



The Russian Revolution of October 1917 changed the course of history. Under the leadership of the Bolsheviks, an alliance of workers and peasants overthrew the Provisional Government that was installed following the Tsar's abdication in February.

The new revolutionary government quickly withdrew Russia from the carnage of World War One and went on to establish the world's first socialist state – the Soviet Union.

Greeted with enthusiasm by millions around the world, the Russian Revolution inspired a century of working class radicalism, internationalism and colonial liberation.

In Britain the Russian Revolution had a profound and immediate impact by strengthening the anti-war movement. Strikes broke out in munitions factories and anti-war campaigners were arrested en masse.

The British government immediately supported the counter-revolution in Russia, with Winston Churchill vowing to “strangle Bolshevism at birth”. Within months British troops were sent to Russia to fight alongside the White Army. But British workers rallied to defend Soviet Russia, with London dockers refusing to load the Jolly George, a ship carrying arms to the Whites.

The British labour movement, including the TUC, backed the Hands Off Russia campaign and threatened a general strike if further aid was sent.



'Capitalism has triumphed all over the world, but this triumph is only the prelude to the triumph of labour over capital.' VI Lenin, 1913

▲ 1960 Soviet postage stamp depicting communist leader Harry Pollitt who led the workers' refusal to load the Jolly George





The **Russian Revolution Centenary Committee** is a broad-based coalition of labour movement, heritage and cultural organisations.

Our aim is to commemorate the Russian Revolution and to inform debate about its legacy and continuing relevance.

The main event will take place at the TUC Congress Centre in London on Saturday 4 November 2017.

Check our website and social media for more details about the centenary programme.

www.1917.org.uk
[@1917Centenary](https://www.facebook.com/1917centenary)
secretary@1917.org.uk



▲ 1968 Soviet postage stamp depicting the Order of the October Revolution

