

NCO's

Not in the Russian Imperial Army as they would pose a risk of mutiny and hence only Noble Officers would be Comissioned.

June 1917

Galician Offensive

July Rising

Kerensky
imprisoned the
Bolsheviks
Lennin flees
to Finland

August 1917

Kornilov
Coup

Arm the Bolsheviks
against the Kornilov
Supporters.

- * Bolsheviks accept Lennin's policy
- * Failure of the War Effort
- * Slogans
 - * → Kept their hands Clean
- * Aug. 1917
 - 200 000 members
 - 10 000 Red Guards
 - 41 Newspapers



Time for Revolution?

- * Fear a second Kornilov coup
- * Unrest in German forces = hoping for a world wide socialist rising
- * Better to be established before the second congress of Soviets

1917 October 23 (Gregorian Calendar) Central Committee Meeting

- Lenin presents the arguments for why the time is ripe for a revolution.

= Decision to stage the revolution is taken!

10 vote yes

10/12 simple majority

2 vote no

(Zinoviev; Kamenev)

⇒ Evidence that suggests the revolution was a Coup

- As proposed by Richard Pipes

Orthodox Interpretation

- Polish born, communist hating
Munichian

8 November 1917 Second congress of Soviets accepted

Bolshevik power and recognized the end of the provisional government.

They hold elections
25 of November 1917

I Decree issued by Kamenev:

Establish the "Council of People's
Commissars"

Orthodox view: It

is using the new leverage gained
to start a soviet led government.

Sovnar Kom
to work as the new government

Lenin would head this

Revisionist view:

The soviets have popular support and therefore get to grant themselves
power.

II Decree on peace is immediately taken. Initiating
steps to negotiate

III Decree on land: Abolition on private property

Redistributed to the peasants through
the local Soviet.

- National Assembly January 1918 (An important argument for orthodox historians)
Stopped by the Red Guard election results are then nullified

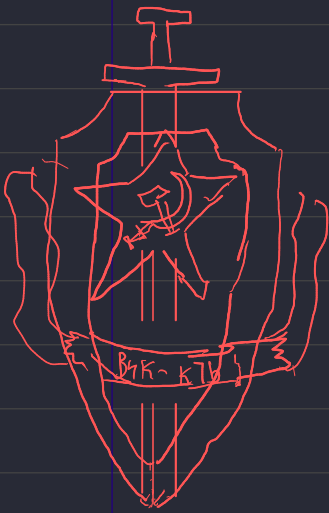
Post Revisionist view: The Soviets rode on a wave of popular support

Spring / Summer of 1918 opposition: * Workers (cities) angry
over economic plight, food rations

low, increasing state violence

Launching the RED TERROR <=

Not happy with Bolsheviks
dissolving the constituent
assembly



↳ not a new strategy,
rather intensifying what
was already happening,

* Anarchists reject Bolshevik
authority.

* Brest-Litovsk

↓
Before the Red Army was
used. Now it was conducted by
the secret police, the CHEKA.

↳ headed by Felix Dzerzhinsky

In January 1918: the army is open to all above 18

Political Commissars connected to all
units

17 of July 1918 Killing of the Czar and all of the Romanov

Constitution adopted by the 5th congress of Soviets: in July 1918
formed Constitution, became a law.

March 1918 the Bolsheviks changed their name to the Communists.

1- Separating the church from the state.

- Banning of religious
teachings

"Religion is like a nail, if you
hit it on the head you will drive
it in deeper" - Lenin.

2- Nationalisation of Banks,
resources, industry and foreign trade

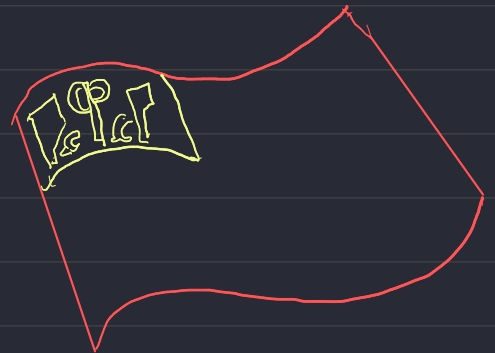
3- Inheritance of property is now illegal.

4- RSFSR - Classless society

5- Elections based on villages →

delegates for national growth

All Russian Congress of Soviets



June 1918 - Decree on Nationalisation

(Supreme Economic Council December 1917)

- Centralized control of all forms of production ↗ In line with the first constitution
- Destruction of Money economy
- Redistribution from countryside to urban = Food requisitioning
- Centralized distribution of food, ↘ Increased opposition from the peasantry

⇒ War Communism (not actually referred as war communism in it's conception)

Traditional View: Reds vs Whites (All opposition)

Revisionist View: Reds vs Greens (Left wing opposition)
Reds vs Whites (Right wing opposition)

Soviet Explanations: It's allied intervention

Western: Opposition to Bolshevik control

Pipes: The Bolsheviks want a civil war

Reds: Bolsheviks

Whites: 1- Groups hostile to Bolshevik take over

2- Former officers loyal to the Czar
Imperial army resentful of the Brest-Litovsk pact

3- Local national opposition seeking independence,

4- Czech League: Prisoners of War that want to go home

Allies: 5- Great Britain, Japan, France, Germany, The United State
(until Nov. 1918)

↳ Continue WWI

2- Defeat the Bolsheviks,

Civil war - 1918 - 1921 → From 20 it becomes a National War

18 March 1921 - Treaty of Riga.

- Establishes Russia's Western border.

Poland receives parts of Galicia and Belarus

⇒ Soviet state/situation in Russia is bad,

Civil War & War Communism.

this being WWI

* Decline in Urban industry. By 1921 21% of pre war output.

* Famine

* Inflation has more or less destroyed the rouble

* 1917 - 21 9 million casualties

* Half as much land cultivated as in 1913
- Which in turn means half as much livestock

* 21st of March 1921 - Revolt at the Kronstad naval base

Sailors rise up against their officers
= Bolshevik vs Bolshevik

* New Revolution including freedom of speech and assembly + private trade

* Trotsky and the Red Army crush it!

Carrot and Stick

Sticks: Restrict freedom

Carrot: Private Trade

Lenin acts and issues:

I. Ban of Factions \Rightarrow KILL internal opposition

II. Ban of other parties \Rightarrow Disposing of external opposition

- Lenin launches N.E.P. (New Economic Policy)

Pre Oct. 1917



Provisional Government \rightarrow Dissolved after October/November 1917

Soviet \rightarrow Constituent Assembly dissolved

= Jan 1918 Russia in practice became a single party state



Council of
People's Commissars

Sovmarksom

Politburo



local soviets dominated
by Bolsheviks

1921 Ban of other parties

= officially a Single Party
state, now the USSR.

Ban other
Parties

\rightarrow Red terror

Russia is not a single party
state until 1921!

New Economic Policy (NEP)

1922 88% of all
businesses were privately
held but only employed

- * Private trade is reintroduced (Free Enterprise) 12% of the work force
- * Government still controls heavy industry and Banks
- * Restabilisation of the Currency
- * Abandoning Grain Requisitioning - replacing it tax in kind.
 - In the former system farmers had no incentive, now farmers have an incentive to increase production, fixed proportion of surplus

⇒ NEP - mem. (middle men benefiting from trade)

⇒ Small scale Capitalism * Gasps *

State Capitalism

1917-1918

Decree on Land

Critics say that effective control of the land would now be in the hands of the peasants, not the state

War Communism

1918-1921

= Socialization of the economy

a-) Using the sources (and my own knowledge) explain why
the Russian economy was in such a poor state in 1921 with 1913

The first world war had been disastrous for the Russian economy and caused wide spread starvation and suffering. Economic and agricultural output had been fully sent to the front lines.

Further more on source C it is also implied that the corrupt Red Guard was hoarding food and starving the population

c-) from the evidence in Source E, how successful do you think

NEP was?

In 1922 a slight improvement in all measures can be seen in electricity and steel production. From 1922 - 1926 all metrics would increase their production tenfold which is a sign of success of Lenin's NEP

d-) What similarities and contradiction can you find in the statements of Lenin in Sources B, F, G?

What reasons do you believe for these contradictions?

Sources B and F are similar in the sense that Lenin is portrayed as caring for the people and uses the Red Guard to fight injustice, however on source G it can be seen that food requisitioning efforts are slowly developing into slaughters.

Did the liberalization of the economy policy lead to political liberalisation.

- No intention of letting small scale capitalism develop into full scale capitalism. That would foster the urge for political change!

Economic Liberalization was only a "carrot" for the stick that the banning of political factions was.

I: Censorship - becomes systematic

From 1922, increase of Whitepapers

"Main Administration for Affairs of Literature and Publishing houses"

= Pre-Publishing censorship

II Establishment of GPU

1922 **CHEKA** → **GPU** - main political administration

→ Increase in intensity of actions against political opposition

III: Political show trials

Used against political opposition

Social Revolutionaries arranged and put on public to justify ban on factions

IV: Religion Policy

Cultural and political motive

Centralisation of power / Russian State

1918-1921

- Sovnarkom
- Party Structure
Politburo
- Nationalisation

Politics

Communist party begins to dominate the government

⇒ Politburo takes precedence over the Sovnarkom

II The Party becomes centralised

⇒ Local level communist leaders trade control over the Soviet.
- Local "politicians" take order from the party.

From 1919 the Central Committee nominates and appoints own representatives into key positions in the Soviets