

Worksheet 5- The Provisional Government, March-October 1917

Review: Lecture 4- The First World War, 1914-17

In the previous lecture of the unit, Professor Waldron looked at Russia's involvement in the First World War.

- ✓ Based on what you learnt in the last lecture, name three challenges that Russia faced during the First World War.

Recall: Lecture 5- The Provisional Government, March- October 1917

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. What did Nicholas II do in February/March 1917?
 - a) Die in battle
 - b) Abdicate the throne
 - c) Appoint a new Prime Minister
 - d) Flee Russia
2. What was the first challenge facing the Provisional Government?
 - a) Russia's involvement in WWI
 - b) Stolypin's land reforms
 - c) The Tsar Returning
 - d) The debt that Russia owed its allies
3. In what month did leftist demonstrations, that the Provisional Government opened fire on, take place?
 - a) April
 - b) June
 - c) May
 - d) July
4. Who was the leader of the Bolshevik Party in 1917?
 - a) Joseph Stalin
 - b) Nikita Khrushchev
 - c) Vladimir Lenin
 - d) Leon Trotsky
5. In what month in 1917 did the Bolshevik Party seize control of St Petersburg, storming the Winter Palace?
 - a) December
 - b) October
 - c) March
 - d) August

Analysis

6. In the lecture [0:45-2:20] , Professor Waldron discusses the problems that the Provisional Government faced from March 1917.
 - a) Identify **two** problems that the Provisional Government faced in March 1917.
 - b) Explain why these problems made it difficult for the Provisional Government to rule Russia in the interim period of March-October 1917.

7. From the lecture [3:00-4:12] and your own knowledge, why do you think the Provisional Government was unable to withdraw Russia from the First World War? Give at least **two** reasons.

Evaluation

8. Evaluate how the decisions of the Provisional Government and the events which took place from June-September 1917 led to the Russian Revolution in October 1917.

You may wish to include the following in your answer:

- June Offensive
- July Days
- Kornilov Rebellion

Challenge: *Lenin called for the overthrow of the Provisional Government by the Soviets; he was subsequently condemned as a “German agent” by the government’s leaders. In July, he was forced to flee to Finland, but his call for “peace, land, and bread” met with increasing popular support, and the Bolsheviks won a majority in the Petrograd Soviet.* (From History.com (ed), 2009, *Lenin returns to Russia from exile*, A&E Television Networks, Accessed: 10 November 2021, URL: <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/lenin-returns-to-russia-from-exile>)

How significant was Lenin’s role in March-October 1917 leading up to the Bolshevik Revolution? Refer to the source, the lecture and your own knowledge in your answer.

Glossary

- **Authority-** The power or right to give orders and make decisions.
e.g. The authority of the Provisional Government was questionable.
- **Bolshevik-** A member of the majority faction of the Russian Social Democratic Party on the far-left of the political spectrum, which seized power in the October Revolution of 1917.
e.g. The Bolshevik Party continued to gain support throughout the summer of 1917.
- **Coup d’etat-** (often shortened to Coup) This is a seizure and removal of a government and its powers.
e.g. The Bolshevik coup took place in late October 1917, starting in Petrograd.
- **Interim-** A period of time in between two others, usually temporary.
e.g. The Provisional Government took charge in the interim period of March-October 1917.
- **Plausible-** To seem reasonable or probable, likely to happen.
e.g. It was plausible for the Bolshevik Party to try to stage a Revolution.
- **Provisional-** Existing in the present for a short time, to be changed later.

e.g. The Provisional Government existed from March-October 1917.

- **Revolt-** To try to end the authority of a ruler or government by taking violent action against them.
e.g. General Kornilov attempted to stage a revolt in August 1917.
- **Soviets-** Small political groups and government councils that made decisions following the Russian Revolution, originally organised by workers.
e.g. The Petrograd Soviet, founded in March 1917, organised industrial strikes throughout 1917.