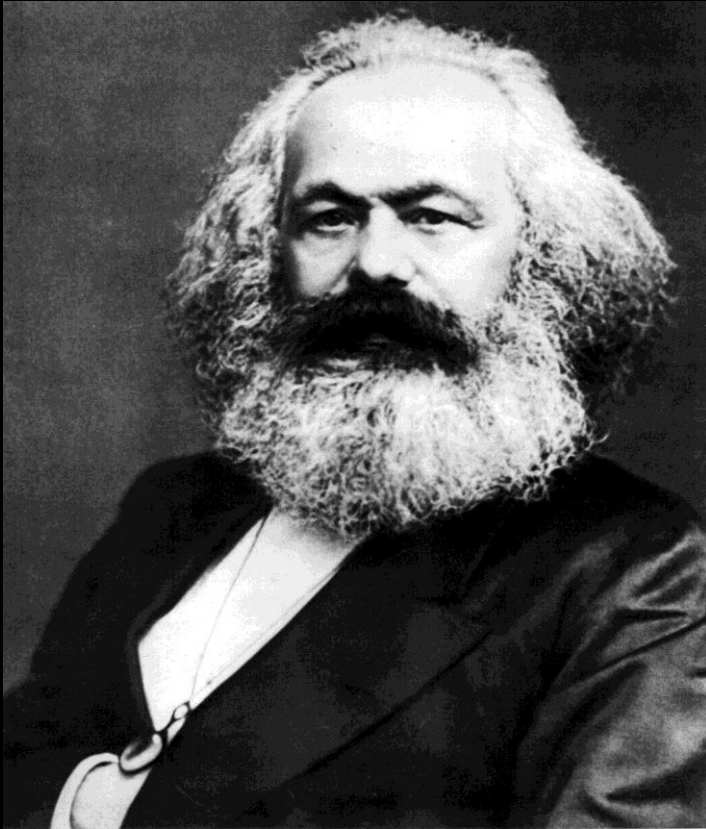


KEY PLAYERS IN
THE RUSSIAN
REVOLUTION &
THE SOVIET UNION

KARL MARX



- German philosopher
- Observed the hard life conditions imposed on the poor, working classes
- Wrote the *Communist Manifesto*
- Believed the working classes should overthrow their governments
- Create a society with no personal property
- The state would own everything, giving everyone equal ownership
- Died before he ever saw his ideas put into practice

CZAR NICHOLAS II



- Last Czar of Russia
- 80-90% of Russians lived in poverty during his reign
- The Russian Revolution overthrew him as Russia's leader
- He and his family were eventually executed

VLADIMIR LENIN



- Emerged as the leader of the Soviet Union
- All private wealth, land, and industry were confiscated by the government
- Dismantled the Russian church
- Declared the Soviet Union an atheistic state
- Priests were mocked and executed

LEON TROTSKY



- After Lenin's death, Stalin and Trotsky emerged as the strongest leaders in the Soviet Union
- Trotsky was a brilliant speaker
- Had many ideas for improving Soviet Russia
- Eventually betrayed by Stalin
- While in exile in Mexico murdered with an ice pick



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JOSEPH STALIN

- Stalin used dirty tactics to eliminate his enemies and double-cross his allies
- He set himself up as an absolute ruler
- Created a culture of fear and oppression
- Brainwashed the Soviets to believe he was a god

WHY COMMUNISM DOESN'T WORK

- Gives the government too much power
- Discourages competition and free market economy
- Denies the rights of the individual
- Begins as a way to make society more equal, ends up as a dictatorship
- Once revolutionary leaders seize power, they don't give it up.