



# "From the Russian Empire to the Soviet Union"

## The situation of the Russian Empire in 1917

### A Long-term reasons

- cruel treatment of the peasants by the landlords
- poor working conditions in the industry
- food shortages/famines
- democratic ideas
- lost war against Japan (1905)
- Cossacks killed hundreds in St.Petersburg (1905)

### B Short-term reasons

- six million war casualties
- 34,000 soldiers deserted each month
- military defeat: German armies advance onto Russian soil

⇒ Russians were very angry!!!

## The February Revolution in 1917

Workers striked, they demanded bread.  
Since women were in the demonstrating crowd, soldiers didn't shoot.

- ⇒ mutiny of the soldiers
- ⇒ Tsar had to abdicate

### Duma

- new provisional parliament and government

### Petrograd Soviet

- represents workers and soldiers

## The October Revolution in 1917

**Bolsheviks** (Lenin) took control over St.Petersburg.



## SOVIET UNION

Lenin wanted a quick end to the war, he had enough domestic problems.

⇒ Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

- Soviet Union (SU) lost a huge territory (Finland, Baltic countries, Poland, Georgia,...)
- SU had to pay six billion marks to Germany.

## The Civil War from 1918-1920

**Red Army** was fighting against

- White Army (troops loyal to the tsar)
- Nationalists from the Ukraine, Georgia, the Baltic states,...)
- Allied intervention (mainly GB, France, US)

- ⇒ Bolsheviks introduce conscription and "convince" former tsaristic officers.
- ⇒ Allies retreat after German defeat in November 1918.

Tsar and his family were shot on July 18<sup>th</sup> 1918

- ⇒ Red Army won!
- ⇒ Soviet Union existed!