

Rise of Communism

In the early 1900s, the people of Russia and China were unhappy with their rulers and governments. Some were attracted to communism as a way of achieving radical changes in their countries.

- In 1917 angry Russian soldiers, workers, and peasants overthrew the czar. Civil war followed.
- The communists won the war and remade Russia as the Soviet Union.
- After the Chinese emperor lost power in 1912, China collapsed into chaos and civil war. The Chinese communists finally gained control in 1949.
- Afterward the victorious communists in both countries murdered millions of their enemies.



A Lenin was the leader of the Bolshevik (or Communist) Party. His army and secret police crushed all opponents in Russia.

Russian Revolution and Civil War 1917-1922

Areas of Control, 1918

- Bolsheviks (Reds)
- Bolshevik-controlled city
- Anti-Bolsheviks (Whites)

Advances of Armies

- White Army, 1918-1919
- Red Army, 1919-1921
- Major battle

0 250 500 miles
0 250 500 kilometers

B The Bolsheviks (communists) also were called Reds. Their opponents, the anti-Bolsheviks, were called Whites. Reds and Whites battled for control of Russia.



China After the Emperor 1912-1937

C Local warlords and members of the Nationalist and Communist parties fought for power in China. By the mid-1930s, the Nationalists seemed in control.



Chinese Civil War 1945-1951

D After World War II, the Communists forced the Nationalists onto the island of Taiwan. Compare the areas under Communist control by 1937 and by 1950.