

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **Constructivism**

*by Shailza Singh*

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **Kautilya's Realpolitik**

*by Nirmal Jindal*

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **Eurocentrism and Perspectives from**

*by Virendra Kumar*

## **CHAPTER 11**

### **First World War: Causes and Consequ**

*by Ajay Kumar*

## **CHAPTER 12**

### **Bolshevik Revolution**

*by Sangit Sarita Dwivedi*



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# International Relations

## Theory and Practice

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# Bolshevik Revolution

*Sangit Sarita Dwivedi*

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand the reasons for the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia
- To examine how the Russian Revolution was ideologically different from the Marxist ideology of revolution
- To analyse the reasons of Russia's involvement in the First World War
- To evaluate the impact of the Bolshevik Revolution on Russia's relations with the Western countries and subsequent international politics

## Introduction

The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia is considered one of the most significant turning points in the history of international relations (IR). It implicated not only the IR during the interwar period but also the subsequent international politics throughout the 20th century. As it was based on Marxist ideology, it emerged as a challenge to the existing liberal capitalist system and the realist approach to international politics. The objective of the Russian Revolution was not confined to freedom and socialism in Russia but to bring about worldwide revolution. However, the Russian Revolution was different from the Marxist-proposed revolution, as Soviet Russia was not a highly industrialized society; therefore, it was not carried out by bourgeoisie but by economically deprived and marginalized people—peasants and labourers in the society. Therefore, the Russian Revolution is often called as Marxist-Leninist Revolution. Soon after the revolution, the Soviet economy suffered a setback and Soviet leaders