offered independence to Ukraine, Kadet ministers resigned and protested that only an all-Russian constituent assembly could properly decide such matters. At this point, Petrograd was no stranger to a demonstration, these were however, a direct attack on the provisional Government. In the end, the demonstrators fell out among themselves, making it easy for the Provisional Government to scatter the demonstrations and restore order.

Following this, the Bolsheviks were far from being dominant at this point, they appeared broken, and they were even declared illegal. Also, Trotsky was arrested and Lenin fled to Finland. It showed that the Provisional Government had the strength to put down an armed insurrection. However, everything soon fell apart for the Provisional Government, and it was all of their own doing.

On the other hand, whilst the Provisional Government had little success with the Bolsheviks, the main contributing factor for the Bolsheviks gaining power August 1917 were the huge mistakes made by the provisional government, in my opinion. I mean, the Kornilov Affair in particular. The new commander in chief of the South-Western Front, General Kornilov informed Kerensky, the leader of the Provisional Government that he intended to bring his loyal troops to Petrograd to ‘save’ the Provisional Government from being overthrown.

However, Kenresky publicly condemned the actions of Kornilov and called on loyal citizens to take up arms and defend the city. Crucially, the Bolsheviks were released from prison and many came out of hiding to collect weapons issued by the Provisional Government. The weapons were not needed as railway workers refused to operate the trains that would get Kornilov’s army to Petrograd, in the end, Kornilov abandoned the advance and allowed himself to be arrested.

It seems very peculiar, releasing a bunch of ‘dangerous prisoners’, but not the only are they prisoners, and they are part of the political party that are trying to seize power of Russia. From this, we can infer the sheer desperation the Provisional Government were in in trying to maintain power over Russia, they really were struggling and had just opened the door again for the Bolsheviks.

To conclude, although the return of Lenin sparked a change in policy of the Bolsheviks, increased the pressure on the provisional Government as the support for the ‘illegal’ party grew in numbers, I still have to agree with the interpretation. This is due to the terrible decisions making of the over the war and the other main issues at the time, in land and the increase of national minority demands. They either did nothing, which would antagonise citizens further, or make a really un-wise decision, such as the summer offensive. Finally, the main reason why the Bolsheviks were the most popular group in Petrograd by August 1917 were the consequences of the Kornilov Affair; It diverted attention away from the Bolsheviks failings in the July Days, and showed that they could present themselves as the protectors of Petrograd. This was a very significant turning point in the Bolsheviks fortunes, in my opinion, which is why I have to agree with the interpretation.