The Russian Revolution

Russian Provisional Government, 1917

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Historical Crisis Committee
Russian Revolution
Your Staff

Crisis Director Ashley Butcher

Hey everyone! I’m a triple major sophomore from Westlake, OH, studying Political Science, International Studies, and French. My interests include foreign relations and peace and diplomacy. I got into Model UN during Spring of 2021 and have had a blast ever since. My favourite squishmellow is Violet. Spring of 2023, I plan to study Arabic, French Literature, and Maghrebi Islam in Morocco. Among my other hobbies I enjoy running and taking part in Miami’s Striders Club - where we run for fun. I can’t wait to see you all!

Chair Ryan Barr

Hello! I’m a junior Diplomacy and Global Politics major from Milton, Georgia, and I look forward to working with all of you at MUMUNC this year! I’ve done Model UN since seventh grade, so as you can tell I’ve quite enjoyed my time. At Miami, I’ve served as Deputy Secretary-General for three years now. My main academic interests are foreign policy and history, making the topic of this committee of particular interest to me - the unique circumstances of the Russian Revolution and the conflicts that characterised the period create an interesting scenario for you all to affect, and I can’t wait to see what you do. Outside of Model UN and history, I enjoy reading old books, studying Chinese, and watching political thrillers.

Co-chair Luke Matasek

Hello! I’m a sophomore majoring in Zoology and I am from Villa Park, Illinois, which is a western suburb of Chicago. My Model UN experience has been consistent since my freshman year of high school. Within the Miami Model UN club, I serve as the Undersecretary of Delegate Development, a role which I started this semester. Outside of Model UN, my interests include hiking, dramatic movies, nature, and reading classic novels. The Russian Revolution is of interest because it was such a crucial event in world history, and even a slight change to how it all played out could lead to a massive change in the world as we know it. I look forward to serving as your co-chair during this weekend of fun and political discourse.
Preface

It is April of 1917 in the newly established Russian Provisional Government. In the aftermath of the bloody February Revolution, the heretofore almost non-existent political discourse has suddenly burst into the public eye, revolving around the nature of the Russian Monarchy/Post-Revolution government, competing visions for the future of the nation, and of course the still-raging Great War. After centuries of autocratic Romanov rule, the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, have been gaining support in hopes to eventually overthrow the state and establish communism while monarchists and nationalists rally the image of the infallible monarchy and the glory of the old Empire, and the republicans scramble to hold the provisional government together and create a truly democratic (or at the very least constitutional) system. The Provisional Government that you are now a member of is technically in control of the nation, though there are those among us who seek no less than the dissolution of the body of which you are now part.

Historical Background

The Romanov dynasty of Russia, having ruled over Russia since 1613, did so with mixed results. Under their leadership, Russia saw great eras of prestige and prosperity, but also periods of turmoil, poverty, and horrific oppression comparable to the worst times of the Dark Ages. Even the trend of liberalism sparked by the Enlightenment reached Russia far slower than the rest of Europe, with the emancipation of Russia’s serfs only coming into effect in 1861 by the order of Tsar Alexander II. His relatively liberal administration of Russia permitted its prestige to grow among the courts of Europe, but was ended by his assassination in 1881. His successor, Alexander III, took the nation back into its more authoritarian tradition through his reactionary policies, abolishing the consultative committees to the monarch and ruling autocratically. Such policies included weakening the power of local elected administrations¹, directly appointing land captains² (Zemskiye Nachalniki) to administer land, supporting Alexander I’s ideology of “Orthodoxy, Autocracy, and Nationality,” the anti-Semitic May Laws of 1882³, and the Russification of the various minorities of the Empire through enforced Russian-language schooling and Orthodox conversion.

Nicholas II’s Reign

Tsar Alexander III’s reign ended in 1894 and his son Nicholas II acceded to the throne at only 26. Though the end of Alexander’s reign brought a relative liberalisation and focus on

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¹ Zemstvo is the Russian word for elected self-government apparatuses in rural Russia following the abolition of Serfdom in 1864. https://www.britannica.com/topic/zemstvo
² Zemskiye Nachalniki was the term for “land captains” appointed by the Crown that assumed near total power over rural communities, similar to feudal sheriffs. https://www.britannica.com/topic/zemsky-nachalnik
industrialization, the principle of autocracy remained
enshrined as the foremost pillar of government under
Nicholas II. Though Nicholas was a close relative of Kaiser
Wilhelm II of Germany and King George V of Britain, relations
with both nations remained strained due to geopolitical
concerns and overlapping spheres of influence. In particular,
relations with the Balkans soured relations with Germany
while relations with Great Britain were tense over the Great
Game\(^4\) in central Asia and the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. The
latter concern became of particular note during the
Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), when Britain’s alliance
with Japan risked British entry into the war against Russia.
Following a decisive defeat at the hands of Imperial Japan,
Russian stability was greatly eroded and the 1905 Russian
Revolution broke out as a consequence. At home, Nicholas
II’s reign saw numerous internal strife and disasters,
including the stampede at Khodynka\(^5\), the massacre of
Bloody Sunday\(^6\), and the aforementioned 1905 Russian Revolution. In the wake of that revolution,
Nicholas II accepted limited constitutional reform, namely the institution of the First State Duma
and the promulgation of the Russian Constitution of 1906.

From the 1905 Revolution to the start of the Great War, the serious social, economic, and
political issues had been generally papered over by Nicholas’s authoritarian crackdown. Despite the
nominal civil liberties guaranteed by the 1906 Constitution, Russia remained an autocratic state
with the secret police ubiquitous in daily life. The nine years between 1905 and the Great War saw
Russia’s fragile government fracture time and time again, with four Dumas being convened from
1906 and 1917 and seven Prime Ministers serving during the same period. Tsar Nicholas, during the
same time, increasingly came to rely on the mystic Rasputin and clerical advice, frustrating
reform-minded parliamentarians and his generally rationalistic Prime Ministers. From 1909 to
around 1916, relations between the Tsar and the Duma had developed into a sort of mutual
respect, with the Duma accepting a more supervisory role rather than a legislative one. However,
by 1916, these amicable trends had turned to hostility over the conduct of the Great War. With
Russian forces performing poorly against the German and Austrians, controversy grew both inside
and outside of the Duma. Public support turned against the monarchy and the Duma as a whole
while large sectors of the population began blaming Rasputin for misleading the Tsar.

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\(^4\) The Great Game was the competition for spheres of influence between British India and Russia, mostly in
Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries.
https://www.loc.gov/ghe/cascade/index.html?appid=a0930b1f4e424987ba68c28880f088ea

\(^5\) https://devastatingdisasters.com/khodynka-tragedy-1896/

\(^6\) https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/bloody-sunday-massacre-in-russia
The February Revolution

The tensions against the wartime Tsarist government erupted into violence in early 1917, with a series of strikes and demonstrations by workers in Petrograd. Over the course of about a week, almost every industrial facility in Petrograd had been stopped by the protests and strikes. Coinciding with International Women’s Day, large groups of women took to the streets to join the strikers. Upon hearing the news, Tsar Nicholas II ordered a military crackdown on the protestors by the Petrograd garrison. The army forces in Petrograd were largely injured or untrained conscripts, as most professional soldiers were on the front lines with the Central Powers. Receiving the orders to fire on their countrymen and women, soldiers in Petrograd began to mutiny from the Tsar’s authority on March 11 (26 February on the old calendar). The city, without forces to keep order, fell into anarchy with competing power circles and the formation of the Petrograd Soviet. On 15 March, Nicholas II abdicated the throne, nominating his brother Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich as Tsar-Designate. Michael refused the throne, noting that he would accept it only upon a democratic consensus\(^7\) (Appendix A).

Formation of the Provisional Government and Petrograd Soviet

To fill the power vacuum left by the Tsar’s abdication, the incumbent State Duma, which had until then served an advisory and supervisory role, was tasked with forming the Russian Provisional Government, of which you are now a member. The Tsar’s transfer of power to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich remains contentious and legally questionable, though the Provisional Government’s authority derives from the Grand Duke’s recognition of the Provisional Government as the temporary executive branch of Russia until a Constituent Assembly is convened (Appendix A). Due to the rapid transition of power from the Imperial Government to the Provisional Government, the same State Duma as before the Revolution is still in power as the Provisional Duma. These same legislators as before the Revolution remaining in power is a major point of issue for revolutionaries, who see the Duma as a remnant of the Imperial era, and instead call for immediate elections to the Constituent Assembly.

At the same time as the formation of the Provisional Government, the Petrograd Soviet, located in the same building as the Provisional Government, operated as a council of elected deputies of soldiers and workers. Rather than claim to be a government of all Russia, the Soviet existed as a mobilising and coordinating force for revolutionary soldiers and workers. In actuality, it served mainly to influence the Provisional Government towards republicanism, egalitarianism, land reform, and democracy. By April of 1917, the Russian Provisional Government had found a regularity in its operations, though the ongoing crises continue to hamper its practical effect.

\(^7\) https://www.alexanderpalace.org/palace/mikhail.php
The April Crisis and the New Cabinet

The most recent major scandal to the Provisional Government was the April Crisis, wherein Foreign Minister Milyukov informed the Allies that Russia intended to continue the war to “its glorious conclusion.” The Russian population, for whom ending the war was a major priority, took issue with Milyukov’s statement and took to the streets demanding the war to end, though these protests largely consisted of urban workers and soldiers. General Kornilov of the Eighth Army requested permission to suppress the demonstrators with loyalist forces, but Premier Lvov denied the request. In the wake of the controversy, the Provisional Government accepted Milyukov’s resignation and sought to form a coalition government with the socialists in the Petrograd Soviet. Six socialist ministers joined the Provisional Government, with four from the democratic-socialist Socialist-Revolutionaries and two from the moderate-communist Mensheviks. It is in the wake of the April Crisis that you now found yourselves, tasked with the formation of a practicable Russian government.

The War

On the war front, Russia has held poorly against the German and Austrian forces from Latvia to Ukraine. The front, nearly 800 miles long, has seen some of the most brutal fighting of the war, with well over three million dead so far and casualties in a similar number. The first Russian incursion into Prussia was beaten back by Hindenburg at the Battle of Tannenberg, while at the same time, Russian forces successfully beat Austrian forces back from Galicia. Through the summer of 1915, Russian forces retreated east of Pinsk, where they entrenched and were attacked continually through 1916. During that time, the Russians launched only one successful offensive, against the Austrians in September 1916. Romania entered the war on the Allied side around the same time, though their entry failed to significantly aid the

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8 https://spartacus-educational.com/RUSmiliuk
9 Brusilov Offensive. https://www.britannica.com
Allies and ultimately saw Central Powers forces push into Romania. Since the Brusilov Offensive, there has been little success on the front, with German and Austrian forces continuing their push into Russia. As of April, the front line remains stagnant from Riga to Dvinsk to Pinsk to Moldova to the mouth of the Pruth river.

**Current Issues**

Under the current government, primary issues include a large population of impoverished peasants, the ongoing war, food and fuel shortages, and sky-high inflation. Secondary issues include the nature of whatever government is to follow the Provisional Government, federalism and separatism of the ethnic provinces, intrinsic inequalities stemming from a long-lasting aristocracy, urgent need for land reform, and the role of religion within the state. The wake of the April Crisis has undermined the legitimacy of the Provisional Government, and the increasing popularity of the Petrograd Soviet only further weakens that same legitimacy.

For the provisional government, the most immediate problem is restoring its legitimacy in the eyes of the general public. Its authority, having been diminished by continued involvement in the Great War and failure for the government to address economic crises, is in free-fall, and the Provisional Government must first and foremost redress the primary concerns of the Russian people: security and nutrition.

**Political Parties in the Provisional Government:**

**Kadets**

The Kadet (Constitutional Democratic) Party is the dominant political party of the intellectuals, urban professionals, and petit-bourgeois. A moderate centrist-liberal party, the Kadets largely support the provisional government and the establishment of a constitutional democracy, though the size of party makes it inevitable that competing factions support either a monarchy or a republic. In economic terms, the Kadets support an eight hour work day and the right of workers to strike. Regarding the minorities, the Kadets have the broadest support of the minorities and support equality for all peoples in Russia.

**Socialist Revolutionaries**

The Socialist Revolutionaries are the largest left-wing party in Russia, having been founded in 1900 as heirs to the populist movement. While the party has large, often dissenting factions within it, the party is predominantly agrarian-socialist and democratic-socialist. The party as a whole supports a Republican government, a Constitutional Convention, redistribution of land to the peasants, and ending the Great War. Factions within the Socialist Revolutionaries also support federalism, equality for the minorities of Russia, and the establishment of elected bodies with universal suffrage.
Mensheviks

The Mensheviks (Minority) are a faction within the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party, and confusingly constitute the majority of the party. Mensheviks support democratic republicanism, decentralised power structures for provinces and municipalities, and privatisation of multiple industries. Rather than the more radical Bolshevik platform, the Mensheviks do not seek to alienate the bourgeois and former aristocracy, instead choosing a more inclusive platform.

Bolsheviks

The Bolsheviks (Majority) are the smaller faction within the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party and constitute the most radical left-wing party in the Provisional Government. Much of the Petrograd Soviet is made up of Bolshevik supporters, and their ideals have found much support among the proletariat, who feel alienated from what is seen as an elitist Provisional Government. Bolshevik leaders support a variety of radical economic and social policies, including democratic centralism, widespread collectivizations, and punishments for former landowners. Due to its more radical (extremist to some) policies, the Bolsheviks do not hold power in the Provisional Government and are reduced to influence it from the outside.

Progressists

The Progressive Party is a relatively minor group of conservative liberals and constitutional monarchists. Members of the Progressists tend to support economic liberalism while also facilitating social conservatism. Constitutionalism is one of the cornerstones of Progressist policy, along with equality for ethnic and religious minorities, the right to unionise, and the accountability of the government to an elected parliament. Progressists support mercantilism, capitalism, and free enterprise.

Union of 17 October

The Union of 17 October has only minor representation in the Provisional Government through the Ober-Procurator. The most conservative party represented in the Provisional Government, the Union supported the monarchy until the end, though over time began to support equality for ethnic and religious groups. In terms of governance, the Union supports constitutional monarchy with a strong, elitist parliament similar to the British House of Lords. On economic questions, the Union supports favouritism for landowners, private farming, and minor land reform.

Structure of the Provisional Government

The Provisional Government has mostly retained its governmental structure from the Russian Empire, with the many internal disputes of the government preventing any substantial political reform from being passed. The Provisional State Duma serves as the legislature of the nation, and appoints the Cabinet and the Prime Minister. The State Duma is, in name, freely elected by the peoples of Russia, while in actuality still being representative of wealthy property-owners and the bourgeoisie. Since elections for the Duma have not been held since
before the Revolution, the members of the Duma are still the same ones chosen before the Revolution. Since to the abdication of the Tsar, there is a lack of central executive power in Russia, leaving the Duma in de jure control of the nation, while in reality, the cabinet executes all real power. The authority of the Duma over the provisional government derives from a manifesto signed by Tsar-Designate Michael Alexandrovich, Prime Minister Lvov, and members of the Provisional Government on 16 March, drafted by lawyers Baron Nolde and Vladimir Nabokov (Appendix A). The cabinet can act as an executive by majority decision, though it is important to remember that the cabinet of which you are a part has lost much of its recognition by the people, and to be able to effectively implement policy it must restore the public trust. Further, informal agreements between the Prime Minister, Duma, and elements of the former monarchy have agreed to the election of a Constituent Assembly to determine the formation of a new government. The ongoing war and internal civil strife have prevented the election of the Assembly by “universal, direct, equal, and secret suffrage,” as requested by Tsar-Designate Grand Duke Michael and the democratic elements within the country. As the current Duma and Provisional Government are viewed as only temporary authorities until a new permanent government is created, the government as a whole suffers from a lack of purpose and sense of transience.

Foreign Affairs

The Russian Provisional Government, as the legal successor to the Russian Empire, has assumed the responsibilities and duties of the Empire in all international affairs. Treaty requirements that bind the Provisional Government technically oblige Russia to remain as an allied power until Germany, Austria, and the Ottoman Empire are defeated. Despite these obligations, the Russian population is overwhelmingly against the war, and the Provisional Government must balance domestic opinion against the war and the responsibility to her allies.
Roles:

Kadets:
Prince Georgy Lvov  
*Prime Minister*

Coming from a frugal lifestyle of an impoverished petty noble, Prince Georgy Lvov was exposed at an early age to the lifestyle of common Russians. His family’s financial issues led to them living without servants or assistance, instilling in the future Prime Minister a sense of “democracy” and sympathy with the common people. Though educated in law, Prime Minister Lvov rose to national prominence during the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War, when he organised a voluntary medical battalion to aid Russian forces against the Japanese in Manchuria. Uniquely, this medical battalion was funded and organised by the provincial zemstvos, pseudo-democratic local institutions. The medical mission allowed the semi-democratic zemstvos to regain legal authority and prestige following their ban in 1890. Elected to the State Duma in 1905, Lvov gained a name as a humanitarian and activist, later supporting another voluntary medical mission to the Great War. Lvov later became a leader of the Russian Union of Zemstvos, a body for coordination between the elected provincial councils. As the revolution kicked off, the Duma appointed Lvov as Prime Minister. In his first few weeks, he was able to launch broad reforms for adult suffrage, freedom of speech, freedom of press, abolition of race/culture/faith-based discrimination laws, and the right of women to vote, much to the surprise of a group of suffragettes who expected a lengthy fight. Besides these broad reforms, he has thus far had difficulty in marshalling support but it is hoped that he will be able to rally a broad coalition to carry out necessary reforms.

Nikolai Vissarionovich Nekrasov  
*Minister of Transport & Speaker of the Duma*

Minister of Transport Nekrasov, a prominent member of the left wing of the Constitutional Democrats, serves concurrently as the Chairman of the State Duma. As a member of the centre-liberal party and a sympathiser of labour movements, Nekrasov was broadly supported by both centre and left parties as a fairly neutral Chairman. As a leader in the government, Nekrasov argued for the inclusion of moderate socialists (Socialist–Revolutionaries) in the government, and is a hero to many across the political spectrum for his neutrality and moderatism.
Andrei Shingarev
Minister of Finance

Minister of Finance Shingarev is another leading figure in the Constitutional Democrats (Kadets). A medical doctor by trade, Shingarev became a published columnist in a number of Russian magazines and periodicals. His columns included a number of popular liberal ideas, and he first served as the chairman of the provincial health department before being appointed as Minister of Agriculture in the first Provisional Government. With both medical and agricultural expertise as author of the Kadet agrarian policy, Shingarev was later appointed as Minister of Finance following the April reshuffle.

Andrei Manuilov
Minister of Education

Minister of Education, Alexander Manuilov, helped to found the Constitutional Democratic Party in 1905. Graduating with a law degree in 1883 from Novorossiya University in Odessa, Manuilov worked his way up to become the rector of Moscow University in 1908. Along with Andrei Shingarev, Manuilov wrote the Kadet agrarian reform program calling for “the extension of peasant land ownership.” Manuilov, despite representing a liberal party, adheres to Marxian theories of economics, namely the labour theory of value.

Progressives:
Mikhail Tereschenko
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Foreign Minister Tereschenko comes from a Ukrainian landowning family and was first elected to the Fourth State Duma in 1912. Concurrent with his term in the Duma, Tereschenko ran a publishing company in St Petersburg before the outbreak of war in 1914. During the early part of the war, Tereschenko aided Lvov’s humanitarian and medical efforts through the Red Cross. Appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tereschenko is known as an advocate for cooperation with socialist parties and for ending the war quickly. His appointment in the wake of the contentious April Crisis has left the foreign affairs of the new Russian government in a fragile state, balancing domestic and foreign concerns.
Aleksandr Konovalov

*Minister of Trade and Industry*

Minister of Trade and Industry Aleksandr Konovalov is another prominent liberal voice in the Progressive Party. Konovalov was born to a wealthy family invested in the textile industry, serving as its financier before being elected to the fourth State Duma in 1912. Konovalov is generally known to be among the strongest supporters of classical liberalism and strong corporations in the new Russia. While the government has shifted leftward following the April Crisis and the agreement to cooperate with the Petrograd Soviet, Minister Konovalov remains a strong proponent of free trade, liberal market policies, and a free market.

**Socialist-Revolutionaries (Trudoviks):**

Pavel Pereverzev

*Minister of Justice*

Minister of Justice Pavel Nikolaevich Pereverzev started his career as a barrister in Saint Petersburg. A public defender from 1901 and member of the Council of Attorneys-at-Law of Saint Petersburg, Pereverzev defended both political prisoners accused of disseminating illegal literature and journalists accused of publishing anti-government materials. In a 1911 trial, Pereverzev successfully had his client acquitted despite his guilt, posing a moral question of repentance to the jurors. His colleagues called him “a human soul,” cheerful, well-spoken, and “pure and honest.” His recognition as a fair jurist allowed his appointment as Minister of Justice, where he serves with neutrality and impartiality - holding the government accountable before law.

Viktor Chernov

*Minister of Agriculture*

Minister of Agriculture Viktor Chernov was a leading anti-war member of the Provisional Government, denouncing it as an “Imperialist War,” but has turned to a more defensive policy following his appointment as Minister of Agriculture. A popular leader of the populist-agrarian-peasant faction of the Trudoviks, Chernov is hailed by many as the leading advocate for rural poor populations to the provisional government.
Alexander Kerensky

*Minister of War and Navy*

Alexander Kerensky is one of the faces of the February Revolution, having entered the public eye around 1912 for his reports on the violent suppression of a gold miners’ strike in Lena. A leading voice against the monarchy in the State Duma, Kerensky was appointed to the executive council of the Provisional Duma, as well as to the Vice-chairmanship of the Petrograd Soviet. His influence in both the moderate Provisional Government and the more radical Petrograd Soviet gives Minister Kerensky sizable ability to bring both factions together - or apart if he so wishes. Kerensky was appointed to the Ministry of War following the April Crisis, and has used his new position to visit the front lines and attempt to motivate the army to continue the war.

Alexei Peshekhonov

*Minister of Food*

Minister Alexei Peshekhonov started his political activism at a young age, being expelled from seminary at age 17 for political activity. Despite a lack of formal training, Peshekhonov became a statistician and teacher for the Tver, Orla, and Kaluga zemstvos before becoming a journalist in 1899. From 1900 to 1906, Peshekhonov was involved in revolutionary circles, arrested several times for his activism. After the February Revolution, Peshekhonov became an agrarian-farmer advocate of the Petrograd Soviet. As one of the further left-wing members of the Trudoviks and a member of both the Provisional Government and the Soviet, Peshekhonov is well suited to bridge the divide.
**Mensheviks (Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party):**

Matvey Skobelev

*Minister of Labour*

Azeri Minister of Labour Matvey Skobelev is the leading member of the moderate Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party in the Provisional Government, as well as a leading member of the Petrograd Soviet. Skobelev and his fellow Menshevik Irakli Tsereteli have served as negotiators and mediators within the Provisional Government, trying to balance the more radical Bolsheviks with the moderate views of the Mensheviks and Trudoviks. Skobelev follows moderate socialist economic policies, being a strong advocate of worker rights while also emphasising the necessity of partial liberalisation and national productivity.

Irakli Tsereteli

*Minister of Post and Telegraph*

Minister Tsereteli, leading Georgian socialist and publicist, is a famed Social-Democrat and orator in the anti-monarchist groups prior to 1917. Tsereteli has used his immense public speaking skills to broker compromise and negotiations along with his colleague Matvey Skobelev between radical socialists and the more moderate liberals and progressives. Though his position of Minister of Post and Telegraph affords him little actual power, his negotiating skills are unmatched.

**Bolsheviks (Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party):**

Vladimir Lenin

*Leader of the Radical Bolsheviks*

Vladimir Illyich Ulyanov (Lenin) is the leading radical revolutionary on the left of the Provisional Government. Though he was not in Russia for the events of the February Revolution, his writings and influence was undoubtedly one of the strongest motivating factors behind the Revolution. Lenin worked his way to the head of the radical faction of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party, motivated by his brother’s execution in 1887. The ideological split that divided the party in 1903 saw him rise to prominence as the major opposition to the more moderate Mensheviks. From 1914, Lenin opposed the war and the Tsar from exile in Switzerland.
before returning in 1917. Since arriving in Russia just earlier in April 1917, Lenin has taken a vocal opposition to the Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet for both being too moderate. His positions since arriving include peace with Germany without conditions, nationalisation of all industries and banks, seizure of land, and government by worker councils (soviet). Lenin views the February Revolution as insufficient, and seeks a second revolution to achieve a “Dictatorship of the Proletariat” in Russia, then an eventual socialist revolution over all of Europe.

Lev Kamenev
*Leader of the Moderate Bolsheviks*

Lev Borisovich Rozenfeld (Kamenev) is a close associate of Lenin, though he disagrees with the means by which Russia should achieve communism. His parents were both revolutionaries, sparking his life-long struggle against the Tsarist and capitalistic systems in Russia. Joining the RSDLP in 1901, he attempted to mend the Menshevik-Bolshevik schism in 1910 though these attempts ultimately failed. From 1915 to the February Revolution, Kamenev was exiled in Siberia for working with the Bolsheviks in the Duma while Lenin was in exile in Switzerland. Since being freed from exile by the February Revolution, Kamenev has worked both with and against Lenin in the Bolsheviks by advocating compromise and cooperation with the Mensheviks, Trudoviks, and Provisional Government. His opposition to the use of force to overthrow the Provisional Government has led to his vilification by Trotskyist radicals, though he remains influential enough to influence the Bolsheviks as a whole to adopt his more reformist moderatism.

**Independents:**

Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich
*Tsar-Designate*

Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich Romanov is the younger brother of former Tsar Nicholas II. Due to Nicholas’s heir being afflicted with haemophilia, the younger brother of the Tsar Michael Alexandrovich was chosen by the Tsar as his heir to the throne and as “Tsar-Designate.” Described as “good-natured,” “quiet,” and “unremarkable,” the Grand Duke is seen as a moderating influence on the nation as a whole and as a relatively untarnished member of the monarchy. When the war began, Michael returned from exile to serve on the front line, where he became a popular military leader unlike his older brother, seen as elitist and alienated. The horrors he witnessed on the
front line led to his embitterment with “people at the top who hold power and allow the horror to happen.” In private writings, he spoke of his shame to face the people...for “[having] failed to prevent all that from happening.” Through 1916, Michael was awarded for his bravery and leadership on the front line, though by 1917 his associate General Aleksei Brusilov was entreating him to compel the Tsar to “immediate and drastic” reforms. When the February Revolution broke out, Michael was given the throne by Tsar Nicholas without informing Michael until he was woken the following morning. Upon hearing the news, Michael convened with Prime Minister Lvov, Kerensky, and other provisional government officials, where he agreed to neither accept nor deny the throne, instead deferring the decision to a Constituent Assembly “elected within the shortest possible time by universal, direct, equal, and secret suffrage.”

Lavr Kornilov  
Commander of the Eighth Army  
General Lavr Kornilov

Vladimir Lvov  
Ober-Procurator
Appendix

Appendix A
Manifold of 16 March, 1917

“Inspired, in common with the whole people, by the belief that the welfare of our country must be set above everything else, I have taken the firm decision to assume the supreme power only if and when our great people, having elected by universal suffrage a Constituent Assembly to determine the form of government and lay down the fundamental law of the new Russian State, invest me with such power.

Calling upon them the blessing of God, I therefore request all the citizens of the Russian Empire to submit to the Provisional Government, established and invested with full authority by the Duma, until such time as the Constituent Assembly, elected within the shortest possible time by universal, direct, equal and secret suffrage, shall manifest the will of the people by deciding upon the new form of government.”

(Signed) MICHAEL ALEXANDROVITCH
Petrograd, March 16, 1917.

From: https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/kerensky/1927/catastrophe/ch01.htm