikorps groups, which bombed the KPD buildings and militant houses, officially cleared Berlin of all reds on January 12.

## v. Death of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg and End of the Revolution

Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, the ringleaders of the January Revolt, were forced to go into hiding after its failure, but in spite of the urging of their associates, they refused to leave Berlin. On the evening of 15 January 1919, the two were found by the authorities in an apartment in the Wilmersdorf district of Berlin. They were immediately arrested and handed over to the largest Freikorps unit, the heavily armed Garde-Kavallerie-Schützen-Division. Its commander, Captain Waldemar Pabst, had them questioned. The same night both prisoners were clubbed with the butt of a rifle and shot in the head. Karl Liebknecht's body, without a name, was delivered to a nearby morgue. Rosa Luxemburg's body was thrown into Berlin's Landwehr Canal, where it was found only on 1 July.

With the death of the two leaders, the party remained without a leader for a long time. Later, the Stalinist Ernst Thälmann and Wilhelm Pieck took over the KPD through illegitimate means. The Ebert government, which took advantage of this confusion of leaders, also ended the Hamburg, Kiel, Bavaria and Alsace-Lorraine soviets. After this, there were various strikes and rebellions, although not on a large scale, but finally in 1933, with the arrest of Thälmann by the Nazi Party and Wilhelm Pieck's escape to Soviet Russia, the KPD's power almost disappeared.



Headquarter of KPD 1933

## 1. Third International (Communist International)

The Third International, also known as the Comintern, was launched on March 2, 1919. As soon as it began, they began talking about the assassinations of Liebknecht and Luxemburg by the Freikorps groups... *(what happens after this will change according to your choices.)*

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