

Key Dates: The Revolutions of 1917

An animated visual timeline of the February and October Revolutions of 1917, sequencing the six turning points from International Women's Day to the Bolshevik seizure of power. Designed as a study and revision aid for Unit 3 Elective 2 (Russia and the Soviet Union 1914–45), Component C03-U3E2.

The collapse of Romanov Russia and the Bolshevik takeover both happened in a single year, but in two distinct phases. Use the timeline below to fix the sequence in your memory: the spontaneous February Revolution that toppled the Tsar and created Dual Power, then the deliberate October seizure of power by the Bolsheviks.

A note on dates. These follow the Old Style (Julian) calendar used in Russia at the time, which ran 13 days behind the Western (Gregorian) calendar. That is why the "February" Revolution and "October" Revolution fall in March and November by modern reckoning.

1917: Two Revolutions

From the February days to the Bolshevik seizure of power



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The chronology of 1917, Old Style dating: the spontaneous February Revolution (23 Feb – 2 Mar) topples the Tsar and creates Dual Power; the Bolsheviks then build toward the deliberate October seizure of power (3 Apr – 25 Oct).

Recall checklist

Before moving on, make sure you can explain each turning point and how it led to the next:

- **23 Feb** — why bread shortages and International Women's Day marches escalated into a general strike.
- **27 Feb** — the significance of the garrison mutinies and of the Petrograd Soviet's Order No. 1.
- **2 Mar** — what "Dual Power" meant and why the abdication left authority divided.
- **3 Apr** — how Lenin's April Theses ("Peace, Land, Bread") reshaped Bolshevik strategy.
- **Aug** — why the failed Kornilov Revolt strengthened the Bolsheviks rather than the government.
- **25 Oct** — how MILREVCOM and the Red Guard took Petrograd and formed Sovnarkom.