Historical Study A70: International History
October 11, 2001: The Leninist Alternative

1. Wilsonian Visions (Review)
   a. The Versailles System and its opponents
   b. The question of where Bolshevik Russia fits

2. Leninism in Theory and Action
   a. Socialism, Marxism, Leninism – their nineteenth-century origins
   b. The growth of socialist parties in Britain, Germany, Sweden, Australia before the war
   c. Socialism in Russia (“the weakest link in the capitalist chain,” Trotsky): Social-Democratic Labor Party split into Mensheviks (Trotsky) and Bolsheviks (Lenin)
   d. March 1917 revolution, abdication of Emperor Nicholas II, formation of Provisional government, its overthrow by Bolsheviks in October 1917
   e. Why did socialism/Marxism succeed in wartime Russia, while in other countries socialists lost their influence?
   f. Bolshevik foreign policy (capital moves to Moscow, 1918):– denunciation of imperialist protocols, concessions, and loans
   g. Impact on the rest of Europe: workers’ and soldiers’ councils (“soviets”) in Germany (Bavaria proclaims itself a Soviet Republic); socialists dominate Vienna; Bela Kun’s Soviet Republic in Hungary
   h. Third (Communist) International (Comintern) formed in 1919 to serve as headquarters for world revolutionary movement (Karakhan manifestoes for more equitable relations among states)

3. Wilsonianism versus Leninism
   a. Socialism in the U.S.; “Why is there no socialism in the United States?” (Werner Sombart, 1906); Eugene Debs in jail charged with sedition in violation of 1917 Espionage Act (but collects 915,000 votes in presidential election of 1920)
   b. Wilson’s and other liberals’ fear of world revolutionary upheaval, Lenin’s fear of capitalist encirclement and intervention
   c. Wilson’s “informal empire” (similar to Taft’s “dollar diplomacy”), Lenin’s anti-imperialism
   d. Still, there are common themes in the Fourteen Points and the Petrograd Formula (“no annexations, no indemnities”)

4. Bolshevik Russia and the World, 1917-1920
   a. Wilson and the March 1917 revolution: U.S. missions to Russia
   b. From Brest-Litovsk peace to Allied interventions, 1918: Archangel (April), Murmansk (June), Siberia (August)
   c. The Russian question in armistice negotiations
   d. Paris Peace Conference, 1919: Russia not invited; alternative approaches: recognize the new regime, look for a non-Bolshevik alternative, or mediate among various factions; in the end, no further intervention by wartime allies
   e. Poland invades Russia, 1920 (boundary dispute): Can a socialist state fight a traditional war? How is such a war justified?
   f. Comintern influence in China (May Fourth movement), India, Egypt, and other parts of the world; Did Wilson’s failure to help China in Paris lead to the rise of Mao?
   g. Red Scare in the United States; Hoover’s American Relief Administration
   h. U.S. non-recognition of Bolshevik regime