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Vladimir Lenin

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Once the world's biggest country, Russia had its traditional way of governing destroyed and replaced by a man who was born into a simple family leading an ordinary life. The oppression had brought interest to him in seeking justice. He was the founder of the first communist country in the world; a concept which he believed would bring equality and justice among the Russians. This noble man is Vladimir Llyich Ulyanov, known as Lenin.¹ Because of a gap between the rich and the poor, he always wanted to find the way to achieve a better standard of living for the Russians. He had found the philosophy and goals of Marxism, an economic and social system which is based on theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.² Consequently, he had found a way of making change that would give them enough to sustain life. His most important contribution to mankind was bringing socialist regime from only a theory up to life. His theories inspired many revolutions later on. Furthermore, He also found Bolshevism, the communist party that was in charged at the period. Lastly he defeated Hitler and fought the Cold War against The United States. This man shaped the twentieth century. His reputation became known to millions of working people throughout the world.

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Vladimir Lenin." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb. 2012.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Lenin>

²All About Philosophy contributors. "What is Marxism." *All About Philosophy*. 3 Feb. 2012.

<<http://www.allaboutphilosophy.org/what-is-marxism-faq.htm>>

Vladimir Illich Ulyanov or Lenin was born in Simbirsk, Russia, on April 10, 1870. His parents played such an important role in Lenin's childhood's education because they were concerned about their child's future. With sustainable family wealth, he was raised in a well-knit family which gave him a liberal education and public mind.³ Lenin's revolution thought started when he was still at school. His elder brother, Alexander, was an important influence for his revolution idea. He introduced Lenin the ideas of Karl Marx which is the theory that would solve problem between classes of people.⁴ Unfortunately, Alexander was executed for an attempt to assassinate Alexander III, the reigner in Russia at that period.⁵ It was a crucial event that eventually turned Lenin into a political radicalist.⁶ He believed that with the equality, his brother's death would not happen. At the age of seventeen, Lenin read a novel by Nikolai Chernyshevsky. The author was the greatest inspiration on his political view.⁷ The novel was beyond Marx's Capital. The details were the emotional dynamic that led Lenin to the Russian Revolution.

Not so long after entering Kazan University, he got expelled for being a political radicalist. He had to move to the village of Keno, still, with eagerness to acknowledge, he did self studies and completed his law degree as an external student.

³ Notable Biographies contributors. "Vladimir Lenin Biography." *Notable Biographies*. 28 Jan. 2012. <<http://www.notablebiographies.com/Ki-Lo/Lenin-Vladimir.html>>

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "Communism." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 27 Jan. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communism>>

⁵ History Learning Site contributors. "Alexander III.", *History Learning Site*. 29 Jan. 2012. <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/alexander_iii.htm>

⁶ Lars T. Lih. *Lenin*. 2011. p.21-23

⁷ New World Encyclopedia contributors. "Gavrilovich, Nikolay." *New World Encyclopedia*. 29 Jan. 2012. <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Nikolai_Chernyshevsky>

⁸ In 1888, after allowance to go back, he again gathered with his friends to claim for their rights and equity in the society which was known as “The Worker Movement”. The event caused the leaders, including Lenin to be arrested. When time passed by, after being imprisoned, he was sentenced to be held in Eastern Siberia for three years which was such a great opportunity for him to study more seriously about Marxism.⁹

While being held for several years, he prepared everything needed for the revolution. He adapted the knowledge he gained with the revolutionary ideas he got.¹⁰ His book, "What is to be Done?", was written for his supporters in order to explain the movement they had to take for revolution plan. He was the one who staged the October Revolution of 1917 which led to the biggest change in Russia history. The October Revolution was terminated with only small conflicts.¹¹ Russia was then changed to a socialist and Lenin was elected chairman of the Soviet government.¹² For twenty-five years, Lenin had been in the political position and made the communism into the strongest workers’ party in the world.¹³ His communist ideas were all over the world for centuries. Many Russians worshiped him for changing the country in a better way. In addition, He also introduced “New Economic Policy” to reorganize the economy which basically greatly improved

⁸Famous People contributors. “Vladimir Lenin.”, *The Famous people*. 29 Jan. 2012.

<<http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/vladimir-lenin-96.php>>

⁹ Rose Prokofieva and David Skvirsky. *V.I. Lenin a Short Biography*. 1964. p.22-26

¹⁰ Stephen J. Lee. *Lenin and Revolutionary Russia*. 200. p.27-29

¹¹ St.Peterburg Life contributors. “1917 Russian Revolution.”, *St.Peterburg Life*. 28 Jan. 2012.

<<http://www.st-petersburg-life.com/st-petersburg/1917-russian-revolution>>

¹² G.I. Petrovsky. *Recollections of Lenin*. 1956. p.97-103

¹³ J.V. Stalin. *Lenin*. 1977. p.16-22

economic situation in Russia.¹⁴ From his point of view, he wanted to build the country that is based on what communist country is supposed to be and people are all equal in dignity and living.

Nevertheless, after becoming the highest authority, all things centered on Lenin's sole. He had to face resistance from many sectors that had lost benefit from the revolution. He used his power to suppress "Enemy of People", people that tried to assassinate him. He protected himself by purging those who did not agree with socialist ideology by using violence. Many people had been killed, while tens of thousands people were arrested, imprisoned, and tortured in a concentration camp.¹⁵ The spread of communism was throughout the world, yet countless of wars due to the resistance of change and disagreement was followed as the result. The event led the world into two different sides. Besides, the conflict between communism and democracy almost brought the world into World War III. Fortunately, both sides decrease the expansion and made it only to The Cold War. With regard to the seriousness of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, they saw the damage to done the Japanese.¹⁶ Therefore, Russia and the United States gave up the idea of nuclear weapon. Finally, everything came to the end with the collapse of the Soviet Union twenty years ago.

¹⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "History of the Soviet Union (1982–1991)." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 29 Jan. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Soviet_Union_\(1982–1991\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Soviet_Union_(1982–1991))>

¹⁵ Winner4us contributors. "What is the Leninism?" *Winner4us*. 29 Jan. 2012
<<http://www.winner4us.com/leninism.html>>

¹⁶ Wm. Robert Johnston. "Hiroshima atomic bombing, 1945." *John Stones Archive*. 30 Jan. 2012
<<http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/nuclear/radevents/1945JAP1.html>>

Lenin played an important role in Russian history. Moreover, he introduced the world communism. He was an inspiration for many successful revolutions all over the world.¹⁷ He was both a philosopher and a political theorist who affected not only his own people, but others in various parts of world as well.¹⁸ He was one of the most brilliant people that could understand and analyze the complex political theories. He left the next generation forty-five volumes of collected works about the communist. His legacy is very valuable to the world's history. People in the socialized society like us might look at him in both positive and negative ways.¹⁹ However, we can see that the communism system did not last long in Russia. In reality, people would prefer peace rather than violence therefore Soviet Union collapsed after all. His communist theory was something that reminds us of him and it also reminds us that violence cannot solve every problem in this world.

¹⁷ Schools history contributors. "Lenin's legacy." *Schools History*. 5 Feb.2012

<http://www.schoolshistory.org.uk/gcse/russia/7_leninslegacy.htm>

¹⁸ Jerome Bruner. "Lenin: Biography." *Spartacus Educational*. 2 Feb. 2012.

<<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/RUSlenin.htm>>

¹⁹ Christopher Read. *Lenin*. 2005. p.290-291