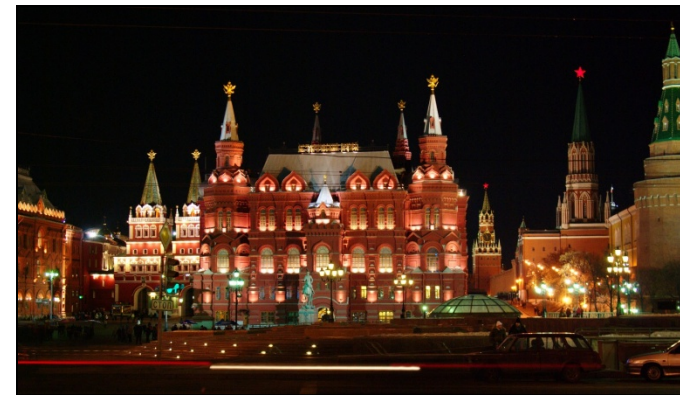


Animal Farm and The Russian Revolution: A Comparison

- In order to understand George Orwell's literary masterpiece *Animal Farm*, you must know a few people and events that played important roles in the Russian Revolution.

Czar Nicholas II

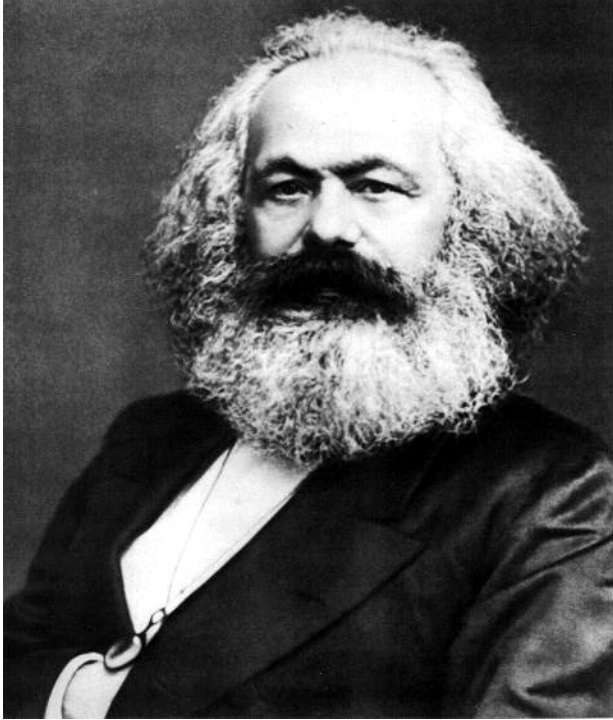
- Czar Nicholas II was Russia's last czar. He was part of the Romanov dynasty that ruled Russia for over 300 years!
- Czar means *emperor* and comes from the word *Caesar*.
- Russian czars lived in a magnificent palace called the Kremlin.
- Czar Nicholas was narrow-minded and incompetent. He was an autocrat – a self-appointed ruler who holds all the political power.
- In March 1917, there were food riots and army mutinies in Petrograd (a Russian city). Czar Nicholas couldn't cope with the difficult situation, so he abdicated the throne.



In *Animal Farm* ...

Mr. Jones = Czar Nicholas II

Karl Marx



In *Animal Farm* ...
Old Major = Karl Marx

- Marx believed the workers (proletarians) were the true producers of wealth. But the capitalists (bourgeoisie) owned the means of production – land and industry. Therefore, the capitalists made huge profits while the workers earned just enough to survive.
- Marx called for “workers of the world” to unite against their capitalist oppressors.
- Marx believed that eventually the proletariat would become so numerous and so unhappy that they would rise up against the capitalist system throughout the world. This school of thought came to be known as Marxist theory.

Leon Trotsky

- Trotsky was a brilliant intellectual and speaker who organized the Red Army and led it to victory against the White Armies in the Civil War of 1918-1919.
- Trotsky and Stalin disagreed on Russia's future. Trotsky wanted the Communist revolution to be worldwide. Stalin wanted to protect the Soviet Union from outside forces (keep communism in the USSR).
- Stalin defeated Trotsky at the Communist Party Congress in 1927 and gained control of the secret police.
- Trotsky was chased away by the KGB (secret police) and fled to Mexico City, where a Soviet agent killed him with an axe in 1940.



In *Animal Farm* ...
Snowball = Leon Trotsky

Joseph Stalin



In *Animal Farm* ...
Napoleon = Joseph Stalin

- While most Russian leaders belonged to the middle-class, Joseph Stalin was born into the peasant class.
- Unlike Trotsky, Stalin was not well-educated and could not discuss Marxist theory on a sophisticated level.
- Stalin was named General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1922. He was in charge of dull paperwork for the Communist party.
- Though this position seemed unimportant, Stalin used his position as secretary to gain supporters for his future rise to power. He eventually defeated Trotsky in the struggle for power.