**Bolshevik Notes**

Marxist-Leninism

This brand of Marxism became a gospel for Soviet Russia

Russian Social Democrats split in 1903

* Bolsheviks - led by Lenin
  + Tightly knot group of professional revolutionaries to lead party
  + Clear lines of communication and chain of command
  + Military discipline
* Mensheviks
  + Broader, inclusive party
  + More democratic

Marx had ignored the peasantry - not sufficient class-consciousness for revolution

Lenin beloved that the party could lead them and thus had more “revolutionary optimism”

In Imperialism, The highest Stage of Capitalism (1916) he analyzed the colonial expansion of the late 19th century

* highest stage of capitalism is Imperialism - (Hobsbawm)
* capital monopolies rule the world forcing the superstructure into neo-mercantilism and conflict.
* Export of capital becomes more important that the export of goods
* Alliances and counter alliances arise
* The dying stages of capitalism is an age of gigantic conflicts
* Expanded the ranks of the exploited to all poor of the world - not only capitalist societies

Explained that the revolution would come to Russia before it came to other industrialized nations because it was the “weakest link”

Leninism had the trappings of a religion

* Exclusive
* Saved and reprobate - black and white
* Determines what is right and wrong
* Doctrine of salvation
* Messiah