# JejuMUN XII

# BACKGROUND GUIDE

## Transitional Council for the Future of Revolutionary Russia (TCFRR)

*Responding to the political and social crisis in Russia: Collapse of the Russian Empire and the Bolshevik uprising in 1917*

SDG: 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

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# Table of Contents


| | |
|---|---|
| Table of Contents | 2 |
| Committee Introduction | 3 |
| Agenda Introduction | 4 |
| Letter from the Chairs | 5 |
| Key Terms | 6 |
| Historical Background | 8 |
| Current State of Affairs | 11 |
| Stances of Parties | 13 |
| Possible Solutions | 17 |
| Questions to Consider | 18 |
| Bibliography | 19 |

# Committee Introduction

It is early November 1917, and Russia is facing extreme power shifts within its country. The Bolsheviks have just seized power in Petrograd, leaving the Provisional Government in collapse. Order is uncertain across Russia, with many cities and army units not yet accepting Bolshevik rule despite their presence in the capital.

As a desperate attempt to prevent further fragmentation of the Russian state and avoid descent into violent chaos, the leading members of various parties and /social groups have come together to deliberate on the future of Russia; thus, the Transitional Council for the Future of Revolutionary Russia (TCFRR) was founded.  The main purpose of the TCFRR is to negotiate the power-sharing/transitional governance between opposing factions, in order to represent the voices of all major stakeholders in revolutionary Russia, not just the Bolsheviks. It was established by a coalition of former Duma deputies, military leaders, moderate socialists, and revolutionary factions to prevent a full-scale civil war.

The main issues handled by the committee will mostly revolve around the question of the legitimacy of Bolshevik authority and whether it should be recognized. This main question will further extend into debating on issues such as the future structure of government, status of the Constituent Assembly, and the proceedings of elections, control of the military, and Russia's involvement in WWI.

TCFRR, despite being a fictional historical crisis committee, has its uniqueness stemming from the fact that it includes all major political factions of post-revolutionary Russia in one body. It also operates outside of a single government structure, ensuring extensive flexibility when it comes to issuing emergency directives and symbolic resolutions with broad political weight. It allows the delegates the capacity to form alliances or escalate conflict depending on their own decisions, functioning as a dynamic crisis committee with rapidly changing power plays.

# Agenda Introduction

At the start of 1917, Russia was plunged into chaos, with Tsar Nicholas II having abdicated, the Romanovs could no longer enforce their 300 years of family prerogative. In the gap of power, a provisional government arose to guide the country until elections could be held. However, it failed to deliver on the most urgent demands of the people: land redistribution, an end to Russia's involvement in World War I, and relief from widespread hunger and inflation.

Simultaneously, the Soviets grew in strength, especially in large cities like Petrograd, while people were attracted by the workers' point of view. This political division in the country led to the Bolsheviks' overthrow of the Provisional Government during the October Revolution and the seizure of all major institutions. The Bolsheviks, a radical socialist faction led by Vladimir Lenin, gained influence by advocating for "Peace, Land, and Bread," appealing to workers, peasants, and soldiers alike. The Bolsheviks initiated their armed takeover of Petrograd by advancing on the Winter Palace and arresting members of the Provisional Government. In the weeks that followed, confusion was at its height: some cities were under the Soviets' control, others resisted or remained loyal to other factions like the Mensheviks, Socialist Revolutionaries, Monarchists, or Liberals. The fate of the Russian state was now uncertain. Whether the Bolsheviks had to exercise sole power or a broad coalition for the transition should be set up was something on which there was no consensus.

This is the point in history where our committee convenes, centering on the key question of what form of government should govern Russia.

The importance of this issue cannot be overstated. The Bolshevik revolt not only led to a bloody Russian Civil War but also altered the global politics of the following century. The fall of the Russian Empire was felt by millions in over 15 ethnic regions, leading to the rise of several independence movements. Between 7 and 12 million more are believed to have died in the subsequent Russian Civil War 1917–1923), due to famine, disease, and warfare. This upheaval laid the foundation for the Soviet Union and the global spread of communism, profoundly impacting geopolitics and East-West relations throughout the 20th century.

This problem is not confined to Russia. The struggle between Russia's factions was, of course, a matter of concern to countries like Germany, the UK, France, and the US, both because of Russia's role in World War I as well as economic and political interests in Europe and Asia. A wide strata of society was simply at the mercy of the new balance of political power—minority nations and peasants, industrial workers, military, representatives of various parties (Mensheviks, Socialist Revolutionaries, Monarchists, Liberals).

# Letter from the Chairs

Hello delegates, welcome to the historical crisis committee in JejuMUN XII! We are Diane Seyeon Lee, Subin Lee, and Minkyo Kim, who will serve as your chairs in this committee.

Hello delegates! My name is Diane Seyeon Lee, your crisis director for the 12th iteration of JejuMUN. As a senior attending Branksome Hall Asia, I've been a part of around 20 conferences as a delegate, a chair, and a secretariat. This committee, discussing the topic of the Russian Revolution, will challenge you not just to think critically and speak persuasively, but to immerse yourself in a period of uncertainty and ideological clash. This isn't a typical GA; crisis moves fast, and alliances shift quickly. Don't limit yourself to what happened in real history. You'll need to be constantly thinking on your feet, responding to new directives, and adapting your strategy as the committee evolves. I hope you'll leave with sharpened skills, bold ideas, and new perspectives on history. Each conference I attended was such a remarkable experience, and I want you all to leave with an unforgettable memory from the committee. Subin, Taeeun, and I will try our best to make this committee enjoyable, and remember that if you have any questions,  you can always reach out to us through our email.

Hello delegates, my name is Subin, and I am honored to serve as your Head Chair for this conference. As someone deeply interested in this agenda, I'm genuinely excited to watch you develop and express your ideas and stances over the course of the sessions. While crisis committees often emphasize quick thinking, creativity, and responsive action, they also demand a solid understanding of the historical context. In this case, a strong grasp of the events surrounding the Russian Revolution of 1917 will be essential. Our goal as chairs is to see not only how well you can adapt to dynamic developments, but also how deeply you understand the political and social complexities of the time. I encourage each of you to participate with dedication, enthusiasm, and—most importantly—a light heart. No matter how challenging it may seem at times, we hope this experience becomes a meaningful step forward in your journey as thoughtful delegates and engaged global citizens. Looking forward to an exciting and insightful conference with all of you.

I am Minkyo Kim, a freshman at SJA Jeju, honored to be serving as your Deputy Chair. I have chaired multiple committees over my MUN career, but this is my first time chairing for a Crisis committee. So, I am particularly looking forward to your discussions. Remember, Crisis is all about having fun. Go ahead and cause some drama!

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# Key Terms

**Communism**

A political and economic ideology originating from the writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, which advocates for a classless, stateless society in which all property, resources, and means of production are collectively owned. In theory, communism aims to eliminate social hierarchies and exploitation by abolishing capitalism and distributing wealth based on need.

**Bolshevism**

A radical branch of Russian socialism led by Vladimir Lenin, advocating for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a socialist state through a "dictatorship of the proletariat", a small group of professional revolutionaries ruling on behalf of the working class. Bolshevism supported the nationalization of land and industry, redistribution of wealth, and was willing to use revolutionary violence to achieve its goals. It rejected cooperation with other socialist factions, favoring one-party rule and direct seizure of power.

**Bolsheviks**

A radical Marxist faction led by Vladimir Lenin that seized power in the October Revolution of 1917, advocating for a dictatorship of the proletariat and the immediate establishment of socialism.

**Provisional Government**

A temporary liberal government formed after the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II in February 1917; it failed to withdraw from World War I or implement land reforms, losing support.

**Petrograd Soviet**

A powerful council of workers' and soldiers' deputies based in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg), often seen as a rival authority to the Provisional Government; later dominated by Bolsheviks.

**Sovnarkom**

The executive authority established by the Bolsheviks immediately after they seized power, with Lenin as its chairman, effectively replaced the Provisional Government.

**Menshaviks**

A more moderate socialist faction that split from the Bolsheviks in 1903; it favored gradual reform, broad coalition governments, and working within democratic institutions.

**Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs)**

A popular agrarian socialist party advocating for land redistribution to peasants; split into Left and Right factions, with the Left SRs briefly supporting the Bolsheviks.

**October Revolution**

The armed uprising by the Bolsheviks on October 25 (Julian) / November 7 (Gregorian), 1917, which overthrew the Provisional Government and began one-party Bolshevik rule.

**Proletariat**

The industrial working class, considered by Marxists to be the revolutionary class destined to overthrow the bourgeoisie and establish socialism.

**Bourgeoisie**

The capitalist class that owns the means of production (factories, land, capital). Viewed by revolutionaries as exploiters of the proletariat.

**Land redistribution**

A major revolutionary demand: the breaking up of large landholdings and reallocating land to peasants; supported by Bolsheviks, SRs, and some liberals.

**Bread rationing**

A consequence of urban food shortages; the government-controlled distribution of basic food, becoming a point of protest and a symbol of systemic collapse.

**Property rights**

A contentious issue in 1917: whether private ownership of land, factories, and capital should be maintained, restricted, or abolished; central to debates between liberals and revolutionaries.

# Historical Background

**Class Struggle: Bourgeois vs. Proletariat**
The roots of the 1917 Russian Revolution stretch far back into the long-standing conflict between Russia's social classes, particularly the bourgeoisie (wealthy landowners, industrialists, and political elites) and the proletariat (urban working class). For decades, Russian workers had toiled in factories and fields for minimal wages, while the profits of their labor filled the pockets of the upper classes. This inequality, paired with a lack of political representation and widespread poverty, created an unstable foundation that would later collapse under pressure.

**1894 - Czar Nicholas Romanov II becomes emperor of the Russian Empire.**
In 1894, Czar Nicholas II came to power. He inherited an empire full of contradictions: a massive rural population of peasants, most of whom were freed serfs still trapped in cycles of poverty, and a rapidly growing but exploited industrial workforce. The country was modernizing, but its political system remained stuck in an autocratic monarchy, with Nicholas II refusing to share power or introduce meaningful reforms. He was widely seen as indecisive and out of touch.

**Revolution of 1905**
In 1905, humiliation of total loss from the Russo-Japanese War triggered mass protests. The war, which ended in a devastating defeat for Russia, revealed the empire's military and logistical weakness. When peaceful demonstrators led by Father Gapon marched to the Winter Palace with a petition for political reform, facing the Czar with the responsibilities he held for the defeat, the Czar's troops opened fire.  This became known as Bloody Sunday. The outrage sparked a wave of revolts, strikes, and mutinies across the empire. To calm the unrest, Nicholas II promised the creation of a legislative body called the Duma, including the proletariat, but it had barely any real power, as the Czar retained total veto authority. The attempt at reform failed to satisfy the public.

**World War I (1914-1917)**
World War I revealed the unstable foundation of the Russian Empire even more. The Russian military was unprepared and poorly equipped. In some units, there was one rifle for every two soldiers, forcing unarmed men to charge into battle, hoping to grab weapons from the fallen. Trenches were crowded, diseases spread fast, and morale collapsed under the weight of hopelessness. Over the course of three years, approximately 2 million Russian soldiers died, with millions more wounded or captured.

Meanwhile, back on the home front, the war effort had devastating consequences. As more men were drafted into the army, factories lost workers, agriculture stalled, and the already fragile supply chains broke down. In major cities like Petrograd and Moscow, bread became scarce, and basic necessities like fuel were either unavailable or unaffordable for ordinary citizens. Prices skyrocketed, and inflation wiped out savings. The people most affected by this were the urban proletariat, workers who were already earning very little before the war. They

now found themselves hungry, cold, and angry, working long hours for wages that couldn't buy a loaf of bread.

As chaos grew, Czar Nicholas II made a decision to leave Petrograd and went to command the Russian army at the front. While this may have seemed noble or patriotic, in practice, it was a disaster. Nicholas had no military experience, and under his command, the defeats kept piling up. But worse still, his departure from the capital meant he left day-to-day governance in the hands of his unpopular wife, Empress Alexandra, who was deeply distrusted by the public due to her German heritage and her close association with Rasputin, a mystic who was widely seen as corrupt and manipulative. By placing himself at the front, Nicholas also ensured that he alone would be blamed for the worsening crisis.

**1917 - The February Revolution**
By early 1917, Russia was teetering on the edge of total collapse. Strikes were common, soldiers were deserting in warfare, and political dissatisfaction was through the roof. Then came the final spark: in late February, a group of women textile workers in Petrograd took to the streets to protest bread shortages. Their chants for "bread and peace" quickly attracted attention. Within days, the protest ballooned into a massive movement involving students, industrial workers, and disillusioned soldiers.

When the Czar ordered troops to suppress the uprising by force, many of the soldiers, exhausted and angry after years of war and suffering, refused to shoot. In fact, many joined the protestors, handing over their weapons and openly defying imperial commands. For the first time, the military had turned against the throne. Within just eight days of unrest, with no power to protect his position, Czar Nicholas II was arrested and forced to abdicate.

**1917 - The Provisional Government**
Following the abdication, the Provisional Government was established, led by Alexander Kerensky, a moderate socialist. However, power was also claimed by the Petrograd Soviet, which represented workers, peasants, and soldiers. This "Dual Power" arrangement between the bourgeois Duma and the proletariat Soviets created gridlock. The Provisional Government failed to deliver on its key promises: peace, land reform, and food security. It also decided to continue Russia's participation in WWI, due to the extensive reparation costs it would have to pay if it decided to exit the war, which made it deeply unpopular.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Lenin, exiled in Switzerland, returned to Russia and began rallying support for the Bolsheviks, a radical socialist group. He called for "peace, land, and bread," and the immediate overthrow of the Provisional Government. Lenin formed the Red Guard, a paramilitary group of armed workers. When General Lavr Kornilov attempted a right-wing coup against the Provisional Government, the Red Guard helped stop it, which boosted the Bolsheviks' popularity even more. By October, the Bolsheviks had taken control of the Petrograd and Moscow Soviets and were preparing to act.

**1917 - The October Revolution**
In October 1917, the Bolsheviks, led by Lenin and Leon Trotsky, staged a successful uprising known as the October Revolution and overthrew the Provisional Government. Kerensky fled

into exile, and the Bolsheviks claimed power in the name of all Soviets. They allowed elections for a new legislature, the Constituent Assembly, but when the Bolsheviks won only 175 out of 707 seats, Lenin disbanded the Assembly, claiming it no longer represented the people's will. From then on, the Bolsheviks ruled as a single-party dictatorship, even though they lacked majority public support.

# Current State of Affairs

As of early November 1917, the Russian political situation had entered a volatile and uncertain phase. Just days after the October Revolution, the Bolsheviks—led by Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky—had overthrown the Provisional Government with the support of the Red Guard. Alexander Kerensky, the former head of the Provisional Government, has fled into exile in England, and the Bolsheviks have declared a new government in the name of the Soviets.

Although elections for the Constituent Assembly were held shortly after the revolution, the Bolsheviks secured only 175 of the 707 seats. Despite this clear lack of majority support, Lenin rejected the results, disbanded the Assembly, and proclaimed that all power belonged to the Soviets. This marked the beginning of one-party rule and the formal establishment of a Bolshevik dictatorship.

The consequences of this power shift have been immediate and far-reaching. The Russian Civil War effectively began on October 25, 1917, as various opposition groups—including Monarchists, Mensheviks, Socialist Revolutionaries, and foreign-backed factions—mobilized against the Bolshevik regime. The country is now divided, with widespread violence, regional instability, and collapsing governance in many areas.

In an effort to consolidate power and fulfill their revolutionary promises, the Bolsheviks have implemented a series of sweeping reforms:

- Land Decree: Abolished private land ownership, redistributing land to the peasantry.
- Peace Initiative: Began negotiations that would result in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, withdrawing Russia from World War I at the cost of significant territorial, industrial, and population losses.
- Bread and Labor Decrees: Guaranteed food supply to urban populations and transferred control of factories to workers' councils.
- Military Reform: Reorganized the Red Guard into the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army under Trotsky, enlisting former imperial officers to provide structure and discipline.
- Class Abolition: Eliminated all noble titles, ranks, and privileges in an attempt to flatten the social hierarchy.

Despite these reforms, the status quo is riddled with inefficiencies and contradictions. While the Bolsheviks claim to be fulfilling the will of the people, many of their actions—such as disbanding the Constituent Assembly—undermine democratic legitimacy. Food shortages persist, the economy remains in freefall, and political repression is intensifying. The rapid centralization of power has sparked resistance across various regions, raising fears of a prolonged and bloody civil war.

In sum, although the Bolsheviks have taken bold steps to reshape Russian society, the situation remains unstable. New problems continue to emerge: widespread opposition to Bolshevik rule, economic breakdown, and the deepening division of Russian society. Far from resolving the

crisis, the October Revolution has escalated it—forcing the nation to confront not only the collapse of the Romanov dynasty, but also the uncertain future of revolution, governance, and identity. **To address these issues constructively, a peace conference should be convened, with its chairs strongly encouraging all parties to openly express their positions.**

# Stances of Parties

### Alexander Kerensky :: Neutral or independent
Alexander Kerensky is the head of the provisional government established after Tsar Nicholas II's abdication. He mainly supports liberal socialism and aims for a gradual reform to stabilize Russia again. Nevertheless, due to his neutral stances towards politics, he is being criticized and losing his political base.

### Alexander Kolchak :: Anti-Bolsheviks
Alexander Kolchak is an officer of the Imperial Russian Army who led the white army during the Russian Revolution and civil war. He advocates for strong anti-Bolshevism and military dictatorship. Although he is still getting support from the West, he is suffering from internal divisions and resistance in the army.

### Alexandra Kollontai :: Pro-Bolsheviks
Alexandra Kollontai is a key Bolshevik feminist who strongly advocates for workers' and women's rights. She is working forward on progressive and gender equality during the revolution, especially for women. Her perspective and opinions are considered very radical even among other revolutionaries.

### Boris Savinkov :: Anti-Bolsheviks
Boris Savinkov is a formal Social Revolutionary (SR) and also known as a political terrorist. During this chaotic situation in their nation, Savinkov rejected both Bolshevism and monarchy. He also supported the provisional government; however, later on, he led armed resistance against the Bolsheviks. His unpredictable stances and decisions made the parties confused and risky, and he became a wildcard for this revolution.

### Fedor Dan :: Pro-Mensheviks
Fedor Dan is a moderate Menshevik, advocating parliamentary reform and shares the idea of democratic socialism. Since he is a moderate Menshevik, he strongly opposes the Bolsheviks' violence and prefers gradual reform instead. Currently, he is not widely popular; however, he is respected by a few citizens for his reasonable stances towards the situation.

### Felix Dzerzhinsky :: Pro-Bolsheviks
Felix Dzezhinsky, a founder of the secret police association Cheka, led the suppression of counterrevolutionaries with violence. Currently, he is assessing if any counter-revolutionary parties are making progress or disrupting their tactic. He is feared and respected, and now, he has become a symbol of Bolshevik authority.

### General Lavr Kornilov :: Anti-Bolsheviks
General Lavr Kornilov is a former Imperial general who aims to restore order and military authority and forces. He is famous for being anti-Bolshevik and also turned against the provisional government. Additionally, since Kornilov had turned against the provisional government, he attempted to install a military dictatorship in Russia.

**Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich :: Anti-Bolsheviks**
Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich is one of the members of the Romanov royal family who wish the monarchical government to return. Nevertheless, he is holding complicated stances since he was involved in Rassputin's assassination. He opposed the revolutionaries; he distanced himself from direct political forces or power.

**Joseph Stalin :: Pro-Bolsheviks**
Joseph Stalin is an emerging power player within the Bolshevik party, and he expands his power by being in charge of minority policies. Even though he remained quiet and did not communicate much, his influence in the party was rapidly increasing. He is also supervising the internal competitions and arguments.

**Julius Martov :: Pro-Mensheviks**
Julius Martov is a leading theorist of the Menshevik party who emphasizes peaceful cooperation and a blend of socialism and democracy. He is also criticizing the Bolshevik party for its violence and promoting reform, especially through the workers' council.

**Leon Trotsky :: Pro-Bolsheviks**
Leon Trotsky is a powerful orator and military strategist who manages and organizes the Red Army and leads the actual battles and revolutionary movement during the revolution and civil war. He is highly devoted to the Bolshevik ideology and emphasizes an international revolution through its speeches and other movements

**Maria Spiridonova :: Pro-Mensheviks**
Maria Spiridonova is a member of the Left Socialist Revolutionary Party (SR), and she was widely known among the peasants, workers, and women because of her strong support of land allocation and women's rights. In some moments, she supports the Bolsheviks; however, she tries to maintain her stances.

**Maxim Gorky :: Neutral or independent**
Maxim Gorky is one of the individual citizens who participated in the revolution. He is a famous writer and intellectual, and while he supports the revolution, he strongly opposes violent methods. He advocated social reform through culture and education, which was the purpose of writing books about the revolution.

**Mikhail Alekseyev :: Anti-Bolsheviks**
Mikhail Alekseyev, as a formal imperial Chief of Staff, helped organize the White Army and mainly participated in the anti-Bolshevik movements. He highly supported the restoration of military forces and the monarchy itself.

**Mikhail Rodzianko :: Anti-Bolsheviks**
Mikhail Rodzianko is a former chairman of the Duma, who also promoted a constitutional monarchy in his nation. First, he accepted the fall of the Romanov royal family; nevertheless, he strongly disagreed with radical socialism.

**Nadezhda Krupskaya :: Pro-Bolsheviks**
Nadezhda Krupskaya is the wife of Vladimir Lenin, and at the same time, she is an educational reformer who played a major role in shaping the Bolshevik education systems and policies. She especially focuses on women's and children's issues, such as education rights and survival.

**Nikolai Avksentiev :: Pro-Mensheviks**
Nikolai Acksentiev is a leading figure of the moderate tendency within the Socialist Revolutionary Party (SR), and he supports constitutionalism and multi-party democracy. He disagreed with the Bolshevik military coup and dictatorship, and sought cooperation with the Provisional government.

**Nikolai Nekrasov :: Neutral or independent**
Nikolai Nekrasov is a centrist politician who works for the provisional government, and at the same time, he emphasizes balanced reforms in times of crisis. He attempts to compromise and negotiate between revolutionaries and conservatives, and supports an orderly transition of the Russian emperor.

**Pavel Milyukov :: Anti-Bolsheviks**
Pavel Milyukov, as a founder and a leader of the Democratic party called Kadet, supports Western liberalism and a constitutional monarchy. He promotes continued participation in World War I and strengthening the conservative stances of the provisional government.

**Tsar Nicholas II :: Anti-Bolsheviks**
Tsar Nicholas II was the last emperor of Russia, and he lost the trust of the people due to his incompetent domestic affairs and failure in the war. He was forced to abdicate in the February Revolution in 1917, and the Romanov family came to an end. However, even after his abdication, some royalists still supported Nicholas II and the restoration of the monarchy.

**Vasily Shulgin :: Anti-Bolsheviks**
Vasily Shulgin is a conservative Duma member, supporting the monarchy and opposing communism and radical revolution. He accepted the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II in 1917, but later became close to the Whites, who strongly opposed Bolshevism. He sought to restore order and form an anti-socialist political alliance.

**Viktor Chernov :: Pro-Mensheviks**
Viktor Chernov is a theoretical leader of the Social Revolutionary Party (SR), who actively supported the peasants' demand for land and had a wide base of support. He highlighted parliamentary democracy and local autonomy, and was critical of the Bolsheviks' absolute power. He also serves as minister of agriculture in the provisional government.

### Vladimir Dmitrievich Nabokov :: Neutral or independent

Vladimir Dmitrievich Nabokov is a constitutionalist with liberal ideas, prioritizing the rule of law and civil liberties.  He is considered one of the key theoreticians of the Constitutional Democratic Party and the provisional government, and supports moderate reforms instead of radical changes.

### Vladimir Lenin :: Pro-Bolsheviks

Vladimir Lenin, as a top leader of the Bolsheviks, led an armed revolution aimed at establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism. With his strategies and fame, he easily controls his armed revolutionaries for a radical change in the Russian emperor, particularly through the use of violence and force.

### Yakov Sverdlov :: Pro-Bolsheviks

Yakov Sverdlov is a key Bolshevik figure who is in charge of planning operations, organizing the party, and administration. He plays an important role in the arrangement of personnel within the party and the design of the power structure. He mainly cooperates with Vladimir Lenin, who is the top leader of the Bolsheviks.

# Possible Solutions

**Forming a Transitional Coalition Government**
While the Bolsheviks now hold power, their mandate is questionable, as witnessed by their minority in the elections to the Constituent Assembly. A way out is to create a coalition or transitional government representing a range of political parties—Bolsheviks, Socialist Revolutionaries, Mensheviks, and perhaps even moderate liberals.
The coalition might:

- Call a new, representative constitutional convention to determine the shape of post-imperial government.
- Implement a short-term land, food, and peace policy while wider political questions are resolved.
- Avoid all-out civil war in the immediate term by reducing alienation of the non-Bolshevik elements.

Delegates can consider how such a coalition would function—Would there be equal sharing of power? Who adjudicates between ideologically opposed groups? Can this be enforced without international or military aid?

**International Mediation and Peace Negotiations**
Amid the specter of a Russian civil war, the occupation could serve as a medium for peaceful power transfer or compromise among the warring sides. Although controversial, foreign powers – not least those that participated in WWI – have a stake in the outcome in Russia.
This could take the form of:

- A neutral conference with large factions and international observers.
- The promise of peace or cash in return for cooperation among in-country factions.
- Some form of foreign, short-term protection of food supply or transport infrastructure to avoid a humanitarian collapse.

Delegates should consider whether foreign involvement is beneficial to or threatens the stability and independence of the state, and how foreign involvement can affect the ideological competition in post-imperialist Russia.

**Decentralized Regional Autonomy**
Given the great sprawl of the former Russian Empire, one alternative is a federalist or even decentralized system where regions command a lot of sovereignty.
This could involve:

- Instituting local soviets or town councils everywhere in the land, with the independent Soviet or town councils having authority in matters of government, agrarian reforms, and economy.
- Establishing a weak central authority with responsibility only for foreign policy and coordination.
- Allowing ethnic regions to determine their future status through referendums.

This model might reduce resistance in borderlands like Ukraine, Finland, or the Caucasus—but delegates must weigh the risk of fragmentation and whether this weakens Russia's global standing or its ability to recover economically and militarily.

# Questions to Consider

1. How did the interests of different social classes and ethnic groups clash or cooperate during the revolution, and how did this affect the revolution itself?
2. How did the social and economic discontents preceding the February Revolution influence the establishment of the provisional government?
3. What are the fundamental factors or reasons why the instability throughout Russian society was not resolved even after the provisional government took power? What especially do citizens, nobles, royal members, and society each crave for?
4. What factors have made the Bolsheviks spread throughout Russia, and what was the main reason that the citizens followed their actions or ideology?
5. Since the provisional government decided to continue the war rather than end it, what sort of issues or dissatisfaction were citizens having? How did it impact the revolution, parties, and the flow?

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