The Great Retreat: The Growth And Decline Of Communism In Russia

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In Russia, communism began after Tsar Nicholas II lost his power during the February Revolution. The Provisional Government was established under Prince Lvov, however, the Bolsheviks refused to accept the government and revolted in October 1917, taking control of Russia. Vladimir Lenin, their leader, rose to power and governed between 1917 and 1924. The Bolsheviks formed the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, marking the beginning of the Russian Civil War between the revolutionary Reds and the phrase, "the Great Retreat," describes the amalgamation of traits of the historical and national culture of Russians with traits belonging to the Communist cycle of ideas and behavior traits. (pp. 354-356) Timasheff argues that the dual process of state-building and the creation of an all-Soviet culture relied heavily on the Russian (and Tsarist) past and heritage (political, cultural, historical). And this strategic turn led to a retreat from prior radical views of socialist transformation. Despite later criticism of this approach, especially the idea of a retreat from socialist development.