In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century nationalist revolutions were happening around the world. Two cases of these revolutions were the political revolutions in China and Russia. While there were some differences in those revolutions, they were very similar in their eventual goals and inability to achieve them.

China’s revolution of 1911 and Russia’s revolution of 1917 started with different goals to achieve, but eventually China’s goals became more similar to those of Russia. At first, China’s nationalist revolutionary, Sun Yixian, wanted to create a western modeled democratic government. In comparison, Russian revolutionaries wanted to create an equal and functioning communist government modeled off the ideas of Karl Marx. Eventually during this revolutionary process in China, the democratic nationalists went to war with the communists. The communists won with so much support from the farmers and the nationalists were forced out and started a democratic nation on the island of Taiwan, at Formosa. At that point, both the Russians and the Chinese had goals to create a communist government. They also hoped to use communism as an economic system and have a greater economic output for their countries.

The outcomes of these revolutions were amazingly similar in China and Russia. Both nations wanted to create a communist government where everyone was equal, but they both actually created a communist government where everyone was equal, but they both actually created totalitarian dictatorships where one man ruled and everyone else was basically equal at the bottom.

In Russia, Stalin was the ruler while Mao Zedong was the ruler in China. Both areas wanted to increase economic output and started huge programs for it. A difference was that in China, they aimed for increased agricultural output and Russia aimed for increased industrial output mainly. This difference happened because China hadn’t industrialized and had mainly remained a farming nation while Russia had begun to industrialize. In China huge commons, or farms, were created where everyone would work together, but famine and crop failure caused mass starvation. In Russia, the economic plan failed also, and the masses suffered. In both places, the governments had total control and get rid of any opposition saying that they wouldn’t cooperate with the community. Stalin had the secret police to take out his opposition in Russia and Mao had the Red Guard. They killed them or sent them to labor camps to “reform” them. This occurred in both areas because the theory of communism requires that everyone must cooperate for the system to work. Since some wouldn’t cooperate under this false communism, the leaders got rid of them. These revolutions are very similar in the eventual goals and what happened during and after the revolutions, but the major difference is that China was a rural revolution and Russia was an urban revolution. While China relied on the peasants to be controlled for the revolution to occur, Russians needed to control the urban workers for the revolution to occur. This is also how the economic plans were different.