RA07

RUSSIA 1917: REVOLUTION & BOLSHEVISM

War, power and the test of funding claims

ILLUSTRATED DOCUMENTARY GUIDE

A source-based comparison of revolutionary decisions, foreign support and Beter's interpretation.

February · October · German support · Sisson · repression · Beter

Tempus omnia revelat.

First edition · October 11, 2026 · v1.0

EN · 01 / 24

1917 in two calendars

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

EDITORIAL DIAGRAM · NOT NEW EMPIRICAL DATA

2 Mar. OS	15 Mar. NS	25 Oct. OS	7 Nov. NS

Two events; two calendars. For 1917: NS = OS + 13 days.

FEBRUARY / MARCH

The monarchy fell in spring. Nicholas II abdicated on March 2 OS / March 15 NS. The Bolsheviks' October opponent was no longer the tsar.

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

Seizure of power in Petrograd: October 25 OS / November 7 NS. For an April letter, always ask which government the author supported.

RULE

For 1917, adding thirteen days converts OS into NS. A revolution's name does not prove that events in different sources have the same date.

First establish the date, government and addressee; interpretation follows.

Sources: S01, S04, S07, S16, S22 · Study, ch. 1

A crisis also has internal causes

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

STREETS AND SOLDIERS

Supply, protest and broken obedience were not mere scenery. Without enforceable orders, a monarch’s title did not guarantee power.

CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

July and the Kornilov affair changed the political situation. The eventual victor was not continuously omnipotent from the year’s beginning.

OUTSIDE INFLUENCE

Assistance can increase an organisation’s ability to exploit a crisis. Alone it does not explain why the crisis arose or why an appeal found support.

The outcome of 1917 was not already an accomplished fact in every month of that year.

Sources: S01, S02, S06, S18 · Study, ch. 2, 6

A council is not a party

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

EDITORIAL DIAGRAM · NOT NEW EMPIRICAL DATA

Provisional Government	Petrograd Soviet	Armed units

Competing authorities, not the hierarchy of a single command.

FOUR ENTITIES

Community, party, soviet and government are not synonyms. A surname does not establish a political mandate.

DUAL POWER

Order No. I shows competing authorities. Lenin’s writings reveal his interpretation, not a common view of every council.

MINORITY

The April Theses acknowledge a Bolshevik minority in many soviets. An autumn outcome must not rewrite the balance in spring.

Office, support and the ability to enforce an order need not belong to the same hands.

Sources: S02, S03, S04, S05, S07, S12, S24 · Study, ch. 3, 4

Theses before the regime

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

PROGRAMME

Lenin rejected support for the Provisional Government and proposed a transfer of power. His specific proposals can be read without guessing from ancestry.

CONTROL

A programme of banking and economic control does not itself establish successful implementation. Later decrees are additional evidence.

EVALUATION

Explaining an argument does not endorse subsequent violence. Criticism is more precise when it knows the programme’s actual content.

A programme states an objective; it does not establish implementation or public consent.

Sources: S04, S14 · Study, ch. 5

October was also an organisational decision

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

RECORD

The Central Committee approved the insurrection decision by 10–2. This is a specific record of organised action.

REACH

An armed seizure of government is not a referendum. Nor does it automatically mean no support among workers and soldiers.

IMAGE

A later staging of the attack on the Winter Palace records commemoration and promotion, not the event itself.

Organisation and social support are compatible; neither is an unlimited mandate.

Sources: S07, S08, S35 · Study, ch. 7

Read a dated government roster

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

SOVNARKOM

The first decree gives offices and names, as well as an interim mandate pending the Constituent Assembly. This is a sound starting point.

DO NOT CONFLATE

Government, party committee and Cheka are not one roster. Percentages need a date and a complete denominator.

RESPONSIBILITY

Examine what an office-holder did. Ancestry does not prove representation of everyone sharing that ancestry.

A dated roster of offices is better evidence than a political collage of surnames.

Sources: S09 · Study, ch. 8

Peace and land: what was promised

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

PEACE

A proposal for talks is different from a concluded treaty. November 1917 is not March 1918.

LAND

The decree abolished landlord ownership and invoked peasant mandates. Its wording does not supply the complete result in every village.

TWO QUESTIONS

A measure’s political appeal and its justice towards everyone affected require separate assessment.

A declared programme is not yet a peace treaty or a local outcome.

Sources: S10, S11, S25 · Study, ch. 9

An election result is not military predominance

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

EDITORIAL DIAGRAM · NOT NEW EMPIRICAL DATA

Support in a city	A soviet mandate	Votes nationwide

Different units of comparison: do not treat them as one majority.

VOTES

The overview used reports about 24% of votes cast for the Bolsheviks. That is not a nationwide electoral majority.

DISSOLUTION

The elected body was dissolved. The government’s justification documents its decision, not all voters’ consent.

MANDATES

A local soviet, a congress and national elections create different forms of representation.

Military predominance, a Soviet mandate and an electoral majority are not identical.

Sources: S12, S13 · Study, ch. 10

What happened to banks and debts

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

BANKS

Nationalisation and state monopoly changed legal control. Declared protection for depositors requires separate examination of practice.

DEBTS

A decree explicitly annulled foreign loans. A claim of unlimited creditor power must explain this contrary evidence.

LIMIT

Nationalisation excludes neither all corruption nor all influence. It does require a specific mechanism rather than a general label.

Nationalisation does not prove an absence of influence; it tests a claim of ownership-based control.

Sources: S14, S15 · Study, ch. 11

A train and three kinds of support

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

EDITORIAL DIAGRAM · NOT NEW EMPIRICAL DATA

Transit → **Funding** → **Political control**

Each level requires its own evidence.

LOGISTICS

Germany’s facilitation of the journey is a concrete relationship. It should not be erased.

FINANCE

Financial support needs its own documentary basis. A travel route is not a receipt from the party treasury.

COMMAND

Complete control is a stronger claim: who could issue a binding order and enforce compliance?

Facilitating travel is a documented relationship, not by itself a complete contract of control.

Sources: S04, S17 · Study, ch. 12

Take Kühlmann’s record seriously

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

CONTEMPORARY EVIDENCE

The December 3, 1917 record discusses continuing support for the Bolsheviks. It is not merely a later conjecture.

ACCESS

We read a historian’s reproduction with an archival reference, not the autograph. This distinction is recorded in the study.

REACH

Evidence of support is neither a full balance sheet nor proof that one power directed every event of the revolution.

The existence of support, its amount and complete control are three different claims.

Sources: S17 · Study, ch. 13

What a financial trail must contain

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

EDITORIAL DIAGRAM · NOT NEW EMPIRICAL DATA

Sender’s outlay → **Transfer route** → **Receipt and purpose**

Matching records are stronger than a single accusation.

ACCUSATION

Names, accounts and telegrams in a prosecutorial text do not automatically confirm its final theory.

CHECK

Verify origin, purpose, authority over funds and final recipient. Neither ordinary trade nor secret subsidy should be assumed without evidence.

OPEN LIMIT

RA07 does not pretend to audit all accounts. Only Lyandres’s abstract and bibliography were available.

Origin, purpose, authority over funds and the final recipient require separate verification.

Sources: S17, S18, S19 · Study, ch. 14

An authentic wrapper, false contents

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

EDITORIAL DIAGRAM · NOT NEW EMPIRICAL DATA

Real archive → **Authentic telegram** → **Disputed enclosure**

An authentic covering record does not automatically authenticate an enclosure.

FRANCIS

The covering telegram acknowledges gaps in access to originals and requests verification.

SISSON

Later research identifies the collection as fabricated. Official preservation of a report does not authenticate every enclosure.

NO REVERSE SHORTCUT

A forgery in one collection does not erase every independent record of German support.

Authenticity of a covering report does not automatically authenticate its enclosures.

Sources: S17, S20, S21 · Study, ch. 15

An April telegram is not a November one

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

DATE

April 16, 1917: a Bolshevik government did not yet exist.

CONTENT

The telegram bearing Schiff’s signature supported the Provisional Government and opposed a separate peace with the Central Powers.

INTERPRETATION

An isolated sentence about cooperation can reverse the meaning. A particular document is still not an audit of all a firm’s activities.

Support for a revolution against the tsar is not automatically support for the Bolsheviks.

Sources: S22, S23 · Study, ch. 16

The same year is not enough

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

TWO EVENTS

The Balfour Declaration and October seizure of power were close in time but institutionally different events.

MISSING BRIDGE

Common command requires a documented decision-making relationship, not dates placed beside each other.

BETER AND THE DIGEST

Later texts establish the existence of a theory. They do not replace records of its alleged implementation.

The same year is neither a financial trail nor an organisational order.

Sources: S07, S22, S25, S31, S32, S33, S34 · Study, ch. 17

Brest and other external interests

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

PEACE TREATY

Brest imposed concrete territorial and military obligations. It is not a retrospective receipt for every alleged transfer.

OTHER ACTORS

An American July 1918 document admitted limited military tasks, including assistance to Czechoslovak forces.

CONTEXT

Germany, the Allies and local parties were not a single category. Declared objectives must be distinguished from outcomes.

Foreign actor is not a uniform category; even allies imposed different limits.

Sources: S10, S25, S26, S27, S36 · Study, ch. 18, 20

Repressive orders have their own documents

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

CHEKA

Founding instructions assigned the commission a fight against counter-revolution and sabotage. The initial mandate is not all later practice.

RED TERROR

The September 5, 1918 resolution explicitly prescribes camps and executions. Criticism does not need fabricated evidence to be serious.

VICTIMS

An order evidences policy, not the complete number of killings carried out. A total requires separate records.

A documented repressive order is a serious fact, but not an unlimited victim total.

Sources: S26, S27 · Study, ch. 19

Belief, rights and property restrictions

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

FREEDOM

The text declares a right to believe or not to believe. That wording should not be omitted.

RESTRICTIONS

It also deprives religious societies of legal personality and ownership. Freedom in one sentence does not erase the other provisions.

RESPONSIBILITY

Examine state policy through institutions and actions. Ancestry is not a substitute explanation.

Examine legal restrictions directly; do not replace their explanation with hereditary guilt.

Sources: S28, S31 · Study, ch. 21

A uniform is no guarantee of protection

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

SPEECH

Lenin condemned anti-Jewish pogroms. His speech documents a position, not every soldier’s obedience.

UMAN

Scholarly analysis documents anti-Jewish violence within Soviet units as well. Concrete conduct must be identified without partisan exemption.

DISTINCTION

Track the unit, date and commander. Do not transfer responsibility to an entire people or lose sight of particular perpetrators.

A speech against pogroms does not prove their absence.

Sources: S24, S29, S30 · Study, ch. 22

What stands and what has not been established

Reused AI illustration from the series — not an image of a specific historical event.

EDITORIAL DIAGRAM · NOT NEW EMPIRICAL DATA

Crisis	Organisation	Outside assistance	Decisions and violence

Analytical categories, not measured shares of causation.

DOCUMENTED

Revolutionary decisions, German support and repressive rules have specific sources. Their existence should not be concealed.

UNSUPPORTED

A complete hereditary axis and Beter’s extraordinary victim totals do not follow from these records.

OPEN

Precise financial channels and local consequences require more investigation. Uncertainty is not permission to fill a gap with collective accusation.

Precision does not dilute responsibility; it identifies who bears it and for what.

Sources: S01, S08, S09, S10, S11, S12, S13, S14, S15, S17, S18, S19, S20, S21, S22, S23, S24, S26, S27, S28, S29, S30, S31, S32, S33 · Study, ch. 23, 24

Source key / 1

Identifiers refer to the full bibliography, access scope and limitations in the text study. Source titles remain in their original language.

S01 · Abdication Manifesto
Nicholas II; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 2/15 March 1917
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S02 · February Revolution
Lewis Siegelbaum; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · Undated web essay
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Historical essay

S03 · Order No. I
Petrograd Soviet; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 1/14 March 1917
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S04 · The Tasks of the Proletariat in the Present Revolution (April Theses)
V. I. Lenin; Marxists Internet Archive · 4/17 April 1917
Online source: www.marxists.org · Primary / translated

S05 · The Dual Power
V. I. Lenin; Marxists Internet Archive · 9/22 April 1917
Online source: www.marxists.org · Primary / translated

S06 · Kornilov Affair
Lewis Siegelbaum; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · Undated web essay
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Historical essay

S07 · Bolsheviks Seize Power
Lewis Siegelbaum; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · Undated web essay
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Historical essay

S08 · Central Committee Decides on Armed Uprising
Bolshevik Central Committee; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 10/23 October 1917
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S09 · Soviet of People’s Commissars (Sovnarkom)
Second Congress of Soviets; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 26 October / 8 November 1917
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S10 · Decree on Peace
Second Congress of Soviets; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 26 October / 8 November 1917
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S11 · Decree on the Land
Second Congress of Soviets; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 26 October / 8 November 1917
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S12 · Constituent Assembly
Lewis Siegelbaum; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · Undated web essay
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Historical essay

Source key / 2

Identifiers refer to the full bibliography, access scope and limitations in the text study. Source titles remain in their original language.

S13 · Dissolution of the Constituent Assembly
All-Russian Central Executive Committee; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 6/19 January 1918
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S14 · Nationalization of Banks
All-Russian Central Executive Committee; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 14/27 December 1917
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S15 · First Decrees of Soviet Power: Annulment of State Loans
Yuri Akhapkin, ed.; Lawrence & Wishart · 1970 edition; decree 21 January / 3 February 1918
Online source: www.marxists.org · Primary / edited translation

S16 · Introduction of a New Calendar
Council of People’s Commissars; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 24 January / 6 February 1918 (edition heading)
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S17 · Spiel um Weltmacht. Deutschland und die Russische Revolution
Gerd Koenen; Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte / bpb · 18 August 2017
Online source: www.bpb.de · Historical research / reproduced primary

S18 · Charges against the Bolsheviks
Petrograd prosecutorial account; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 22 July / 4 August 1917 (source publication)
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / accusation

S19 · The Bolsheviks’ “German Gold” Revisited: An Inquiry into the 1917 Accusations
Semion Lyandres; Carl Beck Papers 1106 · 1995
Online source: carlbeckpapers.pitt.edu · Research / abstract only

S20 · Francis to the Secretary of State, telegram 2354
U.S. Department of State, FRUS 1918, Russia, vol. I · 9–13 February 1918
Online source: history.state.gov · Primary / diplomatic report

S21 · The Sisson Documents and their “distinguished place” in the history of disinformation
John Maxwell Hamilton & Christina Georgacopoulos · 2021
Online source: repository.lsu.edu · Research / abstract only

S22 · The Secretary of State to Ambassador Francis, telegram 1321
U.S. Department of State, FRUS 1917, Supplement 2, vol. I · 16 April 1917
Online source: history.state.gov · Primary / diplomatic record

S23 · Jewish Bankers, Russia, and the Soviet Union, 1900–1940: The Case of Kuhn, Loeb and Company
Priscilla Roberts · American Jewish Archives Journal 49(1–2), 1997, pp. 9–37
Online source: www.academia.edu · Historical research / author-posted text

S24 · Bund Archives, RG 1400
YIVO Archives · Collection guide
Online source: yivoarchives.yivo.org · Archival finding aid

Source key / 3

Identifiers refer to the full bibliography, access scope and limitations in the text study. Source titles remain in their original language.

S25 · Treaty of Brest Litovsk
Russia and the Central Powers; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 3 March 1918
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated extract

S26 · Establishment of the Cheka
Council of People’s Commissars; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 7/20 December 1917
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / later published extract

S27 · Resolution on Red Terror
Council of People’s Commissars; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 5 September 1918
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S28 · Freedom of Religious Conscience
Council of People’s Commissars; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 2 February 1918 (edition heading)
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / translated

S29 · Anti-Jewish Pogroms
V. I. Lenin; Marxists Internet Archive · Recorded March 1919
Online source: www.marxists.org · Primary / translated speech

S30 · Red Antisemitism: Anti-Jewish Violence and Revolutionary Politics in Ukraine, 1919
Brendan McGeever; Quest, no. 15 · 2019
Online source: www.quest-cdecjournal.it · Historical research

S31 · Audio Letter No. 50
Peter David Beter · 30 September 1979
Online source: www.peterdavidbeter.com · Interpretive primary / transcript

S32 · Audio Letter No. 67
Peter David Beter · 25 August 1981
Online source: www.peterdavidbeter.com · Interpretive primary / transcript

S33 · A Bird’s-Eye View of the Dr. Beter Audio Letter Series
Audio Books Inc.; Audio Letter Reference Digest · 1983
Online source: www.peterdavidbeter.com · Later interpretive digest

S34 · Balfour Declaration
Arthur James Balfour; Avalon Project, Yale Law School · 2 November 1917
Online source: avalon.law.yale.edu · Primary / transcription

S35 · Taking of the Winter Palace Re-enacted
Description of the 1920 spectacle; Seventeen Moments in Soviet History · 1920; retrospective staging
Online source: soviethistory.msu.edu · Primary / later reconstruction

S36 · The Secretary of State to the Allied Ambassadors: Aide-Mémoire
U.S. Department of State, FRUS 1918, Russia, vol. II · 17 July 1918
Online source: history.state.gov · Primary / diplomatic policy