

Chapter 5

October Revolution (Great October Socialist Revolution)

ABSTRACT

In this section, developments that started before October Revolution in Russia and which brought about the October Revolution, the foods eaten at that time, the food and beverages consumed following the revolution, and their impacts have been discussed. The October Revolution gave rise to various gastronomic developments both outside Russia and inside of Russia. With the civil war following the revolution, intensive White Russian immigration started in the year 1919. One of the cities which hosted the greatest number of guests during this migration process was Istanbul. Tens of thousands of White Russians came to Istanbul, which was under occupation, and which was going through difficult times; and these Russians, who were mainly aristocrats and who were penniless made a quick entrance to Istanbul's food, beverage, and nightlife, with their high intellectual levels and manners, they brought up a brand new breath to Istanbul and Turkish gastronomy.

INTRODUCTION

October Revolution is considered the most important revolution in world history following the French Revolution. Russia started the year 1917 with serious problems. At the beginning of the year 1917, there was a shortage of basic needs such as sugar, oil, milk, bread, fruit, and fuel. Those who were aware of the consequences of this situation were worried about a rebellion

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(Köker & Erem, 2020). Damage that was caused by the protracted World War I to the country's economy was clearly visible in each aspect of life, and the revolutionary groups, trying to turn the attitude of the people against Tsarism into a spark of rebellion, were carrying out propaganda without any interruptions. A wave of strikes swept across the country. Hundreds of thousands poured into the streets demanding an immediate end to the war. The country's economy has been paralyzed. Factories were closing one after another, product prices were increasing, and people were struggling with hunger (Sadikov, 2010). On the 13th of February, 1917, the amount of flour that came to the city decreased to 1 out of 12 of the required amount. While queues for bread and unrest in the streets were increasing in parallel, Alexander Shlyapnikov, who was the head of the Bolshevik Central Committee at that time, did not believe that a revolution could arise from the bread revolt and he said, "Give them some bread and the whole movement will end". On the 20th of February, the security units reported that the people who could not find food could revolt, and that the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks were making preparations in this direction. By the 25th of February, the streets were filled with tens of thousands of protesters. While the people, who could not find food, protested the government, the soldiers opened fire on the people to suppress the rebellion. This event which caused many people to be killed and injured, was the first violent conflict on the way to the February Revolution. On the next day, the death toll rose to 40, and more than 100 people were detained (Köker & Erem, 2020). The Uprising, which came out on the 27th of February (12th of March) 1917 due to the shortage of bread in Petrograd, turned into a revolution with the participation of military units among the popular communities. On the same day, the "Progressive Bloc" within the Russian State Duma (Parliament) came to power by establishing the "Temporary State Duma Committee". On the same day, the Soviet of Workers and Soldiers Representatives (Shura) has been established. After two days of negotiations between Soviet officials and Duma representatives, it was decided to form a liberal interim government on the 14th of March (Ekici, 2017). After the establishment of the provisional government, Tsar II. Nikolay had to abdicate and the Romanov reign, which lasted for more than 300 years, came to an end (Uçarol, 1995). Therefore, the process named the October Revolution actually started in March under the name of the February Revolution and due to the fact that the old calendar system used in Russia in 1917 was 13 days behind, the events coincided with the month of March.

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