

**Answer:**

The **Russian revolution of 1917**, consisting of **February Revolution** and the **October Revolution** ultimately resulted in the overthrow of Tsar Nicholas II and the establishment of a Communist state. The February revolution led to the formation of a provisional government under Alexander Kerensky, which proved to be a failure because:

- It took the unpopular **decision to continue participation in WW1**.
- The government lost support as it **delayed elections for Constituent Assembly** that would frame a new Constitution, arguing that these were not possible in the middle of a war when several million troops were away fighting.
- The promised **redistribution of land** from large estates among peasants didn't take place.
- There was increasing **economic chaos**, with inflation, rising food prices, lagging wages, shortages of raw materials and fuel.
- It didn't provide **equal status for the non-Russian nationalities**.
- The provisional government **allowed freedom of speech and press** which gave way to the July Days and Lenin's **April Thesis** which advocated for a separate peace with Germany to get Russia out of the war, all land to be given to the peasants, workers' control in the factories and more food at cheaper prices.

This led to a second revolution called October Revolution, when Bolshevik Political Party seized power in Russia. Its **consequences for Russia were:**

- The **destruction of the aristocracy** and the power of the church. The Czarist Empire was transformed into a new state called the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R)**.
- Russia pulled out of World War I, signing the **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk**. It had to give up Poland and accept the secession of Baltic, Ukraine and Finland.
- **Civil war**, between Bolshevik ("red") and anti-Bolshevik ("white") forces including officers of the army of the fallen Czar swept Russia from 1918 to 1920. Around 15 million died in conflict and famine.
- The policies of the new state were to be directed to the realization of the old socialist ideal, **'from each according to his capacity, to each according to his work'**.
  - **Private property** in the means of production was abolished and the motive of private profit eliminated from the system of production.
  - **Farmland** was distributed among farmers, and workers were given control over the **factories**.
  - **Banks were nationalized** and a national council was assembled to run the economy.
- Economic planning was adopted by the state to build a technologically advanced economy and to eliminate inequalities in the society.
- The **equality of all the nationalities** in the U S S.R. was recognized in the constitution framed in 1924 and later in 1936.

**The consequences of the October Revolution for the world were:**

- **It was the time when free-market policies were starting to be adopted by the states.** The Russian Revolution provided an **alternative political system** based on Communism.
- Creation of such a large socialist state with control over vast resources contributed to the success of experiment with communism. Many nation-states were influenced by this model, especially the newly independent ones.
- The Soviet declaration of **equality of all nations** and assertion that the people can change the entire property system for their own good were ideas that directly affected **Indian National Movement after 1917**.
- It **influenced other nations** fighting for their independence, such as the Chinese freedom movement led by Mao Zedong.

The ruling classes in many countries faced a very real threat to their domination by the USSR and the leftist movements. Many social reforms in the West were carried out precisely under this pressure.