

# THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

# THE LAST TSAR OF RUSSIA

NICHOLAS II



# PRE-REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA

- Life was hard, short, and precarious



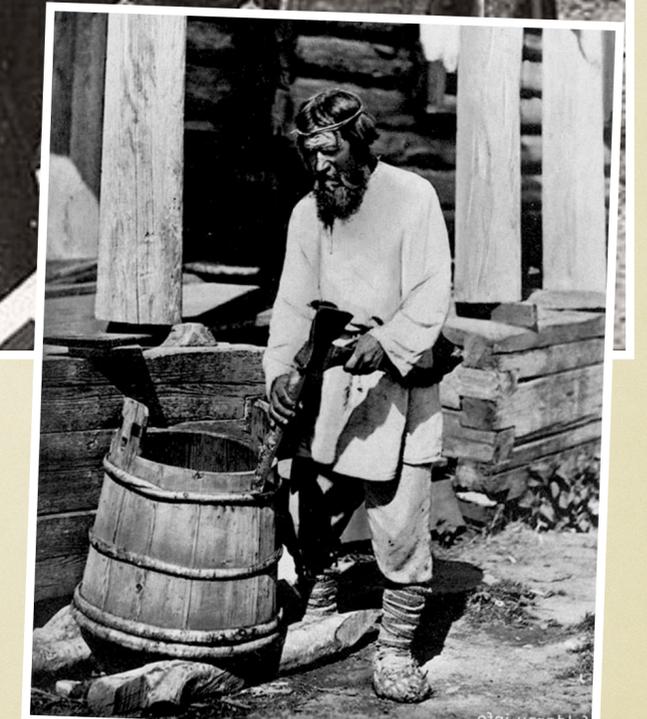
# PRE-REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA

- Winters were bitter; staying alive was a constant battle
- Rural families worked hard to grow and raise enough to feed themselves
- But most of the time, they did



# PRE-REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA

- Villagers worked together during harvest
- They traded with traveling vendors
- They rarely left the village of their birth



# INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- During the industrial revolution, labor was needed and there were lots of jobs
- Peasants began to move to cities looking for work



# INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- They did find work, but the work was hard and living conditions were often worse than in the country



- Life was still hard

# GROWING DISCONTENT

- As more peasants arrived in cities, injured workers were simply replaced with new workers
- The infrastructure in the cities did not keep up with the exploding population
- Crime, job-related injuries, dirty water, and lack of enough food and medical care resulted in high mortality rates



# CROWDED CITIES

- Cities were crowded, filthy, and dangerous



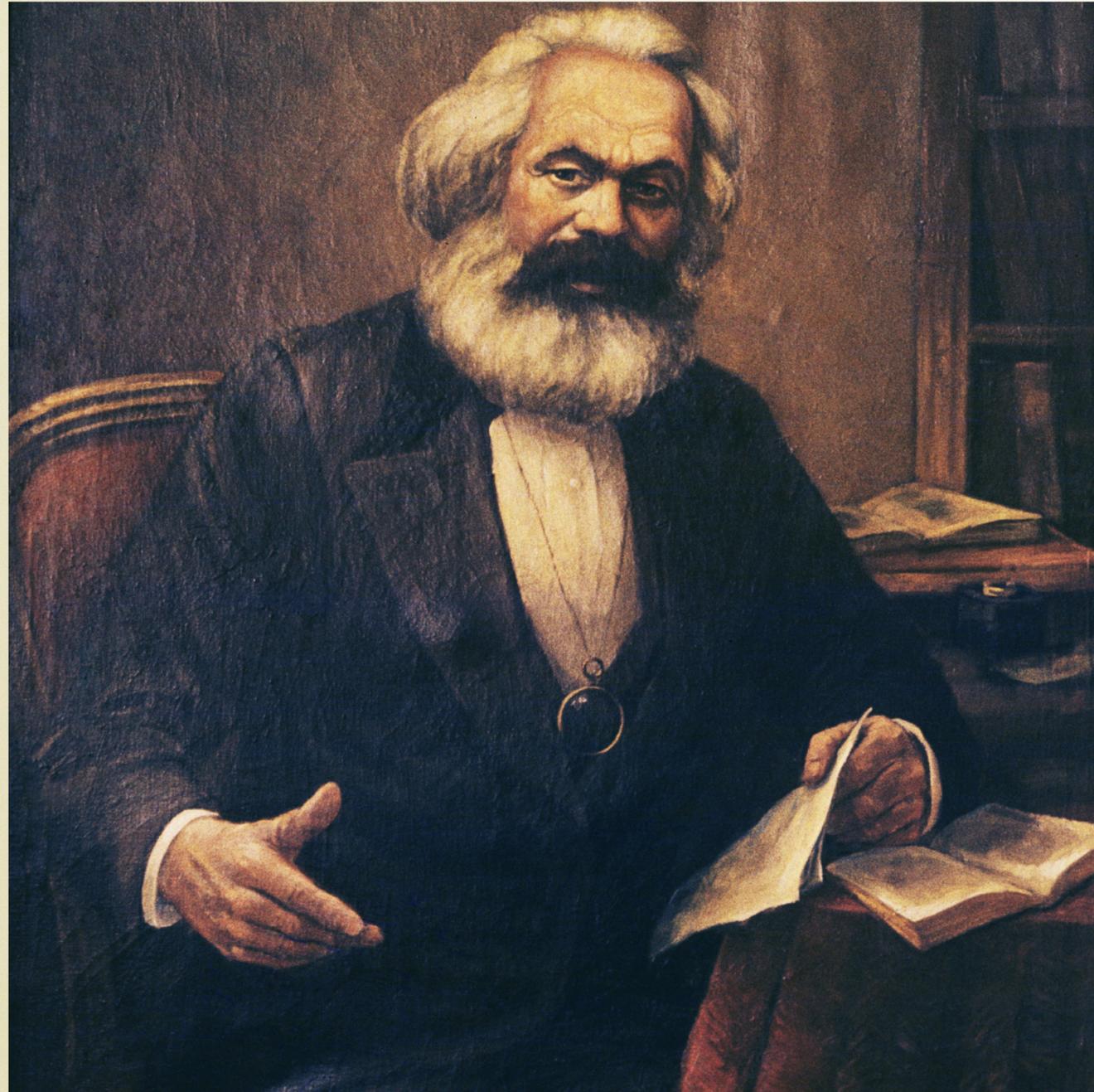
- In the cities, peasants were told they were being exploited, even though they were earning market wages for their labor

# CROWDED CITIES

- In a free market, the high supply of unskilled labor would have leveled out as the low wages removed the incentive to move to cities for jobs
- Factories would have had to pay workers more as they became more scarce
- But Marx saw an opportunity



# OPPORTUNISTS

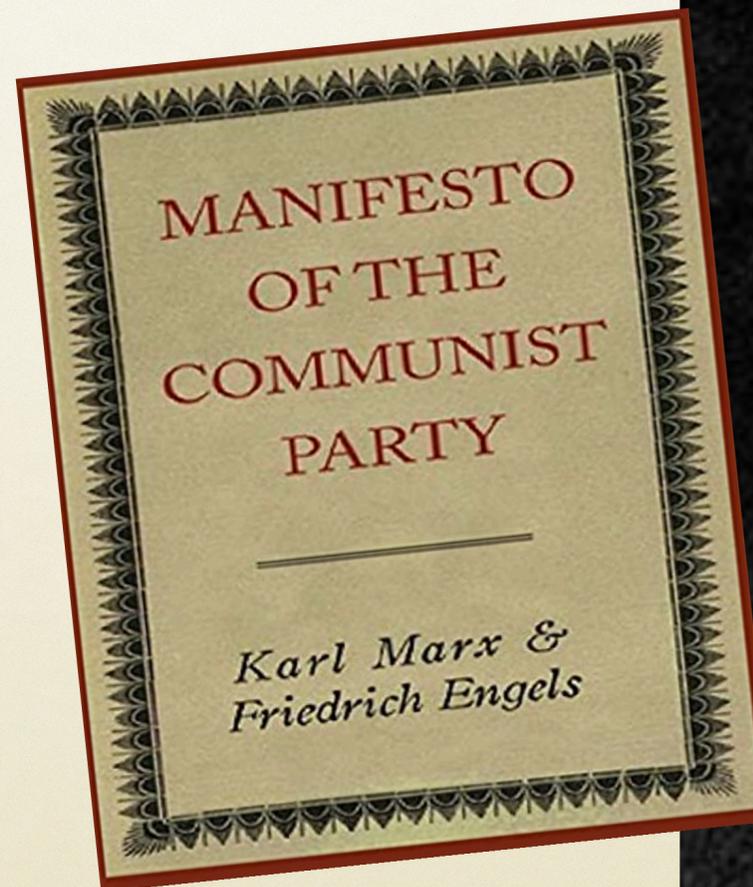


- Karl Marx and his socialist political party wanted power
- They didn't have an army, or official power, or international allies, or huge fortunes
- So they found a way to oust the rulers and take power for themselves ...

**turn the ordinary citizens  
into an army**

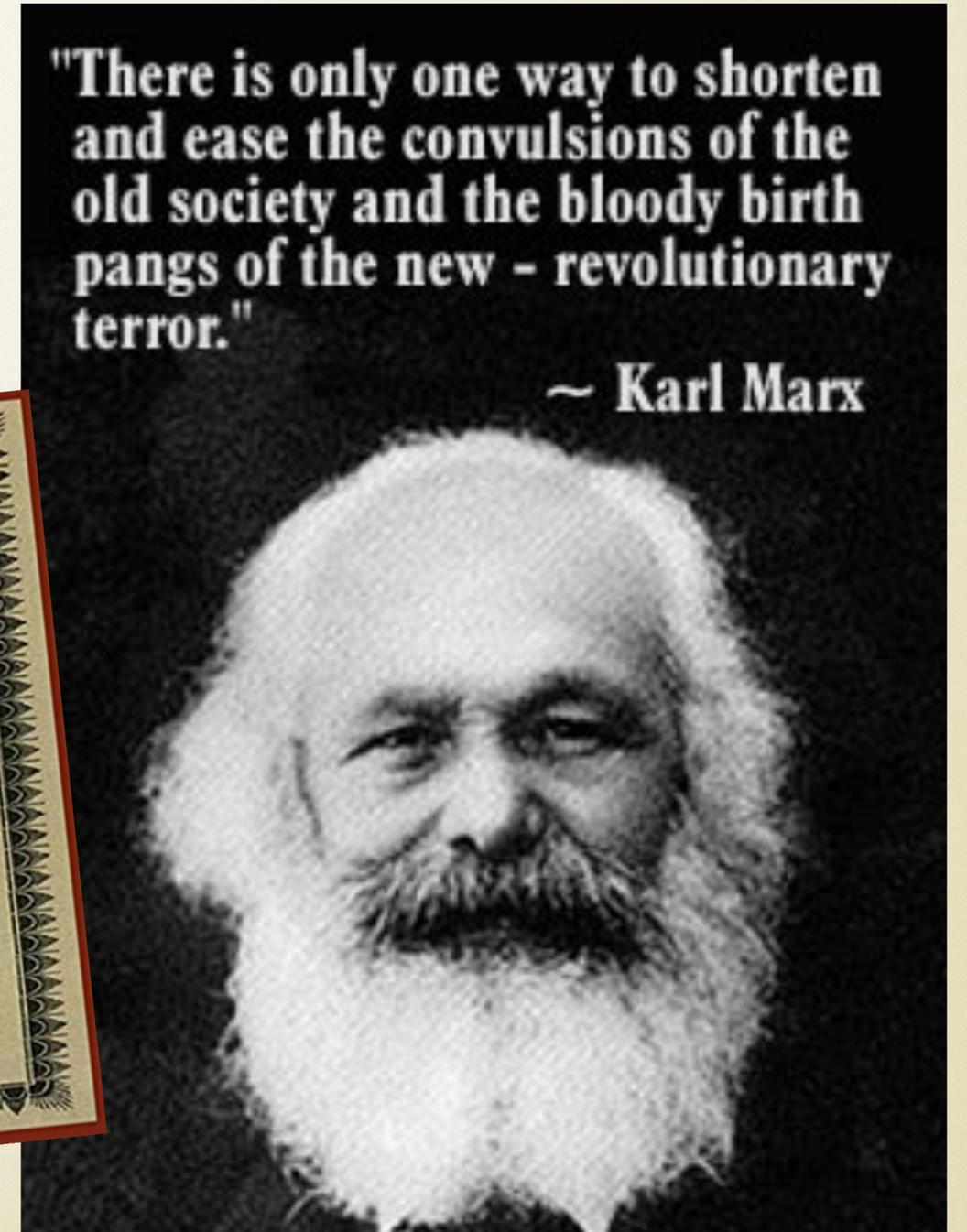
# ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

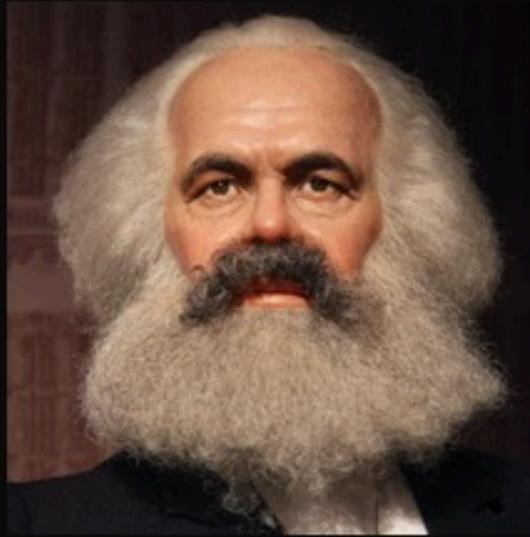
- Socialist leaders encouraged resentment of worker housing, anger at business owners, and violent envy of the middle and ruling class
- They did this through speeches, political cartoons, articles and pamphlets
- They also sought to eliminate religion
- They wanted to be the only influence in peoples' lives



**"There is only one way to shorten and ease the convulsions of the old society and the bloody birth pangs of the new - revolutionary terror."**

**~ Karl Marx**





Misery motivates, not utopia.

~ Karl Marx

- The only way to get the ordinary people to get violent was to make them so angry and hopeless that they would take be willing to die for change
- The Socialist organizers, of course, didn't die or go to prison

# SOCIALIST IDEAS SPREAD

- As young men who had moved to the cities came home to visit their villages, they brought modern Marxist ideas with them
- The rural peasants soon began to believe they were being exploited, too
- People in cities and on rural farms became resentful and began to organize marches



# REVOLUTION ORGANIZED

- The timing could not have been better for the socialists, who wanted the people to carry out a revolt
- The revolt would remove the current power structure, leaving open an opportunity for the socialists to move in and assume power



# RUSSIAN REVOLUTION - 1905

- The socialists organized student riots, worker protests
- They carried out terrorist attacks, anarchy, vandalism, sabotage, and murders
- There were mutinies, armed forces siding with the revolutionaries



# RUSSIAN REVOLUTION - 1905

- The Imperial government experienced mounting pressure because of the unrest
- A general strike paralyzed the cities
- Production, transportation and trade ground to a halt



# BLOODY SUNDAY - 1905



- A group of protesters marched to the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg to present a petition to Tsar Nicholas II
- The Tsar's troops opened fire on the unarmed demonstrators
- Protesting peasants and Socialist revolutionaries went crazy

# IMPERIAL CONCESSIONS

- The Imperial government regained control, although mutinies and riots continued
- Revolutionaries were arrested
- In response to the unrest, the Tsar's "October Manifesto" promised a constitution, legislature and a Prime Minister (like Great Britain had)



# IMPERIAL CONCESSIONS

- These promises went unfulfilled
- The exception was the Duma, an elected Parliament
- Opposing factions of socialists — the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks — made the Duma nearly useless in creating any meaningful reform



# RUSSIA ENTERS WWI - 1914

- Nicholas II retained control of the military, but was not a good commander
- Russia suffered heavy losses in World War I
- Russia was humiliated on the world stage
- The war was blamed for food shortages and rationing



# RUSSIA ENTERS WWI - 1915

- To pay for the war, the Imperial government printed a lot of money, resulting in massive inflation at home
- By February, 1915, revolutionaries used the shortages and misery to generate more riots, strikes, and protests



# CZAR LOSES MILITARY - FEB 1917

- Large protests resumed in cities
- Agitators turned protests into riots
- Prisons and police stations were attacked
- After several days of protests and many clashes with police, a garrison was called out to contain and control the rioters



# CZAR LOSES MILITARY - FEB 1917

- Troops are told to open fire, but nearly all refused orders
- Afterward, many troops joined the revolution



# CZARIST GOVERNMENT DISMANTLED

- Czarist officials are arrested
- Emblems of Czarist government — statues, portraits, monuments — are smashed and burned



# TSAR NICHOLAS ABDICATES - 1917



- In March, 1917, the weak Nicholas II was convinced by advisers to abdicate, ending the 300-year Romanov dynasty
- He was exiled to a family home in Tobolsk and a provisional government was established by the Duma
- He was forced to name an even weaker relative as Tsar

# BOLSHEVIKS

- The Bolsheviks (a Marxist socialist party) gained control of the capitol, the government, and the country
- Gaining public support, the Bolsheviks began promising “Peace! Bread! Land!”
- Soon, this became the battle cry of the revolting public



# LENIN RETURNS TO RUSSIA - 1917

- The exiled Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin, who had been exiled, returned to Petrograd, Russia
- Lenin and the socialist Bolsheviks called for another revolution

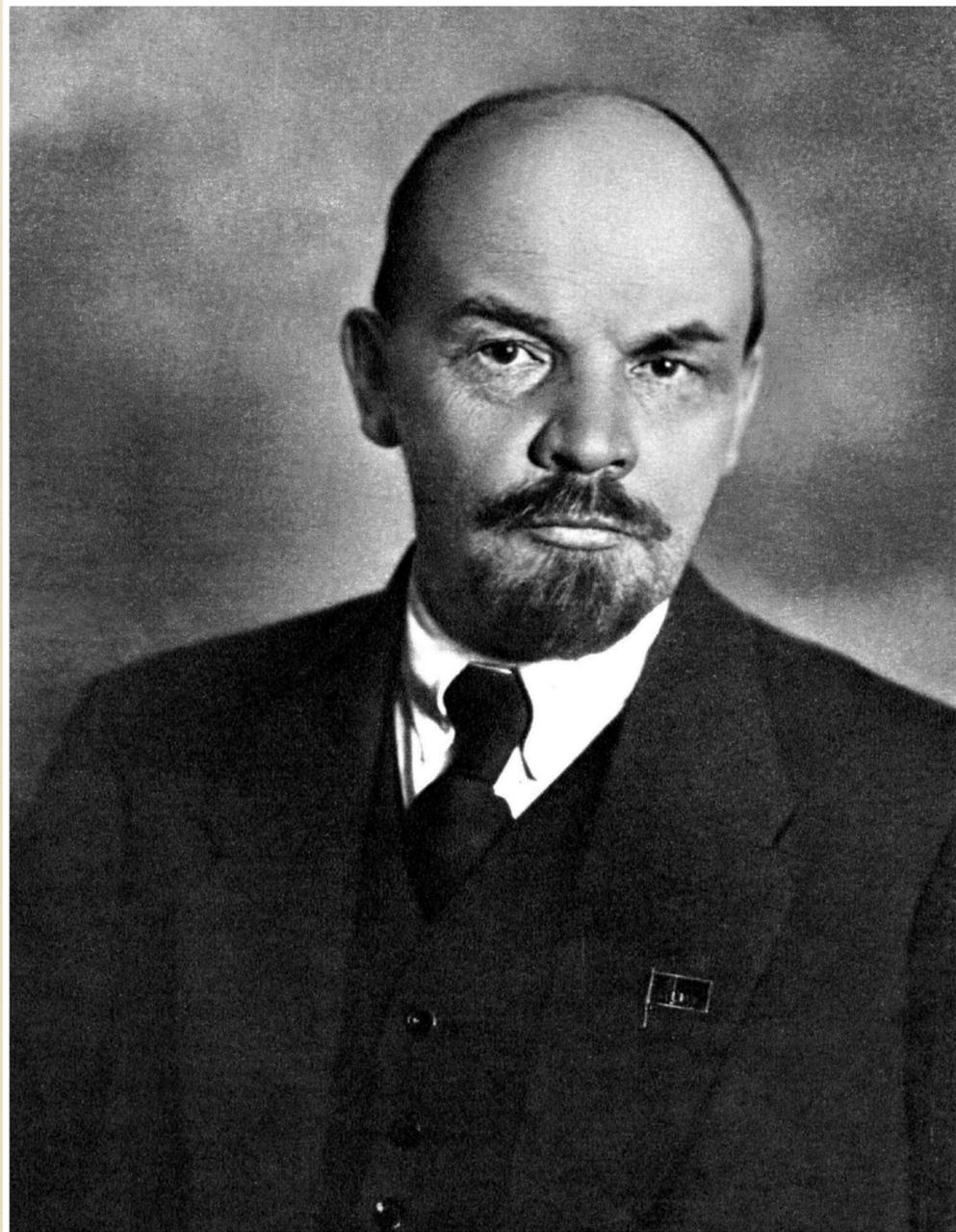


# MORE DISCONTENT

- Lenin insisted that the provisional government still had not:
  - improved the lives of the poor
  - got Russia out of WWI, or
  - taken land from the wealthy and given it “back” to the workers



# SECOND REVOLUTION



- Lenin promised to end the war
- He said he would put the factors of production (land and capital) in the hands of the people (the laborers)
- Soldiers came home, but there was no food and no jobs. Without land ownership, farmers grew just enough food for themselves.

# CZAR NICHOLAS II MURDERED - 1918

- On July 15, 1918, Nicholas's weak relative — a Tsar in name only — was murdered
- Other Romanoff family members fled Russia
- The next day, Czar Nicholas II and his family were shot at the home where they lived in exile



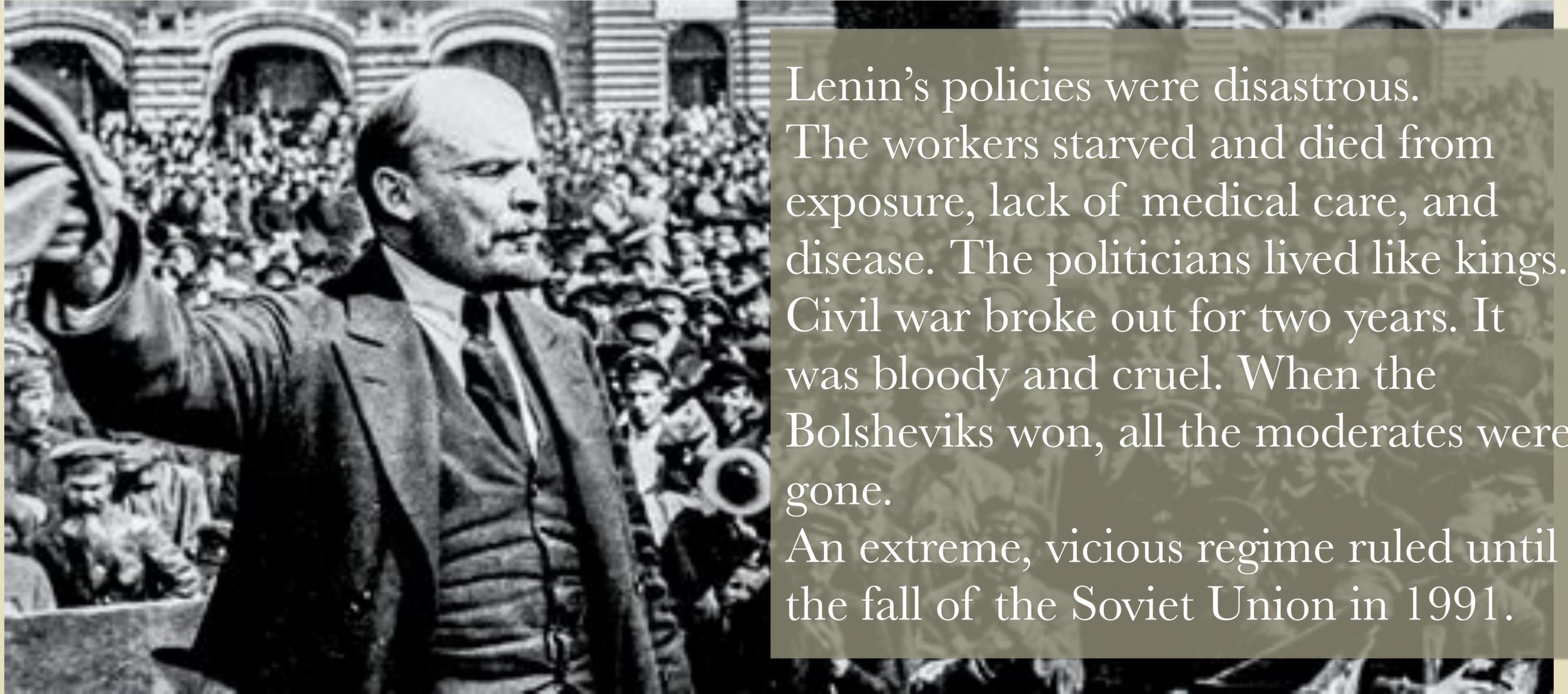
# BOLSHEVIKS TAKE CONTROL



ТАКЪ ХОЗЯЙНИЧАЮТЬ БОЛЬШЕВИКИ ВЪ КАЗАЧЬИХЪ СТАНИЦАХЪ.

This anti-Soviet poster shows how the Bolsheviks took charge in Cossack villages, by looting a farm and killing the farmer.

# BOLSHEVIKS TAKE CONTROL



Lenin's policies were disastrous. The workers starved and died from exposure, lack of medical care, and disease. The politicians lived like kings. Civil war broke out for two years. It was bloody and cruel. When the Bolsheviks won, all the moderates were gone.

An extreme, vicious regime ruled until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

# FULL SOCIALISM IN RUSSIA



Life in Socialist Russia



# FULL SOCIALISM IN RUSSIA



The Bolsheviks turned on the very striking workers, rioters, revolutionaries and Socialists who brought them to power.

# FULL SOCIALISM IN RUSSIA



Famine in 1921

# FULL SOCIALISM IN RUSSIA



- Show trials resulted in immediate execution or sentencing to a death camp

# FULL SOCIALISM IN RUSSIA

Those “found” guilty were sent to the Gulag and worked to death...



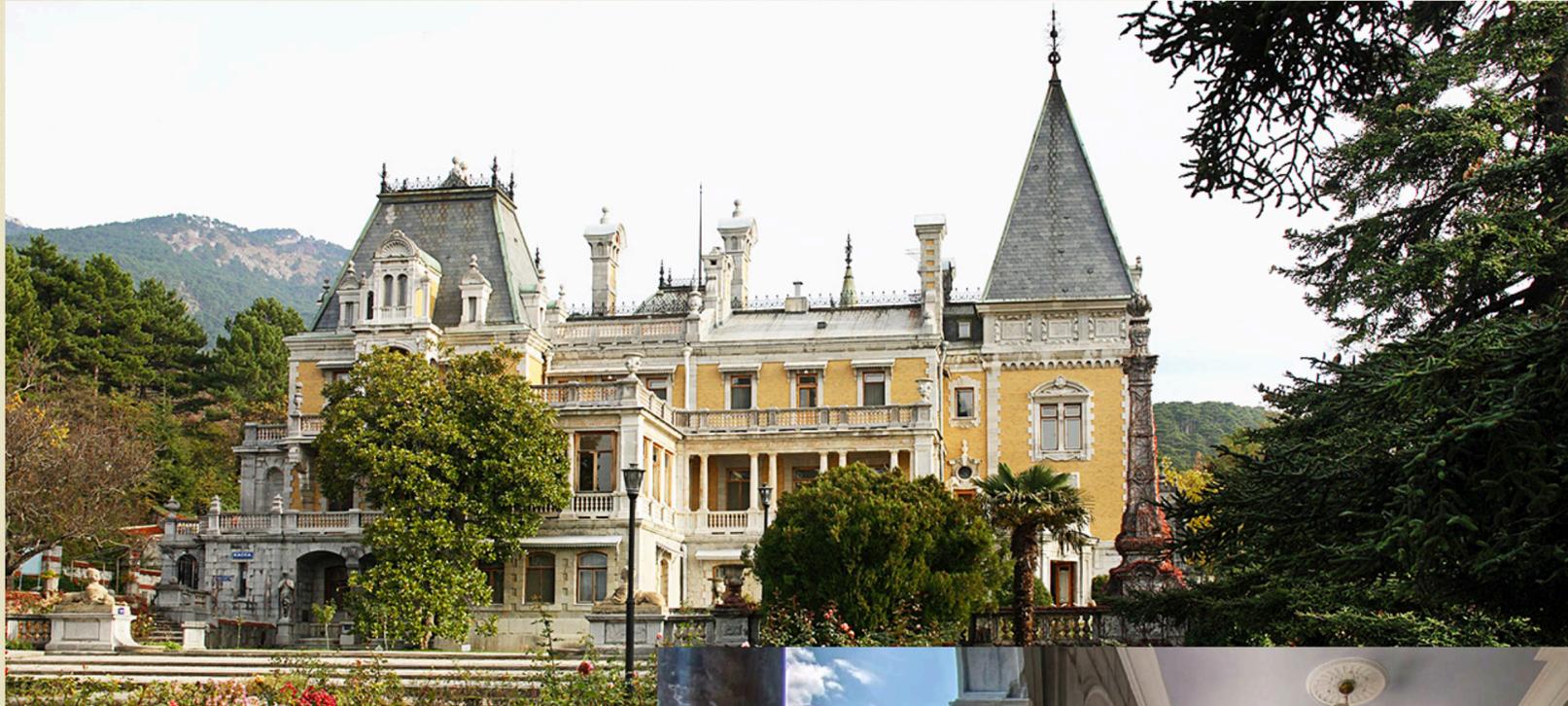
... or simply shot

# FULL SOCIALISM IN RUSSIA



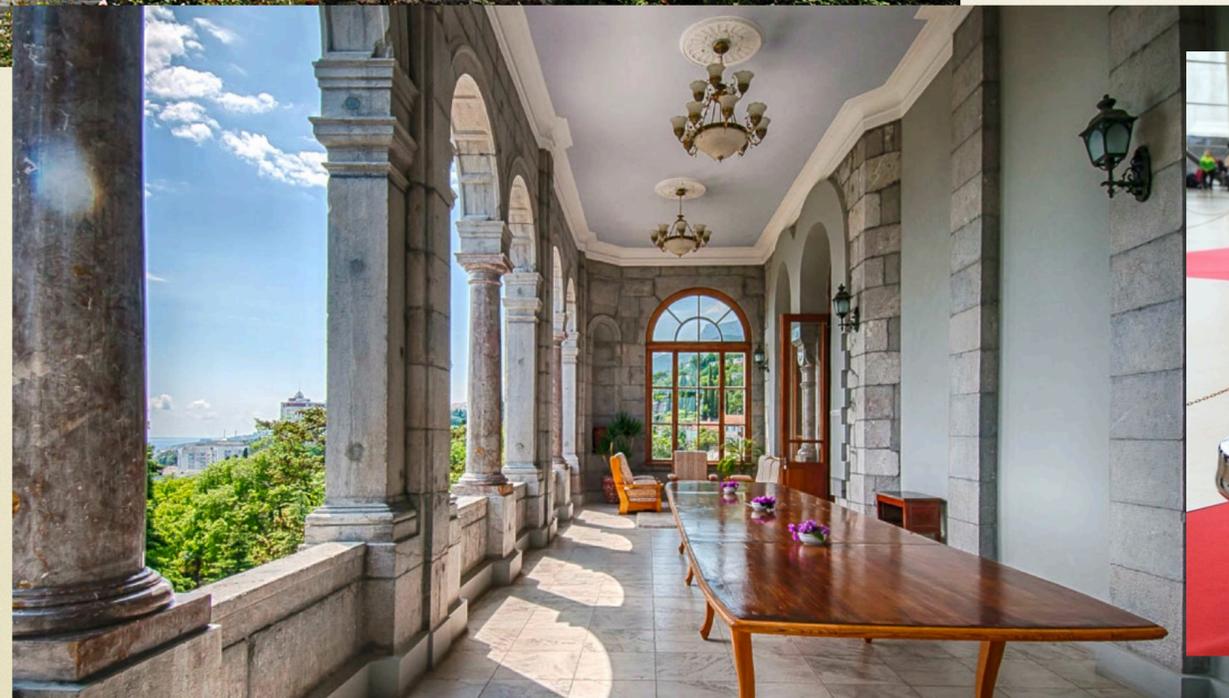
- Everyone else got the message:
  - Shut your mouth
  - Take what you're given
  - Keep producing for Mother Russia

# FULL SOCIALISM IN RUSSIA



- Instead of Peace! Bread! Land! the socialists delivered fear, death and starvation
- But not for themselves

- Lifestyles of Socialist leaders



“But at least we are free.”



Compare these images to those on slides 3-5. Did socialism help the peasants to have better, more comfortable lives?