# HISTORICAL CABINET





**Andrew Wang** 

**CHAIR** 

**Peter Streufert** 

AD

Anna Kaplan





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## **DIRECTOR'S LETTER**

To the Esteemed Comrades of the Central Committee,

Welcome to the 22nd Congress of the Central Committee of the Soviet Union. My name is Andrew Wang and I will be your Director for this committee at Pacific Model United Nations 2019. I am a current senior at Interlake High School and this will be my fourth and last year of MUN. I will be joined by my Chair, Peter Streufert, a senior at Bainbridge High School, and my Assistant Director, Anna Kaplan, a senior at Bainbridge High School.

We are thrilled that the Historical Cabinet Committee at PACMUN 2019 will be simulating the development of the Soviet Union after the death of Lenin. As a historical turning point that laid the foundations for our recent history, understanding this event is essential to understanding modern geopolitics.

The broad range of topics at hand, the massively high stakes, and the extremely complex and dynamic factionalism of this committee make the Historical Cabinet Committee an outstandingly difficult--yet rewarding--experience. Delegates must decide whether the game of politics they play is based on acquiring power or satisfying the needs of the populus and must unravel the complexities of the Soviet Union's contemporary issues for their own gain.

The following background guide is intended as an introduction to the important context of the contemporary Soviet situation and primary issues faced by the Soviet Union. However, this guide is not meant as a substitute for individual research. All delegates will be required to write two position papers: firstly, a public address; and the second, a private cable to your subordinates. The details of to whom each paper is addressed is left to delegates, but each paper should explain your background research, policy agenda, and political aspirations.

Feel free to email the dais, at <a href="mailto:cabinet@pacificmun.com">cabinet@pacificmun.com</a>, with any questions you may have about the content of this guide or in general. My dais and I look forward to meeting everyone in November to rewrite the course of modern history.

Until November,
Andrew Wang
Director | Historical Cabinet
Pacific Model United Nations 2019





## COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party functions as the Soviet Union's highest authority. Subservient to this Central Committee are the Political Bureau (Politburo), General Secretariat of the Communist Party, and the Orgburo. Members of these lesser political entities, as well as other important parties and national figures, serve on the Central Committee. Each member of the committee has different individual powers, but Central Committee decisions are superior and binding.

Each session of the committee will represent one plenary session of the Central Committee. Though the Central Committee convenes on a monthly basis to discuss the economic, political, and social policy-making agenda of the Soviet Union, only key Committee sessions will be simulated. Delegates should expect around one year of time to pass between each committee session and should plan their actions accordingly. Delegates will be informed of the consequences of their actions in the previous at the start of each session.

This simulation of the Central Committee operates under a distinct set of Rules of Procedure. Each session, delegates will work towards the passage of General Directives: at any time in the committee, delegates will motion and vote to create a General Directive on a certain topic, then delegates will have the option to add clauses to this directive, which are approved by simple majority. At the end of each session, General Directives can be passed by a vote of simple majority. General directives will not go into effect until after the session ends. Delegates will also have the ability to issue overt and covert directives, which can go into effect immediately. More information on the Cabinet Rules of Procedure will be available on the PACMUN website.

Each member of the Central Committee will have their own distinct powers and responsibilities. Each will oversee aspects of the economy, culture, and politics of the Soviet Union, and each delegate will have unique abilities to affect these parameters and the flow of committee. Delegates will be informed of their unique abilities at the beginning of the first committee session.

Though this is a single-issue committee, delegates will be expected to write two position papers: delegates should write a press release and a private cable. The press release is a public announcement of your stance on key issues and your public policy agenda, while the private cable, addressed to your subservients, should reveal your underlying motives and any private aspirations. Each paper should be approximately one page long.





## TOPIC A

#### USSR Following the Death of Lenin

### TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The year is 1922, and Soviet Leader Vladimir Ilych Lenin, whose health has been in constant and evident decline, has suffered a life-threatening stroke. Lenin's death is quickly becoming less of a nagging possibility but an imminent certainty. As the powerful and prominent delegates in the Soviet Union's foremost decision-making body, the Central Committee, the path that the Soviet Union takes--and your role within it--lies in your hands. The future of not only this nation, but the global working class, rests upon your decisions.

Lenin's waning comes at a tumultuous time: the Soviet economy, while greatly improved from its wartime floundering, is facing crisis. The Soviet Union's withdrawal from WWI and subsequent exclusion from the Treaty of Versailles has damaged its international power, numerous recent rebellions have weakened ed the Soviet government, and the upper leadership is rife with ideological conflicts and infighting.

The Central Committee represents the supreme authority in the Soviet Union, hence radical ideas can feasibly be implemented. Delegates are representing immensely powerful figures, so imaginative problem solving is encouraged. However, delegates must always consider the practicality and implications of their actions--each new committee session brings with it new updates, and every action will have its consequences. Delegates must balance their vying for control with productive policymaking: no one wishes to lead a ruined state, and equally no one desires exile from a prosperous one.





#### **HISTORY**

Under the weak rule of Tsar Nicholes II, the Russian Empire clung on to their outdated political system. During the early 20th century, the Russian Empire experienced fast industrial growth, while the agricultural and social growth struggled to keep up. The vast expense, famine, and military failures associated with the Great War led to low morale and increased dissatisfaction with the Russian Government. In February of 1917, the deep-rooted discontent with the Russian Monarchy resulted in mass demonstrations and violent outbreaks from dissatisfied factory workers, mutinous soldiers, and revolutionary political parties such as the RSDLP (Russian Social Democratic Labor Party). Three days following these protests, Tsar Nicholes abdicated the throne, and a Russian provisional government was established under the leadership of Georgy Lvov.

Many political groups disapproved of the provisional government, believing that it only sought to represent the middle and upper social classes, while failing to represent the workers and soldiers. During the first months of the provisional government many workers and soldiers began to form soviets (Community assemblies), effectively starting the period of dual power over post-tsar Russia. On April 16th of 1917, Vladimir Lenin returned from exile in Switzerland and began to undermine the provisional government rallying proletariat support and organizing the Bolsheviks. During this time of dual power, there were massive anti-war sentiment, and when the provisional government continued to fight the war against the Germans, the Bolshevik party sized their chance. They united the common person against the war, thereby effectively uniting them against the provisional government. On November 8th, 1917, the Bolshevik party led workers and soldiers to revolt against the provisional government in Petrograd. This effectively gave all the power to the Soviets, and soon the capital was relocated to back to Moscow.

With the Bolshevik party now holding a majority, they established a federal government whose purpose was to create a socialist republic that practiced social democracy. Responding to the wants of the people, the Bolshevik party signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany in March 1918, ending Russian involvement in





the Great War. Following the signing of this treaty, political, social, and economic turmoil plagued the country as Russia split between the Whites and the Reds in a bloody civil war. The Whites were led by anti-communists and were supported and armed by western nations while he Reds were a Bolshevik-led volunteer army eventually led by Leon Trotsky. In the end, the Bolshevik-led Red Army defeated the Whites and other minor socialist groups vying for power and ensured the creation of a Bolshviek-led government. Finally, on December 30th, 1922, Russia and former territories of the Russian Empire joined together to create the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

#### <u>Timeline:</u>

August 1st, 1914: Russia enters WW1 after a declaration of War from Germany March 8th-16th, 1917: February Revolution occurs and Tsar Nicholes abdicates the throne. provisional government is established.

April 1917: Lenin returns from exile to lead the Bolsheviks

**November 7th–8th 1917:** October Revolution occurs. The Bolsheviks seize control of Petrograd and the Winter Palace. Overthrow provisional Government. The Decrees on Land and Peace are issued by the new Bolshevik government.

March 3rd, 1918: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed. Russia leaves the Great War officially

December 1922: Creation of the Soviet Union.

# PAST ACTION - IDEOLOGY/FOREIGN POLICY

Vladimir Lenin's *Decree on Peace*, issued by the 2nd Congress of Soviets of Workers', Soldiers', and Peasants' Deputies, outlined two key elements of Russia's foreign policy during the early years of the nation. It introduced a policy that emphasized both proletarian internationalism and coexistence. However; in many situations, these two policies tended to directly contradict each other. Proletarian internationalism refers to the duty of the working class or proletariat in all countries to mutually help one another overthrow the bourgeoisie and start the communist



revolution across the world. The practice of peaceful coexistence contrarily refers to the idea that measures should be extended to maintain peaceful relationships with capitalist nations. Once the Bolshevik party took power, the struggle between these opposing ideologies was seen. The Bolsheviks began to support uprisings in almost every European country under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin. He found early success with Ukraine and regions northeast of the Mediterranean such as Transcaucasia and Byelorussian (regions near Black and Caspian Sea), where they quickly established one party socialist states.

Soon, Lenin rapidly began moving away from the coexistence after seeing the success in these regions. This led to socialist uprisings indirectly supported by the Bolsheviks in multiple Eastern European nations. In Bavaria, there was a short-lived and unsuccessful socialist government that took the form of a Workers Council Republic, but ultimately ended when it was overthrown by the German army. In Hungary, Lenin gave orders and advise to the Hungarian Soviet Republic through a telegraph with the foreign minister. However, this Soviet Republic was short-lived and was soon consumed by the Romanian Army. These initial failures did not stop Lenin from pursuing a Socialist uprising in Germany, a country that Lenin believed was ripe to topple due to the large tension placed between the elite upper class and the working class from the war. Continuing the policy of proletarian internationalism Russia began efforts sway citizens, politicians, and labor leaders to organize socialist uprisings. Although ultimately unsuccessful, the effort contributed to the German Revolution of 1918–19 as Germany struggled to reorganize after the war.

After seeing many western nations join the white army against the Bolsheviks during the civil war, some of the Bolshevik leaders realized that this ideology of a world revolution could upset their newly gained power. After 1921, some leaders temporarily looked away from the theory of proletarian internationalism and adopted a new goal of being recognized as a formal nation and repairing the damage to the relationship with allies and other European powers caused by the betrayal seen with their exit from the Great War, the failed socialist revolutions, and the opposing ideologies.





# CURRENT SITUATION - IDEOLOGY/FOREIGN POLICY

After the official founding of The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) through the unification of Russian SFSR, the Transcaucasian SFSR, the Ukrainian SSR, and the Byelorussian SS, the groundwork was laid for the central committee to take action. The 12th central committee will need to address its policy for dealing with foreign entities and threats, as well as many other economic and social issues facing the Republic to ensure the stability and wellbeing of the state. However, most importantly, this committee will need to choose how it wants to move forward into the twentieth century.

After realizing that starting socialist revolutions throughout Europe may prove more difficult than once imagined, the committee will need to take a strong stance. Whether they want to look outwards and continue the path of proletarian internationalism to free their fellow workers or look inwards and specifically focus on the vast economic, social, and political decisions that will be required to smoothly run the Republic. If this committee chooses to look outward and aid the revolutions of the world, it will need to be prepared to face potential international backlash in the form of tariffs, embargos, or military action. This said, many Bolshevik leaders look at Eastern European and Asia as a possibility to expand the reach of socialism.

This committee will need to learn from its mistakes in the past and find new ways to promote the Socialist ideology. Perhaps most importantly, this committee must act as a unified body if it is truly to spread socialism across the globe. However, if this committee chooses to pursue a single state form of socialism rather than expand, it will still have to protect the republic from any possible threat to stay in power, both foreign and domestic. As well as create policies that will allow the Soviet Union to peacefully and cooperatively interact with the rest of the international community to increase the political foreign power of the republic. Whatever decisions this governing body comes to it is necessary that the committee acts with decisiveness and as a unified movement to ensure the strength and stability of the Republic.





### **PAST ACTION - ECONOMY**

The Soviet Economy post-Civil War stagnated as the means of production slowed and the infrastructure damaged during the long Russian Civil War disrupted the flow of domestic trade. During wartime, the Bolsheviks had maintained their government's control over the means of production and kept a strictly planned wartime communist economy. During wartime, the policy of seizing and giving goods by decree was unpopular, and as urban populations fled into the country, inflating the peasant population already critical of strict Soviet control, the Bolshevik government not only suffered economic crises but political issues as their support base deteriorated.

In the presence of the wartime planned economy and without incentive to produce, peasants decreased agricultural production. Combined with shortages of commercial goods and oil, urban populations were forced to turn to the black market, regularly depending on them for 50-60 percent of their food. These shortages, exacerbated by drought and frost, culminated in the famine of 1921, in which millions died. The Kronstadt Rebellion in March 1921 served as a direct reminder of the direct connection between economic shortages and political strife. The severe shortcomings of the wartime and early post-wartime economy can only be attributed to policy failures, most notably popular resistance to the implementation of a command economy and the lack of foreign capital caused by the newly formed Soviet Union's refusal to pay the former Russian Empire's debts.

### **CURRENT SITUATION - ECONOMY**

In 1921, the Soviet Leaders at the tenth Party Congress decided under Lenin to loosen the strict wartime communist economy and inject elements of free markets into the Soviet economy. Known as the New Economic Policy (NEP), it permitted free market elements such as small-scale private enterprise, partially revoked absolute nationalization of industry, and replaced forced grain-requisition with an agriculture tax.



Because the NEP permits private property and enterprise, encourages foreign capitalism, and free markets, it provides what Lenin deems a "strategic retreat" from absolute state-controlled socialism. This in itself is a source of contention between Leninists and the more radical members of the Soviet leadership, who favored the government controlling all allocation of output from the outset.

Disregarding ideological contention, the economic results of the NEP have also proven uncertain: while the NEP has been stimulating massively improved agricultural production, surpassing pre-Revolution levels, the state-owned industrial and financial sectors have been struggling to keep up. This has driven factories to raise prices and banks to raise interest rates, in turn inflating the prices of consumer goods and driving down the price of grain. The widening gap between output prices of these two sectors threatens not only the buying power of workers and peasants, the vast majority of the Soviet population, but also risks famine as peasants revert back to subsistence farming and refuse to grow or sell low-cost grain, preferring instead to wait for grain prices to rise.

# PAST ACTION – DOMESTIC POLITICS/SOCIAL ISSUES

While an ideal government can wholly address the political, economic, and social needs of its people, the struggling post-war Soviet leadership must choose its priorities. As such, it has reasonably decided that political and economic stability are necessary prerequisites to social prosperity. Thus, social issues are deeply intertwined with questions of political stability, so much so that only those social issues threatening political stability are prioritized by the Soviet government.

The phenomenon of the rapid establishment of the USSR Communist party was due in large part to effective use of propaganda. Lenin's publication of propaganda newspaper Pravda in 1912 converted much of former Russia's labor force under Bolshevik influence and was essential to the Bolshevik cause. Since Communist victory in the Russian civil war, the state has assumed greater control over media--Pravda is now the official communist newspaper, along with Izvestia,





the voice of government. Historically, Propaganda has proven an indispensable political tool for legitimization of the party.

Despite the prevalence of powerfully persuasive propaganda, the low literacy rate among the Soviet proletariat proved an obstacle to the Soviet leadership's goal of rapidly spreading their ideas en masse. In 1917, an estimated 37.9% of the male population above seven years old was literate and only 12.5% of the female population was literate. As Lenin himself explained, "Without literacy there can be no politics, there can only be rumors, gossip and prejudice.

The various cultural groups within the Soviet Union's massive borders have been a source of consistent turmoil and conflict. From well before the Russian Civil War, the diversity of different ethnic groups has prevented a strong sense of Russian national unity. Crimea, the Far East, Slberia, and Central Asia have often expressed disillusionment with the Unified Soviet state, and dissent remains prominent in these areas.

An illiterate population is difficult to influence, and we must educate them in Soviet thought; a diverse population is difficult to unite, and we must root out dissent and provide a sense of national identity. Resolving such prominent sociopolitical issues are essential to the survival and stability of the Bolshevik regime.

# CURRENT SITUATION - DOMESTIC POLITICS/SOCIAL ISSUES

Dissatisfaction with the Soviet government has hardly diminished, best exemplified in the recent Antonov rebellion and the Kronstadt rebellion in the years 1920 and 1921. The Antonov rebellion was an insurrection of the peasantry, resulting from economic stumbles and environmental disaster-induced famine. In the Northern Caucasus and the Volga region, what began as disorganized revolt evolved into a semi-organized rebellion under Aleksandr Stepanovich Antonov. Though the rebellion of over 20,000 armed peasants was crushed by Red Army forces by May of 1921, the Antonov rebellion proved to the Soviet leaders the dangers of overlooking the peasantry in favor of the proletariat. Besides remedying the Soviet Union's



struggling economy, it is vital to address the power and wealth disparity between urban and rural populations. The Kronstadt rebellion was a military mutiny that further emphasized the economic shortcomings of the Soviet Union and highlighted a popular desire for greater political and economic liberalization. Though these demands are all but impossible to meet in full without threatening the present governmental structure, it is necessary to balance their implementation such that political stability is maintained.

To further reinforce complacency within the population, the Soviet government has sought for greater literacy to improve reception of its widespread printed propaganda. With the Decree of the Soviet Government "On eradication of illiteracy among the population," signed on December 26, 1919, the Soviet leadership mandated that all those between 8 and 50 years old were required to become literate in their native language and established 40,000 education centers nationwide for this purpose. Though progress has been reasonable and apparent, the Soviet Leadership continues to look for methods to induce more rapid expansion of state-controlled education, particularly in the areas of women's literacy.

### **BLOC POSITIONS**

**BLOC 1:** Right Opposition

<u>Unofficial Leaders:</u> Nikolai Bukharin, Alexei Rykov <u>Other Supporters:</u> Mikhail Tomsky, Jānis Rudzutaks

Led by Nikolai Bukharin and Alexei Rykov, the Right opposition comprises of the more moderate party members and are strong supporters of the New Economic Policy. This Bloc believes it is critical to maintain relations with other capitalistic nations and as such they often find themselves directly opposed to those in the committee that hold ideological views that support international proletarianism. They are separated from the Centre bloc by their encouraging views on kulaks and NEPmen (individuals who use the New Economic Policy for economic advantage).





#### **BLOC 2: Centre**

<u>Unofficial Leaders:</u> The *Troika* (Joseph Stalin, Grigoriy Zinoviev, Lev Kamenev)

<u>Other Supporters:</u> Felix Dzerzhinsky, Vyacheslav Molotov, Mikhail Kalinin, Valerian Kuybyshev, Kliment Voroshilov

Led by Joseph Stalin and the *Troika* (or Triumvirate), the Centre Bloc holds the position between revolution and reformism. Although many of the members of this bloc may sympathize at various times with either the left or right opposition, they all generally adhere to the idea that drastic change would at present be harmful to the strength of the union, whether said change be a push for world revolution or economic policies that allow for large private wealth.

**BLOC 3:** Left Opposition

**Unofficial Leader:** Leon Trotsky

Other supporters: Isaak Zelensky, Vasily Mikhailov, Andrey Andreyevich Andreyev

Led by Trotsky, the Left Opposition acts as the radical-left branch of the central committee and is a strong proponent of international proletarianism. They argue that the NEP had weakened the Soviet Union and allowed the private sector to gain a foothold in the new Soviet Economy. They often come into steep conflict with the centre and right blocs over the foreign and economic policy of the USSR.

#### ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

Alexei Rykov: A member of the 12th politburo and the Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of People's Commissars. Rykov leads the moderate wing of the soviet government and often ran into trouble with Lenin and the more radical Bolsheviks. He advocates for a partial return of the market economy under the New Economic Policy. As a full member of the politburo Rykov will have partial shared veto powers with the other politburo members.

Andrey Andreyevich Andreyev: Andreyev spent the early years of the Soviet Union as a union leader and a communist organizer in the Urals. After siding with Trotsky against Lenin and Stalin in an important central committee vote he was dropped



from the committee. However, he soon was restated as a member of the committee after demonstrating his loyalty to the party in an important union-related issue. As one of the most important union leaders Andreyev will be directly responsible for communications and interactions between the USSR government and workers unions.

Felix Dzerzhinsky: After playing a key role in the fall of the provisional government and being elected to the central committee, Dzerzhinsky was appointed to create a force in order to combat internal threats to the party and the newly established socialst government, The Cheka. The Cheka soon became reorganized as the Joint State Political Directorate or OGPU under the directorship of Dzerzhinsky. This gave Dzerzhinsky the power to eliminate political threats at his discretion and use this power to support Lenin and the Bolshevik party. As the Director of the OGPU, he will have control over these forces and must approve all actions taken by them.

Grigoriy Zinoviev: After serving his years as a non-voting member of the politburo and voicing his support for Lenin's faction, he was promoted to a full member of the politburo and quickly became one of its most powerful members. Although Zinoviev holds a more international view of communism and worked to support some of the uprisings in Germany, he fears that Trotskyism may threaten the future stability of the union. This opinion has temporarily solidified Zinoviev, Stalin, and Kamenev in a triumvirate. As a full member of the politburo Zinoviev will have partial shared veto powers with the other politburo members.

Isaak Zelensky: After supporting the Bolsheviks in Moscow during the Russian Revolution, Zelensky was elected to the Central Committee and as a candidate member of the politburo. Zelensky has been known to advocate for international prloislarinsm and often side with Trotsky on many key issues. As the First Secretary of the Moscow City Committee, decisions surrounding Moscow must be approved by Zelensky.

Jānis Rudzutaks: After his release from prison after the February Revolution, Rudzutaks served in various positions in the Bolshevik party, as well as the trade unions. In this time, he worked in support of Lenin's opposition to both the Workers Opposition, and against Trotsky. As of April 1923, he has been called to Moscow to work as one of three secretaries of the Central Committee, a position that works alongside Stalin. He is also a candidate member of the politburo. As a secretary of the Central Committee, all party and government actions are managed and supervised by him.





Joseph Stalin: Stalin is the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the most powerful of the Committee's numerous secretaries. As of now, its role is purely administrative, with the power to decide who is allowed membership into the party. Stalin hopes to use this to implement his own loyalists throughout the party, and to become the leader of both the party and the entire Soviet Union. Stalin holds strong isolationist views and believes the duty of this committee is to the people of the Soviet Union, rather than to the prolitaritate of the world. As a full member of the politburo Stalin will have partial shared veto powers with the other politburo members.

Leon Trotsky: Trotsky serves as the People's Commissar of Military and Naval Affairs of the Soviet Union, the People's Commissar of Foriegn Affairs of the Soviet Union, as well as a full member of the politburo. He is responsible for defence of Soviet Union, as well as many of the forgein policy decisions taken by the union. As such Trotsky will direct the majority of trade deals and has to approve all treaties and actions concerning the international spend of communism and anti-capitalism. Trotsky is currently presumed to be Lenin's successor, but as a strong proponent of international socialism, he is aware that others within the committee may try to supercede his claim to the title. As a full member of the politburo Trotsky will also have shared veto power with the other members

Lev Kamenev: Kamenev, as the deputy chairman to Lenin on both the Council of People's Commissars and the Council of Labor and Defence, was also a member of the Politburo. Simultaneously, he serves as Chairman of the Moscow Soviet, which provides him resources and power over activities that occur in the Soviet capital. While Trotsky is his brother-in-law, Kamenev has increasingly distanced himself from Trotsky since 1920, along with Stalin and Zinoviev. Kamenev possesses partial veto powers as a full politburo member.

Mikhail Kalinin: A former metalworker and prominent Bolshevik revolutionary, Kalinin first presided over Petrograd as mayor, and in 1919 became Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, which later became this Central Committee. Though Kalinin is constitutionally the Soviet head of state and full member of the Orgburo, he remains a candidate member of the Politburo. His role as Committee Chairman provides him little legislative power but allows him organizational roles such as assigning roles and positions to prominent party members, which only he can nominate. As Orgburo member, he also possesses partial veto powers over the assignments of party members.

Mikhail Tomsky: Tomsky began as a prominent trade unionist but was elected to the Central Committee in 1919 and to the Orgburo in 1921. His close ties with Bukharin



and Rykov have elevated him to a full member of the Politburo. Along with Bukharin and Rykov, Tomsky leads the moderate (right) wing of the Communist Party. As Secretary of the Central Committee and Orgburo member, Tomsky will have authority over the creation of new offices or government agencies. As a full member of the politburo Tomsky will also have shared veto power with the other members.

Nikolai Bukharin: Bukharin spent six years in exile with Lenin and Trotsky, and thus easily rose the ranks of the Soviet Union. While he occupies various government positions, primarily in the Moscow region, his status as a prolific author and writer on communist and revolutionary theory makes him not only a prominent politician, but ideologically influential figure. Bukharin is a candidate member of the Politburo. As editor-in-chief of *Pravda*, the official state newspaper, Bukharin wields significant control over the Soviet population and the ideological legitimacy of the party and its members.

Valerian Kuybyshev: Kuybyshev was a political commissar for the Red Army, ensuring that military forces remain under government ideological control, and after the revolution was assigned to implement the Soviet Union's first plan for economic recovery, GOELRO. He is a new member of the Secretariat. The details of economic implementation often rely on Kuybyshev's administration, though he does not have official jurisdiction over deciding the economic direction of the Soviet Union.

Vasily Mikhailov: Vasily Mikhailovich Blokhin, usually referred to by Blokhin, is a promising member of the Soviet State Security agency Cheka and a member of the full member central committee. It is commonly assumed that he carries out most of Dzerzhinsky's wetwork. Many of his actions aiding the failed revolutions in Germany and his work with Trotsky have led many to associate with the left option. As a member of the Soviet State Security agency and a community leader of one of the most vital Moscow districts, Mikhailov will have unique access to intelligence through the committee sessions.

Vyacheslav Molotov: Stalin's protege, Molotov participated in both the Russian and Ukrainian civil wars. Upon returning to Russia, Lenin appointed Molotov to a full member of the Central Committee and Orgburo, as well as a candidate member of the Politburo. Moreover, he has been placed in charge of the Party Secretariat as Responsible Secretary of the Communist Party, which soon evolved into the General Secretary of the Communist Party. While commonly viewed as a bureaucrat, Molotov's administrative power has grown significantly, and being in charge of the Party Secretariat means Molotov has the ability to oversee the general day-to-day operations of any Senior Party Member.





### **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is your duty as the governing body of the USSR to your constituents?
- 2. In the past 6 years Russia has seen the governing power shift between three distinct groups. What can you do to ensure that the USSR maintains its current power?
- 3. What is your duty to the proletariat of the world? Should the Soviet government adopt an internationalistic ideology of socialism and fight to liberate the workers of the world, or instead focus its efforts in-word to the current issues of the Soviet Union?
- 4. As Lenin's health worsens and the need for leadership in the cabinet greatens, what can you do as a delegate to increase your personal power within the committee?
- 5. How can you as a delegate use the tool of propaganda and the will of the people to push your social, economic, and political agenda through the committee?
- 6. What other delegates have influence over you and to what extent should that affect your voting policies?

### **FURTHER RESEARCH**

HTTPS://WWW.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM/ARCHAEOLOGY-AND-HISTORY/MAGAZINE/2017/09-10/RUSSIAN-REVOLUTION-HISTORY-LENIN/

An overview of the two revolutions, what caused them, and how they lead to the founding of the USSR

HTTP://WWW.INQUIRIESJOURNAL.COM/ARTICLES/1670/LENINS-NEW-ECONOMIC-POLICY-WHAT-IT-WAS-AND-HOW-IT-CHANGED-THE-SOVIET-UNION

A description and analysis of Lenin's New Economic Policy

HTTP://WWW.HISTORYGUIDE.ORG/EUROPE/DECREE.HTML

Lenin's Decree on Peace





#### HTTPS://WWW.HISTORY.COM/NEWS/LENIN-STALIN-DIFFERENCES-SOVIET-UNION

An article depicting the two opposing viewpoints facing the USSR

#### HTTPS://ENCYCLOPEDIA.1914-1918-ONLINE.NET/ARTICLE/REVOLUTIONS

An article covering the revolutions following WWI and the main causes and results

## **CITATIONS**

- https://www.britannica.com/topic/Politburo
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