The Red Terror: The Result of Lenin’s Development as a Leader

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Historical Paper
Paper Length: 2,499 words
We will turn our hearts into steel, which we will temper in ... the blood of fighters for freedom ... 
Without mercy, without sparing, we will kill our enemies in scores of hundreds ... for the blood of Lenin ... let there be floods of the blood of the bourgeois ... ¹

Introduction

Vladimir Lenin instituted the first communist state in world history by way of a zealous worker’s revolution, providing a template for future leaders and revolutions to follow. His legacy has stretched across the globe, with notable instances still definitively influencing modern times. Of Lenin’s many influential political initiatives, an administrative butchering of thousands known as the Red Terror arguably ranks highest. Radical successors of the new governmental structure would carry out such oppressive measures time and time again.

Due to the immense political revisions championed by the uncompromising leadership of Lenin, many historians have resolutely documented, analyzed, and debated both his ideology and many qualities. However, there is still a scarcity of material pertaining to why Lenin adopted such a ruthless and brutal method of subjugating the masses. This paper will explore Lenin’s development as a leader through major events in his lifetime, and illustrate how his ultimate doctrine led to a bloody legacy of terror.

Radicalization of Vladimir

Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov was born on April 22, 1870 to a middle-class household.² Vladimir's senior brother, Aleksandr, was a social revolutionary who opposed the regime of Tsar Alexander III and associated with the Populists.³ The Russian Populist movement was a resistance to contemporary government, advocating reform by peasant revolution and terror

tactics. Aleksandr determined to assassinate the tsar, but authorities discovered the plot before it could be carried out. On April 25, 1887, Aleksandr was condemned to capital punishment and executed on May 8th. Grief-stricken, the seventeen-year old Vladimir sought to understand the motives of Aleksandr, coming to the conclusion: “It means he had to act that way - he couldn’t act in any other way.” Vladimir also allegedly declared: “No, we shall not take that road. We must take a different road,” showing his rejection of terrorist beliefs in favor of Marxism.

In 1887, Vladimir entered Kazan University to pursue a degree in law. Promptly after his acceptance, he joined an illegal student group. Vladimir began to attend public demonstrations, and would be arrested for his participation in a student protest against university regulations. According to an official report:

Two days before the riotous assembly he gave grounds for suspecting that he was meditating some improper behavior … he burst into the assembly hall among the leaders … shouting through into the corridor of the second floor, waving … as though to encourage others … In view of the exceptional circumstances of the Ulyanov family, such behavior by Ulyanov … gave reason to believe him fully capable of unlawful and criminal demonstration of all kinds.

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Because of Aleksandr’s previous notoriety, Vladimir was expelled from Kazan and cordoned to the Ulyanov family estate in Kokushkino. Perhaps in an effort to further understand Aleksandr, Vladimir scrutinized revolutionary works, engrossing himself in Chernyshevsky’s *What is to be Done?* and the works of Karl Marx. Marx claimed that capitalists, or bourgeoisie, greatly exploit the working class. He believed a revolution would overthrow capitalism to form a society in which all resources would be evenly shared. Like Marx, Chernyshevsky promoted the concerns of the working class.

**Professional Revolutionary**

While Vladimir perused socialist works, he also obtained a law degree. In the end, Vladimir would ultimately find his calling in revolutionary work, and in 1893 he moved to St. Petersburg with a developed Marxist philosophy. Vladimir joined a revolutionary circle and quickly proved to be an effective repository of knowledge, swamping his associates with “a torrent of statistics which he used to illustrate his points.”

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15 Volkogonov, 19.


18 New World Encyclopedia contributors, "Nikolai Chernyshevsky," *New World Encyclopedia*, [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Nikolai_Cherneyshevsky#cite_ref-0](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Nikolai_Cherneyshevsky#cite_ref-0), published October 12, 2011 (accessed January 2, 2015).


22 Goldstein, 32.
The organization of the meetings was originally “... extremely loose, ‘primitive,’
amateur, and accidental in nature ... lacking any widespread organization among the workers.”

After Vladimir established himself as the principal theorist, he revolutionized the inactive
proceedings of the illegal St. Petersburg group and ascertained himself as the leader:

“[Members] only followed unquestioningly Lenin, the one indisputable leader. Because Lenin
alone embodied the phenomenon ... of a man of iron will, inexhaustible energy, combining a
fanatical faith in the movement ... with an equal faith in himself.”

In 1894, one of Vladimir’s first major works, *What the “Friends of the People” Are and
How They Fight the Social-Democrats*, boldly refuted Populist claims in favor of Marxism.

Nadezhda Krupskaya, a member of the group destined to be Vladimir’s wife, recollected: “The
aims of the struggle were set forth in the pamphlet with admirable clarity ... Fairly widely read,
they undoubtedly had a strong influence on the Marxist youth at the time.”

Vladimir began to focus on how the proletariat [working class] could play a role in
political revolution. Factory owners notoriously exploited the laborers of early industrial Russia,
and production environments were treacherous and dire. Through a body known as the “St.
Petersburg Union of Struggle for the Liberation of the Working Class,” Vladimir and his
coworkers distributed propaganda among the despondent workers of St. Petersburg in hopes of

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23 Neil Harding, *Lenin’s Political Thought: Theory and Practice in the Democratic and Socialist Revolutions*,
24 Harding, 62.
26 David Walters, “What the “Friends of the People” Are and How They Fight the Social-Democrats,” Lenin Internet
27 Clark, 24.
29 Norman West, “The Russian Revolution,” Suffolk Community College,
[http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/westn/russrev.html](http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/westn/russrev.html), published February 1, 2001 (accessed December 23, 2014).
showing a corollary between their exploitation and the contemporary social order.\textsuperscript{31} As related by Krupskaya, Vladimir often interviewed workers to gain a deeper understanding of their plight:

His work … among the workers of Piter [St. Petersburg], conversations with these workers, attentive listening to their speeches, gave Vladimir Illich an understanding of the grand idea of Marx … that all the labouring masses, all the oppressed, will follow … Only [through a] … vozhd [leader] of all the labourers will the working class achieve victory … and this thought, this idea illuminated all of his later activity, each and every step.\textsuperscript{32}

The group was arrested on December 8, 1895 for the offense of spreading Social-Democratic propaganda.\textsuperscript{33} However, their efforts were not in vain; major strikes occurred between 1896 and 1897,\textsuperscript{34} and roughly ten million factory workers went on strike from 1895 to 1916.\textsuperscript{35} Responding to this, Vladimir was jubilant: “The struggle of workers with factory owners for their daily needs … suggests to the workers problems of state and politics.”\textsuperscript{36}

Vladimir was imprisoned in St. Petersburg for fourteen months, and secretly sent plans for labor riots by writing with milk and lemon juice upon printed articles.\textsuperscript{37} In February 1897, Vladimir received a sentence of three years of Siberian exile,\textsuperscript{38} but vigorously continued his progressive work.\textsuperscript{39} In the February of 1900, Vladimir was liberated from exile and attained permission to depart to Europe, with Krupskaya joining him later.\textsuperscript{40}

\textsuperscript{33} Lars, 61.
\textsuperscript{34} Luxemburg, 146.
\textsuperscript{36} Pipes, 355.
\textsuperscript{38} Lars, 61.
\textsuperscript{39} Resnick, 42.
\textsuperscript{40} Frank Britton, \textit{Behind Communism} (United Kingdom: Ostara Publications, 2012), 50.
Vladimir’s next campaign was to publish a radical newspaper, advocating the propagandist and organizational benefits of publication. Naming the paper *Iskra*, or “The Spark,” Vladimir would outline plans to bring down the Russian tsarist government. In 1901, Vladimir started to author his works under the pseudonym “Lenin” for protection. As a result of his imprisonment and exile, Lenin became more reactionary against the government and fully embodied the belief that he alone could properly understand and guide Russian Communism.

Alexander Potresov, one of the editors of *Iskra*, related:

No one could sweep people away so much by his plans, impress them by his strength of will, and then win them over by his personality as this man, who at first sight seemed so unprepossessing [unsightly] and crude … Neither Plekhanov nor Martov [editors of *Iskra*] nor any one else had the secret of that hypnotic influence on, or rather ascendency over people, which Lenin radiated.

During this time period, Lenin authored one of his most influential works, a 1902 pamphlet titled *What is to be Done?* Lenin contended that the proletariat must be guided by a small and controlled group of dedicated revolutionaries: the vanguard party. The vanguard would reveal bourgeoisie dominance to the proletariat, proposing to solve the conflict by an overthrow of contemporary institutions. *What is to be Done?* contained nearly all of Lenin’s political theory, later termed “Leninist.”

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42 Leszek Kolakowski, *Main Currents of Marxism: The Founders, the Golden Age, the Breakdown* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005), 664.
Inception of the Bolsheviks

In 1903, the Second Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party assembled to consolidate revolutionaries.\(^{51}\) The meetings proved fateful, as discourse over future party structure led to a split: Lenin headed the Bolsheviks, or “majority”, advocating a small, controlled and disciplined body. The opposing bloc was labeled the Mensheviks [“minority”] by Lenin, and desired a large democratic party.\(^{52}\) Lenin derided the Mensheviks, and thus devised the fundamental law of Bolshevism: one must always prioritize destroying the internal enemy above all else. Lenin viciously attacked any revolutionaries who did not acknowledge his supreme leadership.\(^{53}\) He began an unforgiving drive for Bolshevik power, engaging in extortion, fraud, and robbery to finance his party.\(^{54}\) While Lenin began to formulate his elitist faction, Russia was in turmoil.

The Russian public began the Revolution of 1905 to little avail,\(^{55}\) as Tsar Nicholas II merely created a “Duma” parliament to placate the masses.\(^{56}\) By 1907, after Lenin unsuccessfully attempted to further the movement, he went into exile more convinced of the sole effectiveness of his own ideas.\(^{57}\)

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57 Frank Thackeray, *Events that Changed Russia Since 1855* (Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2007), 81.
February 1917, Russian military failures and food deficiencies forced the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II through the February Revolution. In St. Petersburg, women began a riot over meager flour rations, and authorities commanded the army to put down the demonstration. Instead, angry soldiers joined the mob to abolish the tsarist government.

The work of Bolsheviks inside Russia was crucial, as antagonistic propaganda pushed to the proletariat brought about revolutionary desires and the perception that workers could consciously overthrow the root of their plight. In the end, the Duma created the Provisional Government, a temporary ruling body of Russia.

Return of Lenin

To lead the revolution as he saw fit, Lenin made an agreement with Germany to pass through to Russia in a sealed train. On April 3, 1917, Lenin entered his homeland through Petrograd’s Finland Station. Immediately, he delivered to the welcoming crowd a critical speech attacking the Provisional Government, later termed the April Theses. To garner support, Lenin pledged liberal slogans “All Power to the Soviets,” “Stop the War Now,” and “Bread, Land, and Peace” to the hungry and worn people. With the printed publication of the Theses and Lenin’s

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65 Bennett Hill, John Buckler, Clare Crowston, A History of Western Society, Volume 2: From the Age of Exploration to the Present, Volume 2 (Boston: Macmillan, 2010), 835.
campaigning, the Bolshevik’s numbers would catapult from ten thousand to half a million members by October.\textsuperscript{66}

Soldiers and workers advocating a governmental overthrow gathered in massive throngs in Petrograd during the “July Days.”\textsuperscript{67} Extensive numbers of supporters flocked to support the Bolsheviks, the only party that had distinctly attacked the Provisional Government.\textsuperscript{68} Crowds of thousands of citizens and soldiers held Bolshevik pennants and streamers to appeal for the Soviets, representative councils of workers, soldiers, and peasants,\textsuperscript{69} to take complete power. However, the movement ultimately failed to achieve its goal. The Provisional Government repressed the Bolshevik party and accused Lenin as a German spy,\textsuperscript{70} hardening him against opponents and motivating him to hide in Finland for asylum.\textsuperscript{71}

In September 1917, Lenin posted a letter to the Bolsheviks urging for an armed insurrection,\textsuperscript{72} stirring the October Revolution on the 25th. Reserve Guard battalions initiated the mutiny, and a citywide battle began: “Toward noon Petrograd again became the field of military action; rifles and machine guns rang out everywhere … One thing was clear: the past and the future were exchanging shots.”\textsuperscript{73} Bolshevik supporters took control of key governmental

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\textsuperscript{67} Michael Hickey, \textit{Competing Voices from the Russian Revolution} (California: ABC-CLIO, 2011), 81.
\textsuperscript{68} John Marot, \textit{The October Revolution in Prospect and Retrospect: Interventions in Russian and Soviet History} (Netherlands: BRILL, 2012), 163.
\textsuperscript{70} Wood, 52.
\textsuperscript{71} Helen Rappaport, \textit{Joseph Stalin: A Biographical Companion} (California: ABC-CLIO, 1999), 165.
\end{flushleft}
buildings to overthrow the Provisional Government, establishing Lenin as the head of a new Soviet State.

Triggering the Terror

The elation of Bolshevik victory would prove short-lasting, and the party became apprehensive and threatened by 1918. Major peasant revolts broke out against the new leaders, and Lenin was not keen to humor any internal insurrection:

    Comrades! The kulak [wealthy peasant] uprising in your five districts must be crushed without pity. The interests of the whole revolution demand such actions … You must make an example of these people. (1) Hang (I mean publicly, so people can see it) at least 100 kulaks, rich bastards … (2) Publish their names. (3) Seize all their grain. … Do all this so for miles around people see it all, understand it, tremble … Reply saying you have received and carried out these instructions. Yours, Lenin.

In spite of the defensive oppression, on August 30, 1918, an assassination attempt would nearly end Lenin’s life. This event would trigger paranoia and begin the Red Terror, a mass extermination of 100,000 to 500,000 people from targeted groups.

    To carry out such carnage, Lenin employed the Cheka, a political police force which had the authority to kill anybody deemed to be a counter-revolutionary. However, the persecutions instead targeted those who represented the old regime, such as the upper class. Executions were conducted based on social origin and economic status, rather than any political offenses.

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77 Iurii, 140.
80 Brett Bowden and Michael Davis, Terror: From Tyrannicide to Terrorism (Brisbane: University of Queensland Press, 2008), 165-166.
1917 to 1922, the Cheka’s numbers would grow to 125,000 security troops, advancing their eventual goal to obliterate the kulaks and bourgeoisie. The tactics of the Cheka were horrendous: victims were nailed by their left hand and left foot above the ground in a form of crucifixion, some had their intestines nailed and unwound around a tree, and still others were skinned alive. In Kharkov, the Cheka branch would strip the skin away from the offender’s hands, while Cheka in Kiev would feed victims to rats.

From September to October in 1918, the Cheka were given free reign to spread terror and intimidate the populace. By the end of the atrocities, Lenin’s totalitarian regime and its authority were secured.

**Lenin’s Legacy and Influence**

The regulatory successes of Lenin’s callous leadership inspired nearly all prospective communist governments to adopt the use of intimidation tactics. For example, the Hungarian Red Terror of 1919 swiftly emulated Russia’s bloodbath, with 590 executions asserting communism in Hungary. In 1934, Communist China’s leader Mao Zedong stated: “Red terror ought to be our reply to these counter-revolutionaries. We must … deal immediately, swiftly with every kind of counter-revolutionary activity.” These are but few cases among the 45 Communist regimes established after the first revolution; five countries are still Communist

81 Kort, 126.
today. Lenin’s legacy is exhibited in the establishment of multitudes of Communist regimes, as well as in the sustained practice of ruthless suppression.

What was arguably the most profound influence upon Lenin’s life was his older brother, Aleksandr. Without Lenin’s search to understand what could have driven his elder to demise, his appetite for revolutionary thinking may have never been whetted. Additionally, Aleksandr’s discrediting of the Ulyanov family brought official intolerance and punishment upon Lenin, compelling him along the path of liberalism.

Lenin formulated an innate belief in the validity and accuracy of his theoretical conclusions based upon a faith in his previous expertise and knowledge. This complete confidence in himself made Lenin one of the most effective leaders in modern history. However, the dogma of Lenin guided him to remorselessly reject any internal disunity. After paranoia in 1918 was severely heightened by an attempt on Lenin’s life, this practice escalated to a whole new extreme. In order to eliminate any dissenters and secure his leadership, Lenin called for the deaths of hundreds of thousands in an almost unimaginable move: the Red Terror.

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Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources


Robert Cymbala compiled much of an online archive of Marxist works, and made this timeline based on such primary historical documents. I used the particular 1892 entry to find when Lenin's first printed revolutionary activity surfaced.


This contemporary newspaper article gave me a better understanding of how reactionary and bloodthirsty the Red Terror was.


Lenin's wife, Nadezhda, provided this primary account of Lenin's early influence upon the Russian Marxist movement. The source gave me insight to Lenin's ability to powerfully sway the masses by intense argument.


This book was a compilation of Lenin's political writings which would lead to the inception of the Bolshevik party. It included "What is to be Done?" as well as other prominent works.


This primary source was a translation of a short autobiography by Lenin. Unfortunately, copies of the original newspaper preserving the writing were partially cut off, leaving only Lenin's initial reminiscences of being expelled from Kazan.


This source was a primary account and history of the military coup staged by the Bolsheviks. Although it described the fighting as tumultuous, the overthrow is generally considered to have suffered minimal casualties.

I used this work of Lenin’s to gain a general sense of his goals and purpose while he was first starting out as an influential revolutionary. Lenin was loud and brazen with his language; this would be a recurring theme throughout his life.

Secondary Sources


This was an educational website intended for school lessons, and did not necessarily go into as much historical detail as I wished. However, it was very understandable and provided a good chronology of the Russia's governmental development into a Duma.


From this source, I discovered what Lenin aimed to accomplish through his work in St. Petersburg. It shed light on why he took such actions as he did, and directed my research to find out more about the role of the proletariat in Lenin's revolution.


This source illustrated how Lenin used the Cheka to eliminate the old regime as a threat. This evidence corresponds with my paper's thesis, as he likely did this in order to secure his personal ideals of revolution and politics.


I used this source to find out Lenin's whereabouts after his Siberian exile. The book was relatively clear in delivering information, but the presentation was a little unorganized.


This source had egalitarian data on the Red Terror by estimating the executions to be between 100,000 and 500,000. Other data I encountered ranged from reporting ten thousand to one million dead. Thus, in order to be as relatively accurate as possible, I chose to incorporate this data in my paper.

This source was one of my favorite synopses of Lenin's political career, and was one of the guiding books in my research. The entry was very well organized and written, and the general summaries of Lenin's exploits were easy to follow.


This website source was very clear and detailed in describing the split, and I enjoyed the description of Lenin's harshness while separating the two parties: "When a delegate lamented that his uncomradely attitudes were spoiling the congress, Lenin sharply replied that, on the contrary, he relished a good open fight instead of endless inconclusive talk ..."


The primary quote I garnered from this source illustrated the particular bias against Lenin as due to Aleksandr's blackening the family name after his assassination attempt. It showed official and judicial scrutiny of Lenin.


This source was an encyclopedia entry on Lenin's life, and provided an incredibly intricate report on Lenin. I used it to develop my paper's timeline and flow.


This source listed all Communist regimes established after the first Russian system. With over 45 Communist governments organized since 1917, the legacy of Lenin has clearly proven to be worldwide.


The quote I took from this book helped me to see the ruthless qualities of Lenin's administration. This source was one of the most impressive combinations of data analysis and historical context I read while writing this paper. It provided statistics of killings while also highlighting the political agendas of the perpetrators.

Festus mainly focused on Russia's foreign relations in this book, but still mentioned Lenin's Iskra campaign to illustrate how Russian communication would ultimately change as a result of the propaganda.


This was an online educational tool which argued for a correlation between Russian failures in World War I and the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II. I thought the evidence provided was very convincing.


The primary quote I took from this book illustrated how Mao Zedong, the leader of Communist China, would follow the fundamental law of Bolshevism to crush internal dispute and rebellion. This demonstrated the intolerant legacy of Lenin.


This source was incredibly influential in my research, as it was the first to clearly identify the political ideology of the fundamental law of Bolshevism, illustrating Lenin's complete intolerance towards internal insurrection.


Orlando Figes was a very influential author on my paper, as his numerous works discussing the revolution assisted in my understanding of Lenin. In this particular book, I found how Lenin employed the Cheka to use terror tactics and torturous methods of execution to further his political agenda.


This book by Orlando Figes provided further examples of specific execution types throughout the Cheka's horror campaign.


Orlando Figes is a professor of history at the University of London, and runs a website source on Russian history. He provided a logical analysis of primary sources, one of which I used to help determine Lenin's reaction to Aleksandr's execution.

This book was my first introduction to the influence of Aleksandr in Lenin's life, and how Aleksandr's execution was a major turning point in Lenin's philosophy.


This book was a very clear and detailed following of Lenin throughout both his life and political campaigns. I used this source to find out more about his early political activity.


This source was my first glimpse into Lenin's background, and provided a good starting point for my research.


I mainly perused this source to discover what activities Lenin pursued while in St. Petersburg. It shed light on his outstandingly dominant leadership and early drive.


This was the first source I perused which mentioned the July Days as a major event. It prompted my research along to investigate the aftermath of the demonstration more thoroughly.


This book gave me insight to the propagandist strategies of Lenin, showing how he took advantage of the people's weariness and general hunger to further his personal political campaigns.

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+hu0039).

I used the case of the Hungarian Red Terror to illustrate the broad historical impact of Lenin's administrative policies. While not on as large a scale, the Communist regime in Hungary committed atrocities like in Russia.

In this book, I found how the Bolsheviks played a key role in inciting the 1917 St. Petersburg rebellion by way of propaganda. It enlightened me as to how influential Lenin's work proved to be.


This was an entertaining book which contained roughly a hundred short historical stories about events surrounding World War I. It described Lenin's residence in Germany and his determination to return to Russia once he heard of the revolt.


From this book, I found the purpose of Lenin's vanguard party to be agitation and propaganda, which was logically coherent with the research I had conducted so far; a major component of Lenin's revolutionary strategy was to inspire the proletariat.


This book provided raw data to back up historic claims of Lenin's far-reaching influence; workers began to go on strike or riot with early Leninist publications. This further solidified my developing view of Lenin's sympathy for the workers.


This source went into great detail describing Lenin's reasoning behind starting Iskra, touting the ability of publication to centralize the principal voice of the movement. He aimed to radicalize the working class to join in the revolution.


This source further illustrated Lenin's fierceness in driving for his personal goals and views. It reported of a multitude of crimes committed by Lenin in the interest of his Bolshevik party.

This source is a well-contended analysis of Lenin, presenting a general summary of major events in his lifetime. I found how Lenin would return to Russia in a final military coup to establish the new Communist state.


This book seemed to be a direct refutation of another author, Tony Cliff. It meandered every so often, but ultimately went into detail on the Social Democratic Labour Party Congress and its implications.


The primary quote I took from this book was very influential in my research, as it resolutely proved the importance of leading the working class in Lenin's idealistic revolution. This gave me new insight to Lenin’s thinking behind his orchestration.


This source showed Lenin's early involvement in rebellious organizations and illegal intellectual activities, as evidenced by his joining an student group at Kazan.


In this book, I discovered the official name of Lenin's St. Petersburg propaganda organization: the Union of Struggle for the Liberation of the Working Class. The fact allowed me to further my research on the work of the group.


I found a key part of Lenin's political strategy and organization from this book: the vanguard party. I was ecstatic to find this evidence, as it confirmed my suspicions of Lenin's penchant for controlled administration.


This book provided an important reason for why the Bolshevik party would eventually gain much favor. It explained how prior Bolshevik disapproval of the Provisional Government and subsequent failures of the Provisional Government would sway many to join the "majority" cause.

I studied this book in order to gain a primitive grasp of Marxist theory and thus further my understanding of Lenin's actions. In addition, it directed my research to discover how Lenin could act upon such theory.


This book was the first source which informed me of the Cheka, and granted a new direction for my research to follow. In addition, it further solidified my argument of Lenin's inflexible politics as evidenced by the police's brutal tactics.


This source was a summary of Lenin's life. It provided the main points of his travels and developments, but no analysis of such events.


This source was an accurate and thoroughly researched online encyclopedia entry on Nikolai Chernyshevsky, one of the authors Lenin studied in his time at the family estate. It provided the political and ideological views of Chernyshevsky which influenced Lenin.


This book described the precursors to the October Revolution, and I employed it to show how Lenin was eventually able to seize power for his party. The Revolution of 1905 was a major event which conclusively swayed public opinion favorably for Lenin.


This source was critical to my research, as it was the first to show how Lenin's uncompromising attitude and faith in himself would prove to be fateful. I particularly enjoyed Richard Pipes' clarity of writing.

This source was my personal favorite compilation of Aleksandr and how he impacted Lenin. It provided compelling evidence for why Lenin began a deep study of revolutionary theory.


This website was a very good source, and went into great historical detail while maintaining an impressive conciseness. It was another resource which guided my research, and I incorporated the development of the Provisional Government into my paper.


This book clarified how the result of the July Days would impact Lenin, with the ultimate consequence of him being forced into Finnish exile.


This source focused mainly on Lenin's revolutionary work, and I studied it to find out how Lenin first became radical. It provided eloquent evidence for how this occurred by Lenin's Kokushkino studies.


Lenin's work during his years of Siberian exile was clearly described in this book, as well as his secret correspondence in jails. This source showed Lenin's unwavering dedication to his revolutionary cause.


I mainly employed this source in discovering the proceedings of Aleksandr's plotting and execution. It provided details on Aleksandr's dignified presence in court.


This book described how Russian revolutionary activity began in interest as due to World War 1. The 1917 riots started in St. Petersburg, and sympathetic soldiers did not put down the revolt.

This book described how Russian revolutionary activity began in interest as due to World War 1. The 1917 riots started in St. Petersburg, and sympathetic soldiers did not put down the revolt.


The title of this timeline is very self-explanatory. It was a list of the dates of major events in World War 1, which I used to find when the war began.


From this survey of the Bolshevik coup, I found the Bolshevik strategy of occupying governmental buildings to win the battle.


This book was one of the best studies on Lenin's life I looked through, and was very clear in following Lenin throughout the years. The entire story was very detailed.


This website was very direct yet thorough in delivering information on the Social Democratic Labour Party's meetings throughout Europe. It clarified questions I had concerning where the meetings took place: Brussels and London.


This online article described the socioeconomic circumstances of pre-revolutionary Russia during Lenin's youth. A general view of Lenin developing resolute Marxism before residing in St. Petersburg is also presented.


This book was a summary of turning points in Russian history, and the influence of Lenin was a prominent entry. I found his whereabouts after the Revolution of 1905 to be exile.

I used this source to find out the Lenin's alleged conversion to Marxism after hearing Aleksandr's execution. However, the evidence was based on a Soviet speech over thirty years after the death of Aleksandr, so it may have simply been propaganda.


This source was eloquent and rigorous in demonstrating the nearly unlimited judicial power of Cheka. The page characterized the bloodthirsty intent of Cheka leaders as well.


This website was a good summary of the achievements of Lenin, and I used it to derive where the hub of Iskra's publication was. In addition, I discovered that the general purpose of Iskra was to overthrow the contemporary Russian government.


This source was critical to the development of my topic, as it showed me Lenin's unerring belief in himself as the sole acceptable leader of the revolution. It prompted me further along understanding why he chose to brutally suppress those who did not agree with him.


This article was based on a PBS biographical documentary on Lenin. I thought the story was well written and had clear flow, although the writing was more narrative than I personally would prefer.


This was another encompassing study of Lenin's life. It had a detailed review of Lenin's time at Kazan University.


This source greatly assisted in my analysis of Lenin, as it showed how his condemnation of the Provisional Government through the April Theses further demonstrated his rejection of others in favor of personal ideas.
By illustrating the dire working environments of the contemporary proletariat, this source showed me how Lenin was able to sympathize with and ultimately win over many to his cause.

This website described the general goals and philosophy of Russian Populism.

This source further illustrated the widening influence of the Bolsheviks among the Russian population during the July Days. It had historical evidence of numerous Bolshevik banners pervading the rioting crowds.

I particularly enjoyed the quote I took from this book, as it is the exemplification of what my research was showing Lenin to be: a deeply ingrained master of others as due to his genuine self-certainty.

This book was my conclusive source concerning the Red Terror. It established the Terror as successful in safeguarding the jurisdiction of Lenin's regime.

This source was another biographical look into Lenin, and discussed the eventual political theory of Lenin. I found that his final ideology came to be known as "Leninist."

This book demonstrated a massive influx of members joining the Bolsheviks after Lenin's tireless campaigning in 1917. It proved the efforts and strategies of Lenin to be effective and sympathetic towards a majority of the populace.