

Russia 1917

Timeline: Russia: 1917

Using the resources you have been given, make a *brief* timeline to make yourself aware of the chronology and order of the events of the last half of 1917.

Include: The July Days, The Kornilov Affair, and events featured on the double page spread on 'Why were the Bolsheviks able to seize power in 1917'.

Underneath, in full sentences, answer the following questions:

1. Why were demands for peace made in June 1917?
2. Who creates the 'Red Guards' in July 1917?
3. Who appoints Kornilov as Commander in August 1917?
4. Who are released and armed in the events of September 1917?
5. Who eventually gets power from the All Russian Congress of Soviets?

Why were the Bolsheviks able to seize power in November 1917?

From the discussion, write a short paragraph on each of the six reasons we identified as being reasons why the Bolsheviks were able to seize power at this time.

1. The Petrograd Soviet
2. The 'Red Guards'
3. Plans and strategy
4. Realistic and practical aims
5. The Provisional Government
6. Lenin

The Role and Impact of Lenin

Lenin was born in 1870 to modest, middle class parents. A gifted and hardworking pupil, Lenin was very much disturbed by the execution of his older brother for his involvement in a bomb plot against Tsar Alexander III in 1881. From this time on, Lenin was determined to become a professional revolutionary. In 1887, he enrolls at Kazan University on a Law degree but is expelled after revolutionary activities. In 1890 he enrolls at St. Petersburg University and ends up graduating top of his year in Law. In 1895, on a visit to Europe he discovers Marx. In 1897 he is exiled to Siberia for taking part in revolutionary activities. Until 1917 he is in exile in Europe where he meets and speaks to many socialists. He misses the 1905 revolution but in April 1917 returns to Russia after the March Revolution aided by the Germans. Lenin then devotes himself to the overthrow of the Provisional Government. An eccentric figure, determined, charming, possessing good practical and organisational skills and a Marxist thinker and writer. Tireless propagandist, intellectual, uncompromising and with outstanding ability to explain complex theories in an understandable way.

Create a small but concise 'fact file' on Lenin in your exercise books. Especially include comments on his political career and movements in the years before the revolution.

Q. What qualities did Lenin have which helped him lead the Bolsheviks to power in Russia in November 1917? Explain your answer.