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Putin Slams Lenin for Laying 'Atomic Bomb' Under Russia

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Lenin speaks at the Third Congress of the Communist International in 1921.

President Vladimir Putin on Thursday blamed Bolshevik revolutionary Vladimir Lenin for planting the ideas that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Interfax news agency reported.

During a meeting of the Presidential Council for Science and Education, one of the attendees quoted a poem by Boris Pasternak describing Lenin as someone who had managed the flow of his thoughts to rule the country.

"Letting your rule be guided by thoughts is right, but only when that idea leads to the right results, not like it did with Vladimir Ilich," Putin quipped in reply. "In the end that idea led to the fall of the Soviet Union," he added.

"There were many such ideas as providing regions with autonomy, and so on. They planted an atomic bomb under the building that is called Russia which later exploded. We did not need a global revolution," he said.

Putin has in the past famously described the fall of the Soviet Union as the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the twentieth century."

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