

# Perspectives on the Russian Revolution (1917), Socialism and Contemporary Revolutions

Global Research News Hour Summer Series Part 2

By [Michael Welch](#) and [Roger Annis](#)  
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Region: [Asia](#), [Europe](#), [Russia and FSU](#)  
Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#),  
[History](#)

As discussed on a [previous installment](#) of the Global Research News Hour, the Russian Revolution of 1917 proved to be a pivotal moment in history, not only delivering the world's first constitutional socialist state, but inspired revolts and revolutions to come.

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And yet, in the current historical moment, the stage is being set for more revolutions. Consider the growing economic inequality, unprecedented refugee streams, popular revolts expressing themselves through BREXIT, permanently unemployed youth, assertions of Indigenous sovereignty, and the growing awareness of the climate change predicament and the failure of rulers to meaningfully confront it.

Could the next big revolution(s) be on the way?

In order to address that question, close scrutiny of past revolutions would seem to be in order. Are there common structural or other currents running through all revolutions? What makes for a successful revolution? How can a grand moment of possibility be capitalized on without inviting hazards that could lead to an even greater deterioration of the society?

At the University of Manitoba, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, a special [conference](#) was set up to confront these and related questions on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. The U of M based [Geopolitical Economy Research Group](#) organized the event, and brought in scholars, writers and other notable guests to present their papers. Responses covered a broad range of topics and angles from the concept of permanent counter-revolution, to the 19th century slave rebellions, to Marxism and anti-Communism in Latin America, to reviving Socialist populism in North America to Indigenous challenges to colonial structures.

On this week's Global Research News Hour radio program, as part of our annual summer series of programs, we bring you two presentations from the Revolutions conference.

In the first half hour, speaker Roger Annis notes misconceptions about the Russian Revolution and its aftermath that seems to divide self-described Marxists, and anarchists and others who derive inspiration from it. He indicates that new class alliances need to be

forged to tackle the climate change emergency, and he emphasizes revolution and its role in resisting imperial domination.

In the final half hour of the show, Alan Freeman, one of the event planners, tackles the topic of revolutions and political parties. While political parties are often associated with revolutions, to what extent do parties create revolutions, and to what extent do revolutions create parties? Freeman takes the audience through a condensed historical analysis, invoking the particular examples of the Jacobin and Bolshevik revolutionary movements.

*Roger Annis is a Vancouver-based writer, trade union activist, retired aerospace worker, and self-described socialist. He is one of the editors of the news and analysis site [newcoldwar.org](http://newcoldwar.org) and also publishes his own website, a Socialist in Canada.*

*Alan Freeman is the Winnipeg-based co-director of the Geopolitical Economy Research Group, which put on the Revolutions Conference. He is a former economist at the Greater London Authority and edits the 'Future of World Capitalism' book series at Manchester University Press and the Future of World Capitalism book series with Pluto Press.*

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The [Global Research News Hour](#) airs every Friday at 1pm CT on [CKUW 95.9FM](#) in Winnipeg. The programme is also podcast at [globalresearch.ca](http://globalresearch.ca) . Excerpts of the show have begun airing on [Rabble Radio](#) and appear as podcasts at [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca).

Community Radio Stations carrying the Global Research News Hour:

CHLY 101.7fm in Nanaimo, B.C - Thursdays at 1pm PT

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[Burnaby Radio Station CJSF out of Simon Fraser University](#). 90.1FM to most of Greater Vancouver, from Langley to Point Grey and from the North Shore to the US Border.

It is also available on 93.9 FM cable in the communities of SFU, Burnaby, New Westminister, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Surrey and Delta, in British Columbia, Canada. - Tune in at its new time - Wednesdays at 4pm PT.

Radio station [CFUV 101.9FM](#) based at the University of Victoria airs the Global Research News Hour every Sunday from 7 to 8am PT.

[CORTES COMMUNITY RADIO CKTZ 89.5](#) out of Manson's Landing, B.C airs the show Tuesday mornings at 10am Pacific time.

[Cowichan Valley Community Radio CICV 98.7 FM](#) serving the [Cowichan Lake](#) area of Vancouver Island, BC airs the program Thursdays at 6am pacific time.

Campus and community radio [CFMH 107.3fm](#) in Saint John, N.B. airs the Global Research News Hour Fridays at 10am.

Caper Radio CJBW 107.3FM in Sydney, [Cape Breton](#), Nova Scotia airs the Global Research News Hour starting Wednesday Morning from 8:00 to 9:00am. Find more details at [www.caperradio.ca](#)

RIOT RADIO, the visual radio station based out of [Durham College](#) in Oshawa, Ontario has begun airing the Global Research News Hour on an occasional basis. Tune in at [dcstudentsinc.ca/services/riot-radio/](#)

Radio Fanshawe: [Fanshawe's 106.9 The X \(CIXX-FM\)](#) out of London, Ontario airs the Global Research News Hour Sundays at 6am with an encore at 4pm.

Los Angeles, California based [Thepowerofvoices.com](#) airs the Global Research News Hour every Monday from 6-7pm Pacific time.

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