



Communism in Crisis

Lenin & Stalin in Power

Basil Dmytryshyn

- Wrote in the 1960s-1980s
- Polish, but escaped to USA after being imprisoned by both Germans and Russians during WWII
- Speaks many languages
- Expert on Russian history from 700s-1991; Ukraine
- Revisionist, anti-Stalinist historian
- Thesis: Stalin used excessive cultural and social regimentation to accomplish his industrial and agricultural goals

Russian Civil War (1919-1920)

- Reds (Communists) vs. Whites (anti-Bolshevik, Mensheviks/SRs, monarchists & supported by West)
- Last Romanovs executed (July 17, 1918)
- Lenin calls for “**Dictatorship of the Proletariat**”
 - Uses force to put down all opposition →
 - Cheka create “**Red Terror**” (250K murdered)



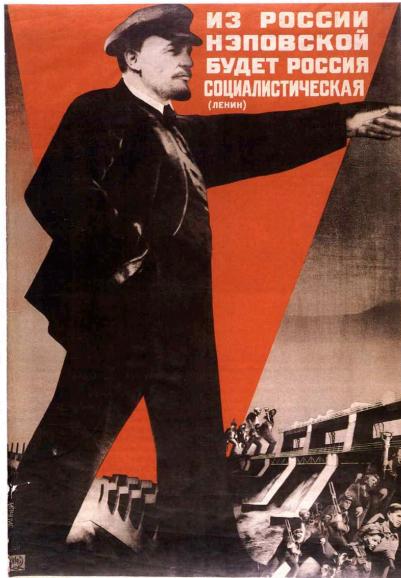
War Communism (1920)

- Nationalization
- Drafted all men < 50; Women worked in industry
- Peasants farmed to feed army/workers



Lenin's Reforms & NEP (1921)

- Some private ownership @ local level
 - Indicates Russia is not ready for Communism
- Politburo est. single-party state
 - Allowed local elections; candidates were Communist
- Religion suppressed; Marx
- Mass media pushed propaganda



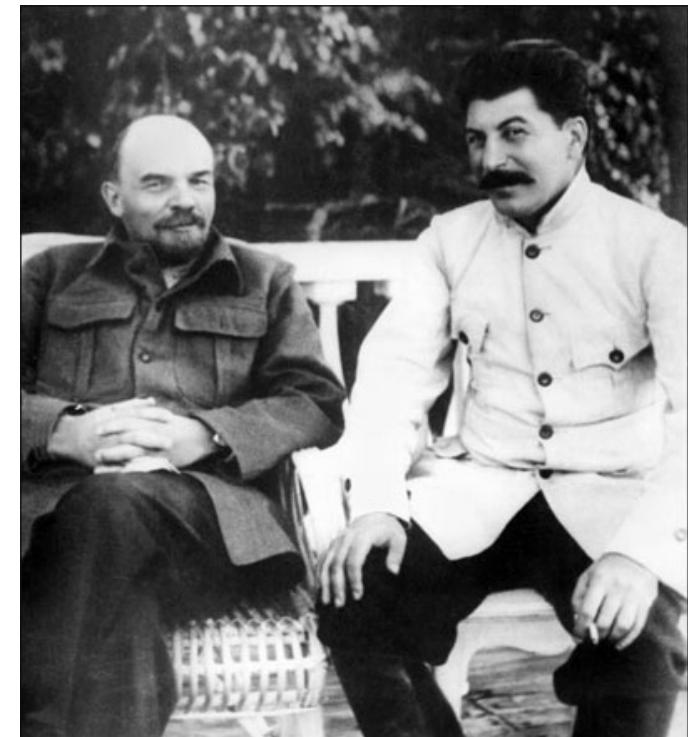
Foreign Policy

- Worldwide Communist takeover → Comintern est.

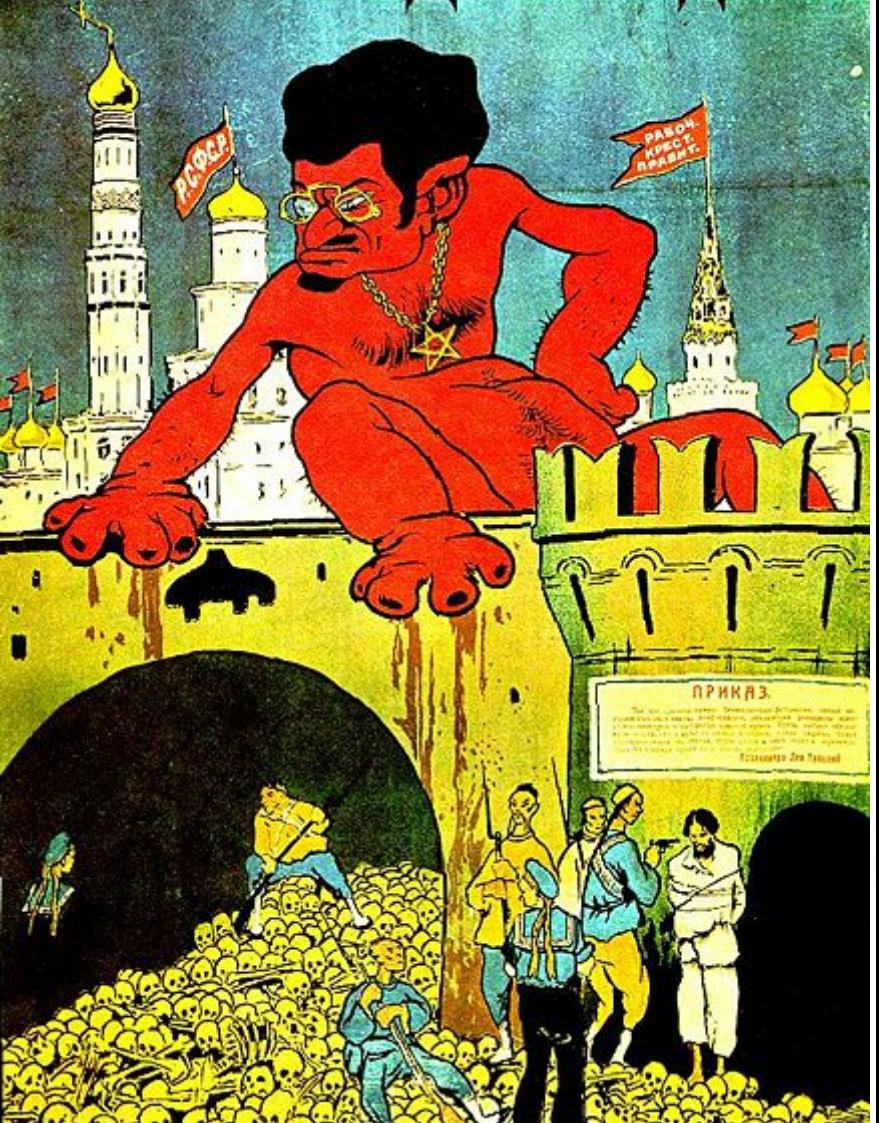


Lenin's Death (1924)

- USSR established in 1922
- Lenin dies of a stroke with no clear successor, but it's likely he would have liked Trotsky
 - Stalin vs. Trotsky → Stalin wins.



МИРъиСВОБДА ВЪСВДЕПИ.



Perspectives of Trotsky

USSR Under Stalin

- State would “wither away” (176)
- Rewriting History
 - Can’t question Lenin
 - 1930 – Universal primary ed.
 - Classroom discipline returns; create good workers for State
 - 1934 – Changes education system for history
- Teaching of Russian language; “**Communist virtues**”
- No more free love → family & marriage stressed (177);
 - “**Mother Heroine**” – 10+ Children
 - No more “hooliganism” → death!



- **Five-Year Plans** (1928) – established quotes that industry had to meet; ended privatization (goal: 250%)
 - First two Five-Year Plans were effective in building heavy industry at the expense of consumer goods, quality, and rewards for workers
- Forced **collectivization** of agriculture returned peasants to serfdom → poor econ policy, over-bureaucracy, peasant indifference (174) → 10 million starving



Classes vs. Classless Society (179-180)

- Marxist historians: Truly classless by definition
- Others: USSR was just like any other country
- Others: Obeying vs. Commanding Class (D)
 - Stalin could “freeze” workers through planned econ
 - Paid skilled and unskilled workers differently (1931)
 - Rewards for Stakhanovites and others (Boxer the Horse)



Purges

- Causes (different historiographical theories)
 - Scapegoat to cover up economic failure of 5 Year Plans
 - Eliminate Opposition
 - Terror inherent to Totalitarianism → submit to state
 - Stalin's own madness/paranoia
- Different from Lenin
 - Numbers involved & non-party casualties
 - “Show trials”
 - Forced confessions of guilt



- Occur 1933-1939; 300K “purged”; 35K from army
 - **Reign of Terror** – Politburo member Kirov assassinated in 1934; used as an excuse to execute whomever Stalin wished
 - No defense allowed, eliminated “Old Bolsheviks,” Red Army
 - **Kulaks** – shot or sent to **Gulags**
 - Great Purge – Torture, public confessions, executions
 - Trotsky – Murdered in Mexico
- After purges, only loyalists remain – Khrushchev, Molotov, Malenkov, etc.

