

**PRESS KIT**

**WORLDwrite presents...**

**1917**

**Why the  
Russian Revolution  
matters**

**WORLDwrite**  
Millfields Lodge  
201 Millfields Road  
London, E5 0AL

**Tel:** +44 (0)20 8985 5435

**Email:** [world.write@btconnect.com](mailto:world.write@btconnect.com)

**Website :** [worldbytes.org](http://worldbytes.org)

# Press release: Immediate

## **Myth-busting new documentary marking the centenary of the Russian Revolution to premiere at the Battle of Ideas festival**

*1917: Why the Russian Revolution Matters*, WORLDwrite's latest myth-busting historical documentary, will premiere at the Battle of Ideas festival on the 28th October at 1.30pm in Barbican Cinema 2.

Through compelling interviews, incisive analysis and extraordinary archive, *1917: Why The Russian Revolution Matters* brings humanity's greatest experiment in social change to life. Contributors challenge the widespread notion that the October uprising was a conspiracy cooked up behind closed doors, when in fact it was supported by a mass working class movement. They argue convincingly that history should not be read backwards and warn against today's fashionable tendency to suggest Lenin gave rise to Stalin and the gulag and even to Putin.

Ceri Dingle, WORLDwrite's director, says: "It is striking how little acknowledgement there has been of such an important centenary. The few events, TV specials and books which have attempted to commemorate the Russian Revolution have perpetuated longstanding myths and misunderstandings. Our film challenges a misanthropic view of history that sees every attempt to change society for the better as a disaster-in-waiting."

Crowdfunded and crowd-filmed by the charity WORLDwrite and a crew of volunteer citizen TV-makers, this documentary explores the context, causes and consequences of ten days that shook the world and went on to define politics globally through the rest of the twentieth century.

The trailer is available here: <http://www.worldbytes.org/1917-why-the-russian-revolution-matters-trailer/>

Tickets for the Battle of Ideas festival include access to over 90 debates in addition to the film premiere are available here: <https://www.battleofideas.org.uk>

For more information and interviews contact:

Ceri Dingle at [world.write@btconnect.com](mailto:world.write@btconnect.com)

Tel: +44 (0)20 8985 5435

Web: <http://www.worldbytes.org/>

**Notes to editors:** WORLDwrite is a registered charity, no. 1060869. WORLDwrite-produced documentaries include the award-winning, internationally-screened *Every Cook Can Govern: The life, works & impact of C.L.R. James* and the acclaimed *Sylvia Pankhurst: Everything Is Possible*. WORLDwrite runs the award-winning online Citizen TV channel WORLDbytes that champions quality citizen reporting and provides free film training to make this possible.

# Synopses

## Short Synopsis (50 words)

To mark the centenary of October 1917, WORLDwrite's remarkable, myth-busting documentary explains the significance of the Russian Revolution. Humanity's greatest experiment in social change is brought to life through compelling interviews, incisive analysis and extraordinary archive in *1917: Why The Russian Revolution Matters*.

## Medium Synopsis (100 words)

To mark the centenary of October 1917, WORLDwrite's remarkable, myth-busting documentary explains the significance of the Russian Revolution. Through compelling interviews, incisive analysis and extraordinary archive, *1917: Why The Russian Revolution Matters* brings humanity's greatest experiment in social change to life. Although it ultimately ended in failure, the October revolution inspired radicals across the globe - and terrified elites in equal measure.

Crowdfunded and crowd-filmed by the charity WORLDwrite and a crew of volunteer citizen TV-makers, this documentary explores the context, causes and consequences of ten days that shook the world and went on to define politics globally through the rest of the twentieth century.

## Long Synopsis (250 words)

To mark the centenary of October 1917, WORLDwrite's documentary explains the significance of the Russian Revolution. Through compelling interviews, incisive analysis and extraordinary archive, *1917: Why The Russian Revolution Matters* brings humanity's greatest experiment in social change to life.

The film busts some of the biggest myths of the revolution. Contributors challenge the idea that the October uprising was a conspiracy cooked up behind closed doors, when in fact it was supported by a mass working class movement. Nor was it a violent product of mob rule - October was in fact remarkably bloodless and an end to the violence of the First World War was a central demand of the revolutionaries. They argue convincingly that history should not be read backwards and warn against today's fashionable tendency to suggest Lenin gave rise to Stalin and the gulag and even to Putin.

Although it ultimately ended in failure, the October revolution inspired radicals across the globe who sought change in their own societies. At the same time, it struck terror into the hearts of the Imperial powers, including Britain, who at the end of the First World War, redeployed their armies to Russia to crush the revolution, prevent workers' rule and deny land to the peasants.

Crowdfunded and crowd-filmed by the charity WORLDwrite and a crew of volunteer citizen TV-makers, this documentary explores the context, causes and consequences of ten days that shook the world and went on to define politics globally through the rest of the twentieth century.

# Production Information

**Title:** 1917: Why The Russian Revolution Matters

**Format:** Shot in HD 1080i (Available as DCP, MPEG-4 & DVD)

**Sound:** Stereo

**Aspect ratio:** 16:9 with 4:3 archive

**Editing:** AVID Media Composer

**Runtime:** 76 minutes

**Completion:** October 2017

**Country of production:** UK

**Classification:** E

For full copyright information on all footage, imagery and archive, licensed to the charity WORLDwrite for use in the film, email [world.write@btconnect.com](mailto:world.write@btconnect.com)

This film was produced by and belongs to the UK-based education charity **WORLDwrite**  
(Charity Registration Number: 1060869)

WORLDwrite Centre

Millfields Lodge

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**Website:** [worldbytes.org](http://worldbytes.org)



*The Petrograd Soviet, a form of direct democracy (Wikimedia Commons)*

# Credits

## Director

Ceri Dingle

## Producers

Fraser Myers  
Marisa Pereira

## Editor

Ceri Dingle

## Edit assistant

Fraser Myers

## Contributors in order of appearance

Philip Cunliffe  
Norman Lewis  
Mick Hume  
Alan Hudson  
Frank Furedi  
James Heartfield  
Eve Kay  
Dr Tara McCormack

## Camera (UK)

Andy Hirst  
Fraser Myers

## Camera (Russia)

Hleb Voukau

## Camera Assistant (Russia)

Hanna Lipnitskaya

## Graphic artist

Niall Crowley

## Project volunteers

A.Anthony.Fernandes  
Aba Wood  
Adolfo Alexander  
Aliya Arman  
Anais Wardak  
Anastasia Vikhoreva  
Bamba Diop  
Celmira Costa  
Claire Harris  
Dinesh Venkatesan  
Efua Mercer  
Erin Rooney  
Fabián Vera  
Greta Kriauciunaite  
Helena Lambert  
Hleb Voukau  
Joanna Walsh  
John Lawson  
Kadijha Kamara  
Karim Manzi  
Kenny Ekundayo  
Magnus Summers  
Maja Pearson  
Nebeyatt Betre  
Neeraja Shajan  
Noah Barco  
Rob Coate  
Rob Harris  
Ruth Eghagha  
Valentina Jimenez  
Wali Khawaja



*International Women's Day in Petrograd, 1917*



*Vladimir Lenin in the Smolny by Isaak Brodsky (Wikimedia Commons)*



*The Spartakusbund, a German revolutionary movement (Wikimedia Commons)*



*The Tsar Nicolas II and the Romanovs (Library of Congress)*