

The Russian Revolution: The Communist Manifesto and The April Theses

<p><u>The Communist Manifesto</u> Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels 1848</p>	<p><u>The Tasks of the Proletariat in the Present Revolution, aka The April Theses</u> Vladimir Lenin 1917</p>
<p>Compare the characteristics of the Bourgeois and Proletariat; How do these sides represent the “history of class struggles”?</p>	<p>Summarize Lenin’s opinion of World War I; What does he think are the goals of the war?</p>
<p>Explain the impact of the “modern industry.” What do Marx/Engels see as the results of the industrial revolution on the working class around the world?</p>	<p>Explain Lenin’s political views; What does he think of the provisional government? What should an ideal Russian government look like?</p>
<p>Summarize the position of the Communist Party. What do they see as the key questions moving forward and the goals of their party?</p>	<p>Characterize his thoughts of the Communist Party; What organizational changes does he suggest?</p>

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<p><i>Compare the characteristics of the Bourgeois and Proletariat; How do these sides represent the “history of class struggles”?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social class divisions have existed and evolved throughout history • By the 19th century two social classes have emerged: Bourgeois and Proletariat • Bourgeois = owners, employers, and aristocracy who control the majority of capital and exploit the working class • Proletariat = workers, laborers, and peasant farmers who have lost individual character and status because of industrial revolution 	<p><i>Summarize Lenin’s opinion of World War I; What does he think are the goals of the war?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WW I is a “predatory imperialist war for “capitalist aims” • Wants Russia to leave the war and move towards fixing its own government
<p><i>Explain the impact of the “modern industry.” What do Marx/Engels see as the results of the industrial revolution on workers around the world?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes workers an “appendance to the machine” • Workers are “slaves” to the Bourgeois • Bourgeois must be removed and capital put in the hands of the labor class 	<p><i>Explain Lenin’s political views; What does he think of the provisional government? What should an ideal Russian government look like?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not support the provisional government but rather the growing political power of soviet workers • Sees the parliamentary monarch as corrupt and a continuation of bourgeois power • Wants the new government to confiscate land, nationalize banks and borrow from socialism
<p><i>Summarize the position of the Communist Party. What do they see as the key questions moving forward and the goals of their party?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate problem of worker’s rights and answering the “property question” • Long-term aims of sharing and adapting communist vision to the climate/traditions of regions 	<p><i>Characterize his thoughts of the Communist Party; What organizational changes does he suggest?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the party name from Bolshevik to the Communist Party; rebrand the party • Build international support through the creation of “Comintern” • “relate, explain, and recall” Marxism and apply to the Soviet Union