proletariat. In writing *The Soviets at Work*, he even stated that "no other alternative is possible for a country which is passing through an unusually swift development with unusually difficult transitions and which suffers from desperate disorganization created by the most horrible war."[18]

According to Lenin this dictatorship of the proletariat must be established through revolution, which must occur in three stages. The first, the united solidarity of the peasants and workers to overthrow the bourgeoisie, had already been completed. The second, the political awakening of the masses and the creation of soviets *en masse*, had also already been accomplished. The third and final step of revolution, which Lenin had explored in great depth in his writings, was labor discipline.[19]

Once the dictatorship of the proletariat was established, its character would be unique among all nations of the world. First, the electorate would be comprised solely of the workers, and any and all bourgeoisie would not be allowed to participate. Secondly, the bureaucracy of elections would be eliminated, giving the masses full control over when and where to have elections. And thirdly, the creation of an "industrial proletariat" would be able to directly influence the masses, stir them up politically, and train them in an attempt to create an entire nation that can learn how to be effective managers.[20]

Lenin sums up his writing by stating that Russia in its present state was in a very unique and dangerous situation while it waited for the rest of the capitalist nations to fall to socialist revolutions. The work of creating this new proletarian-led system of governance, which Lenin likened to clearing the rubble of destroyed bourgeoisie traditions, was extremely difficult and actually made harder by the criticisms of so-called "super revolutionists." These are the socialists who were completely loyal to the cause of the revolution, so much so, that they disdained and criticized the conduct of the Bolsheviks thus far; forgetting, as Lenin writes, the "particular and 'Particularly unpleasant' state that must inevitably be passed by a backward country which has been shattered by a reactionary and ill-fated war and which started the Socialist revolution long before more advanced countries."[21]

18. Ibid, 30.
19. Lenin, *The soviets at work*, 38.
20. Ibid, 39.
21. Ibid, 43.

Written shortly after the outbreak of the November Revolution by the leading figure of the uprising, it is no surprise that Lenin's *The Soviets at Work* clearly and absolutely supports the Bolsheviks and is biased against all other viewpoints opposed to them. Nevertheless, Lenin's opinions on various subjects in his writings are a mixture of intellectual and pragmatic, as well as conjecture and unfounded opinion. Lenin is not entirely at fault for this, however, due to the fact that many of the actions being taken and policies implemented during the Revolution had never been attempted before. This necessitated the use of unfounded conjecture, which cannot be moved past until it is proven that the policies being put in place are effective.

That is not to say that all of Lenin's stances in *The Soviets at Work* are pure opinion. On the contrary, Lenin devotes a rather large amount of space in his writings to the issue of productivity and management throughout Russia, and how it becomes necessary to raise the industrial output of the nation in order to survive and thrive. This attitude is much less opinion on Lenin's part than it is basic economics and sound judgment, and the amount of attention given to this one particular problem is likely because of the importance Lenin attributes in overcoming it. This insistence and repetitiveness may also help convince not only those opposed to his policies of the rightness of his cause, but any reader who considers his work.

The beliefs espoused in *The Soviets at Work* are hardly universal, but Lenin barely explores the alternative viewpoints of the Mensheviks or supporters of the Kerensky government in his writings, only describing them as political and military opponents who "continue their attempts to unite for the overthrow of Soviet power."[22] Nor does he devote time to his most favored of enemies – the capitalist. Although Lenin does concede that capitalist nations have a much higher level of industrial output than Russia, and agrees that they need to reach capitalist-level production, he writes extensively that this is not an admission of the superiority of capitalism, merely a means to the final destruction of capitalism.

Considering the lack of dissenting opinions in Lenin's writings, it would be prudent for any scholar of the Russian Revolution or Russian history to take note of other authors writing at this time, as Lenin was hardly the only revolutionary putting pen to paper in the early

22. Lenin, *The soviets at work*, 6-7.