

Chapter 1 : Vladimir Lenin - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*The life of Lenin. [Louis Fischer] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Published in , the author of this book was able to take advantage of much information that only became available during the late 's.*

It is extremely difficult to disentangle myth from reality because the Russian revolutionary was deified in the East and systematically vilified in the West. In Russia, following his death in and up until and the collapse of the ex-USSR, something called "Leninism" was converted into a state religion to justify policies that Lenin would never have countenanced when he was alive. His own introduction to his work *State and Revolution* describes how after the death of revolutionaries, "attempts are made to convert them into harmless icons. Lenin was quite literally mummified, his embalmed body displayed in a mausoleum in Red Square--something that would have horrified Lenin had he known about it. Contradictorily, he is presented as a man who was obsessed with doctrinal purity, and at the same time, someone who merely used Marxist texts to justify his practical twists and turns after the fact. And Lenin was always willing to reevaluate a position if real-life developments proved it inadequate. The Russian Revolution "will suffice: Populists like Tkachev argued that to wait indefinitely for a social revolution, and in the meantime to condemn all forms of revolt and terrorism by its elite vanguard, was to run the risk of allowing the Tsarist order to stabilize itself through the advance of capitalism. Only by seizing power first and establishing a revolutionary dictatorship was it possible to secure the necessary political conditions for the transition to socialism. This idea also had its followers in the Social Democratic Party: According to Figes, Lenin "owed more to Tkachev than any other single Russian theorist. While his writings are full of admiration for the populists--in particular, their heroism and self-sacrifice in fighting Tsarism when no social force yet appeared capable of taking it on--he rejected every major tenet of populism, including individual terrorism. No verbal assurances and vows can disprove the unquestionable fact that present-day terrorism Cohen, a critic of the right-wing historians. Cohen points out that later scholars "discovered a diverse leadership, decentralized and fractious organization, unruly rank-and-file and ideological interaction between Bolshevik thinking and the spontaneous radicalization of popular opinion. More than ever, Lenin struck me as a happy man. Walking home from the Kremlin, I tried to think of any other man of his caliber who had a similar joyous temperament. I could think of none. This little, bald-headed, wrinkled man, who tilts his chair this way and that, laughing over one thing or another, ready any minute to give serious advice to anyone who interrupts him to ask for it, advice so well reasoned that it is to his followers far more compelling than any command I think the reason must be that he is the first great leader who utterly discounts the value of his own personality. He is quite without personal ambition. More than that, he believes, as a Marxist, in the movement of the masses, which, with or without him, would still move. His whole faith is in the elemental forces that move people; his faith in himself is merely his belief that he justly estimates the direction of these forces. Clearly both cannot be true.

## Chapter 2 : Joseph Stalin - HISTORY

*The Life of Lenin [Louis Fischer] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Lenin was a revolution. He lived and breathed and died for it. Born in , in the sleepy Volga town of Simbirsk.*

His father a was Russian official in public education who worked for progressive democracy and free universal education in Russia. The family was of mixed ethnicity, his ancestry being "Russian, Kalmyk , Jewish , German and Swedish , and possibly others" according to biographer Dimitri Volkogonov. His sister Anna, who was with Alexander at the time of his arrest, was banished to his family estate, the village of Kokushkino , about 40 km 25 mi from Kazan. This event radicalized Lenin, and his official Soviet biographies describe it as central to the revolutionary track of his life. A famous painting by Belousov, "We Will Follow a Different Path" , reprinted in millions of Soviet textbooks, depicted young Lenin and his mother grieving the loss of his elder brother. The phrase "We will follow a different path" refers to Lenin choosing a Marxist approach to popular revolution, instead of anarchistic, individualistic methods. As Lenin became interested in Marxism , he was involved in student protests and was subsequently arrested. He was then expelled from Kazan University. He continued to study independently and by had earned a license to practice law. Lenin is also credited with translating the Communist Manifesto into Russian in the period between being expelled from the University and obtaining his license to practice law. Rather than settling into a legal career, he became more involved in revolutionary propaganda efforts and the study of Marxism. On December 7 , , he was arrested and held by authorities for 14 months, then exiled to the village of Shushenskoye in Siberia. He lived in Zurich , Geneva where he lectured and studied at Geneva State University , Munich , Prague , Vienna , Manchester and London , and during his exile co-founded the newspaper Iskra with Julius Martov , later a leading opponent. He also wrote several articles and books related to the revolutionary movement. At this period, he started using various aliases, finally settling upon Lenin. This is said to be one of the most influential pamphlets in pre-revolutionary Russia, with Lenin himself claiming that 3 out of 5 workers had read it or had it read to them. In , he moved to Finland for security reasons. He continued to travel in Europe and participated in many socialist meetings and activities, including the Prague Party Conference of and the Zimmerwald Conference of In response to philosophical debates on the proper course of socialist revolution, Lenin wrote Materialism and Empiriocriticism in ; a work that became fundamental in Marxist-Leninist philosophy. Lenin was the main leader of the Zimmerwald Left. Lenin later moved to Switzerland. House where Lenin lived in in Zurich , Switzerland. This led him to a final split with the Second International , which was composed of these parties. But he was isolated in neutral Switzerland as the First World War was raging. The Swiss communist Fritz Platten , however, managed to negotiate with the German government for Lenin and his company to travel through Germany by train. The German government hoped Lenin would cause political unrest back in Russia, which would help to end the war on the Eastern front. Once through Germany, Lenin continued by ferry to Sweden , and the rest of the trip through Scandinavia was arranged by the Swedish communists Otto Grimlund and Ture Nerman. On April 16 , Lenin arrived in Petrograd and took a leading role within the Bolshevik movement, publishing the April Theses , [5] which called for an uncompromising opposition to the provisional government. Initially, Lenin isolated his party through this lurch to the left. However, this uncompromising stand meant that the Bolsheviks were to become the obvious home for all those who became disillusioned with the provisional government, and with the "luxury of opposition" the Bolsheviks did not have to assume responsibility for any policies implemented by the government. In response Leon Trotsky , formerly a Menshevik, but now moving closer to the Bolshevik position, made a defensive speech on July 17 , saying: They are throwing dirty accusations at Lenin and Zinoviev. Lenin has fought thirty years for the revolution. I have fought twenty years against the oppression of the people. And we cannot but cherish a hatred for German militarism. Let nobody in this hall say that we are hirelings of Germany. The storming and capitulation of the Winter Palace on the night of the 7th to 8th of November marked the beginning of Soviet rule. Faced with the threat of a continuing German advance eastwards, Lenin argued that Russia should immediately sign a peace treaty. Other Bolshevik leaders, such as Bukharin , advocated

continuing the war as a means of fomenting revolution in Germany. Trotsky, who led the negotiations, advocated an intermediate position, of "No War, No Peace", calling for a peace treaty only on the conditions that no territorial gains on either side be consolidated. After the Bolsheviks lost the elections for the Russian Constituent Assembly, they used the Red Guards to shut down the first session of the Assembly on January 19 and relied on support from the soviets. This marked the beginning of the steady elimination from political life of all factions and parties whose views did not correspond to the position taken by Lenin and the Bolsheviks, especially as further exhibited by the Civil War pattern of repeatedly dissolving not-so-favourable Congresses of Soviets. However, their coalition collapsed after the Social Revolutionaries opposed the Brest-Litovsk treaty, and joined other parties in seeking to overthrow the Bolshevik government. Lenin responded to these efforts by a policy of wholesale persecution, which included jailing some of the members of the opposing parties. Lenin had a certain admiration for the Irish socialist revolutionary James Connolly, and the Soviet Union was the first country to recognise the Irish Republic. The Bolsheviks had planned to hold a trial for the former Tsar, but in August, when the White Army was advancing on Yekaterinburg where the former royal family was being held, Sverdlov acceded to the request of the local Soviet to execute the Tsar right away, rather than having him freed by the Whites. The Tsar and the rest of his immediate family was executed, though whether this was a decision of the central government or the local Soviet remains the subject of historical dispute. Lenin was informed about the execution only after it had taken place, but did not have any criticism against it. Lenin and Fritz Platten were in the back of the car together, after having given a public speech. When the shooting started, "Platten grabbed Lenin by the head and pushed him down. She called out to Lenin, who turned to answer. She immediately fired three shots, two of which struck him in the shoulder and lung. Lenin was taken to his apartment in the Kremlin, refusing to venture to a hospital since he believed that other assassins would be waiting there. Doctors were summoned but decided that it was too dangerous to remove the bullets. Lenin eventually recovered, though his health declined from this point. It is believed that the incident contributed to his later strokes. Lenin with Trotsky and soldiers in Kronstadt, The Communist government responded to the assassination attempt, and to the increasingly mobilizing anti-communist offensive of which it was a component, with what they termed the Red Terror. Tens of thousands of real and perceived enemies of the Revolution, many accused of actively conspiring against the Bolshevik government, were executed or put in labor camps. The Red Terror coincided with the escalation of the Civil War and the implementation of a policy known as War Communism. Amongst other things this involved forced grain requisitions from the peasantry, and became a cause of widespread famine. Figs also claims that the terror, while encouraged by the Bolsheviks, had its roots in a popular anger against the privileged. In, on his instigation, some priests and laymen were executed, following an uprising by the clergy in the textile town of Shuia. On the Allies invasion of Russia: Members of the Communist International, including Lenin and the Bolsheviks themselves, broke off from the broader socialist movement. From that point onwards, they would become known as communists. Meanwhile, the civil war raged across Russia. A wide variety of political movements and their supporters took up arms to support or overthrow the Soviet government. Although many different factions were involved in the civil war, the two main forces were the Red Army communists and the White Army traditionalists. Foreign powers such as France, Britain, the United States and Japan also intervened in this war on behalf of the White Army, though their impact was peripheral at best. Eventually, the more organizationally proficient Red Army, led by Leon Trotsky, won the civil war, defeating the White Russian forces and their allies in smaller fights, however, continued for several more years. Both White and Red Army forces, during this tumultuous time of war and revolution, "behaved with great brutality and cruelty in areas they controlled. Alienation of the population behind the lines can explain, according to him, both red and white defeats during the civil war. When the newly independent Second Polish Republic began securing its eastern territories annexed by Russia in the partitions of Poland in the late 18th century, it clashed with Bolshevik forces for dominance in these areas, which led to the outbreak of the Polish-Soviet War in With the revolution in Germany and the Spartacist League on the rise, Lenin viewed this as the perfect time and place to "probe Europe with the bayonets of the Red Army. Lenin was a harsh critic of imperialism. In he declared the unconditional right of self-determination and separation for national minorities and oppressed nations,

usually defined as those nation-states that were previously subject to capitalist imperial control. However, when the Russian Civil War was won he used military force to assimilate the newly independent nations Armenia , Georgia , and Azerbaijan , arguing that the inclusion of those countries into the newly emerging Soviet government would shelter them from capitalist imperial ambitions. There were many peasant uprisings, the largest being the Tambov rebellion. After an uprising by the sailors at Kronstadt in March , Lenin replaced the policy of War Communism with the New Economic Policy NEP , in a successful attempt to rebuild industry and especially agriculture. The new policy was based on a recognition of political and economic realities, though it was intended merely as a tactical retreat from the socialist ideal. The whole policy was later reversed by Stalin. The landowners and capitalists tried to divert the hatred of the workers and peasants who were tortured by want against the Jews. Only the most ignorant and downtrodden people can believe the lies and slander that are spread about the Jews. It is not the Jews who are the enemies of the working people. The enemies of the workers are the capitalists of all countries. Among the Jews there are working people, and they form the majority. They are our brothers, who, like us, are oppressed by capital; they are our comrades in the struggle for socialism. Shame on accursed Tsarism which tortured and persecuted the Jews. Shame on those who foment hatred towards the Jews, who foment hatred towards other nations. The campaign against religion saw the seizure of many synagogues. Lenin, moreover, was aware of pogroms carried out by units of the Red Army during the war with Poland, though the whole issue was effectively ignored. It has been said of this by the Russian historian Dimitri Volkogonov that "While condemning anti-Semitism in general, Lenin was unable to analyse, let alone eradicate, its prevalence in Soviet society. The assassination attempt earlier in his life also added to his health problems. The bullet was still lodged in his neck, too close to his spine for medical techniques of the time to remove. In May , Lenin had his first stroke. He was left partially paralyzed on his right side, and his role in government declined. After the second stroke in December of the same year, he resigned from active politics. In March , he suffered his third stroke and was left bedridden for the remainder of his life, no longer able to speak.

Chapter 3 : THE LIFE OF LENIN by Louis Fischer | Kirkus Reviews

*Obviously, Lenin is an important part of that story. But his life was NOT very interesting, certainly not once the revolution had occurred. I suppose it is interesting to read all of his speculations about how world history would go, though he was wrong on so many different issues (as the author does a good job of indi This was NOT a good read.*

The marriage produced four children. Inessa and her husband opened a school for peasant children outside of Moscow. Life[ edit ] In , she left her husband, with whom she had an open marriage , to marry his younger brother Vladimir, who shared her radical political views, and bore him her fifth child, Andrei. In Armand became secretary for the Committee of Foreign Organisations established to coordinate all Bolshevik groups in Western Europe. This was a risky mission. Lenin needed her to pass on the resolution of the Prague Conference, to help organise the Bolshevik campaign to get its supporters elected to the Duma , and find out what was going on in Pravda. She also began work editing Rabotnitsa. Krupskaya, with admiration, noted that exhausted as Armand was, she threw herself immediately into the party works. Lenin wrote to her and trusted her more than anyone else in his circles. Armand was upset that many socialists in Europe chose not to fight against the war effort during World War I. She joined Lenin in helping to distribute propaganda that urged Allied troops to turn their rifles against their officers and to start a socialist revolution. Lenin appointed her as the Bolshevik representative to the International Socialist Bureau conference in Brussels in July He counted on her mastery of all the languages of the International, her literal devotion to him and his views, her steadfastness under fire". He wrote to her: Inessa Armand, I am convinced that you are one of those who develops, grows stronger, becomes more energetic and bolder when alone in a responsible post â€¦ I stubbornly disbelieve the pessimists who say that you â€” are hardly â€” nonsense and again nonsense. The Bolsheviks in exile became desperate to return to Russia to help shape the future of the country. The German Foreign Ministry, which hoped that Bolshevik influence in Russia would help bring the war on the Eastern Front to an end, provided a special train for Armand, Vladimir Lenin and 26 other revolutionaries to travel to Petrograd. On her return to Petrograd, she became director of Zhenotdel , an organisation that fought for female equality in the Communist Party and the Soviet trade unions Zhenotdel operated until , with powers to make legislative decisions. She drove through reforms to allow women rights to divorce, abort, participate in government affairs and create the facilities like mass canteens and mother centers. Realizing that she was exhausted from overload of work, Lenin had urged Armand to go to the Caucasus for a holiday, without knowing that the area was infested by epidemic and had not been pacified by the Red Army. She died in the morning hours of September 24, aged She was buried in the Red Square, being the first woman to receive this honour. The Zhenotdel was abolished in Romantic relationship with Lenin[ edit ] Armand and Lenin became lovers from to at least , [25] with Armand starting the affair [26] and Krupskaya accepting the situation and appreciating the person of Armand. We were terribly glad In the autumn of all of us became very close to Inessa. In her there was much joy of life and ardor. We had known Inessa in Paris, but there was a large colony there. In Krakow lived a small closely knit circle of comrades. Inessa rented a room in the same family with which Kamenev lived. My mother became closely attached to Inessa. Inessa often went to talk with her, sit with her, have a smoke with her. It became cosier and gayer when Inessa came. Our entire life was filled with party concerns and affairs, more like a student commune than like family life, and we were glad to have Inessa Something warm radiated from her talk. Just as Marx could be the spiritual ancestor of people as various as Bernstein, Kautsky, Bebel, and Luxemburg, so Chernyshevsky was a formative influence for the two men who in their persons incarnated the two opposing poles of socialism in There was nothing immoral in it, since Lenin told Krupskaya everything [again the same code]. He deeply loved music, and this Krupskaya could not give him. Inessa played beautifully â€” his beloved Beethoven and other pieces. He sent Inessa to the Youth Conference of the Zimmerwald Group â€” a little old, but she had a credential from the Bolsheviks and we had to accept it. He did not dare to come himself, sat downstairs in a little adjacent cafe drinking tea, getting reports from her, giving her instructions. I went down for tea and found him there. Did you come na chai, I asked, or na rezoliutsii? He laughed knowingly, but did not answer. He was utterly broken

by her death. Another feature of Inessa Armand was that, despite her intense emotional involvement with Lenin, she was capable of disagreeing with him politically on points of principle.

*Vladimir Lenin was founder of the Russian Communist Party, leader of the Bolshevik Revolution and architect and first head of the Soviet state. Vladimir Lenin founded the Russian Communist Party.*

Share via Email Weighty subject matter Her books include Ekaterinburg: She lives in Oxford. She has a website at [www.buyhelenrappaport.com](http://www.buyhelenrappaport.com). Buy Helen Rappaport books at the Guardian bookshop "Finding 10 readable and €" more importantly €" revealing monographs on Lenin is quite a tough call. Not very many exist. Books in English published in the west have been similarly frustrated by a lack of penetrating primary source material except amongst Russian exiles who had the freedom to say what they thought. There are no candid diaries by him and €" worst of all €" from a populist point of view, absolutely no kiss and tell memoirs that dish up the dirt. Here, in no particular order, are my 10 best in English: Encounters with Lenin by Nikolay Valentinov Valentinov escaped exile in Russia to join Lenin in exile in Geneva in as an eager young underground activist. He was for an all too brief time a loyal and admiring acolyte until he saw the darker side of Lenin and became disenchanted by his inflexible political thinking and his ruthlessly domineering behaviour. A wonderful, illuminating source. Volkogonov is as unequivocally critical of Lenin as he is of Stalin in his companion biography. Memories of Lenin by Nadezhda Krupskaya This, like it or not and despite its limitations, is the holy grail. Krupskaya, who as a young revolutionary married Lenin in , was the only person who remained consistently close to Lenin throughout the last 27 years of his life. She went on to be the dogged keeper of the flame after his death in Unfortunately she never said a single controversial word about him, his behaviour, or their life together, but nevertheless this is a valuable and sometimes fascinating source. Days With Lenin by Maxim Gorky The best literary memoir of Lenin by the great socialist writer; at first a friend and admirer of Lenin and later an outspoken critic of the Bolshevik takeover. Notes Towards a Biography by Leon Trotsky Episodic and frustratingly incomplete, these notes were to form the basis of a biography that Trotsky sadly never wrote. This early western take on Lenin during his lifetime is a fascinating read for its analysis of the communist experiment in the making. A Biography by Robert Service If you need a quick fix on Lenin, his life and political career, then this is the best standard popular biography to date. Three Who Made a Revolution by Bertram D Wolfe One of the great, authoritative and insightful studies of the rise and development of Russian Marxism, closely interweaving the political careers of Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky. Long but highly readable, it is still a valuable standard 45 years after publication. The Life of Lenin by Louis Fischer One of three major Lenin biographies published in the mids, this perceptive account is by a Jewish-American journalist who was based in Moscow from , where he actually knew Lenin and became an expert on the Soviet system.

## Chapter 5 : The Life of Lenin by Louis Fischer

*This is the third biography of Lenin to appear this season. Robert Payne's *The Life and Death of Lenin* (p. ) will be the July Book-of-the-Month Club selection and keeps its eye on Lenin, the man. It is also particularly good on the terrorists through whom Lenin's ideas originated (Lenin's brother).*

Visit Website Stalin grew up poor and an only child. His father was a shoemaker and alcoholic who beat his son, and his mother was a laundress. As a boy, Stalin contracted smallpox, which left him with lifelong facial scars. As a teen, he earned a scholarship to attend a seminary in the nearby city of Tblisi and study for the priesthood in the Georgian Orthodox Church. In , Stalin was expelled from the seminary for missing exams, although he claimed it was for Marxist propaganda. Visit Website After leaving school, Stalin became an underground political agitator, taking part in labor demonstrations and strikes. He adopted the name Koba, after a fictional Georgian outlaw-hero, and joined the more militant wing of the Marxist Social Democratic movement, the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin. Stalin also became involved in various criminal activities, including bank heists, the proceeds from which were used to help fund the Bolshevik Party. He was arrested multiple times between and , and subjected to imprisonment and exile in Siberia. Ekaterina perished from typhus when her son was an infant. They had two children, a boy and a girl. Nadezhda committed suicide in her early 30s. Stalin also fathered several children out of wedlock. Three years later, in November , the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia. The Soviet Union was founded in , with Lenin as its first leader. During these years, Stalin had continued to move up the party ladder, and in he became secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, a role that enabled him to appoint his allies to government jobs and grow a base of political support. After Lenin died in , Stalin eventually outmaneuvered his rivals and won the power struggle for control of the Communist Party. By the late s, he had become dictator of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union Under Joseph Stalin Starting in the late s, Joseph Stalin launched a series of five-year plans intended to transform the Soviet Union from a peasant society into an industrial superpower. His development plan was centered on government control of the economy and included the forced collectivization of Soviet agriculture, in which the government took control of farms. The forced collectivization also led to widespread famine across the Soviet Union that killed millions. Stalin ruled by terror and with a totalitarian grip in order to eliminate anyone who might oppose him. He expanded the powers of the secret police, encouraged citizens to spy on one another and had millions of people killed or sent to the Gulag system of forced labor camps. During the second half of the s, Stalin instituted the Great Purge, a series of campaigns designed to rid the Communist Party, the military and other parts of Soviet society from those he considered a threat. Additionally, Stalin built a cult of personality around himself in the Soviet Union. Cities were renamed in his honor. Soviet history books were rewritten to give him a more prominent role in the revolution and mythologize other aspects of his life. He was the subject of flattering artwork, literature and music, and his name became part of the Soviet national anthem. His government also controlled the Soviet media. Stalin then proceeded to annex parts of Poland and Romania, as well as the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. He also launched an invasion of Finland. Stalin had ignored warnings from the Americans and the British, as well as his own intelligence agents, about a potential invasion, and the Soviets were not prepared for war. As German troops approached the Soviet capital of Moscow, Stalin remained there and directed a scorched earth defensive policy, destroying any supplies or infrastructure that might benefit the enemy. The tide turned for the Soviets with the Battle of Stalingrad , from August to February , during which the Red Army defeated the Germans and eventually drove them from Russia. As the war progressed, Stalin participated in the major Allied conferences, including those in Tehran and Yalta His iron will and deft political skills enabled him to play the loyal ally while never abandoning his vision of an expanded postwar Soviet empire. He prosecuted a reign of terror, purges, executions, exiles to labor camps and persecution in the postwar USSR, suppressing all dissent and anything that smacked of foreignâ€”especially Westernâ€”influence. He established communist governments throughout Eastern Europe, and in led the Soviets into the nuclear age by exploding an atomic bomb. Stalin, who grew increasingly paranoid in his later

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years, died on March 5, , at age 74, after suffering a stroke. By some estimates, he was responsible for the deaths of 20 million people during his brutal rule. Start your free trial today.

**Chapter 6 : BBC - GCSE Bitesize - Life in Lenin's Russia**

*Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.*

Moscow, Russia Russian statesman The Russian statesman Vladimir Lenin was a profoundly influential figure in world history. Although he would fight as an adult for a revolution by the working lower classes, he did not come from such a hard-working background himself. Lenin received the typical education given to the sons of the Russian upper class. Nevertheless, as a young man he began to develop radical extreme political views in disagreement with the existing Russian form of government. Lenin graduated from secondary school with high honors and enrolled at Kazan University, but he was expelled after participating in a demonstration. He retired to the family estate but was permitted to continue his studies away from the university. He obtained a law degree in St. Petersburg. By this time he was already a Marxist—an admirer of the German writer Karl Marx—Marx and his associate Friedrich Engels had believed in an international revolution overthrow of the government of the poor and lower-class workers called the proletariat who would lead the way to a new system of power. Under this new system, Marx argued, property would be owned communally as a group and work would be distributed equally. By Lenin had also become a revolutionary by profession. He wrote controversial papers and articles and tried to organize workers. Petersburg Union for the Struggle for the Liberation of Labor, which Lenin helped create, was one of the seeds that started the Russian Marxist movement. He was joined there by a fellow Marxist, Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya, whom he married in 1881. Emigration to Europe Not long after Lenin was released from Siberia in the summer of 1897, he moved to Europe. He spent most of the next seventeen years there, moving from one country to another frequently. His first step was to join the editorial board of Iskra The Spark, the central newspaper of Russian Marxism at the time. After parting from Iskra, he edited a series of papers of his own and contributed to other journals promoting socialism a version of Marxism. His journalistic activity was closely linked with efforts to organize revolutionary groups, partly because the illegal organizational network within Russia was partly based on the distribution of illegal literature. Organizational activity, in turn, was linked with the selection and training of people who would work for the cause. For some time Lenin conducted a training school for Russian revolutionaries at Longjumeau, a suburb of Paris, France. Lenin could usually depend on financial support from his mother for personal use, but she could not pay for his political activities. It was a response to the rapid growth of industry, cities, and the proletariat a group of lower-class workers, especially in industry. Its first intellectual spokesmen were people who had turned away from relying on the peasants rural poor people of the Russian villages and countryside, and they placed their hopes on the proletariat. They aimed for a revolution that would transform Russia into a democratic republic. This disagreement over the nature and organization of the party was complicated by many other conflicts, and from its first important gathering Russian Marxism split into two factions opposing groups. The one led by Lenin called itself the majority faction bolsheviki, or the Bolsheviks, while the other took the name of minority faction mensheviki, or the Mensheviks. The Bolsheviks and Mensheviks disagreed not only over how to organize the movement but also over most other political problems. In an uprising now known as the Revolution of 1905 occurred in Russia. This revolt among the Russian people surprised all Russian revolutionary leaders, including the Bolsheviks. Lenin managed to return to Russia only in November, when the defeat of the revolution was practically certain. But he was among the last to give up. For many more months he urged his followers to renew their revolutionary enthusiasm and activities and to prepare for an armed uprising. Bolshevism and Marxism Over the next twelve years bolshevism, which had begun as a faction within the Russian Social-Democratic Workers party, gradually emerged as an independent party that had cut its ties with all other Russian Marxists. The process involved long and bitter arguments against Mensheviks as well as against all those who worked to reunite the factions. It involved fights over funds, struggles for control of newspapers, the development of rival organizations, and meetings of rival groups. Disputes concerned many questions about the goals and strategies

of Marxism and the role of national rather than international struggles within Marxism. Since about the international socialist movement had begun also to discuss the possibility of a major war breaking out among European nations. In and , members met and condemned such wars in advance, pledging not to support them. Lenin had wanted to go further than that. He had urged active opposition to the war effort and a transformation of any war into a proletarian revolution. When World War I â€” a conflict involving most European nations, as well as Russia, the United States, and Japan broke out, most socialist leaders in the countries involved supported the war effort. For Lenin, this was proof that he and the other leaders shared no common aims or views. The break between the two schools of Marxism could not be fixed. He attended several conferences of radical socialists opposed to the war. He read a large amount of literature on the Marxist idea of state government and wrote a first draft for a book on the subject, *The State and Revolution*. He also studied literature dealing with world politics of the time and wrote an important book, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*, in . By the beginning of he had fits of depression and wrote to a close friend that he thought he would never see another revolution. This was about a month before the overthrow of the Russian czar in the winter of , which marked the beginning of the Russian Revolution. Lenin in It took a good deal of negotiation and courage for Lenin and a group of like-minded Russian revolutionaries to travel from Switzerland back to Russia through the enemy country of Germany. The man who returned to Russia in the spring of was of medium height, quite bald, except for the back of his head, with a reddish beard. The features of his face were strikingâ€”slanted eyes that looked piercingly at others, and high cheek-bones under a towering forehead. The rest of his appearance was deceptively ordinary. Fluent in many languages, Lenin spoke Russian with a slight speech defect but was a powerful public speaker in small groups as well as before large audiences. A tireless worker, he made others work tirelessly. He tried to push those who worked with him to devote every ounce of their energy to the revolutionary task at hand. He was impatient with any other activities, including small talk and discussions of political theories. Indeed, he was suspicious of intellectuals and felt most at home in the company of simple folk. Having been brought up in the tradition of the Russian nobility, Lenin loved hunting, hiking, horseback riding, boating, mushroom hunting, and the outdoor life in general. Once he had returned to Russia, Lenin worked constantly to use the revolutionary situation that had been created by the fall of the czar and convert it into a proletarian revolution that would bring his own party into power. As a result of his activities, opinions in Russia quickly became more and more sharply at odds. Moderate forces found themselves less and less able to maintain any control. In the end, by October power fell into the hands of the Bolsheviks. Ruler of Russia During the next few years Lenin was essentially dictator a ruler with unquestionable authority of Russia. The major task he faced was establishing this authority for himself and his party in the country. Most of his policies can be understood in this light, even though he angered some elements in the population while satisfying others. From to a fierce civil war raged, which the Bolsheviks finally won against seemingly overwhelming odds. Lenin had to create an entirely new political system with the help of inexperienced people. He was also heading a failing economy and had to create desperate means for putting people to work. He also created the Third Communist International, an association of parties that promoted the spread of the revolution to other countries and that enforced the Soviet system as a model for this movement. Meanwhile he had to cope with conflict and criticism from his own party colleagues. When the civil war had been won and the regime firmly established, the economy was ruined, and much of the population was bitterly opposed to the regime. At this point Lenin reversed many of his policies and instituted a reform called the New Economic Policy. It was a temporary retreat from the goal of establishing socialism at once. In the long run, Lenin hoped both these policies would make the benefits of socialism obvious to all, so the country would gradually grow into socialism. On May 26, , Lenin suffered a serious stroke a loss of consciousness due to the rupture or blockage of an artery in the brain. After recovering from this first stroke, he suffered a second on December He was so seriously ill that he could participate in political matters only occasionally. He moved to a country home at Gorki, Russia, near Moscow, where he died on January 21, Harvard University Press,

Chapter 7 : Helen Rappaport's top 10 books on Lenin | Books | The Guardian

*Vladimir Lenin resting in a sanatorium. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. The last year of Lenin's political life, when he fought to eradicate abuses of his Socialist ideals and the corruption of power, may well have been his greatest.*

Chairman of the Soviet Union, Revolutionary Born: April 22, at Simbirsk, Russian Empire Died: January 21, at Gorki, Soviet Union Best known for: Where did Vladimir Lenin grow up? His birth name was Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov. Growing up Lenin attended school and was an excellent student. He also enjoyed the outdoors and playing chess. When Lenin was sixteen years old, his father died. Sacha was caught and was executed by the government. Becoming a Revolutionary Lenin continued with his education at the Kazan University. While at university he became involved with politics and revolutionary groups. He began to study Karl Marx and became convinced that Marxism was the ideal form of government. At one point he was arrested and kicked out of the university, but he was later allowed to return. After graduating he worked as a lawyer. Exile from Russia Lenin continued his work as a revolutionary. He moved to St. Petersburg where he quickly became a leader among the Marxists. He constantly had to hide from the police and government officials as spies were everywhere. Eventually, Lenin created his own group of Marxists called the Bolsheviks. In , Lenin was arrested and exiled to Siberia for three years. Upon his return in he continued to foster revolution and push Marxism. However, he was banned from St. Petersburg and was under the watchful eye of the police. He spent much of his time over the next several years in Western Europe where he wrote communist papers and planned for the coming revolution. They were sent into battle under terrible conditions. They often had little training, no food, no shoes, and sometimes were forced to fight without weapons. Millions of Russian soldiers were killed under the leadership of the Tsar. The Russian people were ready to revolt. The Tsar was overthrown and the government was run by the Provisional Government. He began to speak out against the Provisional Government. He said it was no better than the Tsarist government. He wanted a government ruled by the people. Sometimes this takeover is called the October Revolution or the Bolshevik Revolution. Lenin established the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic and he was the leader of the new government. He immediately established peace with Germany and exited World War I. This was what Germany was hoping for when they helped him sneak back into Russia. He also took land from the rich landholders and divided it up amongst the peasants. Russian Civil War For the first several years of leadership, Lenin fought a civil war against the anti-Bolsheviks. He was a brutal leader. He stomped out all opposition, killing anyone who spoke out against his government. Like the Tsar before him, he forced peasants to join his army and also took food from the peasants to feed his soldiers. Under War Communism the government owned everything and soldiers could take what they needed from the peasants. After the war, with the economy failing, Lenin began the New Economic Policy. This new policy allowed some private ownership and capitalism. The Russian economy recovered under this new policy. When the Bolsheviks finally won the civil war, Lenin established the Soviet Union in It was the first communist country in the world. Death In , Lenin was shot in an assassination attempt. Although he survived, his health was never good again. Starting in , he suffered several strokes. He finally died from a stroke on January 21, Legacy Lenin is remembered as the founder of the Soviet Union. His ideas on Marxism and communism have become known as Leninism. He was one of the most influential political leaders of the 20th century. In Lenin wrote his Testament. In this document he raised concerns about Joseph Stalin and thought he should be removed from office. Stalin, however, was already too powerful and succeeded Lenin after his death. He married fellow revolutionary Nadya Krupskaya in He took the name "Lenin" in This likely came from the River Lena where he was exiled for three years in Siberia. Lenin founded and managed the communist newspaper called Iskra in Activities Take a ten question quiz about this page. Listen to a recorded reading of this page: Your browser does not support the audio element. Learn More about World War I:

Chapter 8 : THE LIFE AND DEATH OF LENIN by Robert Payne | Kirkus Reviews

*Lenin was a revolution. He lived and breathed and died for it. Born in in the sleepy Volga town of Simbirsk, he died in at the age of 53 having changed the course of history throughout the world.*

Early life The making of a revolutionary It is difficult to identify any particular events in his childhood that might prefigure his turn onto the path of a professional revolutionary. Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov was born in Simbirsk, which was renamed Ulyanovsk in his honour. He adopted the pseudonym Lenin in during his clandestine party work after exile in Siberia. He was the third of six children born into a close-knit, happy family of highly educated and cultured parents. His mother was the daughter of a physician, while his father, though the son of a serf, became a schoolteacher and rose to the position of inspector of schools. Lenin, intellectually gifted, physically strong, and reared in a warm, loving home, early displayed a voracious passion for learning. He graduated from high school ranking first in his class. He distinguished himself in Latin and Greek and seemed destined for the life of a classical scholar. When he was 16, nothing in Lenin indicated a future rebel, still less a professional revolutionary—except, perhaps, his turn to atheism. But, despite the comfortable circumstances of their upbringing, all five of the Ulyanov children who reached maturity joined the revolutionary movement. This was not an uncommon phenomenon in tsarist Russia, where even the highly educated and cultured intelligentsia were denied elementary civil and political rights. Gertha As an adolescent Lenin suffered two blows that unquestionably influenced his subsequent decision to take the path of revolution. First, his father was threatened shortly before his untimely death with premature retirement by a reactionary government that had grown fearful of the spread of public education. Second, in his beloved eldest brother, Aleksandr, a student at the University of St. Petersburg later renamed Leningrad State University , was hanged for conspiring with a revolutionary terrorist group that plotted to assassinate Emperor Alexander III. In autumn Lenin enrolled in the faculty of law of the imperial Kazan University later renamed Kazan [V. Lenin] State University , but within three months he was expelled from the school, having been accused of participating in an illegal student assembly. In the autumn of , the authorities permitted him to return to Kazan but denied him readmission to the university. He became a Marxist in January Formation of a revolutionary party In May the Ulyanov family moved to Samara known as Kuybyshev from to After much petitioning, Lenin was granted permission to take his law examinations. In November he passed his examinations, taking a first in all subjects, and was graduated with a first-class degree. After the police finally waived their political objections, Lenin was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Samara in 1893, his clients being mainly poor peasants and artisans. In his experience practicing law, he acquired an intense loathing for the class bias of the legal system and a lifelong revulsion for lawyers, even those who claimed to be Social-Democrats. Law proved to be an extremely useful cover for a revolutionary activist. He moved to St. Petersburg from to known as Petrograd; from to known as Leningrad in August and, while working as a public defender , associated with revolutionary Marxist circles. Upon his return to Russia in , Lenin and other Marxists, including L. Martov , the future leader of the Mensheviks, succeeded in unifying the Marxist groups of the capital in an organization known as the Union for the Struggle for the Liberation of the Working Class. In December , the leaders of the Union were arrested. Lenin was jailed for 15 months and thereafter was sent into exile to Shushenskoye, in Siberia, for a term of three years. Upon completing his term of Siberian exile in January , Lenin left the country and was joined later by Krupskaya in Munich. Up to the point at which Lenin began working on Iskra, his writings had taken as their focus three problems: The principal obstacle to the acceptance of Marxism by many of the Russian intelligentsia was their adherence to the widespread belief of the Populists Russian pre-Marxist radicals that Marxism was inapplicable to peasant Russia, in which a proletariat an industrial working class was almost nonexistent. Russia, they believed, was immune to capitalism, owing to the circumstances of joint ownership of peasant land by the village commune. This view had been first attacked by Plekhanov in the s. Plekhanov had argued that Russia had already entered the capitalist stage, looking for evidence to the rapid growth of industry. Despite the denials of the Populists , he claimed, the man of the future in Russia was indeed the proletarian, not the peasant. While attempting to apply the Marxist scheme of

social development to Russia, Plekhanov had come to the conclusion that the revolution in Russia would have to pass through two discrete stages: But, almost immediately, Lenin went a step beyond his former mentor, especially with regard to the peasant question. In an attack on the Populists published in , Lenin charged that, even if they realized their fondest dream and divided all the land among the peasant communes, the result would not be Socialism but rather capitalism spawned by a free market in agricultural produce. Even while in exile in Siberia, Lenin had begun research on his investigation of the peasant question, which culminated in his magisterial *Development of Capitalism in Russia* published legally in . In this work, a study of Russian economics, he argued that capitalism was rapidly destroying the peasant commune. An abortive First Congress, held in in Minsk , had failed to achieve this objective, for most of the delegates were arrested shortly after the congress. The organizing committee of the Second Congress decided to convene the congress in Brussels in , but police pressure forced it to transfer to London. The congressional sessions wore on for nearly three weeks, for no point appeared too trivial to debate. The main issues, nevertheless, quickly became plain: Capitalism, he contended, predisposed the workers to the acceptance of Socialism but did not spontaneously make them conscious Socialists. At the Second Congress the Iskra group split, and Lenin found himself in a minority of opinion on this very issue. According to Lenin the party had to be a highly centralized body organized around a small, ideologically homogeneous, hardened core of experienced professional revolutionaries, who would be elected to the central committee by the party congress and who would lead a ramified hierarchy of lower party organizations that would enjoy the support and sympathy of the proletariat and all groups opposed to tsarism. But a walkout by a disgruntled group of Jewish Social-Democrats, the Bund, left Lenin with a slight majority. The two groups fought each other ceaselessly within the same RSDWP and professed the same program until , when Lenin made the split final at the Prague Conference of the Bolshevik Party. Challenges of the Revolution of and World War I The differences between Lenin and the Mensheviks became sharper in the Revolution of and its aftermath, when Lenin moved to a distinctly original view on two issues: The outbreak of the revolution, in January , found Lenin abroad in Switzerland, and he did not return to Russia until November. Immediately Lenin set down a novel strategy. But the Mensheviks argued that the bourgeois revolution must be led by the bourgeoisie , with whom the proletariat must ally itself in order to make the democratic revolution. This would bring the liberal bourgeoisie to full power, whereupon the RSDWP would act as the party of opposition. Lenin defiantly rejected this kind of alliance and post-revolutionary regime. Now he flatly declared that the proletariat was the driving force of the revolution and that its only reliable ally was the peasantry. The bourgeoisie he branded as hopelessly counterrevolutionary and too cowardly to make its own revolution. If the Russian revolution should inspire the western European proletariat to make the Socialist revolution, for which industrial Europe was ripe, the Russian revolution might well pass over directly to the second stage, the Socialist revolution. After the defeat of the Revolution of , the issue between Lenin and the Mensheviks was more clearly drawn than ever, despite efforts at reunion. But, forced again into exile from to , Lenin found serious challenges to his policies not only from the Mensheviks but within his own faction as well. The combination of repression and modest reform effected by the tsarist regime led to a decline of party membership. Disillusionment and despair in the chances of successful revolution swept the dwindled party ranks, rent by controversies over tactics and philosophy. As one Menshevik opponent described Lenin: Thereafter, each faction maintained its separate central committee, party apparatus, and press. When war broke out, in August , Socialist parties throughout Europe rallied behind their governments despite the resolutions of prewar congresses of the Second International obliging them to resist or even overthrow their respective governments if they plunged their countries into an imperialist war. He pronounced the Second International as dead and appealed for the creation of a new, Third International composed of genuinely revolutionary Socialist parties. Workers and soldiers should therefore turn their guns on their rulers and destroy the system that had plunged them into imperialist carnage. Indeed, in the first flush of patriotic fervour, not a few Bolsheviks supported the war effort. Lenin and his closest comrades were left an isolated band swimming against the current. The war virtually cut them off from all contact with Russia and with like-minded Socialists in other countries. Nevertheless, in and , anti-war Socialists in various countries managed to hold two anti-war conferences in Zimmerwald and Kienthal, Switzerland. Lenin failed at both

meetings to persuade his comrades to adopt his slogan: Undaunted, Lenin continued to hammer home his views on the war, confident that eventually he would win decisive support. In his *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, he set out to explain, first, the real causes of the war; second, why Socialists had abandoned internationalism for patriotism and supported the war; and third, why revolution alone could bring about a just, democratic peace. War erupted, he wrote, because of the insatiable, expansionist character of imperialism, itself a product of monopoly finance capitalism. At the end of the 19th century, a handful of banks had come to dominate the advanced countries, which, by , had in their respective empires brought the rest of the world under their direct or indirect controls. By , dissatisfied with the way the world had been shared out, rival coalitions of imperialists launched the war to bring about a redivision of the world at the expense of the other coalition. The war was therefore imperialist in its origins and aims and deserved the condemnation of genuine Socialists. The imperialists, Lenin contended, driven by an annexationist dynamic, could not conclude a just, lasting peace. Future wars were inevitable so long as imperialism existed; imperialism was inevitable so long as capitalism existed; only the overthrow of capitalism everywhere could end the imperialist war and prevent such wars in the future. First published in Russia in , *Imperialism* to this day provides the instrument that Communists everywhere employ to evaluate major trends in the non-Communist world. Leadership in the Russian Revolution By it seemed to Lenin that the war would never end and that the prospect of revolution was rapidly receding. But in the week of March 8â€”15, the starving, freezing, war-weary workers and soldiers of Petrograd until , St. Petersburg succeeded in deposing the Tsar. Lenin and his closest lieutenants hastened home after the German authorities agreed to permit their passage through Germany to neutral Sweden. Berlin hoped that the return of anti-war Socialists to Russia would undermine the Russian war effort. Lenin during the Russian Revolution, Out of the revolution was born the Provisional Government, formed by a group of leaders of the bourgeois liberal parties. Although the Petrograd Soviet had been the sole political power recognized by the revolutionary workers and soldiers in March, its leaders had hastily turned full power over to the Provisional Government. Revolution as bourgeois; hence, they believed that the new regime should be headed by leaders of the bourgeois parties. Russian Revolution of Scenes of Petrograd St. Petersburg during the Russian Revolution of , including a view of Vladimir Ilich Lenin speaking to a crowd. Lenin called this government, despite its democratic pretensions, thoroughly imperialist and undeserving of support by Socialists. It was incapable of satisfying the most profound desires of the workers, soldiers, and peasants for immediate peace and division of landed estates among the peasants. Only a soviet governmentâ€”that is, direct rule by workers, soldiers, and peasantsâ€”could fulfill these demands. This would constitute a second revolution.

Chapter 9 : The Life of Lenin - Louis Fischer - Google Books

*A red line is drawn from statements, drawn out of context from early in Lenin's life, to the emergence of Stalin's autocratic rule, as if they are part of a single, unbroken narrative.*

His dedication to education earned him the Order of St. Vladimir , which bestowed on him the status of hereditary nobleman. They were followed by three more children, Olga born , Dmitry born , and Maria born . Two later siblings died in infancy. Involved in political agitation against the absolute monarchy of the reactionary Tsar Alexander III , Alexander Ulyanov studied the writings of banned leftists and organised anti-government protests. He joined a revolutionary cell bent on assassinating the Tsar and was selected to construct a bomb. Before the attack could take place the conspirators were arrested and tried, and in May, Alexander was executed by hanging. This sparked his interest in Marxism , a socio-political theory that argued that society developed in stages, that this development resulted from class struggle , and that capitalist society would ultimately give way to socialist society and then communist society. He had little interest in farm management, and his mother soon sold the land, keeping the house as a summer home. The graduation celebrations were marred when his sister Olga died of typhoid. Revolutionary activity of Vladimir Lenin Early activism and imprisonment: Petersburg and charged with sedition. In this work he noted that the rise of industrial capitalism in Russia had caused large numbers of peasants to move to the cities, where they formed a proletariat. From his Marxist perspective, Lenin argued that this Russian proletariat would develop class consciousness , which would in turn lead them to violently overthrow Tsarism , the aristocracy , and the bourgeoisie and to establish a proletariat state that would move toward socialism. He was granted a few days in Saint Petersburg to put his affairs in order and used this time to meet with the Social-Democrats, who had renamed themselves the League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class. She was initially posted to Ufa , but persuaded the authorities to move her to Shushenskoye, claiming that she and Lenin were engaged; they married in a church on 10 July . Published under the pseudonym of "Vladimir Ilin", upon publication it received predominantly poor reviews. Lenin", and while the N did not stand for anything, a popular misconception later arose that it represented "Nikolai". Martov argued that party members should be able to express themselves independently of the party leadership; Lenin disagreed, emphasising the need for a strong leadership with complete control over the party. Petersburg sparked a spate of civil unrest known as the Revolution of . Street fighting is raging, barricades are being thrown up, rifles are cracking, guns are booming. Rivers of blood are flowing, the civil war for freedom is blazing up. Moscow and the South, the Caucasus and Poland are ready to join the proletariat of St. The slogan of the workers has become: Under the lead of Leonid Krasin , a group of Bolsheviks began carrying out such criminal actions, the best known taking place in June , when a group of Bolsheviks acting under the leadership of Joseph Stalin committed an armed robbery of the State Bank in Tiflis , Georgia. Instead, Lenin favoured a vanguard of socialist intelligentsia who would lead the working-classes in revolution. He believed that competition and conflict would increase and that war between the imperialist powers would continue until they were overthrown by proletariat revolution and socialism established. Petersburg " renamed Petrograd at the beginning of the First World War " as industrial workers went on strike over food shortages and deteriorating factory conditions. The unrest spread to other parts of Russia, and fearing that he would be violently overthrown, Tsar Nicholas II abdicated. The State Duma took over control of the country, establishing a Provisional Government and converting the Empire into a new Russian Republic. He organised a plan with other dissidents to negotiate a passage for them through Germany, with whom Russia was then at war. Recognising that these dissidents could cause problems for their Russian enemies, the German government agreed to permit 32 Russian citizens to travel in a "sealed" train carriage through their territory, among them Lenin and his wife.