

COLLAPSE OF TSARIST RUSSIA READING GUIDE

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be a demanding reader as you consider the three points of view on the collapse of the tsarist government in 1917. Be sure to underline key phrases, terms, and quotes. Write margin notes and questions in the margins.
2. Complete the comprehension questions and comparison question on your own sheet of paper.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: Support with direct references (page #s) from the text.

Viewpoint 1: “Russia's undemocratic monarchy, its fragmented society, and its troubled economy made radical revolution inescapable.” *By Catherine Blair.*

1. List the factors that led to the collapse of the tsarist government in 1917? Which was the most important, driving force behind the collapse of the tsarist government according to Blair? Why?
2. Why was the Provisional Government also doomed to failure? Which of the reasons do you think was most influential in this government’s demise? Why?

Viewpoint 2: “Without Lenin the Bolsheviks had no reasonable chance of imposing their particular structure on the revolutionary process.” *By PAUL DU QUENOY.*

1. According to the author, why did the Bolshevik party have no reasonable chance of imposing their will and communist agenda in the Russian Revolution?

Viewpoint 3: “The Russian Revolution was well on its course before Lenin's return.” *By GRETA BUCHER.*

1. What does the author see as more influential to the Russian Revolution’s turning to communism than Lenin’s return?

DEBATE: Could the Russian Revolution have taken place without Lenin? Support your argument with examples and page references.