

Rosa Luxemburg timeline

1789 Storming of the Bastille, **French Revolution** (1789-1814) began

1814-15 defeat and exile of **Napoleon**, restoration of French monarchy

1818 **Karl Marx born** in Germany

1820 **Friedrich Engels born** in Germany

1848 **Revolution** throughout Europe, suppressed; Marx and Engels's *Communist Manifesto*

1861-65 **American Civil War**; **Marx** led **First International**, wrote *Capital*

1867 **Leo Jogiches born** in Poland, part of Russian Empire; Marx began publishing *Capital*

1870-71 **Franco-Prussian War**; **Paris Commune**, suppressed

1870 **Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin) born** in Russia

1871 **Rosa Luxemburg born** in Poland, part of Russian Empire

1871 **Friedrich Ebert** (later leader of the German SPD from 1913-25) **born** in Germany

1875 **Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)** founded by union of Marxists, led by **August Bebel**, and Lassallean socialists, on basis of **Gotha Programme**, critiqued by Marx

1879 **Lev Davidovich Bronstein (Leon Trotsky) born** in Ukraine, part of Russian Empire

1883 **Marx died** (London); Russia: Emancipation of Labor Group formed by **Georgi Plekhanov**

1889 **Second (Socialist) International** founded by German SPD, et al.

1891 **Karl Kautsky** and **Eduard Bernstein** drafted **Erfurt Programme**, critiqued by Engels

1895 **Engels died** (London)

1896-1900 **“Revisionist” controversy** in Marxism: Bernstein argued for obsolescence of Marx, reformist “evolutionary” socialism, critiqued by Kautsky, Luxemburg, Plekhanov, et al.

1904-05 **Russo-Japanese War** for colonial possessions in East Asia, Russia defeated

1905 **Russian Revolution**, emergence of **Soviets** (“councils”); Petersburg Soviet elected Trotsky

1906 Counterrevolution in Russia

1912-13 series of **Balkan Wars** set stage for First World War

1913 **August Bebel died**; **Ebert** became chairman of German SPD

Rosa Luxemburg timeline (continued)

1914 August 4: Social Democratic Party of Germany **voted war credits** as World War I began

1914 Luxemburg, Karl Liebknecht, Jogiches, Clara Zetkin, et al. formed **Spartacus League** of Left oppositionists in the SPD

1915 Luxemburg wrote **Junius Pamphlet** (“Crisis of German Social Democracy”) from prison

1915-17 German Social Democrats **split** into SPD and **USPD (Independent Social Democrats**, of which Luxemburg’s Spartacists, and Kautsky and Bernstein, are part); Ebert leads SPD

1917-18 Russian Empire collapsed under German attack

1917 October: **Bolsheviks lead Soviets** to power, overthrowing the Provisional Government

1918 Germans forced Bolsheviks into **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk**, ceding 1/3 Russian territory

1918 **German Revolution** began with sailors’ mutiny at Kiel; formation throughout Germany of workers and soldiers councils, in which **Herbert Marcuse** (1898-1979), et al. participated

1918 German High Command forced German Kaiser’s abdication, nominated German SPD to lead new German “Republic” to negotiate peace with U.S./Entente; Luxemburg released

1918-19 Germany and allied Austro-Hungarian Empire defeated in WWI; **Treaty of Versailles**

1919 Luxemburg’s Spartacists founded **Communist Party of Germany (KPD)**; **Third (Communist) International** formed by Bolsheviks and German Communists, et al.

1919 **Luxemburg, Liebknecht, Jogiches killed** by counterrevolutionary **Freikorps** paramilitary death squads, predecessors of the Nazi SA (“stormtroopers”), led by Gustav Noske of SPD

1919 **German Civil War**: German government fled Berlin to Weimar to escape Revolution, counterrevolutionary suppression of the Spartacists/Communists throughout Germany

1919 **Ebert** became first president of “**Weimar**” **Republic**, served until death in 1925

1920 German Communists won adherence of majority of Independent Social Democrats (USPD)

1919 **Hungarian Soviet**, in which **Georg Lukács** (1885-1971) participated, suppressed

1920-23 Germany: various revolutionary crises and threatened Right-wing putsches; consolidation of Weimar Republic

1919-22 Italy: revolutionary crisis; **Benito Mussolini**, former Socialist, who founded Fascist movement that suppressed Communists (of **Antonio Gramsci**, et al.), elected Prime Minister

1924 **Lenin died** after long illness (from 1922); Stalin announced “socialism in one country”

1928 **Trotsky expelled** from USSR; Stalin began first “5 year plan,” forced collectivization, etc.