

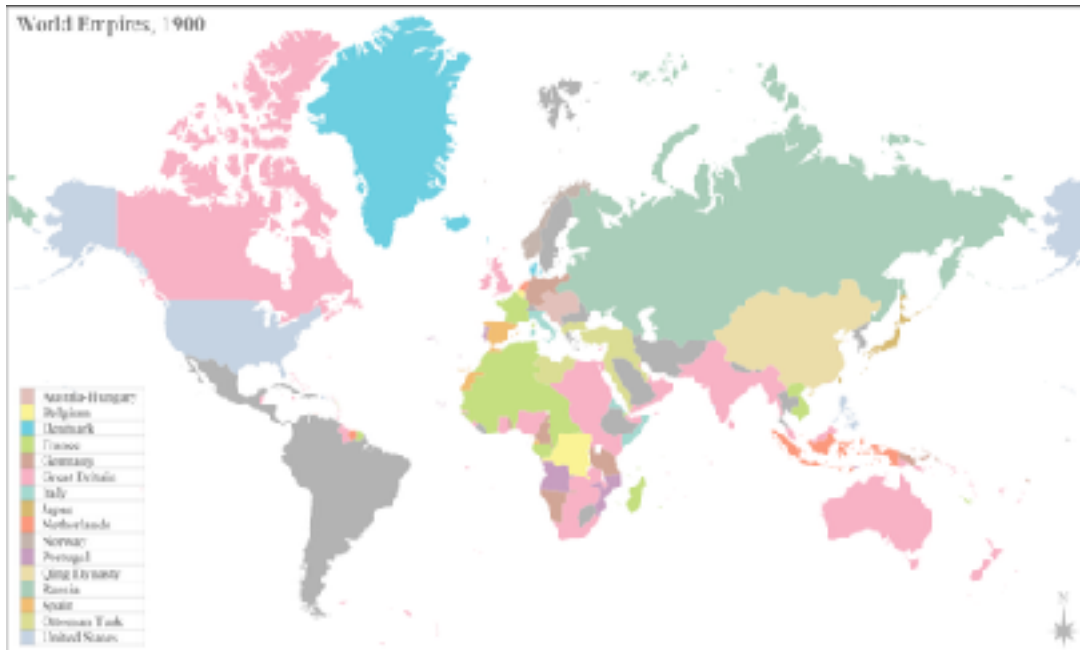
What caused the Russian Revolution?

Russian Revolution. Causes. *Animal Farm*.

Introduction

Animal Farm tells the story of Farmer Jones's animals that rebel and take over the farm. The animals no longer want humans to be the ones who benefit from their hard labor. Instead, the animals want to create a new society on the farm, one that is based on equality and justice. The story is a fable and an allegory. A **fable** is a short story that has as its main characters animals with human attributes, much like the pigs, horses, sheep, chickens, and dogs of *Animal Farm*. A fable also ends with a moral and Orwell has many morals in this story—the struggle against tyranny, the evil of totalitarian leaders, and the importance of a free press.

The importance of the story of *Animal Farm* is that it is an **allegory**, a story that is a metaphor or a comparison of real world events. *Animal Farm* is the story, or allegory, of the **Russian Revolution**. Manor Farm provides the setting where the animals revolt against Farmer Jones, like the people of Russia rebelled against their leader, Czar Nicholas II.





In the early 1900s, Russia's Czar Nicholas II ruled over a huge empire. The Russian empire included people of over 200 national and ethnic groups and 125 languages. The majority of these people were peasants, or poor farmers, who lived in poverty and did not benefit from the technological innovations of the beginning of the modern era.


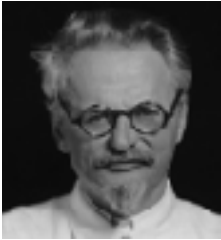


Under the rule of the Czar many peasants found life in the villages hopeless and left the countryside to find better opportunities for employment and living in the major cities, such as Moscow and St. Petersburg. The Czar wanted Russia to become a modern and powerful state like the other European nations. By the time World War I started, Russia had started to industrialize, but the

majority of its people were poor and worked on the land. The divide between these poor “have-nots” and the few elites, or “haves” was very large.

By 1917, the Russian army and soldiers had endured major casualties and suffering in World War I. The Russian people at home also faced many hardships including food shortages and starvation. With the backdrop of the war, the Czar’s government was overthrown and replaced by the Communist Bolsheviks under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin. When Lenin died in 1924, his Communist Party colleagues, Leon Trotsky, the leader of the Red Army, and Joseph Stalin, head of the Communist Party, struggled for power of the new state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Stalin won the battle, and he deported Trotsky into permanent exile. He ended up in Mexico City where he was assassinated by a Stalinist agent in 1940.

This story of the causes and consequences of the Russian Revolution are told through the allegory of the *Animal Farm*. The characters in the book represent real people. Each of the characters is an example of a real historical figure. As you read the book, identify a quote or excerpt that you think represents the ideas associated with this character.

Historical Figure	Character	Description	Connection
 Karl Marx—Founder of Communism	Old Major	Old Major is the originator of the idea that becomes the basis of the animal rebellion—Animalism. However, the ideals behind it are soon forgotten.	Example: <i>Marx came up with the idea of Communism based on certain ideals. As societies implemented Communism, most of his original ideals were lost.</i>
 Vladimir Lenin—Leader of the Bolsheviks and first leader of the USSR		Old Major calls for rebellion and his words and ideas are inspirational for the overthrow of the old order.	

 <p>Czar Nicholas II</p>	Farmer Jones	Old Major describes Mr. Jones and humans he represents as the only animals who consume without producing.	
 <p>Leon Trotsky</p>	Snowball		Trotsky was the leader of the Red Army who organized committees of workers. Trotsky escaped from the Soviet Union after losing a power struggle with Stalin. Trotsky went into exile in Mexico, where he was later murdered by Stalin's agents.
 <p>Joseph Stalin</p>	Napoleon	Napoleon is an example of the tyranny that overtakes all humans when they gain too much power. His greed for more power and wealth overtakes any ideals he may have initially had.	
 <p>The Proletariat—the working class</p>	Boxer	Boxer believes Napoleon, and his refusal to question what doesn't seem right ultimately costs him his life.	

Part 1: Long-term Causes of the Revolution

We will begin to consider the long-term causes of the Russian Revolution. Long-term causes are often social structures (the way that society is organized) or economic structures (the ways that the economy is organized) that have endured over long periods of time. Russian society was highly unequal and this inequality led to long-term divisions between the elites, led by the Czar, and the working classes.

Source 1: *Animal Farm*

In the novel, *Animal Farm*, Old Major describes the terrible conditions that the animals endured. Read the excerpt below and then answer the questions.

[Old Major says] “Now comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short. We are born we are given just so much food as will keep the breath in our bodies, and those of us who are capable of it are forced to work to the last atom of our strength, and the very instant that our usefulness has come to an end we are slaughtered with hideous cruelty...The life of an animal is misery and slavery: this is the plain truth. ...Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals. He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them for starving, and the rest he keeps for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and yet there is not one of us that owns more than his bare skin. You cows that I see before me, how many thousands of gallons of milk have you given during this last year? And what has happened to that milk which should have been breeding up sturdy calves? Every drop of it has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid in this last year, and how many of those eggs ever hatched into chickens? The rest have all gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men...

pages 28-29

Summarize the main ideas in the text

1. What is life like for the animals on the farm?
2. How do the animals provide their labor for Farmer Jones?

Draw Inferences: Make a claim based on what you know from the text above

3. What is Old Major’s argument?

Old Major believes that the animals _____

and that Mr. Jones _____

4. Do you think that Old Major will propose as a solution to improve the animals' lives? If so what will it be?

Source 2: Gleb Uspenskii, "From a Village Diary"

Uspenskii was a journalist living in rural Russia in the late 19th century. He wrote about the living and working conditions of Russian peasants based on conversations he had with them about their lives. Read the primary source below and then answer the questions.

While strolling about the country place where I spent the summer of 1878 I could see an old peasant walking toward me. He was carrying a little girl, about one-and-a-half years old. Another about twelve, was walking beside him...They resembled beggars,...in their outward appearance. Even for country folk they were poorly dressed. The man's trousers were ragged and torn, exposing his bare body beneath, and he was barefoot. The little girl was so thin and jaundiced that she seemed ill. Her blond hair was disheveled and hung in uneven dirty strands, with little cakes of dirt visible between them. The other girl's appearance also bespoke poverty...

I...begged his pardon, and said:

"The little girls are so thin,..."

"That they are, my friend, and how else when there's no food for them?"

"How is it they have no food?"

"There isn't any, that's all. We had a cow, but the Lord took her from us---she died—So, no milk."

"Then what do you feed this little one?" I asked.

"What do we feed her? Same thing as we eat—kvas, bread—"

"To such a little child?!"

"And just what would you do?—God willing, this fall the heifer will be grown, and we'll sell her. And for the summer I have to be watchman for the master—Adding in what I make from that, God willing we'll buy a cow before winter. But in the meantime, we have to endure—can't be helped!"

Summarize the main ideas in the text

5. How does Uspenskii describe the Russian peasants?
6. What are the main challenges faced by this peasant family?

Draw Inferences: Make a claim based on what you know from the text above

7. Based on the peasant's description, what do you think life will be like for his family in the next year?

Source 3: Photo of Russian peasants before the Revolution



Image found at: <http://sites.bu.edu/revolutionaryrussia/student-research/karine-ter-grigoryan/>

Summarize what you see in the image

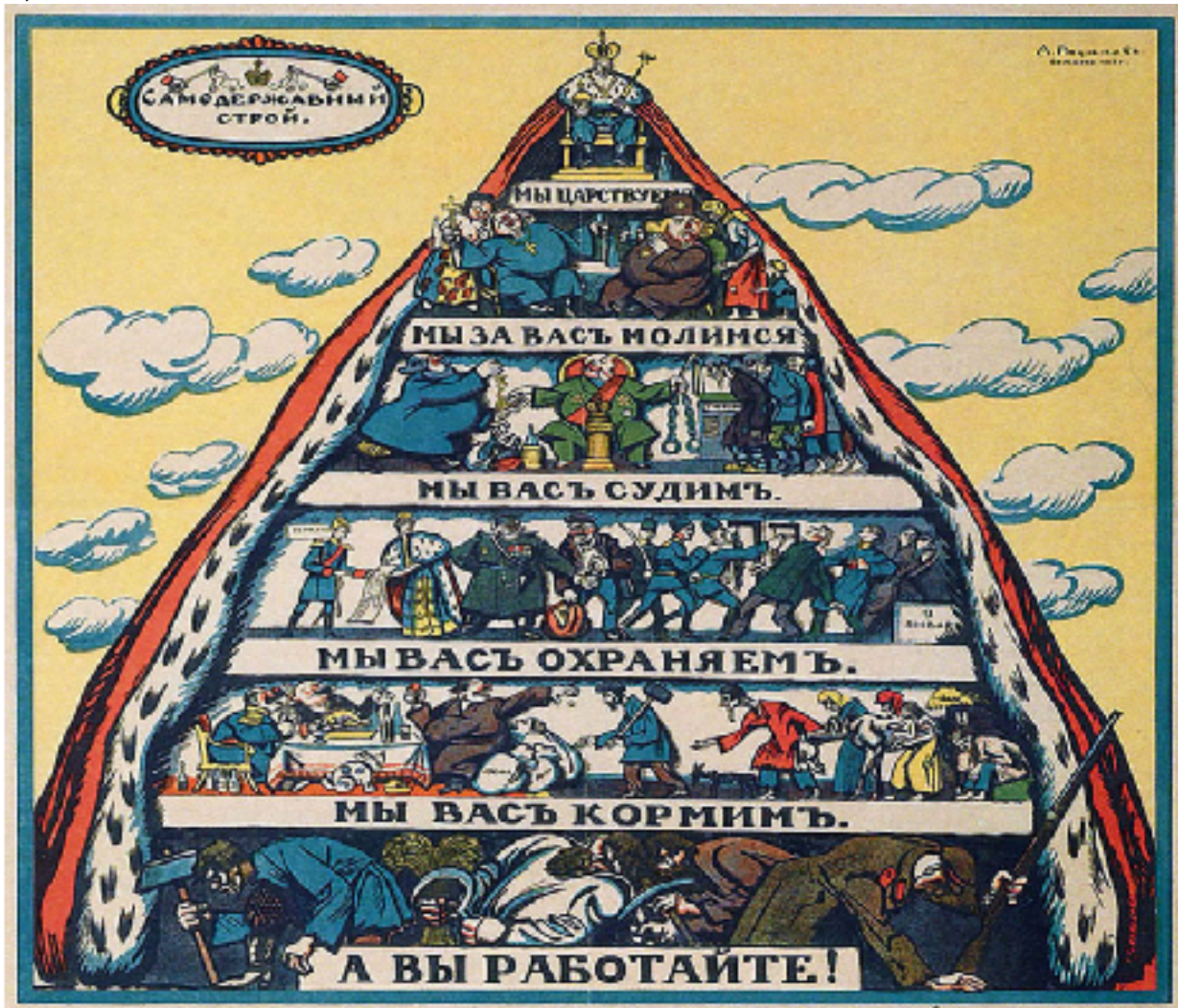
8. What do you see in the photo?
9. What does life (clothing, housing, family) look like for the peasants?

Comparison: Make a claim based on what you know from the text and image above

10. How does Uspenskii's description of peasant life compare and contrast to the image?
Based on Uspenskii's account and the photo, life for Russian peasants

Source 4:

This is a cartoon created in 1917 showing the social structure of Russian society created by Aleksei Radakov and entitled, “The Autocratic System,” an autocrat is a single ruler, like a king or czar. The words on the image from the top state: We reign; we pray for you; we judge you; we guard you; we feed you; AND YOU WORK!



Summarize what you see in the image

11. What social classes do you recognize in the image?
12. Who is at the top and who is at the bottom?
13. What does life look like for the workers?

Draw Inferences: Make a claim based on what you know from the image above

14. What class' point of view is represented in this image? Give evidence to support your claim. The _____ class point of view is represented in this image because they are represented _____
15. What is the argument that this cartoon is making about power in Russia in 1917? Give evidence to support your claim.

Part 2: Short-term causes of the Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution was also caused by specific historical events that led to the Russian Revolution. Like many important historical events, it was not caused by just one thing, but many factors that led people to the streets to overthrow the Czar. You will consider several sources that present multiple short-term causes of the Russian Revolution.

Source 5: *Animal Farm*

In the novel, *Animal Farm*, there is a specific event is the turning point that leads the animals to revolt. Read the excerpt below and then answer the questions.

Now, as it turned out, the Rebellion was achieved much earlier and more easily than anyone had expected. In past years Mr. Jones, although a hard master, had been a capable farmer, but of late he had fallen on evil days. He had become much disheartened after losing money in a lawsuit, and had taken to drinking more than was good for him. For whole days at a time he would lounge in his Windsor chair in the kitchen, reading the newspapers, drinking, and occasionally feeding Moses on crusts of bread soaked in beer. His men were idle and dishonest, the fields were full of weeds, the buildings wanted roofing, the hedges were neglected, and the animals were underfed.

June came and the hay was almost ready for cutting. On Midsummer's Eve, which was a Saturday, Mr. Jones went into Willingdon and got so drunk at the Red Lion that he did not come back till midday on Sunday. The men had milked the cows in the early morning and then had gone out rabbiting, without bothering to feed the animals. When Mr. Jones got back he immediately went to sleep on the drawing-room sofa with the *News of the World* over his face, so that when evening came, the animals were still unfed. At last they could stand it no longer. One of the cows broke in the door of the store-shed with her horn and all the animals began to help themselves from the bins. It was just then that Mr. Jones woke up. The next moment he and his four men were in the store-shed with whips in their hands, lashing out in all directions. This was more than the hungry animals could bear. With one accord, though nothing of the kind had been planned beforehand, they flung themselves upon their tormentors. Jones and his men suddenly found themselves being butted and kicked from all sides. The situation was quite out of their control. They had never seen animals behave like this before, and this sudden uprising of creatures whom they were used to thrashing and maltreating just as they chose, frightened them almost out of their wits. After only a moment or two they gave up trying to defend themselves and took to their heels. A minute later all five of them were in full flight down the cart-track that led to the main road, with the animals pursuing them in triumph.

Mrs. Jones looked out of the bedroom window, saw what was happening, hurriedly flung a few possessions into a carpet bag, and slipped out of the farm by another way... Meanwhile the animals had chased Jones and his men out on to the road and slammed the five-barred gate behind them. And so, almost before they knew what was happening, the Rebellion had been successfully carried through: Jones was expelled, and the Manor Farm was theirs.

pages 38-39

Summarize the main ideas in the text

16. Read over the text again and highlight the events that led to the animals' successful rebellion.

Draw Inferences: Make a claim based on what you know from the text

17. Why was this moment in the novel the turning point, or a moment of major change, in the story?

The animals chose to revolt at this point because _____

18. What long-term and short-term causes led to the rebellion?

Source 6: Women lead the Revolution

In her article, "Women and the Communal Strikes in the Crisis of 1917 to 1922," Temma Kaplan describes the turning point that marked the start of the Russian Revolution. Read below and answer the questions.

In February 1917, after three years of war during which over two million Russian soldiers died, the Russian government failed to supply food and fuel to its civilian population. Because of this failure, the women in Petrograd [St. Petersburg] launched a communal strike that in its final stages culminated in the overthrow of the Tsarist autocracy, against which there had been revolutionary activity for decades...The upheaval began with a communal strike in 1917, however, removed the Tsar and resulted in the creation of the Provisional Government, which was meant to lay the foundations of the liberal system in Russia...Acting in advance of the unionized working class, women precipitated the fall of the Tsar in February 1917 with demands for bread...

Most of the female 55 percent labor force of Petrograd in 1917 worked unskilled positions, especially in the textile industries. After eleven or twelve hour shifts, the women returned home to wash, mend, take care of children and get food. They joined their mothers, sisters, and daughters in bread lines...

Russian women used the occasion of International Women's Day (March 8 in the West but February 23 on the Julian calendar, observed in Russia) to call a meeting for "Bread and Peace," which provoked a communal strike.

Temma Kaplan is a Distinguished Professor of History at Rutgers University. She specializes on women's and gender history in Spain, Latin America, South Africa, and the US.

Summarize what you read in the text

19. What social classes led the revolution according to Kaplan? Why would women have been such active political participants in the revolution?

20. What caused the communal strike that led to revolution? Underline the specific causes the Kaplan mentions.

Comparison: Make a claim based on what you know from the texts above

21. How is the turning point that Kaplan describes similar and different to the causes of the rebellion in *Animal Farm*?

Source 7: Street demonstrations

One week after the women's demonstrations and protests, Czar Nicholas II abdicated, or gave up his power. Workers and soldiers organized themselves into soviets, which means council in Russian. These soviets represented the interests of workers, soldiers, and peasants. View this image of street protest in 1917. This photo is entitled, "Long live the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies!"



Found at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a32370>

Summarize what you see in the photo

22. Who is pictured in the street protests?

Comparison: Make a claim based on what you know from the texts above

23. How is this similar and different to what is described by Kaplan?

Source 8: Lenin and the Bolsheviks, Pearson Realize

<https://www.pearsonrealize.com/community/program/90a7e2cd-c96d-398e-8dfd-e13416155879/14/tier/7a36fb25-45bb-3b4b-8ee1-719bba942a64/12/lesson/57b3e100-2e6e-3537-ac78-8fe155602c50/16/content/4c56e459-27cb-3321-848e-540b4b17faad/16>

What were the effects of World War I in Russia?	Shortages and hunger for many people
How did Lenin get to Russia?	Germany allowed him to return to Russia in the hopes that he would cause a revolution
What happened in July 1917?	The Russian government led a battle against the Germans and the army's soldiers rebelled
How did Lenin and the Bolsheviks organize a revolution?	They fought and overthrew the government in November 1917.

24. What was Lenin's role in the Revolution?

Part 3: Immediately after the Revolution

After the Czar abdicated, workers organized themselves into soviets. These soviets set about organizing themselves to protect workers interests. According to historian, S.A. Smith, these soviets, “took on a wide range of functions, including guarding factory property, overseeing hiring and firing, labour discipline, and organizing food supplies.” The peasants also participated in the soviets and were interested in land redistribution. These groups attempted to develop rules and laws that would end the control of the Czar and other elites over the property and land so workers and peasants would have the opportunity to be equal socially, politically and economically.

This poster, created in 1918 is an idealized image of the new Russia, or Soviet Union. The main figures are the worker and peasant who are looking at the dawn of their new society. Under their feet are the symbols of the Czar’s power.



Found at: <http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1917-2/workers-organization/workers-organization-images/#bwg27/308>

Source 9: *Animal Farm*

The animals, like the Russian peasants, are empowered to finally benefit from their own labor. In the book, the animals work to create a new system that represents each member of Animal Farm. To do so, they create a list of “Seven Commandments.” Read the commandments below and fill in the chart describing the importance of each of the commandments. The first one has been done for you.

Commandment	Why do the animals make this a law?	What does this commandment suggest society should look like? Or, what is the significance of this commandment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.</i>	The animals want to be in charge of animal farm and not be controlled by humans.	The animals believe that all humans are enemies who want to steal what they produce with their labor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.</i>		

• <i>No animal shall wear clothes.</i>		
• <i>No animal shall sleep in a bed.</i>		
• <i>No animal shall drink alcohol.</i>		
• <i>No animal shall kill any other animal.</i>		
• <i>All animals are equal.</i>		

25. How does this relate to the Communist movement in the Soviet Union?

Civil War Erupts in Russia

After the Bolshevik Revolution, Lenin quickly sought peace with Germany. Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918, giving up a huge chunk of its territory and its population. The cost of peace was extremely high, but the Communist leaders knew that they needed all their energy to defeat a collection of enemies at home. Russia's withdrawal affected the hopes of both the Allies and the Central Powers.

The Opposing Forces For three years, civil war raged between the "Reds," as the Communists were known, and the counterrevolutionary "Whites." The "White" armies were made up of tsarist imperial officers, Mensheviks [another communist political group], democrats, and others, all of whom were united only by their desire to defeat the Bolsheviks. Nationalist groups from many of the former empire's non-Russian regions joined them in their fight. Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania broke free, but nationalists in Ukraine, the Caucasus, and central Asia were eventually subdued.

Text from *World History*, Pearson Realize, Topic 16, Lesson 4, Text 4

26. Why would most of the Civil War be fought in Western Russia?

27. What were the two sides of the Civil War?

Stalin: USSR's Leader

After the Bolshevik Communists won the Civil War, their leader, Vladimir Lenin died in 1924 without a clear successor. The USSR was not a democracy, where people elected their leader. Rather, the USSR was ruled by the Communist party and the head of the Party was the ruler, or dictator, who controlled all aspects of life in the country. Therefore, after during and after the Civil War, the party had great control over people's lives. After Lenin's death, two men battled to control the USSR, Joseph Stalin, and Leon Trotsky. Stalin controlled the Party and won over popular support with his idea of "socialism in one country," which excited Russians who were exhausted from revolution and war. With Stalin's dominance of the Communist Party, Trotsky lost power and was exiled from the USSR and eventually murdered.

This power struggle is represented in *Animal Farm* by the conflict between Napoleon (Stalin) and Snowball (Trotsky).

28. What was the final result of the Russian Revolution?