

**SECTION 1**

## TWO REVOLUTIONS IN RUSSIA

### TEXT SUMMARY

In 1917, Russia was in trouble. More than one million soldiers had died in World War I. There was not enough food, and citizens were starving. Many people blamed Czar Nicholas II for the problems. A strike of workers began a revolution in March. A new government seized power and promised to be democratic. However, this government decided to continue the war against Germany. This decision drained more men, money, and food.

Vladimir Lenin, an enemy of the czar, returned to Russia in April from exile in Switzerland. He and his followers, the Bolsheviks, started a second revolution. Lenin called for a classless society based on

socialist teachings of the German Karl Marx. He and his Bolsheviks promised "Peace, Land, and Bread" and won control of the government in November 1917. They set up councils, called **soviets**, to govern the nation. Lenin made peace with Germany, but for the next three years faced unrest in Russia.

Russians had expected democracy. But they found that the Bolsheviks, now called Communists, ran the soviets. A civil war erupted when rebel forces fought against Lenin's Red Army. By 1921, the Communists had defeated the rebels.

### THE BIG IDEA

Two revolutions rocked Russia in 1917.

### GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Russia, 1917

#### THE MARCH REVOLUTION

##### Causes

- Heavy loss of lives in WWI
- Food shortages
- Military defeats
- Power-hungry rulers

##### Goals

- Overthrow the czar
- Set up new Russian republic

##### Results

- End of czarist rule
- Beginnings of a constitution
- Continued war with Germany

#### THE NOVEMBER REVOLUTION

##### Causes

- Continued loss of lives in WWI
- Continued food shortages
- Continued military defeats
- Return of Lenin

##### Goals

- Bolshevik overthrow of government
- Ideals of Karl Marx applied to Russia

##### Results

- Bolshevik-run soviets control government
- End of private ownership of land
- Peace with Germany
- Outbreak of civil war

In 1917, there were two revolutions in Russia.

1. Why were Russians ready to revolt in 1917? 2. What continuing problems caused both the revolutions?

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why were the Russians ready to revolt in 1917?

2. **Diagram Skills** What continuing problems caused both the March and November revolts?

3. What was the outcome of the Russian Revolution?