SECTION 3 – BOLSHEVIK TRIUMPH

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Problems it faced;
- Political authority (legitimacy) dominated by Octoberists and Kadets
- Mensheviks and Bolsheviks, SR’s and SD’s were not included
- All-Russian Soviet = claimed right to issue laws for Russia

February to October Provisional Government + Soviet shared political power

July 1917 Alexander Kerensky becomes Prime Minister and Head of Prov Gov.

Prov Gov = liberal body
Soviet = left-wing eg. SR’s and SD’s

Order Number 1 = stated that military orders would only be recognized if the
Soviet agreed AS A RESULT power was tipped to the Soviet who had effective
control over the army

REFORMS OF PROV GOV
- Freedom of press
- Abolition of Okrana, the secret police
- Release of all political prisoners
- Religious freedom
- Preparations for the calling of a Constituent Assembly

WAR

Biggest problem facing the Prov Gov – millions killed/land lost/mutinies

ALTHOUGH revolution welcomed war time allies eg. Britain and France
Russia owed large amounts of money in foreign loans, but the British and French
banks were willing to continue if Russia continued fighting

Foreign Minister – Paul Milyukov supported idea that Russia’s future lay in
victory over Germany

Continuation of war = conflict between Prov Gov and Soviets who had issued
‘Address the People of the Whole World, declaring for peace without annexations
and indemnities’ 14 March 1917

April 1917 demonstrations against the war began in Petrograd = resignation of
Milyukov and war minister Guchkov

JUNE OFFENSIVE – planned by the Prov Gov against Austro-Hungarian army
Attack on Lvov in Ukraine – offensive broke down!
- German and Austro-Hungarian counter-attacks led to mass desertions by
Russian troops = mid-June 1917 Russian Army began to collapse
TIMING OF UPRISING
Organised and executed their takeover with efficiency + was a bloodless affair
(smooth running – Trotsky)

WEAKNESS OF PROV GOV
Little support in Petrograd – revolution raised enormous hope but they failed to
tackle most pressing issues; food shortages/inflation/land
questions/continuation of war
Disorganized force of Red Guards – defeated Cossack troops

From now on – Lenin in Power

Bolshevik success;
- Lenin
- Trotsky’s Planning
- Weakness of the Provisional Government
- 1 year after the introduction of the NEP = ¾ of all trade was conducted by this new group
- New currency introduced in 1922, bringing an end to high level of inflation (rising prices)

Lenin claimed ‘tactical retreat’ in order to preserve Communist power and was giving Russian economy ‘breathing space’.

‘DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM’ – ban on internal factions

^ To prevent a split in the Party due to the NEP = Lenin announced a ban on factions within the Communist Party thus were not able to form independent groups to Lenin

POLITBURO = main decision making committee of the Communist Party

^ Decisions made would be by Lenin and the Politburo (all other political parties were banned)
Introduction of NEP = loosening of economic controls but tightening a political control
March 1921 Russia governed by a dictatorship more absolute than any government under the Tsarist autocracy

IMPACT OF NEP

Immediate effect
Markets returned to Russia = more goods available, food shortages disappeared, Famine of 1921 came to an end
By 1923 85% of firms were again in private hands
Peasants began cultivating more land and livestock increased
Coal + Textile production doubled

Sparked “Scissors Crisis”

^ the ever-widening gap between agricultural prices and industrial prices
- Gap in prices said to resemble the widening blades of a pair of scissors

NEP accused by many Communists of encouraging greed, independence + self-interest

CREATION OF THE USSR 1922

Lenin gave up of the prospect of a worldwide Communist Revolution
Oversaw the creation of a new state; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)
^ Compromise with Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR)

Solution to the multi-national Communist State (federal structure)