

In What ways was the working population in Russia different from other countries in Europe, before 1917?

Working population in Russia was different from the workers in other countries in Europe in Many respects:

- Workers were divided by skill. But they did unite to strike work when they disagreed with employers.
- Peasants in Russia had no respect for nobility. Peasants wanted the land of the nobles to be given to them. Frequently, they refused to pay rent and even murdered landlords.
- Russian peasants pooled their land together periodically and their Commune (mir) divided it according to the needs of individual families.

Why did the Tsarist autocracy collapse in 1917?

The revolutionary movement in Russia had been growing when the 1905 Revolution broke out. On 9th January 1905, a mass of peaceful workers with their wives and children was fired at in St. Petersburg while on its way to the winter Palace to present a petition to the Czar. More than a thousand of them were killed and thousands of others were wounded. This day is known as Bloody Sunday. The news of the killings provoked unprecedented disturbance throughout Russia. The 1905 Revolution proved to be a dress rehearsal of the revolution that came in 1917. It aroused the people and prepared them for revolution.

The Czar took Russia into the First World War. This proved fatal and brought about the final breakdown of the Russia autocracy. By February 1917, 6, 00, 000 soldiers had been killed in the war. There was widespread discontent throughout the empire as well as in the army. The condition was ripe for a revolution.

Minor incidents usually set off revolutions. In the case of the Russian Revolution, it was a demonstration by working class women trying to purchase bread. A general strike of workers followed, in which soldiers and others soon joined. On 12 March, 1917 the capital city of Petersburg fell into the hands of the revolutionaries. Soon the revolutionaries took Moscow, the Czar gave up his throne and the first Provisional Government was formed on 15th March 1917.

Make two lists: one with the main events and the effects of February Revolution other with the main events and effects of the October Revolution. Write a paragraph on who was involved in each, who were the leaders and what was the impact of each on Soviet history.

Events of February Revolution:

1. In February 1917, food shortages were deeply felt in the workers quarters.
2. Parliamentarians wishing to pressure elected government were opposed to the Tsar's desire to dissolve the Duma.
3. On 22nd February, a lock out took place at a factory on the right bank of the River Neva.
4. On 23rd February, 1917 workers in fifty factories called a strike in sympathy of the factory workers of the River Neva.
5. In many factories women led the way to strikes. This came to be called the International Women's Day.
6. On 24th and 25th government called out the cavalry and police to keep an eye on striking and demonstrating workers and women participating in agitation.
7. On Sunday, 25 February the government suspended the Duma. Politicians (of the country) spoke out against the measure taken by the Tsar's government.
8. On 26th February, 1917 demonstrators returned in force to the streets of the left bank of the River Neva.
9. On 27th February the Police Headquarters were ransacked. The streets thronged with people raising slogans about bread, wages, better hours and democracy.
10. The government tried to control the situation and called out the cavalry once again. However, the cavalry refused to fire on the demonstrators.
11. On the evening of 27 February, 1917, soldiers and striking workers had gathered to form a 'Soviet' or 'Council' in the same building as the Duma met. This was the Petrograd Soviet.
12. On 28th February, a delegation went to see the Tsar, military commanders advised him to abdicate. He followed their advice.
13. On 2nd March, 1917 the military commanders abdicated their posts. Soviet leaders and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government to run the country.
14. Petrograd had led the February Revolution that brought down the monarchy in February.
15. 1917 New Government declared that the future of Russia would be decided by the constituent assembly, elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage.
16. Army Officials, landowners and industrialist were influential in the provisional Government. But the liberals as well as socialists among them worked towards an elected government. Restrictions on public meetings, and associations were removed. 'Soviets' like the Petrograd soviet, were set up everywhere, though no common system of election was followed.

Effects of the February Revolution 1917:

The major effects can be counted as follow:

1. It led to the downfall of the Tsar. With that the monarchy and the autocracy finally came to an end.

2. The first provisional government under the leadership of Kerensky was established.
3. Lenin had been exiled in Switzerland during the February revolution. He returned to Russia in April 1917. He took up the task of organizing the Bolshevik party as an instrument for revolution.
4. Failure of the Kerensky government created conditions for another revolution and ultimately resulted in the formation of the Bolshevik government.

Events of the Revolution of October 1917:

1. In September, 1917 Lenin started discussions for an uprising against the government. Bolshevik supporters in the army, soviets and factories were brought together.
2. On 16 October 1917, Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soveit and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power. A military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soveit under the Leon Trotsky to organise the seizure. The date of the event was kept a secret.
3. The uprising began on 24 October. Sensing trouble, Prime Minister Kerensky had left the city to summon troops. At dawn, military men loyal to the provisional Government seized the buildings of two Bolshevik newspapers. Pro-government troops were sent to take over telephone and telegraph offices and to protect the Winter Palace.
4. In a swift response, the Military Revolutionary Committee ordered its supporters to seize government offices and arrest ministers. Late in the day a ship shelled the Winter Palace. Other vessels sailed down the Neva (river) and took over different military points.
5. By nightfall, the city was under the committee's control and the ministers had surrendered. At a meeting of the All Russia Congress of Soveits in Petrograde, the major approved the Bolshevik action.
6. Uprisings took place in other cities also. There was heavy fighting especially in Moscow but by December, the Bolsheviks controlled the Moscow-Petrograd area.

Effects of the October Revolution, 1917:

The October Revolution brought about a dramatic change in Russia with its implications for the whole of Europe. Some of the important effects can be summed up as follows:

1. Withdrawal from world war I

Russia withdrew from the war.

It signed a treaty with Germany after ceding the territories that Germany demanded as a price for peace.

2. **Confiscation of land:** Following the decree on land, the estates of the landlords, the church and the Tsar were confiscated and transferred to the

peasants, societies. The land was to be allotted to peasant families for cultivation by them.

3. **Abolition of Private Property:** Private property as the means of production was abolished. The motive of private profit was eliminated from the system of production.
4. **Nationalisation:** By the middle of 1918, banks and insurance companies, large industries, mines, water transport and railways were nationalized.
Foreign debts were repudiated.
Foreign investments were confiscated.
5. **Equal Status:** A declaration of the Rights of People was issued conferring the right of self-determination upon all nationalities.
6. **Fatal Blow to Aristocracy:** Autocracy was overthrown; it was destroyed and the power of the church was finished.
7. **Formation of the USSR:** The Tsar's empire was transformed into the USSR. The policies of the USSR were to be directed to the realization of the socialist ideal 'to each according to his need, from each according to his ability'.
8. **Economic Planning:** Economic planning was adopted as an instrument of state policy.
To build a technologically advanced economy at fast rate and
To eliminate inequalities in society.
9. **Income from Work:** All forms of private property were abolished. Work or labour became the sole source of income for livelihood. The right to work became a constitutional right. It became the duty of the state to provide employment to every individual.
10. **Education:** Universal education was given a high priority.
11. **Equality of Nationalities:** The equality of all the nationalities in the USSR was recognized in the constitution framed in 1924 and later in 1936.
12. **Autonomy of Republics:** The constitution gave the republics the autonomy to develop their own languages and cultures. This autonomy was particularly significant for the Asian republics which were backward in comparison to the European republics.

What were the main changes brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution?

1. The congress of Soveits on 8th November 1917 issued a proclamation to all peoples and belligerent state to open negotiations for a just peace without annexation and indemnities. Russia withdrew from the war, through formal peace was signed with Germany later, after ceding the territories that Germany demanded as price for peace.
2. Following the decree on land, the estates of the landlords, the church and the Tsar were confiscated and transferred to peasants' societies to be allotted to peasant families to be cultivated without hired labour.

3. The control of industries was transferred to stop committees of workers.
4. By the middle of 1918, banks and insurance companies, large industries, mines, water transport and railways were nationalised, foreign debts were repudiated and foreign investments were confiscated.
5. A Declaration of the rights of Peoples was issued conferring the right of self-determination upon all nationalities.
6. A new government called the council of People's Commissors, headed by Lenin was formed.

Write a few lines to show what you know about:

- Kulaks
- the Duma
- women workers between 1900 and 1930
- the Liberals
- Stalin's collectivization programme

1. **Kulaks:** It was a name for well to do farmers of Russia. During the period of Stalin to develop modern farms, and run them along industrial lines with machinery, it was considered necessary to eliminate Kulaks.
2. **Duma:** It was an elected consultative Parliament, whose creation was allowed by the Tsar during the 1905 Revolution in Russia.
3. **Women workers between 1900 and 1930:** Women workers constituted a significant proportion of industrial workers in Russia; about 31 percent of the workers were women.

Women were paid less wages than male workers-varying from one-half to two thirds. Women workers were more active in trade union activities, and were dedicated to their profession.

4. **The liberals:** Liberals had the following beliefs:
 - They wanted a nation which supports all religions.
 - They opposed the uncontrolled power of dynastic rules.
 - They wanted to safeguard the rights of individuals against governments
 - They argued for a representative, elected parliamentary government, subject to laws interpreted by a well-trained judiciary that was independent of rules and officials.
 - They did not believe in universal adult franchise. They wanted the right to vote to be limited to men who owned property.
5. **Stalin's collectivisation programme:** Collectivisation refers to setting up of collective farms. Collective farms were state-owned large farms. Collective farms were set up after.
 - Eliminating 'kulaks', i.e., the large land owners, and confiscation of their lands by the state; and

- Taking away small- sized lands belonging to poor peasants. Collective farms were known as kolkhoj. The main features of this arrangement were as follows;
 - Peasants worked on the land.
 - Profit was shared.
- Collectivisation was resisted by the peasant. Those who resisted Collectivisation were severely punished by the Stalin government. Collectivisation, however, failed to bring in any substantial improvement in agricultural output in Russia.

How did the Russia peasants differ from the French peasant?

➤ **Conditions of Russian Peasants:**

1. Russia was a backward agricultural country even upto the 19th century.
2. Feudalism formed the basis of agriculture and serfdom prevailed there upto 18 A.D the peasants worked as serfs on the land much of their produce went in the hands of the higher classes. Serfdom was no doubt abolished in 1961 A.D but the condition of the peasants still remained miserable. A large number of them owned only 2.5 acres of land. They used primitive tools and methods of cultivation. The burden of taxation also fell on them and they had no money to make improvements in the lands owned by them.
3. About 70% of the farmers could not get even a square meal a day. Land hunger among the peasants was a dominant factor I the Russian Society.

➤ **Conditions of French Peasants:**

1. The conditions of the peasants was a deplorable one in France on the even of the French Revolution.
2. Moreover they had to pay various taxes to the government to the nobles and to the church.
3. They were subjected to forced labour.
4. They had to work free on the land of the nobles three days a week. About 81% of their income went to the state, to the nobles and to the church. They could hardly keep their body and soul together wit the vest of 19% of their income.

What is known as Bloody Sunday?

On January 9, 1905, a mass of peaceful workers, with their wives and children, was fired at in St. Petersburg while on its way to the Winter Palace to present a petition to the Tsar. More than a thousand of them were killed and thousands of others were wounded. This happened on a Sunday and therefore is known as Bloody Sunday.

What led to the divisions of Bolsheviks and Mensheviks?

1. Bolsheviks:

- i. They were the major group of the workers of Russia, who under their leader Lenin, believed in the revolutionary methods for bringing about changes in the society and the state.
- ii. They did not believe in the Party system Parliament and elections etc.

2. Mensheviks:

- i. They believed in the Parliamentary system and participation in the elections for running the state and society.
- ii. They believed in party system like France and Germany which took parts in the elections to the legislature of their country.

Describe the social, economic and political conditions of Russia before revolution?

Social and Economic Conditions:

In Russia the conditions of peasants was very miserable. Serfdom had been abolished in 1861, but it did not improve the conditions of peasants. They still had miserably small holdings of land with no capital to develop even these. For the small holdings they acquired, they had to pay heavy redemption dues for decades. Land hunger of the peasants was a major social factor in Russian society.

No Middle Class:

As there was no middle class in Russia, industrialization began very late in the second half of the 19th century. Then it developed at the fairly fast rate, but more than half of the capital for investment came from foreign countries. Foreign investors were interest in quick profits and showed no concern for the conditions of workers. Russian capitalists, with insufficient capital competed with foreign investors by reducing workers' wages. Whether factories were owned by foreigners or Russians, the conditions of workers were horrible. The workers had no political rights and no means of gaining even minor reforms. The words of Marx that worker have nothing to lose but their chains range literally true to them.

What was the impact of the Russian Revolution over the globe?

The October of 1917 had a universal impact.

- The Russian Revolution was the first successful revolution in history which proclaimed the building of a society-a society based on the principles of equality-as its objective. The ideology gained its followers throughout the globe.
- The Communist International was formed. It aimed to promote revolution on an international scale.
- The International communist organisation was born under comintern which decided on policies to be followed by all communist parties.

- The concept of democracy came to be redefined. It came to be increasingly realized that for a democracy to be real, political rights without social and economic rights were not enough.
- The idea of state playing an active role in regulation the economy and planning the economy to improve the conditions of the people came to be accepted universally. Universally, labour gained dignity.
- The popularity of socialism globally helped to check discriminations based on race, colour and sex.
- The spread of socialistic ideas also helped in promoting internationalism.
- The Russian Revolution helped to end imperialism.
- The Russian revolution influenced the movements for independence in the colonized words.

Give an account of the changes introduced after 1917 Revolution in Russia?

The October Revolution is regarded as an important event not only in the History of Russia but that on the whole world. When the 1st World War began in 1914, the Czar of Russia took on important part in it. As this country was nearest to Germany so lie had also to bear the burnt of the war upto 1917 about 60,000 Russians soldiers were killed and many more were injured.

- **Consequences of the October Revolution of the Agriculture and the Ownership of Land:**

Before the October Revolution of 1917, the plight of the peasants in Russia was a miserable one. When this revolution proved successful it was bound to change the whole structure of the ownership of land. The estates of the Czar, the landlords and the church were confiscated and transferred to peasants societies without any hired labour.

- **Changes brought in the field of Industry:**

In Russia both foreign and Russian capitalists greatly exploited the workers and made huge profit at their expense. Hence, there was a great demand by the workers to control the industry by themselves. As, soon as the Czar was removed, the control of the industries was transferred to the committees of the workers. The government nationalized all the big factories.

- **Effects of the October Revolution on the Position of the Non-Russian Nationalities of the Russian Empire:**

The success of the October Revolution had a great bearing on the fate of the non-Russian nationalities of the Russian empire. Now, all the nationalities were given equality of status. Their areas became a part of the U.S.S.R in the form of republics. Equal representation was assured to all nationalities in one of the two chambers of the USSR legislature by the constitution of 1923 and later under the 1935 constitution.

Changes in Society:

The modern world has been formed through a series of important revolution. These Revolution began with the English Revolutions of 1688 which established the principle of Constitutional Monarchy. The American war of Independence (1776) led to the creation of a Republic Government in USA. The French Revolution (1789) set out to destroy the old feudal order based on the privileged position of nobles and the clergy. It proclaimed the new ideas of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. The Russian Revolution (1917) was the first Communist Revolution. It provided a model for many of the later revolution such as Chinese Revolution of 1949 and the Cuban Revolution of 1959.

Different people had different opinions about changes in society in the 19th century. They fell into three main categories: the Liberals, the Radicals and the Conservatives.

- ✓ **The Liberals:** The liberals favoured freedom from state intervention to religious economic matters. They laid stress on the following rights of man (i) right to life (ii) Civil and religious freedom (iii) the right to carry on any occupation trade or business, and (iv) the right to property. In the political sphere, they supported the cause of democratic state and a representative assembly to frame the laws. They also showed great respect for independence of Judiciary. But the elections were not yet based on universal franchise. In France, England, USA and all other countries the number of voters in the 19th century was very small. The payment of taxes was regarded as an important condition to the right to vote. Women were also excluded from the voting rights. They protested against the continued denial of political rights.
- ✓ **The Radicals:** In the 19th century radical parties stood for extending the right to vote. They favoured people's increased participation in politics. They also stood for social welfare schemes at a time when even the liberals did not talk much of such measures. They were not against the institution of private property. But they were not supporting private property as strongly as the liberals and conservatives did. They were opposed to the concentration of wealth in the hands of big landlords, factory owners and traders.
- ✓ **Conservatives:** Conservatism means 'the desire to conserve'. The conservatives resisted radical changes in society. They desired that the institutions and practices that have stood the test of time should be preserved. According to the conservatives, the wiser, the richer and the more capable lead and govern the ordinary people. The conservatives were resolved to protect the rights of the church. They strongly defended private property which they called 'the fruits of one's efforts and labour'. Earlier in, the 18th century conservatives had been generally opposed to the idea of changes are inevitable but believed that the past had to be respected and change had to be brought about through a slow process.

Industrial Revolution and Socio-Economic Changes:

While the French Revolution was showing its effects and Napoleon was disturbing peace of Europe, another revolution was in progress. This was the Industrial Revolution. It began in England about 1760. After fifty years or 50 it appeared in the United States and some other countries. The term 'Industrial Revolution' means the changes brought about by large-scale production with the aid of the new machines.

➤ **Impact of the Industrial Revolution:**

Elaborate machinery meant that goods could be produced in immensely large quantities. Many goods which were either not within the reach of ordinary people, could now be enjoyed by millions. People could live a life of ease and luxury. The new mode of transport – especially railways, were a great boon to people improved communication, canals and the railways brought countries and people close together. But some of the changes that had taken place were horrible.

➤ **Slums and Poor Housing Conditions:**

The people left the village to work in factories situated in towns and cities near the coal-fields or sea ports. They were forced to live in slums where the working conditions were very bad. In 1840 more than one-tenth of the population of Manchester was living in basements. They were forced to live under dirty condition.

➤ **Rise of Imperialism:**

Everywhere there was a demand for raw-materials and markets to sell the manufactured goods. There was a mad scramble among the western powers for colonies or new territories from 1870s to 1914 (when the first world war broke out) almost all countries of Asia and Africa had come under the control of the imperial powers – England, the French, The Germans, the Dutch, the Russians the Americans.

The Demand for improving the conditions of the Working Class:

The demand for improving the conditions of the working class expressed itself in three ways:

- **The Radicals:** advocated revolutionary changes – destruction of the old order and its replacement by a new one by means of revolution.
- **Slums and Poor Housing Conditions:** argued that the capitalist system should be reformed. The government and municipal bodies enacted laws regulating hours and wages of all those employed in factories.
- **Rise of Imperialism:** outright rejected capitalism on the ground that it amounted to a system of mass exploitation.

Rise of Socialism:

Socialism arose as a reaction against the social and economic conditions caused by the growth of industrial capitalism. Socialism can mean a variety of different things. The core of socialism is that the land and other instruments of production. (mines, factories etc) should become the common property of the

society as a whole. The socialists believe that a socialist system alone can create conditions in which everyone would have an opportunity to benefit from the country's wealth.

➤ **Early Socialists:**

The first socialists were Frenchmen – Saint Simon Fourier and Louis Blane. Saint Simon (1760-1825) was the real founder of socialism in France. Louis Blane proclaimed “From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs”. These words summarise Socialism at its best. Fourier's scheme was to establish ‘Communes’ where people lived in worked together and shared the product of their labour. Each commune would consist of about 1500 persons Robert Owen (1771-1858) owned a cotton mill in England. It was he who first used the word ‘Socialism’. He paid his workers good wages, reduced their working hours and helped the Trade Union Movement to grow.

➤ **Marxian Socialism:**

The Socialists mentioned above had not paid any serious attention to the problem as to how a socialist society was to be established. Therefore Karl Marx (1818-1883) called them ‘Utopians’ (idealist Reformers). In 1843 he had to leave Germany (his native country) because of the revolutionary ideas. He went to Paris (France) where he met Engels in year 1844 Marx and Engels set up the communist league. They were asked to draw up a Manifesto for the communist Party. The ‘Communist Manifesto’ was established in 1848. According to Karl Marx and Engels, the workers have no other alternative but the resort to armed struggle. It is only in communist system that the exploitation of workers can end.

The Immediate cause of the Revolution: (The First World War)

The immediate cause of the Russian Revolution was the outbreak of world war I. Russian imperial ambitions led her to the war but the Russian government, inefficient and corrupt, was incapable of carrying on a modern war. The decadence of the royal family made matter worse, Nicholas II was completely under the influence of his wife. She, in turn, was ruled by a friend named Rasputin who was virtually suffering among the people. There was a shortage of bread. Russia was technologically backward in arms and equipments her railways could not carry such a large army while the contracts for making arms and ammunition were given to men who made profits for themselves but did not deliver the goods in time. So that in the campaign of 1915 the supply of rifles failed and with insufficient shells, Russia was badly beaten. It created a hue and cry in the public but Czar Nicholas II continued to ignore the demand of the national parties and the submerged nationalities. By February, 1917 about 6,00,000 Russian soldiers had been killed in war. The workers in Russia went on strike. Large scale uprisings in all the big cities and towns perturbed the Czar. Czar ordered his troops to open fire on them. But the soldiers refused to obey

their officers and joined the revolutionaries. The condition was ripe for the revolution.

CAUSES OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

In the 19th century, almost all Europe was undergoing important social, economic and political transformation. Most of the countries were republics and monarchies had ended. A new social order based on equality was coming to the fore. Russia, however, was still living in the old world under the autocratic rule of the czars. The people, particularly the farmers and the workers lived in miserable conditions. People were starting to get note of this and this culminated in the revolution. The main caused the Russian revolution were as follows:-

i) AUTOCRATIC RUYLE OF CZAR

The autocratic rule of Czar Nicholas II was responsible for the revolution of 1971. Nicholas believed in the Divine Rights of kings and had no interest in the welfare of the people. He had all powers of the state in his hands. The preservation for absolutism was regarded by him as a sacred duty. He was only was supported by the nobility and the upper layers of the clergy. Nicholas was also dominated by his wife. She was ruled by a friend named Rasputin, who virtually ran the govt. Corruption, was on the high and it resulted in great suffering among people. There was shortage of bread. This created great resentment among the people against the czar.

The Russian czar had built a vast empire by conquest for diverse nationalities in Europe and Asia. In these conquered lands, they forced the people to due the Russian languages and changed the cultures of these areas to benefit the empire. The result was that they also became hostile to the czar.

ii) SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA

Russia was living in 'the old world' under the czars. Serfdom had been abolished, but it did not improve the condition of the peasants. They still had smallholdings of land with no capital to develop even these. They had to pay heavy redemption dues. Land hunger of the peasants was a major social factor in Russian society.

Industrialization began very late in Russia then it developed at a fairly fast rate, but more than half of the capital for investment came from foreign countries. Foreign investors were interested in quick profits and showed no concern for the condition of workers Russian capitalists with insufficient capital, competed with foreign investors by reducing workers wage. The workers had no political rights and no mean s of gaining even minor reforms. Thus, they choose to rise in a revolution.

iii) THE REVOLUTION OF 1905

The czar, Nichols II was inefficient. The nobility and the clergy whom he benefited blindly supported him. He never cared for the good of his people. He had his imperialist designs and went to war with Japan in 1904. But he was defeated. The people turned against him and a revolution broke out in 1905 AD.


The procession of peaceful workers that was going to present a petition to the czar was mercilessly fired. Thousands of people got killed or wounded. This mass killing caused great resentment in Russia. Even some sections of the army revolted. Strikes and demonstration broke out. The czar yielded and promised to set up a constitutional monarchy in Russia. But, he soon forgot his promise and went by his old ways. It aroused people and prepared them for the revolution of 1917, hence the revolution of 1905 proved a dress rehearsal for the revolution of 1917.

iv) ROLE OF INTELLECTUALS AND THINKERS

Many Russian thinkers have been influenced by developments Western Europe and wanted to see similar change in Russia. The teaching of Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels made a great contribution to the forces of revolution in Russia. Different Russian thinkers like Tolstoy and Turknov infused revolutionary ideas in to the minds of the Russians and they started demanding the same rights as were being enjoyed by the people in western countries. The czar turned down their demands and this led to the revolution of 1917.

v) THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The czar took Russia into the First World War to satisfy his imperial ambitions. But the czarist state was incapable of carrying on a modern war. The Russian Army suffered heavy reverses. The govt. was completely unmindful of the conditions of soldiers on the front. By February 1917 about 600,000 Russian soldiers had been killed in the war. It became very difficult for the Russians to fight due to shortage of money, men and materials so untrained farmers and workers were sent to the war front this also resulted in heavy losses. There was widespread discontent through out the empire as well as in the army. The condition was ripe for a revolution.

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