

# Historical/Cultural Context of *Animal Farm*: The Russian Revolution

Before we can understand the Russian revolution, we need to clarify some key terms and political systems.

SYSTEM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
<b>Capitalism</b>	An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by <b>private owners</b> for profit, rather than by the state.	
<b>Socialism</b>	An economic system characterized by <b>social ownership</b> of the means of production and co-operative management of the economy. "Social ownership" may refer to cooperative enterprises, common ownership, state ownership, citizen ownership of equity, or any combination of these.	
<b>Communism</b>	A political and economic system that aims to replace private property and a profit-based economy with <b>public ownership</b> and communal control of (at least) the major means of production ( <i>e.g., mines, mills, and factories</i> ) and the natural resources of a society. An extreme form of socialism.	
<b>Tsarism (often Czarism)</b>	A system of government by a tsar (emperor), in Russia until 1917. The tsar has <b>absolute power</b> and authority, including over religious issues.	
<b>Totalitarianism</b>	A political system in which the state (a single party) holds <b>total authority</b> over the society and seeks to control all aspects of public and private life wherever possible, often through restriction, mass surveillance & terrorism.	
<b>Dictatorship</b>	A dictatorship is defined as an autocratic or authoritarian form of government in which a government is ruled <b>by an individual</b> . The dictator has total power, and has often obtained this position through force.	
<b>Democracy</b>	Democracy is a form of government in which all eligible citizens <b>participate equally</b> – either directly or through elected representatives – in the proposal, development, and creation of laws. It encompasses social, economic and cultural elements of a society.	