Houston Area Model United Nations

Crisis Committee

Russian Revolution: Communists

Crisis Directors | Madeline Kling

Houston Area Model United Nations 51
February 6 & 7, 2025

Note to Delegates

Delegates,

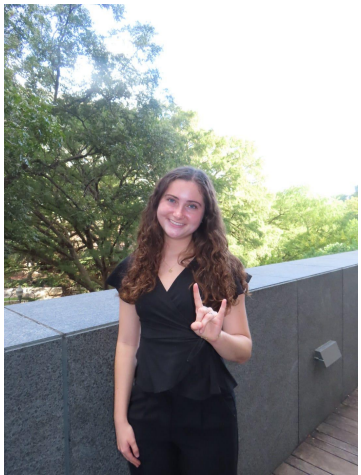
Welcome to HAMUN, and more specifically, the Russian Revolutions: Communists side. My name is Madeline Kling, and I will be your crisis director for this committee!

I am currently in my sophomore year at the University of Texas at Austin studying International Relations & Global Studies, French, and in the Plan ll Honors. Throughout my Model UN career that began in 2023, I've participated in multiple conferences as a delegate and crisis directed a total of 4 conferences, including this one.

I chose to be a Crisis Director because I love watching delegates bring history to life from both the front and backrooms! There is so much creative freedom in this committee, allowing delegates to enter a myriad of different realities while debating contrasting perspectives. Though it may seem like quite the feat, I look forward to y'all taking advantage of this exciting opportunity. I chose this committee because I love joint crisises and seeing how delegates can utilize not only the room they are in, but their opposing perspectives and opportunities. Additionally, I think the Russian Revolution is an important part of history that still plays a role in modern politics today, and while many know that a revolution occurred, few are aware of the life-altering impact of the event, or the details that played such a defining role.

You're going to hear this a lot from me, your teachers, and other HAMUN staff, but the most important part of this conference is to enjoy it and make a memorable experience for yourself. We're all here to help y'all grow and prosper. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, and I can't wait to see what you all are capable of in the committee room!

Madeline Kling
Crisis Director of Russian Revolution: Communists
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Background

Serfdom

In the 1900s, Russia was impoverished. What was once known as one of the most powerful empires ruled under one of the most influential families, Russia had begun its downfall.

Russia's economy since the Middle Ages had been based on serfdom, a system of forced agricultural labor with little pay and no upward advancements. The economy was rooted in class divides, with the rich employing the poor in the fields with no way to break the cycle. Serfs were tied directly to the estates in which they worked, creating harsh living conditions on such little pay. When industrialization swept across Europe, it became a game changer for Russia as a way for serfs to break free and finally earn wealth by migrating to cities and working for companies.

New Working Class

The working class was thrown into atrocious living conditions while working for very little money, with little to no government representation with the royal family. There were also issues of food shortages and famines among working populations, and winters were colder than ever before during the poor economic years. The West viewed Russia as underdeveloped and behind for just recently joining the world of industrialization. The West had seen how the Czar was hampering Russian growth, and the working class was beginning to notice.



Russo-Japanese War

In 1904, Russia made the risky decision to attack Japan in an effort to expand Russian territory into Asia. Russia suffered an embarrassing defeat by the advanced Japanese naval forces. The Russian military was left destroyed and resources depleted, leaving Russia in a worse positions than ever before, and sparking further unrest among Russians.

1905 Revolution

After a massive war defeat and extreme economic losses, the working class of Russia finally revolted against the monarchy of Czar Nicholas ll. The protests by the people forced the Czar to draft and sign the October Manifesto, a document that transitioned the Russian autocracy into a constitutional monarchy. This also resulted in the dissolution of the Duma, a Russian Parliament created through elections as a representation of the people.



The working class continued to be unhappy with their present working conditions as Russia got involved in the Great War. By 1915, Russia's involvement in the war was so deep that Czar Nicholas had to leave the current capital of Petrograd to fight on the frontlines. While he was away, Czarina Alexandra was placed in charge of the nation. Russians were even more distraught under her rule, as Alexandra fired almost all elected officials and was easily influenced by the detested Rasputin.



By 1916, the Russians were so angry that they murdered Rasputin, a powerful advisor to the Romanov royal family. His murder was an important marking point in the loss of Russian public support of and belief in the Romanovs to properly govern Russia. After fighting political corruption, horrible economic conditions, and dissolvement of the Duma to represent the people, Russia was done with the Romanov dynasty.

As 1917 began, it was becoming increasingly clear that significant political change was needed within Russian systems to satisfy the ever-growing, ever-suffering working class. In March, workers went on strike due to food shortages and intense famine. Soldiers were deployed to silence the revolt, but the soldiers were in such terrible conditions they instead joined the protest. That same month, Czar Nicholas ll abdicated his throne, leaving Russia to find a new dynasty to rule. Members of Parliament formed a temporary provisional government, and workers and soldiers came together in the capital to form the Petrograd Soviet, a council for citizens. This government made the controversial decision to continue depleting soldiers and resources in the name of WWl. This new government was slow and weak, causing unrest among Russians as whispers of revolt spread.









Timeline

1861: Serfs are emancipated, and Russia enters the Industrial Revolution, a period intended for economic growth but would soon lead to poverty and overcrowding in cities, famines and food shortages, and terrible working conditions for the expanding proletariat class.

1904: Russia joined the Russo-Japanese War to expand influence over Asia

1905: Russia suffered an embarrassing defeat in the war, and has lost significant resources and seen an increase in domestic unrest. This same year, there was a revolution for Czar Nicholas II to turn Russia into a constitutional monarchy

1914: Russia controversially joins WWI, despite lack of resources and protests on the homefront

1915: Czar Nicholas is forced to leave the capital of Petrograd to maintain the frontlines in the war, leaving Czarina Alexandra as presiding ruler. She immediately began firing all elected officials under the guidance of Rasputin, a political advisor.

1916: Rasputin is murdered by Russian commoners, showing that the government had finally crossed the line of what the Russians were willing to handle.

1917: Many strikes occur due to food shortages, working conditions, and a multitude of other factors. Czar Nicholas II officially abdicates the throne, forcing the Parliament to create a provisional government. The new residing powers controversially choose to stay in WWI and react slowly to issues before them, further increasing unrest and dissent among the people.

Committee Brief

It is 1917, and Russia is in shambles. Czar Nicholas II has left the throne to a provisional government filled with capitalists bourgeois. The proletariat communists have no representation as the rich choose to maintain Russia's presence in the war that is depleting valuable resources needed to help the Russian people. After years and years of economic instability, an expanding working class in terrible conditions, overcrowding in urban areas, famine, government corruption, and protests that make little difference, the Bolsheviks are done with the current state of Russia. The communists have decided to revolt, launching a coup d'etat against the provisional government and calling for a government ruled by soldiers, peasants, and workers, the real Russian people, finally giving them a voice. The Bolsheviks are protesting in the streets and capturing politicians.

The Bolsheviks, representing the working class of Russia, want a government that reflects their populations, a governing body of soldiers and peasants. TThe current goal of the power is to secure power over Russia to implement their own choice of economic practices, while also ensuring that the Whites don't beat them to it.

While the issue at hand for the Bolsheviks is finding a way to secure government power, there are many more issues that lay at the delegates' feet. The Romanovs have been overthrown, but a fate for the royal family must be decided. A system of provisional government and economic practices must be created before the party can lead, and soldiers and policemen must be hired. On top of the many other issues that factor into running a country, Russia is currently fighting WWl, and must send soldiers to the frontlines and maintain the remaining land and resources while not accepting defeat.

Your Goals

- While the plans for revolution are set in place, overthrowing pre-existing powers and establishing a new government is never easy
- Successfully see a coup d'etat through, officially overthrowing the current provisional government and creating a new communist governmental system representing peasants, soldiers, and workers
- Determine what Proletariat representation will look like, as well as how communism will be represented
- Implement solutions for economy recover, food shortages, and overcrowding
- Determine where Russia stands in WWI- still fighting strong, or withdrawing to focus on issues on the homefront?
- Decide how the Romanovs will be dealt with after running a monarchy of corruption and dissolving elected bodies
- Ultimately set precedents that will outlive the ruling communists form







Characters



Leon Trotsky

Leon Trotsky currently serves as chairman of the Petrograd Soviet, half of the governing body of Russia now that the monarchy is gone. Trotsky joined the Bolshevik party just last year, but has since increased leadership and gained a position in the Bolshevik Central Committee. As a current leading political leader, Trotsky has direct influence over the masses and could quickly rally workers and peasants if needed. Additionally, Trotsky is head of the Military Revolutionary Committee, providing Trotsky access to all Red Guard resources. A powerful military man and politician, Trotsky has many opportunities for influence.



Yakov Sverdlov

A leading Communist party official, Yakov Sverdlov is a master organizer, and is capable of mobilizing the party whenever necessary. Sverdlov has gained respect in the party for building the hierarchy and proving his ability to implement impossible plans successfully. He serves on the Military Revolutionary Committee has a good friend of Trotsky's, and has significant influence over military decisions. Sverdlov believes that a revolution is necessary for the Bolsheviks, even if it's a bloody one. He is willing to utilize violence and deploy all necessary forces to overthrow the government and implement a leading communist party.

Characters



Lev Kamenev

Lev Kamenev holds a high committee position in the Bolshevik party, earning him respect and influence. He has multiple connections to press outlets all over Petrograd, and uses it for communist propaganda. He is very cautious and does not believe in utilizing violence for any issues related to party goals. Kamenev is strongly opposed to enacting a revolution against the current government, and is willing to take action if his party doesn't align with his views. Instead, Kamenev believes a moderate approach is beneficial, including negotiations with the Bourgeois and combining economic and political ideas.



Grigory Zinoviev

Grigory Zinoviev is a well-known member of the Bolshevik party, as well as familiar name among most Russian press offices. In fact, Zinoviev is currently the editor for Pravda, a communist newspaper. He strongly opposes any ideas of revolution or dissent from the party towards the provisional government, and believes peace through journalism and written communication. In the past few years, he has been working in Switzerland on Russian foreign policy throughout WWl. Due to his Western education and newspaper experience, Zinoviev is usually in charge of overall party strategy and establishing clear goals.

Characters



Vladimir Antonov-Ovseyenko

Vladimir Antonov-Ovseyenko is a prominent military leader both in the party and the provisional government. He has extensive military and revolutionary experience, and would be prepared to lead a communist military through a revolution. Antonov-Ovseyenko supports the party's use of immediate and aggressive action to overthrow the provisional government, and he is prepared to put himself on the front lines. He is, however, known for never swearing loyalty to his soldiers or supervisors in case he ever has a disagreement. He acts on what he wants when he wants, if given the resources to do so.



Pavel Dybenko

Pavel Dybenko is another military leader in the Bolshevik party, as well as prior Naval work, providing military knowledge on both land and sea. He also has experience as a treasury clerk, providing extensive financial background matched with military prowess. Dybenko believes that a violent revolution is worth it if it creates a new communist government that will withdraw from World War I. Dybenko is strongly against fighting the Great War and depleting resources for the rest of the world, and is willing to recruit Bolshevik soldiers and lead training initiatives in secret to prepare forces for revolt and withdrawal.

Characters



Alexandra Kollontai

Alexandra Kollontai defied societal norms and championed women's rights in the communist party and Russian provisional government. She strongly supports a revolution, especially since it will create the opportunity to integrate women into the Russian political landscape. Kollontai is excellent at mobilizing support for her initiatives among not just working women but also many soldiers as well, as she also advocates for ending WWl and bringing the Russians back home. She also stands up for improved industrial working conditions, as she has prior experience in a textile factory and has experienced first-hand the volatile conditions.



Nikolai Bukharin

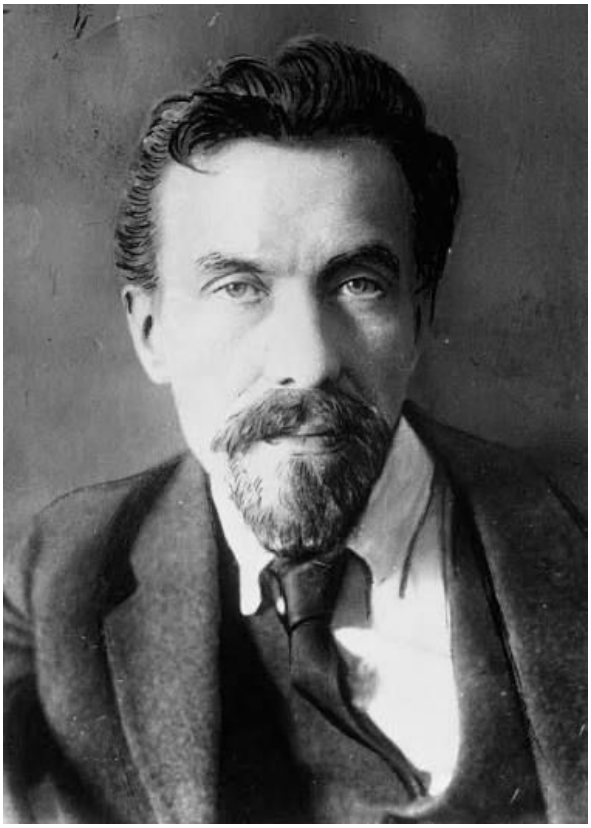
Nikolai Bukharin is a Bolshevik scholar. He has spent most of his life studying economics and political theories across Western Europe as well as America, and retains strong ties in these locations. He joined the communist party in April, but despite his new membership his intellectual prowess has made him indispensable. He favors a revolution for the chance to start fresh, allowing him to apply new political theories to Russia, and most importantly allowing him control of Russia's economics. Bukharin is a money man, and intends to use a revolution and new government to advance his economic knowledge.

Characters



Felix Dzerzhinsky

The life of Felix Dzerzhinsky has always been a secret. Through his experience in military and his position on the Bolshevik Central Committee, Dzerzhinsky is well aware of inner-communist workings. He has strong allies that have granted him access to inner telecommunications networks across Russia, and he is willing to use to advance the Communist party. He is in favor of a revolution, but believes it should be done secretly and intelligently. In fact, Dzerzhinsky believes the Bolsheviks need their own secret service to protect them from the Bourgeois party and help them overthrow the provisional government.



Alexei Rykov

Alexei Rykov knows everything about Russian geography. After experiencing exile in Siberia, Rykov has taken the time and experience to personally map the entire nation's landmass, providing him unmatched knowledge of the landscape. Unlike many members of the communist Bolshevik party, Rykov serves as a political moderate. Despite his more neutral political views, Rykov still favors a revolution against the provisional government to utilize his geographical knowledge on a governmental level. He is willing to apply his extensive geographical knowledge to do this revolt.

Characters



Mikhail Kalinin

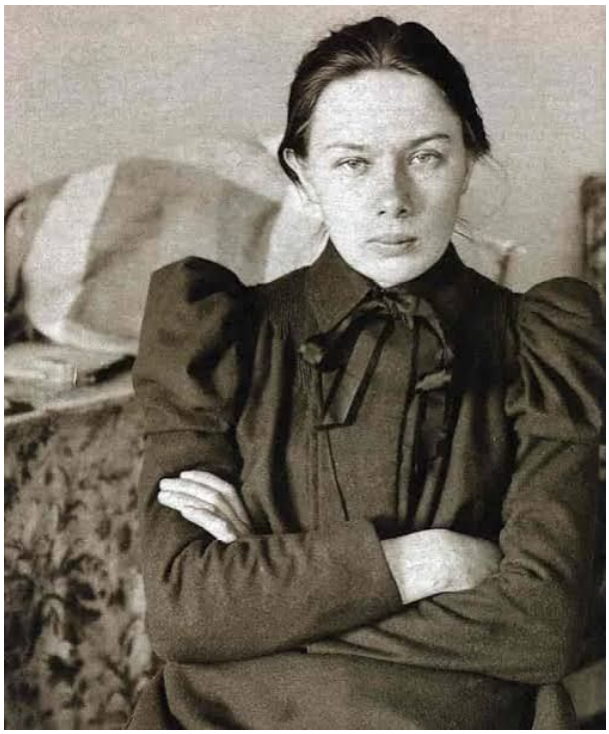
Mikhail Kalinin is the current mayor of Petrograd, working closely with the current provisional government on internal matters. He is still a proud Bolshevik, and often attempts to implement a communist agenda inside the capitol. He was formally an industrial worker and participated in many labor unions, so working conditions are at the front of his agenda. He is hesitant about a revolution due to his government position and internal knowledge, but is willing to change his views if it means Russia withdraws from the global war at hand. He is strongly against WWl, and does not condone any resource allocation.



Anatoly Lunacharsky

Anatoly Lunacharsky is primarily focused on educational reform. He believes what is taught to students in school will determine if the future is bourgeois or communists, so implementing Bolshevik ideals in education is necessary. Lunacharsky is also a very religious man, and believes God and Christianity holds a strong place in Marxist ideals. He intends to spread this belief among his comrades. He is strongly against any form of revolution that is not peaceful, as he believe that it goes against Bolshevik philosophies. However, he intends to continue advocating for education reform no matter what.

Characters



Nadezhda Krupskaya

Nadezhda Krupskaya is the wife of Vladimir Lenin, meaning she has strong influence over the leader of the party as will as extra insight into internal affairs. She is in favor of the revolution like her husband, and supports all means necessary to create a new government that can further involve women in politics. Krupskaya also has a focus on educational reform, and believes the best way to uplift women is at a young age. She has also served as a teacher, and knows how valuable these ideas could be if implemented. She is a well-known feminist writer across Petrograd, and has the full support of all working women.



Vyacheslav Molotov

Vyacheslav Molotov is one of the youngest leading members of the communist party, but his age does not prevent his influence. He is strongly adored among many students and the working youth. He has experience editing newspaper publications and a keen interest in journalism. Him and all those who follow him strongly support a full on revolution and coup d'etat to lay the groundwork for a new, stronger Russia for the next generation. He has an interest in directing military affairs and has written many articles regarding Russian involvement in WWl as well as successful military suggestions for the future.

Characters



Grigory Sokolnikov

Grigory Sokolnikov is not just a newspaper editor; he is the head of newspaper distribution for the largest presses in Petrograd, managing every newspaper companies distribution. Through this role, he is easily able to spread communist ideals and Bolshevik moves. He prioritizes the *Prevda* during printing and initial distribution. He is indifferent to revolutionary ideas, but is more than willing to help persuade the masses via journalism for whatever side he ends up leaning. Sokolnikov is also a budding economist, and will favor the opportunity to implement his own reform ideas in government.



Inessa Armand

Inessa Armand is a strong feminist, and uses her journalistic abilities to spread these ideas. She is the creator and editor of the *Rabotnitsa*, a communists newspaper for women. She has the ability to mobilize female forces through her press access. She is known for doing charity work for struggling women as well as teaching women how to procure industrials jobs in the capital. She is strongly in favor of the revolution, and firmly believes that Russia must have a new government and new foreign policy established for women to gain the rights they deserve.

Characters



Adolph Joffe

Adolph Joffe is a Bolshevik diplomat who believes peace is the best thing that could fall on Russia. He is strongly against any form of violent revolt or coup d'etat; instead Joffe thinks peace must be negotiated and diplomacy achieved rather than experience an overthrow. Joffe is also an advocate for withdrawal from WWl and instead wants to make allies. Additionally, Joffe has studied medicine and psychology and wants to implement his new advanced practices among Bolshevik party members. Despite his diplomatic measures and ideals, Joffe is a massive propagandist, and believes it's the best way to spread communism.



Karl Radek

Karl Radek is the leader of communist propaganda, creating political cartoons and ads for Bolshevik newspapers and spreading communist ideals across Russia. Radek is also exceptionally knowledgeable regarding communist foreign affairs, such as foreign policy and potential communist allyship for the future. Radek has strong communication ties with Scandinavia, and intends to act on the partnership. He is strongly in favor of a revolution in order to implement his developed foreign policy ideas and earn respect for communism. Additionally, overthrow means more propaganda is necessary, and boosts Radek's business.

Characters



Nikolai Podvoisky

Nikolai Podvoisky is a military leader, and has an arsenal of unofficial forces that have pledged allegiance to him. He is strongly in favor of overthrowing the provisional government and implementing a communist regime, but only if Podvoisky will get to lead the new forces. If so, he will happily use his current arsenal to aid in the revolution. He is a strong Marxist believer and has been a loyal member of the Bolshevik party, and all of his forces are loyal communists as well. Additionally, Podvoisky is an educated journalist and helped found *Pravda*, and remains closely allied with current journalists.



Alexander Shlyapnikov

Alexander Shlyapnikov is a prominent trade union organizer, and has dedicated his life to creating protection unions for Russian industrial workers in terrible conditions. Due to his economic unionist knowledge, Shlyapnikov also has a wide understanding of the black market and underhanded deals, making him a valuable contact point for rare resources and risky, behind-closed-doors deals. He is all for a revolution if it means gaining laws for better workers rights and potentially increased foreign relations, as Shlyapnikov is an educated man who speaks German, French, and English.

Characters



Valerian Kuybyshev

Valerian Kuybyshev is a proud communist known for his public speaking abilities through political speeches. He is excellent at gaining party support and could quickly mobilize mass populations if needed. He is also an educated economist and military man, and all of these factors combined have led him to be President of the local Soviet organization. He is in favor of a revolution, especially since he has intentions of advancing his personal political agenda in tandem with the Bolshevik plans. He is willing to use his public speaking skills to aid in revolution, but will make career requests in return.



Mikhail Frunze

Mikhail Frunze is the leader of the Minsk civilian militia, and has their sworn loyalty in any and all circumstances. Frunze is strongly in favor of a revolution to overthrow the provisional government, and his forces will happily back him in the effort. He is no new face to revolutions, as he's led many textile workers through protests for better conditions. He has always served in WWl, but not on the Russian frontlines. Rather he collected data on Russian military maneuvers to calculate the chances of Soviet success. He is a very analytical man who, through his analysis, believes revolution is the best solution for America.

Characters



Semyon Aralov

Semyon Aralov is a military veteran who just finished his service for Russia in the Great War. His fighting on Western Europe's soil has gained him valuable connections that he will happily leverage for the advancement of the communist party. He strongly believes in a revolution to overthrow the current government, and would be happy in leading such an event. Under the assumption that the communist party would then take-over, Aralov is looking for a leadership position on the police force or in an intelligence agency, using his skills and knowledge to protect Bolsheviks.



Maria Spiridonova

Maria Spiridonova is a proud Bolshevik and exceptionally convincing public speaker, know for her ability to persuade masses through words. She is a strong advocate against overthrowing the current provisional government due to her intentions to uphold peace among parties. It is rumored that she is a traitor to the communists, but she counters these whispers by showcasing her support to the party as well as discussing her prior revolutionary support among workers unions and protests throughout the country in the past decade. She is also a firm believer in exiling the Romanovs.

Characters



Vladimir Karelin

Vladimir Karelin loves the Bolshevik party and communist ideals more than anything. He is exceptionally loyal to the party and all fronts, and would do anything to benefit them. He is prepared to take action for a violent overthrow to place Bolsheviks in political positions as quickly as possible. He is also exceptionally knowledge about current Russian property rights and laws, and under the new Bolshevik government would be open to exploring a position that included implementing communist property right ideals throughout Russia. He eagerly awaits revolution.



Gregory Chicherin

Gregory Chicherin is strongly against war in all fonts. He is a firm advocate against a violent revolution and believes any transfer of power must be done willingly and peacefully. He is also strongly against Russian involvement in the Great War, and is actively protesting for Soviet withdrawal and the redistribution of resources across Russia. He values peace above all, and intends to use his voice and abilities to advance that agenda. He is also exceptionally knowledgeable of Russia's current foreign affairs policy and where peace stands in legislation, all of which he learned in Petrograd.

Characters



Vladimir Milyutin

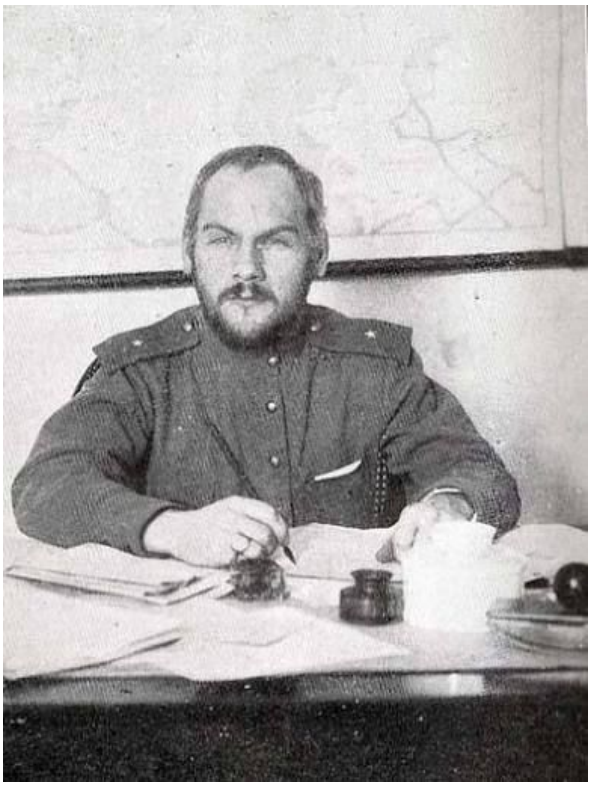
Vladimir Milyutin focuses more on the agricultural and economic aspects of communism. He is indifferent to a government overthrow or peaceful transition of power, because regardless he is more concerned about how the Russian economy will handle the power shifts and transition into the communist state. He is the number one advocate for peasants and an expert at agricultural policy, making him a prime representative in the Bolshevik party. He is a well-known strategist and is quite a popular politician among party members, granting him great influence on the Bolshevik Central Committee.



Ivan Skvortsov-Stepanov

Ivan Skvortsov-Stepanov is a leading Bolshevik investigative journalist. A head writer for *Pravda*, he is one of the best communist journalist in Russia. His work in the investigative field has also provided him lots of dirt on leading officials in all parties, as well as access to many secret markets and private areas. He is extremely well-read and commonly translate books he finds beneficial to the Bolshevik party in Russian. Due to his prior experience in organizing and studying revolutions, he is all in on a Bolshevik overthrow of the provisional government, especially since it would give him a headline.

Characters



Nikolai Krylenko

Nikolai Krylenko is set for a promotion to an appointed leader of Russian forces on the frontlines of World War l. He is a military man, and his dream job is about to become reality. Despite his position as a firm Bolshevik, he is against overthrowing the provisional government for fear of changes in legislation and foreign policy that could ultimately cause him to lose his position, or worse, cause Russia to withdraw from the war. If a revolution is imminent, however, Krylenko wants to contribute and apply his military strategy to revolutionary tactics and plans, aiding his party despite the conflict of interests.



Viktor Nogin

Viktor Nogin is a geography man. He is a proud Bolshevik and communists, but his primary interests in life concern geography. He is firmly in favor of a revolution; in fact, he believes the Bolsheviks should not only overthrow the current government, but move the capital from Petrograd to Moscow due to an industrial boom and better trade location. Be it through whatever means necessary, Nogin believes communists can best leave a lasting impact on Russia by not just changing government representation, but also by changing government location.

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