

crash course russian revolution

crash course russian revolution is your gateway to understanding one of the most pivotal events in modern history. This comprehensive overview will guide you through the origins, key events, influential figures, and lasting impact of the Russian Revolution. By exploring the roots of discontent in Tsarist Russia, the dramatic collapse of imperial rule, and the rise of the Bolsheviks, readers will gain clarity on how the revolution reshaped global politics and societies. Whether you are a student, history enthusiast, or simply curious, this article covers critical details, important dates, causes and effects, and the revolution's enduring legacy. With a clear structure and well-organized sections, you will find the essential facts and insights you need. Dive into the timeline, discover the main players, and learn how the Russian Revolution continues to influence the world today. Read on for a detailed crash course on the Russian Revolution that makes complex history accessible and engaging.

- Origins and Background of the Russian Revolution
- Key Causes of the Russian Revolution
- Major Events and Timeline
- Influential Figures During the Russian Revolution
- Social, Political, and Economic Impact
- Legacy and Global Influence

Origins and Background of the Russian Revolution

Tsarist Autocracy and Russian Society

The Russian Revolution's roots stretch deep into the structure of Tsarist Russia. For centuries, the Russian Empire was ruled by the Romanov dynasty, whose autocratic style left little room for political participation by ordinary citizens. This rigid hierarchy was supported by a vast bureaucracy and the Orthodox Church, making change difficult and dissent dangerous. Society was split between a small elite, the nobility, and the vast majority of peasants and workers who faced poverty, repression, and little hope for advancement.

Economic Challenges and Social Tensions

By the early 20th century, Russia's economy lagged behind Western Europe. Industrialization had begun, but working conditions in factories were dire and wages low. Land reforms failed to satisfy the peasantry, leading to widespread discontent. Rapid urbanization and population growth intensified social tensions, as cities became overcrowded and resources scarce. These factors

created fertile ground for revolutionary ideas.

Key Causes of the Russian Revolution

Political Discontent and Lack of Reform

The failure of the Tsarist regime to implement meaningful reforms after events like the 1905 Revolution sowed seeds of mistrust. The Duma, Russia's parliament, offered limited representation and was frequently dissolved by Tsar Nicholas II. As opposition parties gained traction, the government responded with censorship and repression, fueling radical movements among workers and intellectuals.

Impact of World War I on Russia

- Massive military defeats and casualties weakened the Russian army's morale
- Food shortages and inflation crippled cities and rural areas alike
- Failure of leadership eroded public confidence in the monarchy
- Widespread suffering led to strikes, protests, and mutinies

World War I became a catalyst for revolution by exposing the weaknesses of the Russian state. Millions of soldiers died or deserted, and the economy nearly collapsed under the war effort. As the Tsar refused to end Russia's participation, resentment grew among all social classes.

Rise of Revolutionary Groups

Various political groups emerged to challenge the status quo. The Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, and Socialist Revolutionaries vied for influence, each offering different solutions to Russia's problems. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, advocated for a radical overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a workers' state. These groups organized strikes, published propaganda, and built networks to mobilize mass support.

Major Events and Timeline

February Revolution of 1917

In March 1917 (February by the old Russian calendar), protests erupted in Petrograd over food

shortages and government corruption. Strikes and demonstrations quickly spread, and the army refused to suppress the uprisings. Tsar Nicholas II abdicated, ending centuries of imperial rule. A Provisional Government was formed, promising reforms but failing to address core issues like peace, land, and workers' rights.

October Revolution of 1917

1. Bolsheviks gain majority support in key soviets (workers' councils)
2. Armed insurrection led by Lenin and Trotsky on October 25-26
3. Provisional Government overthrown; Bolsheviks seize control of Petrograd
4. Decrees on peace and land issued; Russia withdraws from World War I

The October Revolution, often called the Bolshevik Revolution, marked the turning point. The Bolsheviks' swift and well-coordinated takeover ended the Provisional Government and set the stage for communist rule. Their promises to end the war and redistribute land won mass support from workers and peasants.

Civil War and Red Terror

Following the Bolshevik seizure of power, Russia plunged into a brutal civil war between the Red Army (Bolsheviks) and the White Army (counter-revolutionaries). The conflict lasted from 1918 to 1922, resulting in millions of deaths and widespread devastation. The Bolsheviks implemented harsh measures, including the Red Terror, to suppress opposition, solidify control, and eliminate rivals.

Influential Figures During the Russian Revolution

Vladimir Lenin

Lenin was the visionary leader of the Bolshevik Party and architect of the October Revolution. His commitment to Marxist theory, strategic planning, and charismatic leadership inspired millions. Lenin's policies, including the New Economic Policy (NEP), shaped the future of Soviet Russia.

Leon Trotsky

Trotsky played a critical role in organizing the Red Army and orchestrating the Bolsheviks' military victories during the Civil War. His intellectual contributions and leadership were vital to the revolution's success, though he later fell out of favor and was exiled.

Tsar Nicholas II

The last Emperor of Russia, Nicholas II's failure to address political, social, and economic problems led to his abdication and execution. His reign is often cited as a symbol of autocratic decline and the inability to adapt to changing times.

Alexandra Kollontai

Kollontai was a prominent female revolutionary, advocate for women's rights, and member of the Bolshevik leadership. Her influence helped shape social policies within the new Soviet state, particularly regarding gender equality and labor reforms.

Social, Political, and Economic Impact

Transformation of Russian Society

The Russian Revolution fundamentally changed social structures. The abolition of the nobility and redistribution of land aimed to create a classless society. New rights were granted to workers and peasants, while the old elite lost privilege and power. Education, healthcare, and literacy initiatives expanded, though challenges persisted.

Political Changes and Establishment of the Soviet Union

The revolution led to the creation of the Soviet Union, the world's first socialist state. The one-party system replaced previous forms of government, and centralized planning became the norm. Political dissent was harshly suppressed, but the new regime promised equality and collective progress.

Economic Reforms and Challenges

- Nationalization of industry and banks
- Redistribution of agricultural land to peasants
- Introduction of planned economy
- Severe shortages and famines during transition

Economic reforms were implemented to align with socialist ideals. While some progress was made in industrialization and modernization, the transition was often violent and disruptive, leading to hardship for many Russians.

Legacy and Global Influence

Spread of Revolutionary Ideals

The Russian Revolution became a model for leftist movements worldwide. Its success inspired revolutions in China, Cuba, and beyond, challenging colonialism, capitalism, and imperialism. Marxist-Leninist ideology shaped political discourse and international relations for decades.

Cold War and the Modern World

The emergence of the Soviet Union as a superpower set the stage for the Cold War, defining global politics for much of the 20th century. The revolution's legacy continues to influence debates on social justice, economic systems, and governance, making the Russian Revolution a subject of enduring relevance and study.

Lasting Impact on Russian Culture

The revolution transformed literature, art, and cultural expression in Russia. Themes of equality, struggle, and social change permeated creative works, while state-sponsored programs promoted new ideals. The memory of the Russian Revolution remains a powerful element in Russian identity and historical consciousness.

Q: What were the main causes of the Russian Revolution?

A: The main causes included political repression, economic hardship, the failure of Tsarist reforms, social inequality, and the devastating impact of World War I.

Q: Who led the Bolshevik Revolution?

A: The Bolshevik Revolution was led primarily by Vladimir Lenin, with significant contributions from Leon Trotsky and other party members.

Q: What happened during the February Revolution of 1917?

A: The February Revolution involved mass protests, strikes, and mutinies in Petrograd, leading to Tsar Nicholas II's abdication and the formation of a Provisional Government.

Q: How did World War I contribute to the Russian Revolution?

A: World War I exacerbated food shortages, economic collapse, and military defeats, which intensified public discontent and destabilized Tsarist rule.

Q: What was the outcome of the Russian Civil War?

A: The Russian Civil War ended with the victory of the Bolsheviks (Red Army) over the White Army, resulting in the establishment of the Soviet Union.

Q: How did the Russian Revolution affect women's rights?

A: The revolution led to new policies supporting women's rights, including greater participation in the workforce and political life, influenced by leaders like Alexandra Kollontai.

Q: What was the Red Terror?

A: The Red Terror was a campaign of political repression and violence carried out by the Bolsheviks to eliminate opposition and consolidate power during the Civil War.

Q: Why is the Russian Revolution considered globally significant?

A: The Russian Revolution inspired socialist movements worldwide, contributed to the rise of the Soviet Union, and influenced global politics, economics, and ideologies throughout the 20th century.

Q: What changes did the Bolsheviks introduce after seizing power?

A: The Bolsheviks nationalized industry, redistributed land to peasants, withdrew Russia from World War I, and established a one-party socialist state.

Q: Who was Leon Trotsky and what was his role in the revolution?

A: Leon Trotsky was a key Bolshevik leader who organized the Red Army and played a major role in the October Revolution and the subsequent Civil War.

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Crash Course Russian Revolution: A Concise Overview of 1917

The Russian Revolution, a seismic event that shook the world, remains a complex and fascinating historical period. Understanding its intricacies can seem daunting, but this crash course offers a concise yet comprehensive overview, equipping you with the key knowledge to navigate this pivotal moment in history. We'll unravel the causes, key players, major events, and lasting consequences of the revolution, all within a digestible format perfect for both students and history enthusiasts. This post aims to demystify the Russian Revolution, providing you with a solid foundation for further exploration.

The Seeds of Revolution: Pre-1917 Russia

Before the dramatic events of 1917, Tsarist Russia was a powder keg ready to explode. Several factors fueled the revolutionary fervor:

1. Autocratic Rule and Social Inequality: Tsar Nicholas II ruled with absolute power, leaving little room for dissent. A rigid class system saw a vast majority of the population, the peasantry, living in abject poverty while a tiny elite enjoyed immense wealth and privilege. This stark inequality created resentment and a yearning for change.

2. Economic Hardship: Russia's industrialization was uneven and largely benefited the wealthy. The peasantry struggled with land ownership issues, poor harvests, and widespread famine. These economic hardships intensified existing social tensions and fueled revolutionary sentiment.

3. Political Repression: The Tsar's regime ruthlessly suppressed any opposition, limiting freedom of speech and assembly. This stifling environment only served to radicalize dissidents and push them toward more extreme measures. Revolutionary groups, both socialist and liberal, gained traction underground.

The February Revolution: The Tsar's Downfall

The year 1917 witnessed two revolutions. The first, the February Revolution, was sparked by widespread bread riots in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg), exacerbated by Russia's disastrous participation in World War I. The war had depleted resources, decimated the army, and further angered a populace already grappling with poverty and oppression.

Key Events:

Spontaneous uprisings: Workers, soldiers, and even some police joined the protests, rapidly overwhelming the Tsar's forces.

Abdication of the Tsar: Faced with widespread revolt, Nicholas II abdicated the throne, ending centuries of Romanov rule.

Formation of a Provisional Government: A provisional government, composed of liberal politicians, was formed to manage the transition. However, this government proved weak and ineffective.

The October Revolution: The Bolsheviks Seize Power

The Provisional Government failed to address the fundamental issues that fueled the February Revolution. This created an opening for the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, to seize power. Their promise of "Peace, Land, and Bread" resonated deeply with the weary population.

Bolshevik Strategies:

Propaganda and Organization: The Bolsheviks effectively used propaganda to gain support among the masses, particularly soldiers and workers.

Armed Seizure of Power: In October (November in the Gregorian calendar), the Bolsheviks launched

a relatively bloodless coup, seizing key government buildings and arresting members of the Provisional Government.

Consequences of the October Revolution:

Establishment of a Soviet State: Lenin established a socialist state, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR), ushering in an era of communist rule.

Civil War: The October Revolution ignited a brutal civil war between the Bolsheviks (Reds) and their opponents (Whites), a conflict that lasted until 1922.

The Lasting Impact of the Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution had a profound and lasting impact on the world. It inspired communist movements globally, profoundly reshaped the geopolitical landscape, and laid the foundation for the Soviet Union, a superpower that would play a crucial role in the 20th century. The revolution's legacy remains a topic of intense debate and historical analysis.

Conclusion

The Russian Revolution was a watershed moment in history, a complex event driven by a confluence of social, economic, and political factors. This crash course has provided a streamlined overview of its key aspects, but further research is encouraged for a more complete understanding of this pivotal period. The revolution's lasting impact on global politics and ideology continues to be felt even today.

FAQs:

1. What was the role of World War I in the Russian Revolution? World War I significantly weakened the Tsarist regime, exposing its incompetence and exacerbating existing social and economic problems. The war effort depleted resources, led to widespread food shortages, and fueled public discontent.

2. Who were the key players in the Russian Revolution? Key players included Tsar Nicholas II, Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Alexander Kerensky (leader of the Provisional Government), and Grigori Rasputin (a controversial figure who wielded influence over the Tsarina).

3. What were the main goals of the Bolsheviks? The Bolsheviks aimed to establish a socialist state based on communist principles, overthrowing capitalism and establishing a classless society. Their slogans, "Peace, Land, and Bread," reflected their promises to the people.
4. What were the immediate consequences of the October Revolution? The October Revolution led to the establishment of a Soviet government, the start of a brutal civil war, and the execution of the Tsar and his family.
5. How did the Russian Revolution impact global politics? The Russian Revolution inspired communist and socialist movements worldwide, led to the formation of the Soviet Union, and fundamentally altered the balance of power in international relations, setting the stage for the Cold War.

crash course russian revolution: *Russia in Revolution* Stephen Anthony Smith, 2017 *Russia in Revolution* gives a full account of the Russian empire from the last years of the nineteenth century, through revolution and civil war, to the brutal collectivization and crash industrialization under Stalin in the late 1920s

crash course russian revolution: *A People's Tragedy* Orlando Figes, 2014 Vast in scope, based on exhaustive original research, and written with passion, narrative skill and human sympathy, this book offers an account of the Russian Revolution for a new generation.

crash course russian revolution: *History of Russia in 100 Minutes* Tanel Vahisalu, 2017-03-12 *History of Russia in 100 Minutes* is a crash course for beginners. Here you will find the complete history summarized and retold in simple language with accurate dates, the most relevant names and essential concepts. After finishing the course, you will know: - The basic characteristics of Russian history in different epochs - The 54 most important rulers and 106 historical persons in Russian history - 126 key dates and events in Russian history - The basic terms and concepts of Russian history The text is accompanied by numerous online resources: - 20,000 pictures - 700 videos - 3,500 songs - 100 podcast episodes All that is available via the smarthistories.com website.

crash course russian revolution: *Russia in Flames* Laura Engelstein, 2018 Laura Engelstein, one of the greatest scholars of Russian history, has written a searing and defining account of the Russian Revolution, the fall of the old order, and the creation of the Soviet state.

crash course russian revolution: *Revolutions: a Very Short Introduction* Jack A. Goldstone, 2023 In the 20th and 21st century revolutions have become more urban, often less violent, but also more frequent and more transformative of the international order. Whether it is the revolutions against Communism in Eastern Europe and the USSR; the color revolutions across Asia, Europe and North Africa; or the religious revolutions in Iran, Afghanistan, and Syria; today's revolutions are quite different from those of the past. Modern theories of revolution have therefore replaced the older class-based theories with more varied, dynamic, and contingent models of social and political change. This new edition updates the history of revolutions, from Classical Greece and Rome to the Revolution of Dignity in the Ukraine, with attention to the changing types and outcomes of revolutionary struggles. It also presents the latest advances in the theory of revolutions, including the issues of revolutionary waves, revolutionary leadership, international influences, and the likelihood of revolutions to come. This volume provides a brief but comprehensive introduction to the nature of revolutions and their role in global history--

crash course russian revolution: *Imperial Apocalypse* Joshua A. Sanborn, 2014 A unique study of which uses the collapse of Tsarist Russia and its consequences to argue that the events on the often-forgotten Eastern Front of WWI had a stronger impact on the outcome of the war than is usually accepted.

crash course russian revolution: *Crash Course* H. Bruce Franklin, 2018-09-03 Growing up during the Second World War, H. Bruce Franklin believed what he was told: that America's victory

would lead to a new era of world peace. Like most Americans, he was soon led to believe in a world-wide Communist conspiracy that menaced the United States, forcing the nation into a disastrous war in Korea. But once he joined the U.S. Air Force and began flying top-secret missions as a navigator and intelligence officer, what he learned was eye-opening. He saw that even as the U.S. preached about peace and freedom, it was engaging in an endless cycle of warfare, bringing devastation and oppression to fledgling democracies across the globe. Now, after fifty years as a renowned cultural historian, Franklin offers a set of hard-learned lessons about modern American history. Crash Course is essential reading for anyone who wonders how America ended up where it is today: with a deeply divided and disillusioned populace, led by a dysfunctional government, and mired in unwinnable wars. It also finds startling parallels between America's foreign military exploits and the equally brutal tactics used on the home front to crush organized labor, antiwar, and civil rights movements. More than just a memoir or a history book, Crash Course gives readers a unique firsthand look at the building of the American empire and the damage it has wrought. Shocking and gripping as any thriller, it exposes the endless deception of the American public, and reveals from inside how and why many millions of Americans have been struggling for decades against our own government in a fight for peace and justice.

crash course russian revolution: The Russian Revolution: A Very Short Introduction S. A. Smith, 2002-02-21 This Very Short Introduction provides an analytical narrative of the main events and developments in Soviet Russia between 1917 and 1936. It examines the impact of the revolution on society as a whole—on different classes, ethnic groups, the army, men and women, youth. Its central concern is to understand how one structure of domination was replaced by another. The book registers the primacy of politics, but situates political developments firmly in the context of massive economic, social, and cultural change. Since the fall of Communism there has been much reflection on the significance of the Russian Revolution. The book rejects the currently influential, liberal interpretation of the revolution in favour of one that sees it as rooted in the contradictions of a backward society which sought modernization and enlightenment and ended in political tyranny. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

crash course russian revolution: Before the Modern Russian Revolution Gini Graham Scott, 2008-07-07 Today, when Russia has regained its power on the world stage and Putin is restoring many of the old traditions and systems, it is helpful to understand what Russia was like at the time of transformation set in motion by Gorbachev and continued by Yeltsin. For a time Russia went through a period called glasnost and perestroika when all things seemed possible and a spirit of democracy was in the air. The Soviet Union was breaking up and everyday citizens were imagining a new democratic future, though this restructuring soon led to a rampant period of new capitalism and crime, before the crackdown and new economic transformation under Putin. Before the Modern Russian Revolution is a look back at this time of rapid change be a sociologist and anthropologist who traveled to the Russia and other countries that were then part of the Soviet Union. She traveled there three times between 1987 and 1990. This book describes her journey there in 1988 as part of a citizen diplomacy group that offered an opportunity to make personal connections with people in all walks of life. It is an engaging personal account of a journey to the Soviet Union done the citizen diplomacy way-meeting people face to face in their homes, schools, churches, courtrooms and marketplaces. It takes you to the heart of Soviet daily life, where you will meet working mothers, the new entrepreneurs, lawyers, artists, journalist, psychologists and others. While providing a marked contrast to the lifestyle of Russians today, these portraits help to provide insight into the new society Russia has become.

crash course russian revolution: Russia's Empires Valerie Ann Kivelson, Ronald Grigor Suny, 2017 Combining the talents and expert knowledge of an early modern historian of Russia and of a Soviet specialist, 'Russia's Empires' is a major study of the entire sweep of Russian history from its

earliest formations to the rule of Vladimir Putin. Looking through the lens of empire, which the authors conceptualise as a state based on institutionalised differentiation, inequitable hierarchy, and bonds of reciprocity between ruler and ruled, Kivelson and Suny displace the centrality of nation and nationalism in the Russian and Soviet story.

crash course russian revolution: IGCSE Crash Course: 20th Century History Prashanthi Subbiah, 2021-06-10 Recommended age group: Age 12 and above. Recommended audience: Students, teachers, and all learners who wish to understand the connect between the past and the present. In a time when liberal and interdisciplinary education is on the rise, the importance of the social sciences is increasing. Such education focuses on introspecting into current and future challenges. This means that knowledge of historical events would give us a head start in any field of study. This book is a resource aimed at providing such knowledge to students. In particular, it aids students in learning about the 20 th Century. It has been published with the intent to help students obtain a good understanding of events, and equip them with a strong foundation to relate to the significance of the described events in today's world. Tough topics have been simplified by using flow charts, tables, bullet points, and simple language, without sacrificing on the quality of content. This has been done to make the content easy to comprehend and seem more like a story than something monotonous. This resource hopes to spark an interest in readers towards these topics. It is mainly aimed at students of the IGCSE History curriculum, which is a two-year long course spanning over Grades 9 and 10. This resource is designed to be used for both years. It is also suitable for learners outside of this subject and curriculum (such as students of Global Perspectives and other Social Studies subjects in International and Indian Boards), and fellow history-buffs. The content it covers could also be taught to middle school students, to help ignite an interest in this fascinating subject.

crash course russian revolution: *The Landscape of Stalinism* Evgeny Dobrenko, Eric Naiman, 2011-11-15 This wide-ranging cultural history explores the expression of Bolshevik Party ideology through the lens of landscape, or, more broadly, space. Portrayed in visual images and words, the landscape played a vital role in expressing and promoting ideology in the former Soviet Union during the Stalin years, especially in the 1930s. At the time, the iconoclasm of the immediate postrevolutionary years had given way to nation building and a conscious attempt to create a new Soviet culture. In painting, architecture, literature, cinema, and song, images of landscape were enlisted to help mold the masses into joyful, hardworking citizens of a state with a radiant, utopian future -- all under the fatherly guidance of Joseph Stalin. From backgrounds in history, art history, literary studies, and philosophy, the contributors show how Soviet space was sanctified, coded, and sold as an ideological product. They explore the ways in which producers of various art forms used space to express what Katerina Clark calls a cartography of power -- an organization of the entire country into a hierarchy of spheres of relative sacredness, with Moscow at the center. The theme of center versus periphery figures prominently in many of the essays, and the periphery is shown often to be paradoxically central. Examining representations of space in objects as diverse as postage stamps, a hikers magazine, advertisements, and the Soviet musical, the authors show how cultural producers attempted to naturalize ideological space, to make it an unquestioned part of the worldview. Whether focusing on the new or the centuries-old, whether exploring a built cityscape, a film documentary, or the painting Stalin and Voroshilov in the Kremlin, the authors offer a consistently fascinating journey through the landscape of the Soviet ideological imagination. Not all features of Soviet space were entirely novel, and several of the essayists assert continuities with the prerevolutionary past. One example is the importance of the mother image in mass songs of the Stalin period; another is the boundless longing inspired in the Russian character by the burden of living amid vast empty spaces. But whether focusing on the new or the centuries-old, whether exploring a built cityscape, a film documentary, or the painting Stalin and Voroshilov in the Kremlin, the authors offer a consistently fascinating journey through the landscape of the Soviet ideological imagination.

crash course russian revolution: A Concise History of the Russian Revolution Richard

Pipes, 2011-04-27 An authoritative history of the Russian Revolution and the violent and disruptive acts that created the first modern totalitarian regime, portraying the crisis at the heart of the tsarist empire A deep and eloquent condemnation of the revolution and its aftermath. —The New York Times Drawing on archival materials released in Russia, Richard Pipes chronicles the upheaval that began as a conservative revolt but was soon captured by messianic intellectuals intent not merely on reforming Russia but on remaking the world. He provides fresh accounts of the revolution's personalities and policies, crises, and cruelties, from the murder of the royal family through civil war, famine, and state terror. Brilliantly and persuasively, Pipes shows us why the resulting system owes less to the theories of Marx than it did to the character of Lenin and Russia's long authoritarian tradition. What ensues is a path-clearing work that is indispensable to any understanding of the events of the century.

crash course russian revolution: *A Radical History of the World* Neil Faulkner, 2018 From the hunter-gatherers two million years ago to the ancient empires of Persia and China, and from the Russian Revolution to modern imperialism, humans have always struggled to create a better society than what came before. All over the world at numerous points in the past, a different way of life has become an absolute necessity, over and over again. This is a history of the humans in these struggles--the hominid and the hunter, the emperor and the slave, the dictator and the revolutionary. Reading against the grain of mainstream histories, Neil Faulkner reveals that what happened in the past has never been predetermined. From antiquity to feudalism, and from fascism to our precarious political present, choices have always been numerous and complex, and the possible outcomes have ranged broadly between liberation and barbarism. Rejecting the top-down approach of conventional history, Faulkner contends that it is the mass action of ordinary people that drives the transformative events of our many histories. This is a history of power, abuse, and greed, but also one of liberation, progress, and solidarity. In our fraught political present--as we face the loss of civil liberties and environmental protections, the rise of ethnonationalism, and the looming threat of nuclear war--we need the perspective of these histories now more than ever. The lesson of *A Radical History of the World* is that, if we created our past, we can also create a better future.

crash course russian revolution: *Sale of the Century* Chrystia Freeland, 2000 In the 1990s, all eyes turned to the momentous changes in Russia, as the world's largest country was transformed into the world's newest democracy. But the heroic images of Boris Yeltsin atop a tank in front of Moscow's White House soon turned to grim new realities: a currency in freefall and a war in Chechnya; on the street, flashy new money and a vicious Russian mafia contrasted with doctors and teachers not receiving salaries for months at a time. If this was what capitalism brought, many Russians wondered if they weren't better off under the communists. This new society did not just appear ready-made: it was created by a handful of powerful men who came to be known as the oligarchs and the young reformers. The oligarchs were fast-talking businessmen who laid claim to Russia's vast natural resources. The young reformers were an elite group of egghead economists who got to put their wild theories into action, with results that were sometimes inspiring, sometimes devastating. With unparalleled access and acute insight, Chrystia Freeland takes us behind the scenes and shows us how these two groups misused a historic opportunity to build a new Russia. Their achievements were considerable, but their mistakes will deform Russian society for generations to come. Along with a gripping account of the incredible events in Russia's corridors of power, Freeland gives us a vivid sense of the buzz and hustle of the new Russia, and inside stories of the businesses that have beaten the odds and become successful and profitable. She also exposes the conflicts and compromises that developed when red directors of old Soviet firms and factories yielded to -- or fought -- the radically new ways of doing business. She delves into the loophole economy, where anyone who knows how to manipulate the new rules can make a fast buck. *Sale of the Century* is a fascinating fly-on-the-wall economic thriller -- an astonishing and essential account of who really controls Russia's new frontier.

crash course russian revolution: *No Less Than Mystic* John Medhurst, 2017-08-17 Published in the centenary year of the 1917 Russian Revolution, *No Less Than Mystic* is a fresh and

iconoclastic history of Lenin and the Bolsheviks for a generation uninterested in Cold War ideologies and stereotypes. Although it offers a full and complete history of Leninism, 1917, the Russian Civil War and its aftermath, the book devotes more time than usual to the policies and actions of the socialist alternatives to Bolshevism – to the Menshevik Internationalists, the Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs), the Jewish Bundists and the anarchists. It prioritises Factory Committees, local Soviets, the Womens' Zhenotdel movement, Proletkult and the Kronstadt sailors as much as the statements and actions of Lenin and Trotsky. Using the neglected writings and memoirs of Mensheviks like Julius Martov, SRs like Victor Chernov, Bolshevik oppositionists like Alexandra Kollontai and anarchists like Nestor Makhno, it traces a revolution gone wrong and suggests how it might have produced a more libertarian, emancipatory socialism than that created by Lenin and the Bolsheviks. The book broadly covers the period from 1903 (the formation of the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks) to 1921 (the suppression of the Kronstadt rebellion) and explains why the Bolshevik Revolution degenerated so quickly into its apparent opposite, and continually examines the Leninist experiment through the lens of a 21st century, de-centralised, ecological, anti-productivist and feminist socialism. Throughout its narrative it interweaves and draws parallels with contemporary anti-capitalist struggles such as those of the Zapatistas, the Kurds, the Argentinean "Recovered Factories", Occupy, the Arab Spring, the Indignados and Intersectional feminists, attempting to open up the past to the present and points in between. We do not need another standard history of the Russian Revolution. This is not one.

crash course russian revolution: Eyewitnesses to the Russian Revolution Todd Chretien, 2017-11-20 This comprehensive chronicle of the Russian Revolution is told through the eyewitness accounts of journalists, political leaders, and ordinary citizens. More than a century ago, workers and peasants in Russia turned the world upside down when they overthrew their tsar, took over their factories, farms, and schools, and set out to build a new society. In this gripping reader, participants and firsthand observers of the revolution tell the inspiring, heroic, and sometimes tragic story of what happened in Russia over the course of 1917. Introduced and edited by Todd Chretien, *Eyewitnesses to the Russian Revolution* includes contributions from Leon Trotsky, Rosa Luxemburg, Vladimir Lenin, John Reed, Louise Bryant, and others.

crash course russian revolution: AP® European History Crash Course, 2nd Ed., Book + Online Larry Krieger, Patti Harrold, 2016-02-10 Fully revised for the new 2016 exam.--Cover.

crash course russian revolution: Road to Revolution Avrahm Yarmolinsky, 2014-07-14 This book traces the history of revolutionary movements in nineteenth-century Russia, ending with the great famine of 1891-92, by which time Marxism was already in the ascendant. Originally published in 1986. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

crash course russian revolution: *Through the Russian Revolution* Albert Rhys Williams, 1921

crash course russian revolution: Mayakovsky Bengt Jangfeldt, 2014-12-23 *A Life at Stake* is the first serious biography of the legendary Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovsky. Physically imposing, crude, a sexual adventurer and ex-convict, Mayakovsky rose to fame between 1912 and 1917 as a Futurist agitator and the author of radical poems and plays. He embraced the Russian Revolution and became one of its most passionate propagandists, then at the age of thirty-six took his own life, disappointed in the course of Soviet society and ravaged by private conflicts. Mayakovsky's poems are as exhilarating today as when he declaimed them for friends in smoky flats in Moscow, Berlin, Paris, and New York. In Bengt Jangfeldt's propulsive biography, Mayakovsky's life, too, is compelling: a story of constant, passionate upheaval against the background of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, Stalin's terror, and cycles of anti-Semitism. Mayakovsky emerges from this biography a highly vulnerable figure, more a dreamer than a revolutionary, more a political romantic

than a hardened Communist.

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crash course russian revolution: Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung Mao Tse-Tung, Mao Zedong, 2013-04-16 Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung' is a volume of selected statements taken from the speeches and writings by Mao Mao Tse-Tung, published from 1964 to 1976. It was often printed in small editions that could be easily carried and that were bound in bright red covers, which led to its western moniker of the 'Little Red Book'. It is one of the most printed books in history, and will be of considerable value to those with an interest in Mao Tse-Tung and in the history of the Communist Party of China. The chapters of this book include: 'The Communist Party', 'Classes and Class Struggle', 'Socialism and Communism', 'The Correct Handling of Contradictions Among The People', 'War and Peace', 'Imperialism and All Reactionaries ad Paper Tigers', 'Dare to Struggle and Dare to Win', et cetera. We are republishing this antiquarian volume now complete with a new prefatory biography of Mao Tse-Tung.

crash course russian revolution: A People's History of the Russian Revolution Neil Faulkner, 2017 The Russian Revolution may be the most misunderstood and misrepresented event in modern history, its history told in a mix of legends and anecdotes. In A People's History of the Russian Revolution, Neil Faulkner sets out to debunk the myths and pry fact from fiction, putting at the heart of the story the Russian people who are the true heroes of this tumultuous tale. In this fast-paced introduction, Faulkner tells the powerful narrative of how millions of people came together in a mass movement, organized democratic assemblies, mobilized for militant action, and overturned a vast regime of landlords, profiteers, and warmongers. Faulkner rejects caricatures of Lenin and the Bolsheviks as authoritarian conspirators or the progenitors of Stalinist dictatorship, and forcefully argues that the Russian Revolution was an explosion of democracy and creativity--and that it was crushed by bloody counter-revolution and replaced with a form of bureaucratic state-capitalism. Grounded by powerful first-hand testimony, this history marks the centenary of the Revolution by restoring the democratic essence of the revolution, offering a perfect primer for the modern reader.

crash course russian revolution: Lenin Christopher Read, 2013-01-11 From a highly distinguished author on the subject, this biography is an excellent scholarly introduction to one of the key figures of the Russian Revolution and post-Tsarist Russia. Not only does it make use of archive material made newly available in the glasnost and post-Soviet eras, it re-examines traditional sources as well, providing an original interpretation of Lenin's life and historical importance. Focal points of this study are: Lenin's revolutionary ascetic personality how he exploited culture, education and propaganda his relationship to Marxism his changing class analysis of Russia his 'populist' instincts. A prominent figure at the forefront of debates on the Russina revolution, Read makes sure that Lenin remains in his place as a highly influential and significant figure of the recent past.

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you ready for your exam? Try our focused practice set inside the book. Then go online to take our full-length practice exam. You'll get the benefits of timed testing, detailed answers, and automatic scoring that pinpoints your performance based on the official AP® exam topics – so you'll be confident on test day. When it's crucial crunch time and your Advanced Placement® exam is just around the corner, you need REA's Crash Course® for AP® European History! About the Author Larry Krieger earned his B.A. and M.A.T. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his M.A. from Wake Forest University. In a career spanning more than 40 years, Mr. Krieger has taught a variety of AP® subjects including U.S. History, World History, European History, U.S. Government, and Art History. His popular courses were renowned for their energetic presentations, commitment to scholarship, and success in helping students achieve high AP® exam scores. All of Mr. Krieger's students scored above a 3, with most students scoring a 4 or a 5. In 2004 and 2005, the College Board recognized Mr. Krieger as one of the nation's foremost AP® teachers. Mr. Krieger's success has extended far beyond the classroom. He conducts SAT® and AP® workshops around the country, and has spoken at numerous Social Studies conferences. In addition, he is the author of several widely used American History and World History textbooks, as well as REA's Crash Course® test preps for European History, U.S. History, U.S. Government & Politics, and Psychology.

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crash course russian revolution: The Soviet Union: A Very Short Introduction Stephen Lovell, 2009-07-23 Taking a fresh approach to the study of the Soviet Union, this *Very Short Introduction* blends political history with an investigation into Soviet society and culture from 1917 to 1991. Stephen Lovell examines aspects of patriotism, political violence, poverty, and ideology, and provides answers to some of the big questions about the Soviet experience. Throughout, the book takes a refreshing thematic approach to the Soviet Union and provides an up-to-date consideration of the Soviet Union's impact and what we have learnt since its end.

crash course russian revolution: Wheel of Fortune Thane Gustafson, 2012-11-06 A Foreign Affairs Best Book of the Year on Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Republics The Russian oil industry—which vies with Saudi Arabia as the world's largest producer and exporter of oil, providing nearly 12 percent of the global supply—is facing mounting problems that could send shock waves through the Russian economy and worldwide. *Wheel of Fortune* provides an authoritative account of this vital industry from the last years of communism to its uncertain future. Tracking the interdependence among Russia's oil industry, politics, and economy, Thane Gustafson shows how the stakes extend beyond international energy security to include the potential threat of a destabilized Russia. "Few have studied the Russian oil and gas industry longer or with a broader political perspective than Gustafson. The result is this superb book, which is not merely a fascinating, subtle history of the industry since the Soviet Union's collapse but also the single most revealing work on Russian politics and economics published in the last several years." —Robert Legvold, Foreign Affairs "The history of Russia's oil industry since the collapse of communism is the history of the country itself. There can be few better guides to this terrain than Thane Gustafson." —Neil Buckley, Financial Times

crash course russian revolution: Death and Redemption Steven A. Barnes, 2011-04-04 *Death and Redemption* offers a fundamental reinterpretation of the role of the Gulag—the Soviet Union's vast system of forced-labor camps, internal exile, and prisons—in Soviet society. Soviet authorities undoubtedly had the means to exterminate all the prisoners who passed through the Gulag, but unlike the Nazis they did not conceive of their concentration camps as instruments of genocide. In this provocative book, Steven Barnes argues that the Gulag must be understood primarily as a penal institution where prisoners were given one final chance to reintegrate into Soviet society. Millions whom authorities deemed reeducated through brutal forced labor were allowed to leave. Millions more who failed never got out alive. Drawing on newly opened archives in Russia and Kazakhstan as well as memoirs by actual prisoners, Barnes shows how the Gulag was integral to the Soviet goal of

building a utopian socialist society. He takes readers into the Gulag itself, focusing on one outpost of the Gulag system in the Karaganda region of Kazakhstan, a location that featured the full panoply of Soviet detention institutions. Barnes traces the Gulag experience from its beginnings after the 1917 Russian Revolution to its decline following the 1953 death of Stalin. *Death and Redemption* reveals how the Gulag defined the border between those who would reenter Soviet society and those who would be excluded through death.

crash course russian revolution: AP® Art History Crash Course Book + Online Gayle A. Asch, Matt Curless, 2016-03-22 REA's Crash Course for the AP® Art History Exam - Gets You a Higher Advanced Placement® Score in Less Time 2nd Edition - Completely Revised for the New 2016 Exam Crash Course is perfect for the time-crunched student, the last-minute studier, or anyone who wants a refresher on the subject. Are you crunched for time? Have you started studying for your Advanced Placement® Art History exam yet? How will you memorize everything you need to know before the test? Do you wish there was a fast and easy way to study for the exam AND boost your score? If this sounds like you, don't panic. REA's Crash Course for AP® Art History is just what you need. Our Crash Course gives you: Targeted, Focused Review - Study Only What You Need to Know The Crash Course is based on an in-depth analysis of the new AP® Art History course description outline and actual AP® test questions. It covers only the information tested on the exam, so you can make the most of your valuable study time. Written by an AP® Art History teacher, the targeted review prepares students for the 2016 test by focusing on the new framework concepts and learning objectives tested on the redesigned AP® Art History exam. Easy-to-read review chapters in outline format cover all the artistic traditions students need to know, including Global Prehistory, Ancient Mediterranean, Europe and the Americas, Asia, Africa, and more. The book also features must-know Art History terms all AP® students should know before test day. Expert Test-taking Strategies Our experienced AP® Art History teacher shares detailed question-level strategies and explains the best way to answer the multiple-choice and free-response questions you'll encounter on test day. By following our expert tips and advice, you can boost your overall point score! FREE Practice Exam After studying the material in the Crash Course, go to the online REA Study Center and test what you've learned. Our free practice exam features timed testing, detailed explanations of answers, and automatic scoring analysis. The exam is balanced to include every topic and type of question found on the actual AP® exam, so you know you're studying the smart way. Whether you're cramming for the test at the last minute, looking for extra review, or want to study on your own in preparation for the exams - this is the study guide every AP® Art History student must have. When it's crucial crunch time and your Advanced Placement® exam is just around the corner, you need REA's Crash Course for AP® Art History!

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crash course russian revolution: AP® European History Crash Course Book + Online Larry Krieger, Patti Harrold, 2016-03-22 REA's Crash Course for the AP® European History Exam - Gets You a Higher Advanced Placement® Score in Less Time About this new exam and test prep: The new AP® European History exam is structured around five course themes and 19 key concepts in four different chronological periods, from approximately 1450 to the present. REA's all-new AP® European History Crash Course is perfect for the time-crunched student, the last-minute studier, or anyone who wants a refresher on the subject. Are you crunched for time? Have you started studying for your Advanced Placement® European History exam yet? How will you memorize everything you need to know before the test? Do you wish there was a fast and easy way to study for the exam AND

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crash course russian revolution: The Romanov Empress C. W. Gortner, 2018-07-10 For readers of Philippa Gregory and Alison Weir comes a dramatic novel of the beloved Empress Maria, the Danish princess who became the mother of the last Russian tsar. "This epic tale is captivating and beautifully told."—Lisa Wingate, New York Times bestselling author of *Before We Were Yours* Barely nineteen, Minnie knows that her station in life as a Danish princess is to leave her family and enter into a royal marriage—as her older sister Alix has done, moving to England to wed Queen Victoria's eldest son. The winds of fortune bring Minnie to Russia, where she marries the Romanov heir, Alexander, and once he ascends the throne, becomes empress. When resistance to his reign strikes at the heart of her family and the tsar sets out to crush all who oppose him, Minnie—now called Maria—must tread a perilous path of compromise in a country she has come to love. Her husband's death leaves their son Nicholas as the inexperienced ruler of a deeply divided and crumbling empire. Determined to guide him to reforms that will bring Russia into the modern age, Maria faces implacable opposition from Nicholas's strong-willed wife, Alexandra, whose fervor has led her into a disturbing relationship with a mystic named Rasputin. As the unstoppable wave of revolution rises anew to engulf Russia, Maria will face her most dangerous challenge and her greatest heartache. From the opulent palaces of St. Petersburg and the intrigue-laced salons of the aristocracy to the World War I battlefields and the bloodied countryside occupied by the Bolsheviks, C. W. Gortner sweeps us into the anarchic fall of an empire and the complex, bold heart of the woman who tried to save it. Praise for *The Romanov Empress* "Timely . . . [Gortner's] ability to

weave what reads as a simple tale from such complex historical and familial storylines is impressive. . . . Maria's life as a royal reads like a historical soap opera."—USA Today "Gortner, an experienced hand at recreating the unique aura of a particular time and place, will deftly sweep historical-fictions fans into this glamorous, turbulent, and ultimately tragic chapter in history."—Booklist (starred review) "Mesmerizing . . . This insightful first-person account of the downfall of the Romanov rule . . . is the powerful story of a mother trying to save her family and an aristocrat fighting to maintain rule in a country of rebellion."—Publishers Weekly "A twist on the tragic story you've heard many times before."—Bustle

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crash course russian revolution: Ten Days That Shook The World John Reed, 2019-02 An impassioned firsthand account of the Russian Revolution An American journalist and revolutionary writer, John Reed became a close friend of Lenin and was an eyewitness to the 1917 revolution in Russia. Ten Days That Shook the World is Reeds extraordinary record of that event. 'It flashed upon me suddenly: they were going to shoot me!' This electrifying eyewitness account of the Russian Revolution, written by an American journalist in St Petersburg as the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917, is an unsurpassed record of history in the making. John Reed (1887-1920) American journalist and poet-adventurer whose colorful life as a revolutionary writer ended in Russia but made him the hero of a generation of radical intellectuals. Reed became a close friend of V.I. Lenin and was an eyewitness to the 1917 October revolution. He recorded this historical event in his best-known book TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD (1920). Reed is buried with other Bolshevik heroes beside the Kremlin wall.

crash course russian revolution: From Odessa with Love Vladislav Davidzon, 2021-09 Born in Tashkent, raised in Moscow and New York City, an editor in Odessa, a correspondent in Paris, there seems nowhere Davidzon hasn't been, no one he hasn't met. The result is a distinctive voice

and eye, an eclectic mix of the cultural critic, the political analyst and the liberal cosmopolitan, evident from the first page of this delightful book - Mark Galeotti, University College London and Royal University Services Institute The Tashkent-born Russian-American literary critic, editor, essayist, and journalist Vladislav Davidzon has been covering post-Soviet Ukraine for the past ten years, a tumultuous time for that country and the surrounding world. The 2014 Revolution of Dignity heralded a tremendous transformation of Ukrainian politics and society that has continued to ripple and reverberate throughout the world. These unprecedented events also wrought a remarkable cultural revolution in Ukraine itself. In late 2015, a year and a half after the 2014 Revolution swept away the presidency of the Moscow-leaning kleptocratic President Viktor Yanukovich, Davidzon and his wife founded a literary journal, *The Odessa Review*, focusing on newly emergent trends in film, literature, painting, design, and fashion. The journal became an East European cultural institution, publishing outstanding writers in the region and beyond. From his vantage point as a journalist and editor, Davidzon came to observe events and know many of the leading figures in Ukrainian politics and culture, and to write about them for a Western audience. Davidzon later found himself in the center of world events as he became a United States government witness in the Ukraine scandal that shook the presidency of Donald Trump. This eagerly anticipated debut tells the real story of what happened in Ukraine from the keen and resilient perspective of an observer at its center.

crash course russian revolution: *The Origin of the Communist Autocracy* Leonard Schapiro, 1987-06-18

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