Red Red Russia

Directions: Examine the documents below and answer the associated questions in the open space.

Analyzing Key Concepts

**Communism**
Communism is a political and economic system of organization. In theory, property is owned by the community and all citizens share in the common wealth according to their need. In practice, this was difficult to achieve.

German philosopher Karl Marx saw communism as the end result of an essential historical process. Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin built on Marx's theories and sought ways of applying those theories. Ultimately, however, Lenin's communist state—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)—became a one-party, totalitarian system. This chart compares how Marx and Lenin viewed communism.

**Evolution of Communist Thought**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marx</th>
<th>Lenin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History was the story of class struggle.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The struggle Marx saw was between capitalists and the proletariat, or the workers.</td>
<td>The struggle Lenin saw was capitalists against the proletariat and the peasants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The proletariat's numbers would become so great and their condition so poor that a spontaneous revolution would occur.</td>
<td>The proletariat and the peasants were not capable of leading a revolution and needed the guidance of professional revolutionaries.</td>
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<td>The revolution would end with a “dictatorship of the proletariat”—the communal ownership of wealth.</td>
<td>After the revolution, the state needed to be run by a single party with disciplined, centrally directed administrators in order to ensure its goals.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Skillbuilder: Interpreting Charts**
Comparing and Contrasting How did Lenin's ideas about communism differ from those of Marx?

**Faces of History**

Vladimir LENIN 1870–1924

The son of a teacher, Vladimir Lenin graduated first in his class from high school and seemed destined to be a scholar. Instead, he soon became a Marxist and fought for revolution in Russia.

When Lenin was 17 years old, his older brother was hanged for plotting to kill the Russian czar. Lenin himself soon turned against the Russian government. He founded the Bolshevik Party and sought to establish a Communist social system, in which there would be no economic classes and no private property. Today he is considered the father of the Russian Revolution.

Infer Why is Lenin considered the father of the Russian Revolution?
### Causes and Effects of Two Russian Revolutions, 1917

**Causes: Czarist Russia**
- Czar's leadership was weak.
- Revolutionary agitation challenges the government.
- Widespread discontent found among all classes.

**Effects/Causes: March Revolution**
- Czar abdicates.
- Provisional government takes over.
- Russia stays in World War I.

**Effects: Bolshevik Revolution**
- Provisional government is overthrown.
- Bolsheviks take over.
- Bolsheviks sign peace treaty with Germany and leave World War I.
- Civil war begins in Russia.

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**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts**

1. **Analyzing Causes** What role did World War I play in the two revolutions?
2. **Recognizing Effects** Why were the effects of the March Revolution also causes of the Bolshevik Revolution?

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**Primary Sources**

**Lenin's Call to Power**

Lenin issued his "Call to Power" on October 24, 1917—according to the old Russian calendar—urging Russians to rise up and seize power from the provisional government.

"I am writing these lines on the evening of the 24th. The situation is critical in the extreme. In fact it is now absolutely clear that to delay the uprising would be fatal."

"With all my might I urge comrades to realize that everything now hangs by a thread; that we are confronted by problems which are not to be solved by conferences or congresses (even congresses of Soviets), but exclusively by peoples, by the masses, by the struggle of the armed people."

"... We must not wait. We must at all costs, this very evening, this very night, arrest the government, having first disarmed the officer cadets, and so on."

"We must not wait! We may lose everything!..."

"All districts, all regiments, all forces must be mobilized at once..."

"The government is tottering. It must be given the death-blow at all costs."

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**Reading Like a Historian**

1. **Explain** What did Lenin want Russians to do? Why?
2. **Analyzing Primary Sources** What words does Lenin use to try to convince readers to follow his instructions?