



Animal Farm and The Russian Revolution: A Comparison

Tsar Nicholas II

- was part of the Romanov dynasty that ruled Russia for over 300 years
- an autocrat – a self-appointed ruler who holds all the political power
- March 1917 - food riots and army mutinies in Petrograd - Czar Nicholas couldn't cope with the difficult situation, so he abdicated the throne



In *Animal Farm* ...
Czar Nicholas II = ??

Farmer Jones = Czar Nicholas II

Farmer Jones

- The irresponsible owner of the farm
- Lets his animals starve and beats them with a whip
- Sometimes shows random kindness

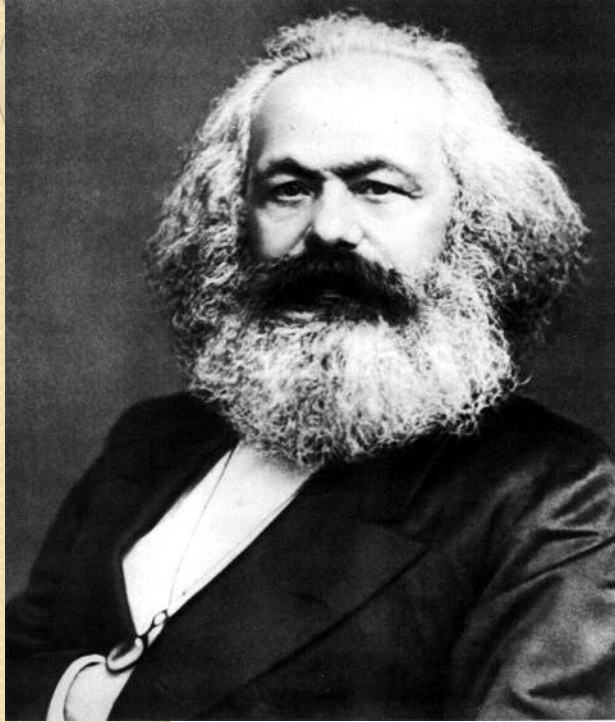


Czar Nicholas II

- Weak Russian Leader during the 1900's
- Often cruel and brutal to his subjects
- Showed isolated kindness



Karl Marx



- believed the workers were the true producers of wealth
- but the capitalists (bourgeoisie) owned the means of production – land and industry – and made huge profits while the workers earned just enough to survive
- called for “workers of the world” **to unite** against their capitalist oppressors
- believed that eventually the proletariat would rise up against the capitalist system

In *Animal Farm* ...

Karl Marx = ??

Old Major = Karl Marx

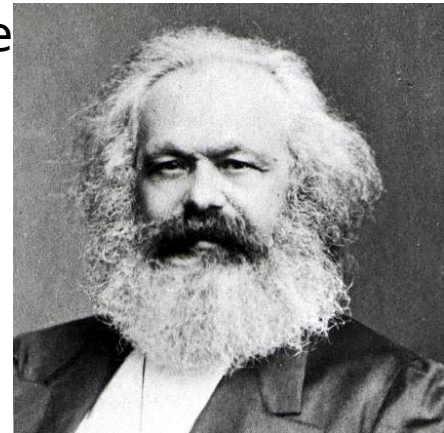
Old Major

- an old boar whose speech about the evils perpetrated by humans rouses the animals into rebelling
- his philosophy concerning the tyranny of Man is named Animalism
- dies before the revolution



Karl Marx

- wants to unite the working class to overthrow the government
- the inventor of Communism
- dies before the Russian Revolution



Leon Trotsky

- a brilliant intellectual and speaker who organized the Red Army and led it to victory in the Civil War
- Trotsky and Stalin disagreed on Russia's future - Trotsky wanted the Communist revolution to be worldwide
- Stalin defeated Trotsky at the Communist Party Congress in 1927 and gained control of the secret police
- Trotsky was chased away by the KGB (secret police) and fled to Mexico City, where a Soviet agent killed him with an axe in 1940



In *Animal Farm* ...
Leon Trotsky = ??

Snowball = Leon Trotsky

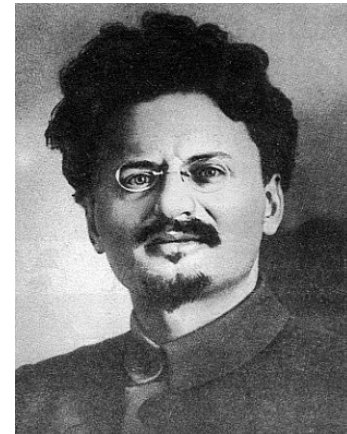
Snowball

- becomes one of the most valuable leaders of the rebellion
- after drawing complicated plans for the construction of a windmill, he is chased off the farm by Napoleon's dogs and is thereafter blamed for the animals' troubles



Leon Trotsky

- a pure communist leader who was influenced by the teachings of Karl Marx
- wanted to improve life for people in Russia, but was driven away by Lenin's KGB



Joseph Stalin



- not well-educated
- named General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1922
- although this position seemed unimportant, Stalin used his position as secretary to gain supporters for his future rise to power
- he eventually defeated Trotsky in the struggle for power

In *Animal Farm* ...
Joseph Stalin = ??

Napoleon = Joseph Stalin

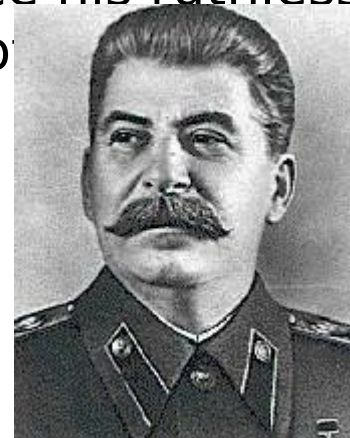
Napoleon

- leads the rebellion against Farmer Jones
- after the rebellion's success, he systematically begins to control all aspects of the farm until he is an undisputed tyrant



Joseph Stalin

- the communist dictator of the Soviet Union from 1922-1953 who killed all who opposed him
- loved power and used the KGB (secret police) to enforce his ruthless, corrupt



Other Important Characters

Squealer

- a big mouth pig who becomes Napoleon's mouthpiece
- has the ability to manipulate the animals' thoughts through the use of hollow, yet convincing rhetoric

Propaganda department

- the members of the department would use lies to convince the people to follow Stalin



Boxer

- dedicated horse who helps in the building of the windmill but is sold to a glue-boiler after collapsing from exhaustion



Communist supporters of Stalin

- many stayed loyal even after it was obvious Stalin was a tyrant.
- eventually they were betrayed, ignored, and even killed by him

The dogs

- from the start , they are loyal animals
- rewarded for dealing ruthlessly with any objectors and murdering Napoleon's opposition

- represent the **KGB**
(secret police)



Moses

- a tame raven
- pet of Jones who tells the animals stories about a paradise called Sugarcandy Mountain



Religion

- Stalin used religious principles to influence people to work and to avoid revolt

Mollie

- resists the animal rebellion because she doesn't want to give up the petting and treats she receives from humans
- represents vain, selfish people in Russia and throughout the world who ignored the revolution and sought residence in more inviting countries

Animalism = Communism

Animalism

- taught by Old Major
- better life for animals
- all animals are equal
- everyone owns the farm

Communism

- invented by K. Marx
- all people are equal
- government owns everything
- people own the government

Napoleon's Show Trials = Moscow Purge Trials

- By 1936, Stalin began to use what would become known as the Moscow Purge Trials to control workers.
 - In 1936, sixteen prominent and loyal Communists publicly confessed to unbelievable crimes – spying, terrorism, and plotting with Leon Trotsky.
 - There was no evidence of their guilt other than the confessions.
 - All sixteen were immediately executed.
 - About 70% of the Party leadership became victims of the Great Purge.
 - These trials served as an example of what would happen to people if they opposed Stalin.