



**LENIN**





# LENIN

## HIS LIFE AND WORK

Bill Puryear  
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Lenin was a brilliant scholar and thinker, who creatively developed the science of communism, of the construction of a new society, a science which Marx and Engels had established.

Lenin was the founder of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He led the world's first socialist revolution and founded the first working-class state in history—the Soviet socialist democracy.

Lenin resolutely fought against imperialism and reaction. He was a consistent internationalist. He championed equality, peace and friendship among nations. He was a friend of all oppressed peoples and pointed out the way to victory in the struggle against colonialism, for independence and freedom of all nations.

The acknowledged leader of the international working class, Lenin saw in the proletariat a powerful force which would be able to carry out the historical task of achieving the socialist transformation of society. He evolved the theory of the alliance of the working class and the peasantry.

The life of Lenin as a man, a comrade and a revolutionary will continue to inspire millions of revolutionary fighters throughout the world.





November 7, 1917 was the day of victory of the Socialist Revolution in Russia, a revolution fought by workers and peasants, soldiers and sailors under the leadership of the party of Lenin.

The Great October Socialist Revolution marked a turning point in the history of man. It ushered in the era of socialism and communism.

Marxism-Leninism is accepted by hundreds of millions of people, and the communist movement is today the most influential force in the world.

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On November 7, 1917 the rebellious people of Petrograd (now Leningrad) took by storm Winter Palace, the citadel of the counter-revolutionary Provisional Government

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Lenin spent his youth on the banks of the great Russian river Volga.





Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin) was born on April 22, 1870 in the town of Simbirsk (now Ulyanovsk), situated on the river Volga.

There were six children in the Ulyanov family. Their parents did their best to give them a good education, to bring them up to be industrious, honest and democratically minded.

Important factors in the formation of Lenin's character and outlook were his upbringing at home, progressive Russian literature and the life around him which he observed with a keen

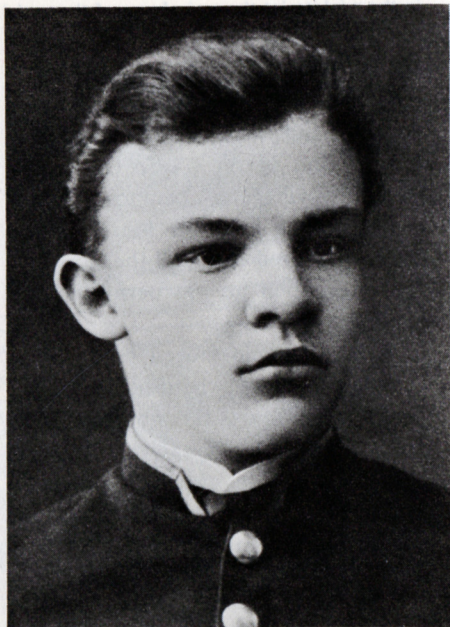
eye. The tyranny of the tsarist government, the oppression and exploitation of the people by the landowners and capitalists, the poverty of the workers and peasants and the fact that they had no rights aroused in him hatred for the oppressors and sympathy for the oppressed.

Lenin made a serious study of Marx and Engels' revolutionary teachings; and at the age of seventeen he took the path of struggle against tsarist autocracy. In the beginning of December 1887 he was expelled from Kazan University for taking part

The house in Simbirsk (now Ulyanovsk) where Lenin was born.



Lenin upon graduation from Gymnasium. (1887).





The development of capitalism in tsarist Russia rapidly increased the ranks of the working class, the object of ruthless exploitation by Russian and foreign factory owners. Lenin saw in the proletariat the main force of the socialist revolution.

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in a student demonstration; he was arrested and sent to the village of Kokushkino in the Kazan Gubernia (now the village of Lenino), where a watch was kept on him by the police. He lived there till the autumn of 1888, when he was permitted to return to Kazan.

In 1889 Lenin moved to Samara (now Kuibyshev), where he lived for nearly four years. He worked hard and managed to complete the university course in eighteen months. He took his examinations at the Law school at St. Petersburg University.

He organized the first Marxist study-circle in Samara in 1892.

In August 1893 Lenin left Samara for St. Petersburg (now Leningrad). There he got in touch with a Social-Democratic students' study-circle, and carried on Marxist propaganda among workers' groups. Very soon he became the acknowledged leader of the St. Petersburg Marxists.

At that time a movement called Narodism was spreading throughout Russia. Its followers, claiming erroneously that the peasantry was the main revolutionary force, sharply

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attacked Marxism. In the spring and summer of 1894 Lenin wrote a book called "What the 'Friends of the People' Are and How They Fight the Social-Democrats." In this work he refuted the Narodniks' views and theoretically substantiated the historical role of the working class as the leading force in the struggle for a new society using Russia as the example.

In the autumn of 1895 Lenin united all the Marxist circles in St. Petersburg into a single organization called the League of Struggle for the

Emancipation of the Working Class. This may be considered the beginning of a revolutionary Marxist party in Russia based on a mass working-class movement. But this organization was shortlived. In December of that year Lenin and a large group of his associates from the League were arrested.

Lenin was sent to a St. Petersburg prison, where he spent over fourteen months. Even in prison Lenin went on with his revolutionary work; he wrote pamphlets and leaflets for the workers.

Famine and privation in the countryside stirred popular indignation.





The League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class in St. Petersburg was the nucleus of a proletarian party which steadily gathered strength in the course of the class struggle. The photo shows Lenin among the members of the League.

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In February 1897 Lenin was sentenced to three years' exile in Siberia. He was banished to the village of Shushenskoye in the Minusinsk District, Yenisei Gubernia (now Krasnoyarsk Territory). A year later Nadezhda Krupskaya arrived there. He had made her acquaintance during his revolutionary work in St. Petersburg in 1894. She became Lenin's wife and till the end of his days remained his close friend, companion and devoted comrade.

In the difficult conditions of exile Lenin did a good deal of work in the

field of theory. He drew up a draft programme for a revolutionary party, wrote over thirty works, and completed his book "The Development of Capitalism in Russia," which had a great influence on the Social-Democratic movement in the country.

He began planning for the organization of a Marxist party in Russia and the publication of a political newspaper. Free at last, he set to work at once to carry out the plan he had elaborated. But owing to police persecution his further stay in Russia was becoming increasingly



dangerous. In July 1900 Lenin left Russia and went abroad.

In emigration Lenin founded an all-Russia revolutionary newspaper, *Iskra* (The spark), which was to be put out in the German town of Munich. In the spring of 1902 Lenin together with the other members of the *Iskra* editorial board moved to London, and later on, to Geneva. Lenin published many articles in the paper, which played a decisive role in the foundation of the party.

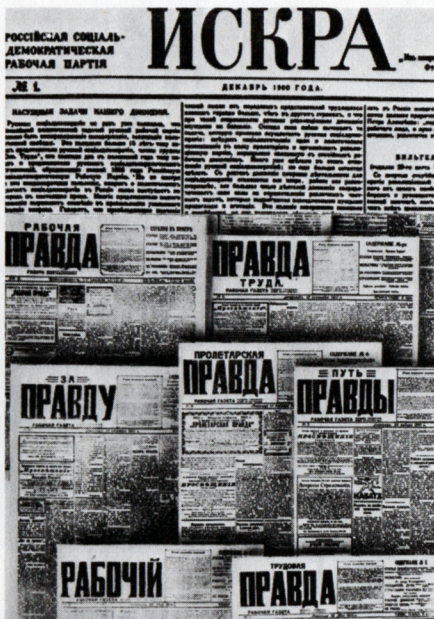
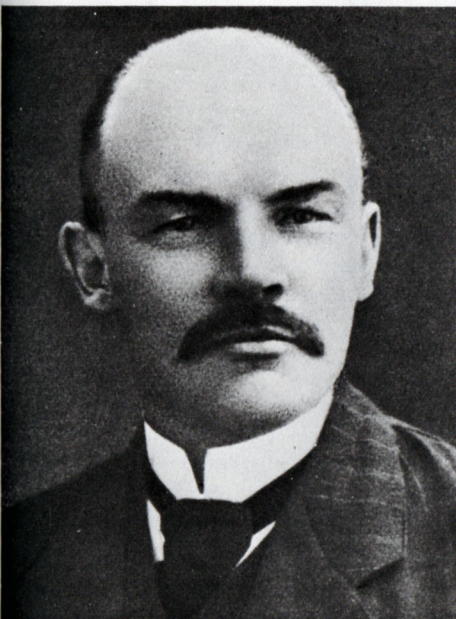
In 1902 Lenin's book "What Is To be Done?" came out, in which

he laid the theoretical foundations for a proletarian Marxist party and pointed out the importance of revolutionary theory without which there could be no liberation movement.

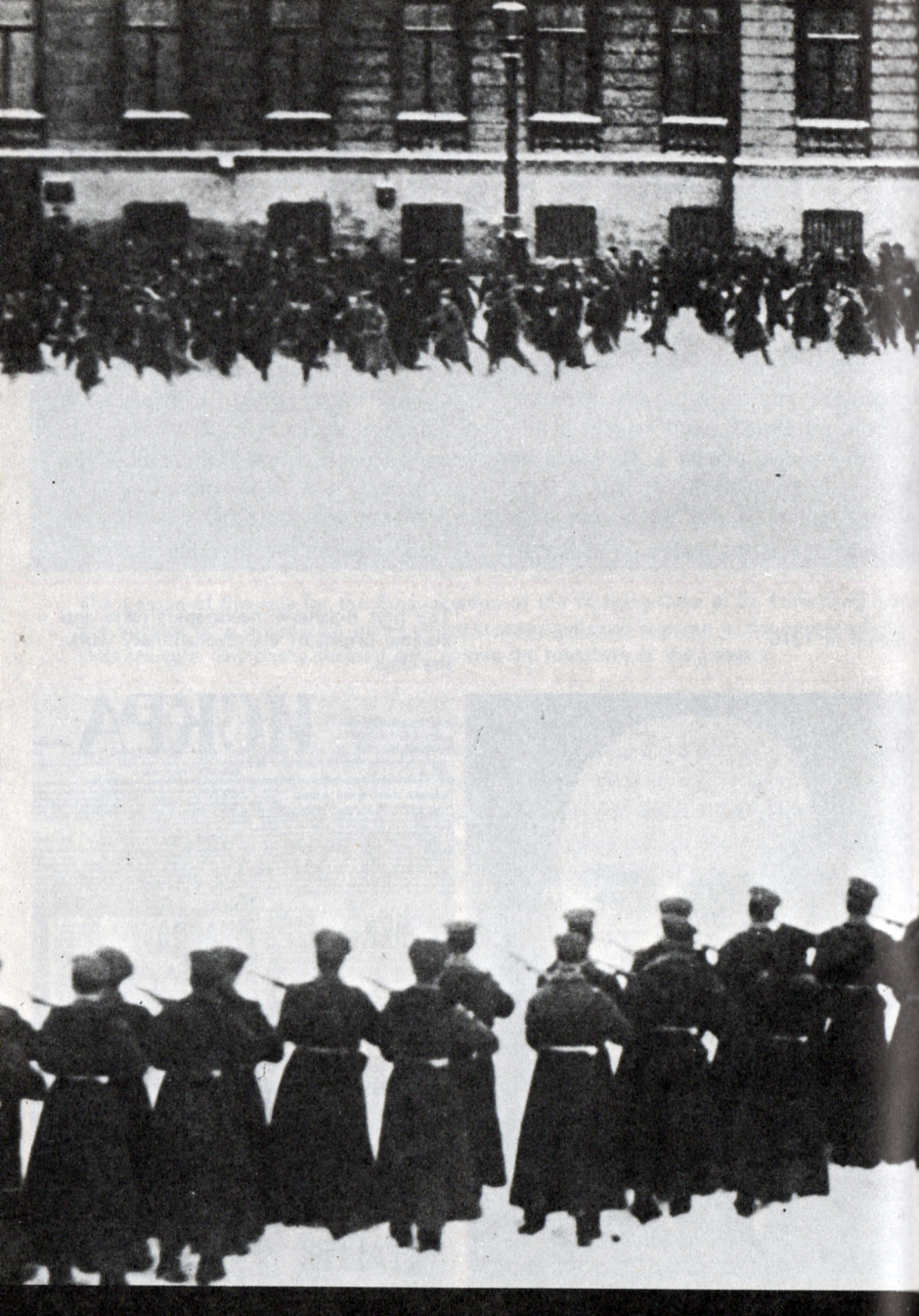
Lenin devoted much time to the preparations for the Second Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP). He drew up a draft of the Party Rules, thoroughly considered the question of how the Congress should be organized, and prepared draft resolutions. Lenin took an active part in directing the work

Lenin in 1910

The first Bolshevik newspapers *Iskra* and *Pravda*, organs of the revolutionary working class.











The tsarist government used armed force to suppress the demands of the Russian working people for their rights.

of the Congress which opened in July 1903.

It was a hard-fought struggle that Lenin's supporters, who were firm and consistent revolutionaries, had to wage at the Congress against the opportunists. Lenin's supporters won the majority of votes in the elections of the Party's Central Committee and of the editorial board of the *Iskra*. Since then they came to be known as Bolsheviks (from the Russian word "bolshinstvo," which means majority), and the opportunists, now in the minority, became known as

Mensheviks (from "menshinstvo," or minority).

The Second Congress brought into being a party of a new type, the Leninist, Bolshevik party. In his book "One Step Forward, Two Steps Back" Lenin analysed the work of the Second Congress, the differences that came to light during its work; and exposed the Mensheviks' splitting activities after the Congress.

Lenin stood at the helm of the Bolshevik Party, he directed the activity of the local Party Committees. He took an active part in the prepa-

ration for the regular party congress.

In 1905 the first Russian revolution broke out. In "Two Tactics of Social-Democracy in the Democratic Revolution" and other works Lenin analysed the specific features of the bourgeois-democratic revolution taking place in Russia in the era of imperialism; he substantiated the idea of the leading role of the proletariat and pointed out the need for an alliance between the working class and the peasantry; he explained that an armed uprising was the principal means of overthrowing the tsarist

government.

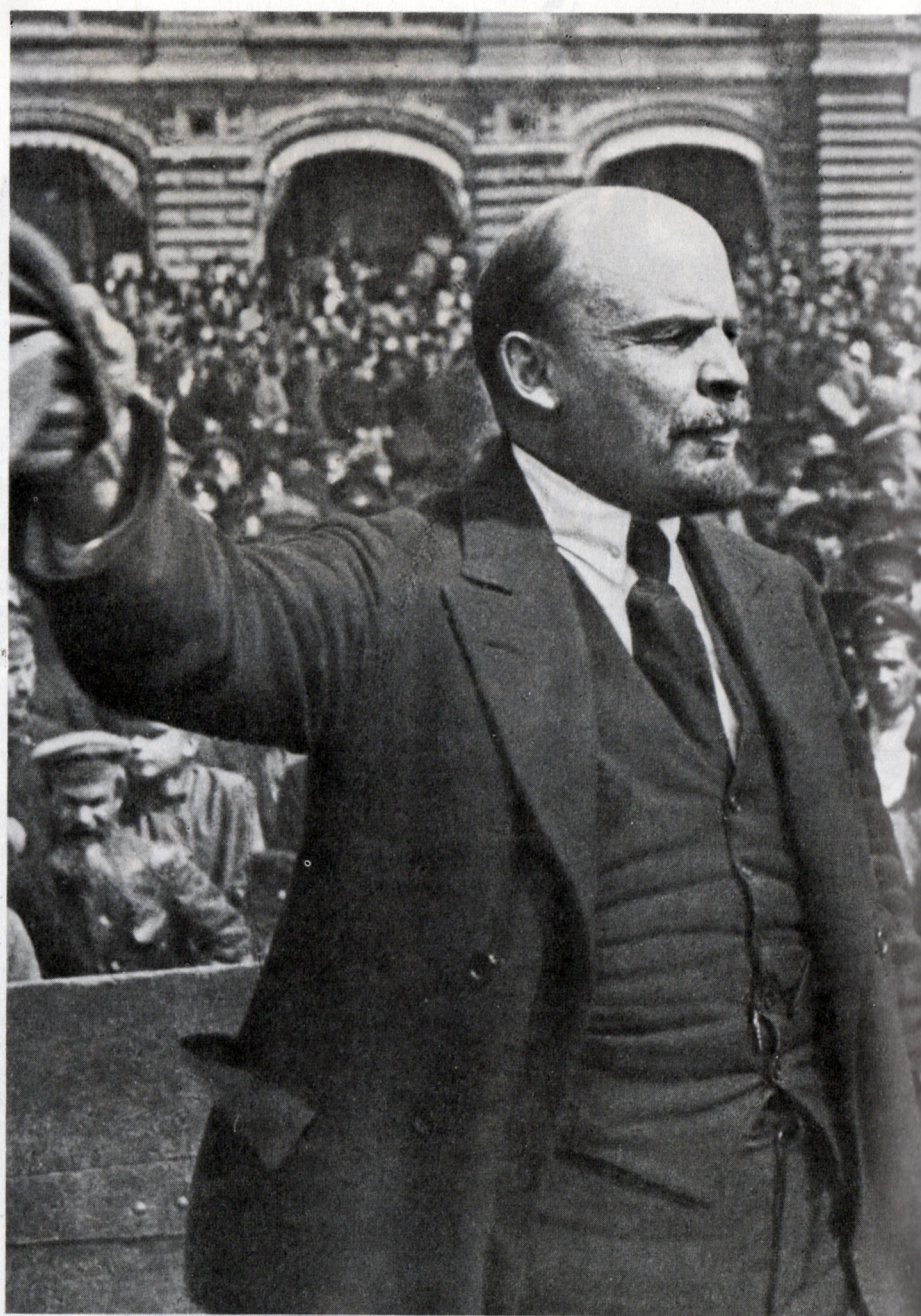
In the autumn of 1905 Lenin returned to St. Petersburg from abroad. He was obliged to live in hiding most of the time. He continued to guide the activity of the Bolshevik organizations and the revolutionary struggle of the working class and peasantry. But police persecution forced him to leave St. Petersburg once again, and he settled in Finland. Following the defeat of the revolution at the end of 1907 he had to leave Finland and move to Geneva and then to Paris.

In October 1917 the Bolshevik Party merged the struggle of the working class for socialism, the popular movement for peace, the peasants' demands for land and the national-liberation struggle of the oppressed peoples of Russia into one revolutionary force to overthrow the power of landlords and capitalists.

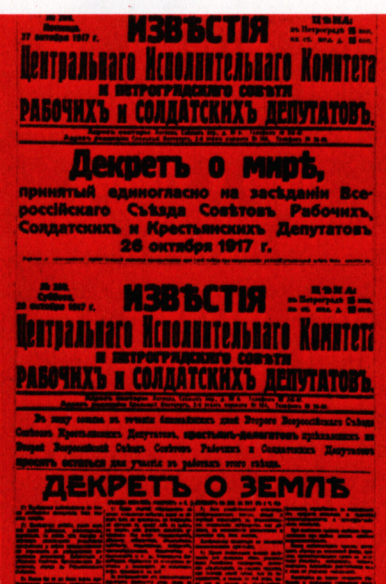












The first legislative acts of Soviet government were the decrees on peace and on land, written by Lenin and adopted by the 2nd All-Russia Congress of Soviets of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies in Petrograd on November 8, 1917.

The Decree on Peace proclaimed war the greatest crime against humanity.

The Decree on Land gave land to those who till it without compensation.

After the victory of the socialist revolution Lenin led the fight of the peoples of Russia against internal counter-revolution and foreign intervention. His fiery speeches inspired revolutionary soldiers who often marched from the Red Square straight to the Civil War fronts.

The spread of philosophical theories alien to materialism among Marxists during the period of reaction in Russia prompted Lenin to devote special attention to the major problems of philosophy. His study resulted in the publication of his outstanding philosophical work "Materialism and Empirio-Criticism".

Under Lenin's leadership the Bolsheviks started the publication in St. Petersburg of the newspapers *Zvezda* (The Star) in 1910, and *Pravda* (Truth) in 1912, which played a tremendously significant role in the political edu-

cation and organization of the working masses.

To be closer to Russia, Lenin moved from Paris to Cracow in 1912, where he spent over two years. Following the outbreak of World War I, Lenin was arrested by the Austrian authorities and accused of espionage for the tsarist government. The charge was preposterous, and Lenin was soon released. Shortly afterwards he went to Switzerland. He lived and worked in Berne and then in Zurich until the spring of 1917.

Lenin in his study in the Kremlin. Busy as he was with state affairs Lenin found time to receive numerous visitors and talk with workers and peasants. Everything going on in the country building socialism was his concern.







Lenin continued to direct the struggle of the Russian workers against tsarism and the war. He exposed the predatory nature of the imperialist war and advanced the slogan of turning it into a civil war. Lenin wrote a number of articles denouncing the leaders of the Second International for betraying the working class and for their connivance with the imperialist governments. He put forward the idea of founding a Third Communist International.

Lenin attached great importance to the national question. In his articles

“Critical Remarks on the National Question” and in “The Right of Nations to Self-Determination” he wrote that every nation has the right to self-determination to the point of state secession.

During the war Lenin wrote “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” in which he convincingly proved that by the beginning of the twentieth century capitalism had entered the last stage of its development—imperialism, which was the eve of the socialist revolution. Lenin arrived at the conclusion that in the

The Communist International organized by Lenin played a major role in the formation and strengthening of Communist Parties in many countries. The photo shows Lenin with delegates of the Second Congress of the International in the Martyrs of Revolution Square in Petrograd (1920).







Lenin took an active part in the Communist International congresses which discussed topical problems of the struggle of the working class for their rights. This picture was taken in the hall of the Third Comintern Congress (1921).

epoch of imperialism the victory of socialism was possible first in several or even in one capitalist country alone.

The Russian bourgeois-democratic revolution broke out in February 1917 while Lenin was in Switzerland. When he learnt of its victory, he immediately sent a telegramme to the Bolsheviks in Russia and wrote "Letters from Afar" in which he analyzed the situation in Russia as a result of the revolution and outlined the tasks confronting the Party. Lenin was impatient to return to

Russia, but the imperialist governments did not allow Lenin and his followers to pass through the territories of their countries. With the help of the Swiss Social-Democrats, Lenin finally succeeded in returning home together with a group of emigres along the only possible route at the time—through Germany.

Lenin arrived in Petrograd on the evening of April 3, 1917 after nearly ten years of emigration. Revolutionary Russia welcomed its leader with tremendous enthusiasm.

On the following day Lenin delivered a speech which came to be known as "The April Theses." It played a decisive role in defining the political line of the Party in the concrete historical situation. It was a scientifically-based plan for the struggle of the working class for the transition from the bourgeois-democratic to the socialist revolution.

Lenin headed the Central Committee of the Party as well as the editorial board of the newspaper *Pravda* and guided the work of the Petrograd Bolsheviks. He often ad-

ressed meetings of workers, soldiers and sailors. At the First All-Russia Congress of Peasants' Deputies Lenin called for the immediate take-over of the landed estates by the peasants.

The bourgeois Provisional Government launched an unbridled campaign of slander and terror against Lenin and the Bolsheviks. A warrant was issued for Lenin's arrest. On the decision of the Party's Central Committee in July 1917 Lenin went into hiding. With the help of Petrograd workers, he lived in a tent made of branches on the shore of Lake Razliv.

He continued working there: he wrote articles and letters and worked on the book "The State and Revolution." Lenin directed the work of the Sixth Congress of the Bolshevik Party from his hiding-place. Guided by Lenin's instructions, the Congress called on the Party to fight for the overthrow of the power of the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie and landowners by means of an armed uprising.

Agents of the Provisional Government managed to trace Lenin to his place of hiding. It became dangerous

for Lenin to stay on in Razliv. In August 1917 Lenin moved to Finland. In the autumn of the same year when the revolutionary situation in Russia was rapidly approaching crisis-point and the time was ripe for the revolutionary uprising of the working class, Lenin returned to Petrograd illegally from Finland.

On October 10 and 16 the question of an armed uprising was discussed by the Central Committee of the Party, presided over by Lenin. The Central Committee adopted the historic resolution proposed by Lenin

Lenin, the working class leader and head of the world's first socialist state, often addressed revolutionary masses.





to organize an armed uprising so as not to give the counter-revolutionaries time to muster forces.

The uprising began on October 24, led by Lenin. On October 25 (November 7), 1917 Lenin and his followers were victorious.

The Second All-Russia Congress of Soviets that opened in the evening of October 25 solemnly proclaimed the transfer of all state power to the Soviets of Workers', Soldiers' and Peasants' Deputies. That was a great historical moment: government by the working people was established.

Lenin's speech on the occasion was greeted by the delegates with tremendous enthusiasm. On Lenin's suggestion the Congress passed the Decree on Peace, which declared war to be the gravest crime against humanity. The Decree laid the foundation of the policy of peaceful co-existence of socialist and capitalist states. The Congress also passed the Decree on Land proposed by Lenin. By this Decree the landed estates were to be abolished forthwith without any compensation and the land was to be turned over to the working people.

On May 1, 1920, the international solidarity day of the working people, Lenin laid the foundation stone of the monument to Karl Marx in Moscow.







Lenin and his wife Krupskaya with relatives in the village of Gorki near Moscow.

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The Second All-Russia Congress of Soviets elected a Central Executive Committee of the Soviets of Workers' Soldiers' and Peasants' Deputies and formed a Government—the Council of People's Commissars with Lenin at the head.

The building of a new social system, the democratization of all aspects of social life, and the consolidation of Soviet power were carried out in accordance with Lenin's plan and under his direct leadership.

From the very first days of Soviet power the counter-revolutionary

forces tried to strangle the young republic. Revolts and conspiracies were organized inside the country. Britain, France, the USA and other imperialist powers launched open military intervention, in which 14 powers took part. The enemies made a dastardly attempt on Lenin's life. In August 1918 Lenin was seriously wounded.

During that difficult period Lenin headed the defence of the country. Under his leadership the Soviet people smashed the internal counter-revolution and the forces of intervention,

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and defended their freedom and independence.

The imperialists failed to overthrow the people's power by force of arms, but they dealt a heavy blow at the country's economy: industry was destroyed and agriculture was in a very bad state. The young Soviet republic was faced with the task of finding a way out of this extremely difficult situation, of restoring the war-torn economy and setting about the building of a new society. This task was successfully coped with under the leadership of Lenin. He

elaborated a scientific plan of socialist construction that took into account the economic and social conditions in the country. He laid the foundation of the country's industrialization, the socialist reorganization of agriculture along cooperative lines, and a cultural revolution. Lenin's plan took into account the basic needs of the masses of the people.

Lenin devoted constant attention to strengthening the Communist Party and its leading role; he waged an unrelenting struggle against opportunists and all factions and group-

ings alien to the Party. In all his activities he consistently adhered to the principle of proletarian internationalism. Lenin was the founder and leader of the Third Communist International. In his book "‘Left-Wing’ Communism—an Infantile Disorder" he worked out the basic strategic and tactical principles of proletarian parties and methods for the struggle for unity of communist ranks.

Lenin was the founder of the multinational Soviet state. Under his leadership, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was formally established

in 1922. Lenin considered friendship between the Soviet nations to be the main source of strength of the Soviet Socialist state.

In extremely complex international and domestic conditions, Lenin confidently led the country from a state of ruin marked by poverty and hunger onto the road of socialist construction.

However, the strain of work and the severe wound he received had undermined his health. Beginning with the spring of 1921, Lenin frequently had to interrupt his work at the in-





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World War II was 10.5 per cent; in agriculture the figure was 4.2 per cent. The national income grew by 8.9 per cent every year.

In 1968 the country produced 107 million tons of steel, 309 million tons of oil, 638 thousand million kilowatt-hours of electricity.

At present large-scale industrial construction is underway. In 1966–1968 1,100 big industrial enterprises were built.

Notable successes have been achieved by Soviet science and engineering. There are 820 thousand

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scientific workers in the USSR, a quarter of the world's total.

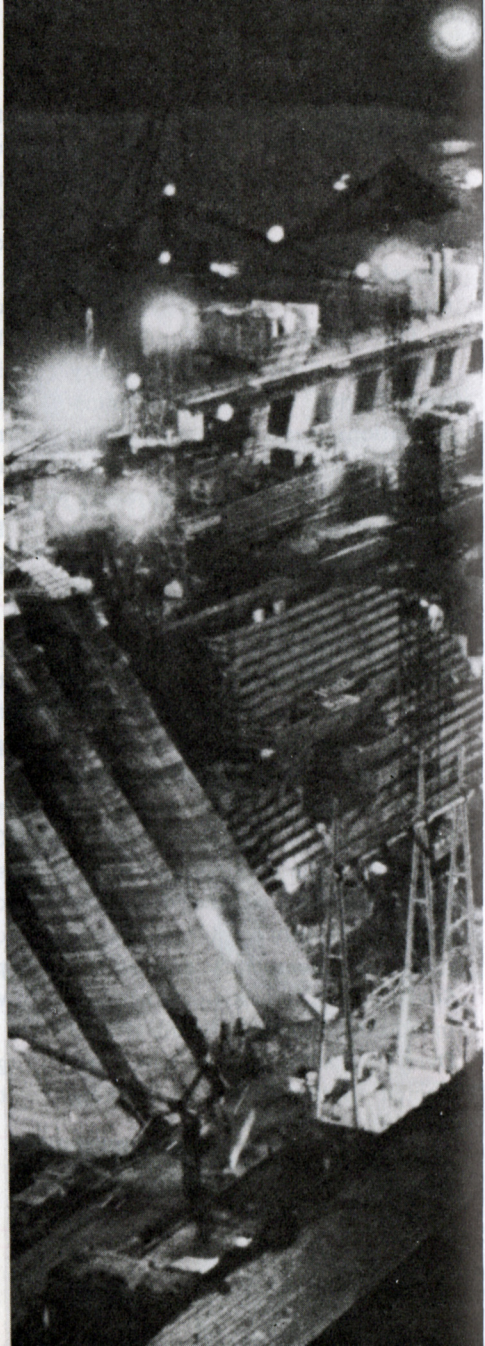
The Soviet Union was the first to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes and to blaze the trail into outer space.

During the years of Soviet power the real incomes of the workers increased 6.5 times, and those of farmers rose 8.5 times. The average working week in industry was reduced by 18 hours. In the last few years 25 million industrial and office workers have received an increase in pay.

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Lenin's electrification plan is being implemented in the Soviet Union. The Krasnoyarsk hydropower station on the river Yenisei in Siberia is among the world's largest.

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Money from public funds in the USSR is used to finance free medical service, free education and a network of courses for improving skills, schools and boarding schools, kindergartens, annual paid holidays and to pay various benefits, old age and disability pensions, students' monthly grants and

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a number of other allowances. In 1968 the government allocated 55 thousand million roubles for these purposes.

The Soviet Union has launched a vast programme of housing construction. Every year 10–11 million people move into new apartments.

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Lenin drafted plans of setting up cooperatives in agriculture along socialist lines. In Soviet time the country's backward agriculture has become a large-scale, mechanized branch of socialist economy.

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The total number of pupils and students enrolled in schools and colleges has reached 60 million in the USSR.

The historical experience of the first socialist state in the world founded by Lenin has shown that only the new social system based on public ownership of the means of production is capable of ensuring

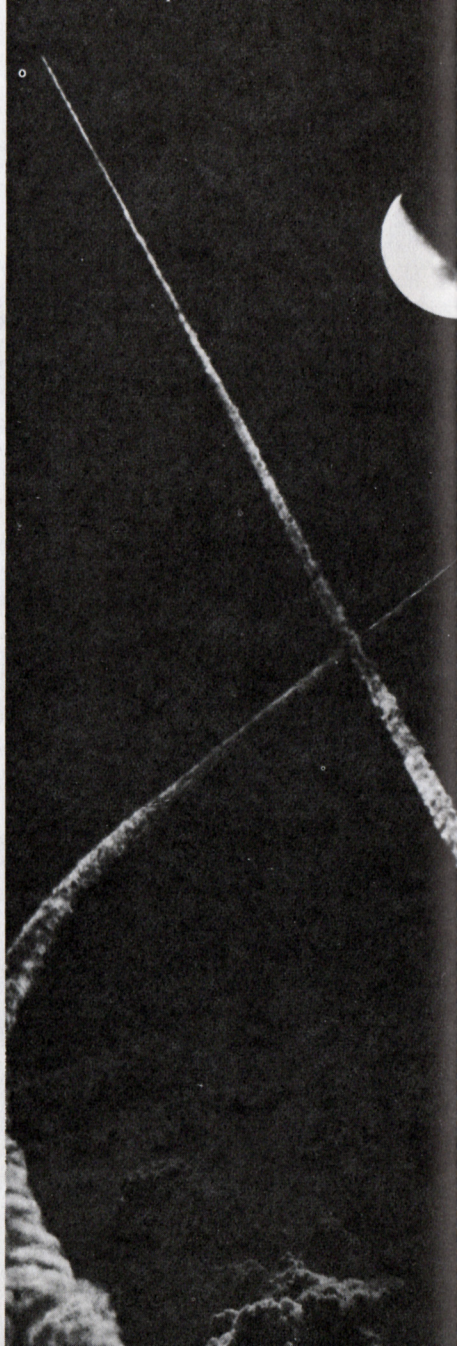
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the crisis-free development of the economy in the interests of the people, thereby guaranteeing the social and political rights of the working people, creating conditions for genuine democracy, for the all-round development of the individual and for equality and friendship of nations.

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Moscow State University is the largest educational establishment in the Soviet Union. Its students form a huge army of intellectuals, nearly 30,000 strong.

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**1970—LENIN  
CENTENNIAL**

**LENIN'S IDEAS  
LIVE ON**





On national holidays thousands of people march across the Red Square past the Lenin Mausoleum.







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