



Russian Civil War, 1917-23

by Noah Canody
Old Dominion University Model United Nations

Summary



Starting during World War One with the collapse of the Russian Empire, the Russian Civil War lasted considerably longer than the World War, killing an estimated seven million people in Russia and neighboring countries, 1917 to 1923. It led to the transformation of Russia and its empire. It was pivotal for Russia and its neighbors, and influences Russian policy, global revolution and conflict to this day.

In October 1917 Vladimir Lenin led his Bolshevik party in armed insurrection against the newly formed Russian Provisional Government, starting the Civil War. The war centered on Lenin's Bolshevik Communist Party and the White anti-communists. Smaller parts of the Russian empire used the chaos to try to achieve independence. Foreign powers intervened in pursuit of their own interests. These events shaped all of Eastern Europe for the next Century, and continues to be felt in today's war in Ukraine.

Was the Soviet Union destined to win? What if it hadn't? What if it won much more? Participants in this crisis simulation are members of the Soviet Politburo, the highest authority of the Soviet Communist Party, made up of political and military leaders. Politburo

members direct policy, make executive orders and legislation, address economic instability, civil unrest, direct troop movements, and lead and respond to military engagements, with world history in the balance.

Introduction

Starting two and one-half years into World War One, the Russian Civil War tossed Russia into chaos. Lasting from November 1917 to June 1923 the Russian Civil War saw many fronts and harsh engagements. Many countries under Russian Control saw an opportunity for independence, and the War would go on to shape Russia and much of the world for the remainder of the Century.



In October 1917 Vladimir Lenin led members of his Bolsheviks party in armed insurrection against the newly formed Russian Provisional Government. This act led to the start of the Russian Civil War. Two major powers emerged in an effort to seize control of the Russian Empire: Lenin's Bolshevik Party and the White Movement (Whites). The Bolsheviks believed in revolution, that Communism was the political and economic system of the future. The White

Movement were anti-Communist, not opposed to all political and social change, but opposed to revolution. The fighting lasted for six years and killed around seven million people.



While the Whites and the Bolsheviks continued their conflict, many countries in the Russian Empire saw their chance to break away. Poland, Finland, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania all launched independence movements. Most were backed by anti-communist regimes and led to the Bolshevik's Red Army being engaged in these conflicts as well. The Red Army outnumbered the Whites 5 to 1, and was able to handle the added conflicts.

On 16 June 1923 the Civil War ended, leaving the Bolsheviks and their communist ideology to dominate in Russia up until the fall of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union would go on to be one of the most powerful nations in the world, influencing the global stage throughout the 20th Century.

The Crisis Body at ODUMUNC

For this Crisis event, participants will be meeting as members of the Soviet Politburo during the Russian Civil War. Members of the Politburo are responsible for handling wartime activities, directing and implementing policy, handling executive orders, maintaining economic stability, and combating civil unrest. Founded by Lenin in 1917, the Political Bureau consisted of seven original members. As the

War drew on the need for an official Politburo increased.

By 1919 the Communist Party ordered its Central Committee to formally establish a Politburo of five members to handle matters that were too urgent to wait for the full committee. The Politburo would work hand in hand with the Central Committee, but quickly became the true power for policy making in the Communist Party. The Soviet Politburo would remain the governing authority of Russia until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Russian Civil War (1917-1923): An overview

By February 1917 tensions between the Russian Monarchy known as the "Tsars" and the Russian people hit an all time high. Following large economic pressures brought about by the Russians Involvement in World War One. Food shortages soon began to plague the country, and increasing military defeats along with lack of ammo and food led to many Russian Soldiers to mutiny against their leaders. By February 1917 many strikes and protests had already taken place and Tsar Nicholas II was struggling to control his country.

On 22 February, metal workers in the capital city of Petrograd (modern day Saint Petersburg) began a strike. They were soon joined by thousands protesting food rationing and demanding the Tsar to be replaced and an end to the Russian Involvement in World War One. On 2 March 1917, Tsar Nicholas II abdicated the throne, and following his Brother's refusal to succeed him, the reign of the Tsars came to an end.

Following the Tsar's abdication, the Russian Provisional Government took power. The Provisional Government was Russia's first democratic government following the end of the

Tsar's. The Provisional Government was already fractured when it took power. Differing views and weak central leadership led to the Provisional Government being unable to effectively govern and handle the issues plaguing Russia. Despite large military setbacks the Provisional Government continued its war efforts against Germany.

In July 1917, what would be known as the July Crisis took place. This was one of the first armed incursions on behalf of the Soviets against the Provisional Government and involved armed riots and breaking into the palace to demand power be given to the Soviets. Tensions between the Russian Provisional Government and the people became more intense as the year progressed, and further setbacks in the war did not help.

Finally on 24 October (N.S., 7 November) 1917, Vladimir Lenin led his Bolshevik party in an armed insurrection against the Provisional Government. By the next day Lenin and his party had assumed control of the Russian Government, creating Russia's first communist government. This would go on to be known as the October Revolution or the Bolshevik Revolution. Following these events, the Russian Provisional Government ceased to exist.

Early combat

Following the October Revolution, the Bolsheviks continued to seize control of Russia and its territories. This new government under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin would be known as the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (SFSR). Although the Government had changed yet again, Russia was still entangled in World War One. On 3 March 1918 the SFSR signed the treaty of Brest-Litovsk. This treaty involved the Central Powers, the Ukrainian Republic, and Soviet Russia. Soviet Russia yielded their Polish and

Baltic territories in exchange for an exit out of World War One and discontinued hostilities with Germany.



In May of 1918 the Czechoslovak Legion began to revolt against being removed from Siberia. Having defeated the local Soviets attempts to stop them, the Czechoslovak Legion seized control of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. This led to two anti-Bolshevik organizations taking power in the region; the Western Siberian Commissariat and the Committee of Members of the Constituent. These groups would become some of the first "Whites Government". Following the loss of control of Siberia, the SFSR began to crack down on non-Bolshevik communists and began a propaganda campaign known as the "Red Terror" to eliminate any competition.

In the late summer of 1918, the SFSR began to reorganize its military forces into a more efficient Red Army. The SFSR was then able to recover most of the eastern Russian Territories it had lost. ADM. Alexander Kolchak began to train an anti-communist army headquartered at Omsk. His efforts were assisted by British and American Military Missions, who had begun to run anti-communist propaganda through the territories. Kolchak and his fellow officers began to view communist and socialist revolutionaries as the same enemy, which eventually led to Kolchak ceasing power and creating his own dictatorship.



In early 1919 the Red Army began their invasion of Ukraine. The Socialist Revolutionary army under the command of Symon Petlyura quickly splintered and were forced to retreat westward, joining forces with Ukrainian Nationals. The Red Army was able to take command of most of the major cities and establish a puppet Ukrainian Government led by Nestor Makhno.

Offensives of the White Army

Spring Offensive (Eastern Offensive):

Following their defeat in Ukraine, members of the Whites Movement decided it was time to launch an offensive. In March of 1919 Adm Kolchak led the White Army in an offensive battle on the Eastern Front. On 8 March 1919 the Siberian army of the Whites captured Okhansk and Osa in its continued advance towards the Kama River. At the same time Mikhail Hanzhin's western Army engaged the 5th and 2nd Red Armies. Hanzhin's army was able to defeat the 5th army, forcing their retreat past Ufa. Hanzhin's army shortly after captured Ufa before advancing on. By 10 April 1919 Kolchak's and Hanzhin's armies had captured the cities of Sterlitamak, Belebey, Bugulma, and Sarapul. This would go on to become known as the Spring Offensive of the White Army.

Advance on Moscow (Southern Offensive):

Beginning at the start of 1919 Anton Denikin led his forces of the Armed Forces of Southern Russia up against the Red Army on the Southern Front. Initially the Red Army prevailed over the Whites on this front, with little to no success for Denikin's army. Near the end of April 1919 Nikolai Vsevolodov commander of the 9th Red Army betrayed the SFSR and began feeding intel to the Whites. This led to a series of victories for the Whites including the capture of Kharkiv, the Ukrainian soviet Capital. Throughout the remainder of the Summer Denikin's forces captured the cities of Poltava, Mykoliav, Odesa, and Kyiv. On 20 September 1919, Whites under the command of Alexander

Kutepov captured the city of Kursk, destroying two Red Army infantry divisions. On 14 October the Armed Forces of Southern Russia took the City of Oryol, marking the closest the White Army ever got to Moscow.

Battle of Petrograd: By summer 1919 plans for taking the City of Petrograd were in motion. On 28 September 1919 the Northwestern Army of the Whites launched its offensive. By 20 October the cities of Luga and Lamburg had been taken and rail lines from Pskov to Petrograd had been severed. On 20 October the 3rd infantry division of the White Army had reached Pulkovo Heights. The 3rd Infantry division did fail to cut the rail lines from Petrograd to Moscow, leaving supply lines open.

Red Army Counter Offensives

Eastern Front Counteroffensive: Following victories by Kolchak and Hanzin's white armies, the White Orenburg independent Army made an attempt to capture Orenburg. After failing to capture the city, General Petr Belov (White Army) decided to use the 4th Corps in an attempt to break soviet lines. Red Army forces quickly defeated the Whites on 25 April, exposing Hanzin's command center for the Western Army open and vulnerable.

Seeing an opportunity the supreme command of the Red Army eastern front ordered forces to advance. On 4 May 1919 the 5th Red Army captured Burguruslan and on 15 May captured Bugulma. The 5th Army continued its advance, capturing the city of Birsik on 30 May. On June 9th the Red Army captured Ufa and by June 16th the Whites were in full retreat along the eastern front.

Southern Front Counter Offensives: The August Counter-offensive of the Southern front was a series of engagements from 14 August 1919 through 12 September 1919. On 3 July Anton Denikin (Whites) issued orders for an



offensive campaign against Moscow, targeting the cities of Kursk, Orel, and Tula. However, by August the Red Armies had managed to halt the advancing White Army. Initial counter offensive plans were halted when the White Guard 4th Don Cavalry Corps broke through a hole between the 9th and 8th Red Armies and began hitting the rear of the Red front around Tambov.

On 14 August troops of the Shorin Group launched an offensive against the Don Army and the Caucasian Army, while troops of the 10th Red Army launched an offensive around Kamyshin and Tsaritsyn. By 5 September the 10th Army had engaged White defenses at the city of Tsaritsyn. The 10th Army was unable to break through and had to retreat due to the Whites receiving artillery reinforcements. On 21 August the 9th Red Army was able to approach the Khopyor river, and by 12 September was able to cross the river and continue engagements against the Don Army.

The Selivachev group launched its offensive against the Don Army on 15 August. By 27 August the left flank of the Selivachev group had taken the cities of Novy Oskol, Biryuch, and Valuki. The right flank approached the city of Belgorod and the center approached Kupiansk. Beginning on 26 August 1919 the Whites went on the offensive against the Selivachev group and forced them and their Red Army reinforcements back to the Seym (Seim) River.

Petrograd Campaign: Using the railroad at Tonso, Leon Trotsky was able to continue to send supplies to defending Red troops at Petrograd. On 21 October 1919 the Red Army pushed the Whites out of Pulkovo and reclaimed Tsarskoe Selo as well as Pavlovsk. The 7th Red Army began to attack from the east while the 15th Red Army attacked from the South, forcing the Whites out of Luga on 31 October. The 7th and 15th armies had severely weakened the Northwestern Army (Whites) which would be disbanded in December of 1919.

End of the War and independence movements

By 1920 the Bolsheviks had stopped the Whites on all three fronts and had consolidated power in Russia. However due to growing independence movements much of the extended territory of the Russian Empire had been lost. In March 1921 the Polish-Soviet War came to an end. On 18 March 1921 the Peace of Riga was signed, splitting territories in Belarus and Ukraine between the Soviets and the Republic of Poland. Many other countries had also launched independence movements against Russia.

Estonia, Finland, Latvia, and Lithuania were all able to repel Soviet invasions and maintained their independence. Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia were all occupied by forces of the Red Army. Anti-Bolshevik uprisings would continue to plague parts of central Asia until the late 1920s. In Siberia, Kolchak's army began to fall apart after harrowing defeats. What remained of Kolchak's army would go on to make up a part of the far eastern army. By November of 1920 however, the Japanese army who had been supporting the Whites pulled out. This left the eastern army vulnerable, and they were soon defeated by the Red Army, forcing their leaders to take refuge in China. In October 1922 Vladivostok was taken by the Red Army and the Provisional Priamur Government was disbanded. This marked the Bolsheviks control over east Russia.

In June of 1923 the remnants of the White Army Collapsed in Yakutia, ending the Russian Civil War. In 1922 the SFSR would officially become the Soviet Union. Vladimir Lenin would continue to lead the Communist Party until his death in 1924.



Crisis Timeline Start

For this crisis committee the events officially start on 7 November 1917, following the Bolsheviks armed insurrection. Please note that your characters will only be aware of events leading up to this date, and everything after is subject to change.

Characters (in alphabetical order)

Vladimir Antonov-Ovseenko: Born 9 March 1883 and died 10 February 1938, Antonov-Ovseenko was a Ukrainian born Bolshevik who served as a Bolshevik leader and military commander during the Russian Revolution. Graduating from a military college in 1904, he led an uprising in Poland in 1905 during the revolution. In 1910 he was forced to flee Russia but returned to Petrograd in October of 1917. He was then appointed secretary of the Military Revolutionary Committee of Soviet Petrograd and personally led the storming of the winter palace during the October Revolution. Originally placed in command of forces that engaged at Gatchina, he was later moved to command of Revolutionary forces of Ukraine and South Russia in December of 1917.

His army captured Kharkiv, and although he was successful he was dismissed from command in May of 1918 for enacting guerilla warfare against German Forces. In September of 1918 he was reinstated and defeated the Ukrainian people's republic and white army and established the Ukrainian SSR. By the end of the Russian Civil War he was in charge of the Tambov Governorate and was oppressing the Tambov Rebellion from 1920-1921. Following the end of the war he was appointed as head of the Political Directorate of the Red Army, despite disagreeing with Lenin's new economic plan. He

was eventually arrested in 1937 as a part of the great purge and executed in 1938.

Nikolai Bukharin: Born 9 October 1888 and died 15 March 1938, Bukharin was a prominent member of the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution. In 1906 he joined the Bolsheviks and would write economic theories, joining with Lenin and Trotsky in some works. In 1910 he was arrested but escaped, however was forced to live in exile until the February Revolution. Following the October Revolution he became an Editor for Pravda, a propaganda newspaper, and would write more economic works eventually writing the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1921. He became a more left leaning Bolshevik and opposed many of Lenin's policies. He was originally one of Stalin's right hand men, before falling out with him. Bukharin would be executed in 1938 as a part of the great purge.

Mikhail Frunze: Born 2 February 1885 and died 31 October 1925, Frunze served as a military leader and theorist during the Russian Revolution. Frunze attended a university in Petrograd and joined the RSDLP. Following the split he sided with Lenin's Bolsheviks. In 1905 he led the Ivanovo strike which he was sentenced to prison for. He later escaped and took part in the February Revolution in Minsk and October Revolution in Moscow. He would become distinguished as one of the most successful Red Army leaders, defeating Wrangel's white army in Crimea and Makhno's White Army in Ukraine.

"Frunze was an offensively minded Red Commander who was committed to mission accomplishment in his service to the Party by seizing the initiative." Advocated for "the proletariat way of war, one that corresponded to Marxist thought, to link military actions to Party goals." He was elected to the central committee and in 1925 was appointed chairman of the Revolutionary Military Council. Frunze would die in surgery later that year due to chloroform poisoning.



Russian Civil War, 1917-23



Mikhail Kalinin: Born 19 November 1875 and died 3 June 1946 Mikhail Kalinin served as head of state of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (which would later become the Soviet Union) from 1919-1946. He became an official member of the politburo in 1926, having been involved in the bolsheviks party since the 1905 revolution.

During and following the October Revolution Kalinin served as the mayor of Petrograd (St. Petersburg), which paved the way for him to become the new head of state following the revolution. In 1919 was elected member of the governing central committee and eventually became President of the All-Russian executive committee following the death of Yakov Sverdlov. He died in 1946, but had maintained a positive relationship with Joseph Stalin, one not shared by many communist.

Lev Kamenev: Born 18th July 1883 and died 25th August 1936, Kamenev would serve as a prominent member of the Bolsheviks. Similar to Grigory Zinoviev he joined the Democratic Labour party in 1901 and fought during the revolution of 1905. In 1908 he joined the Bolsheviks and was close to Vladimir Lenin. He was arrested in 1914 before being released in 1917 following the February Revolution. In 1917 he served briefly as the equivalent of the first head of state for Soviet Russia. Like Zinoviev he disagreed with an armed uprising, however remained in a position of power during the conflict.

In 1919 he was elected a full member of the politburo and was acting leader of the Soviet Union during Lenin's illness. Following Lenin's death he joined Stalin in efforts to block Trotsky from taking the helm. Later opposing Stalin in 1926, he faced a similar fate to his peers when he was executed during the great purge in 1936.

Vilhelm Knorin: Born 29 August 1880, and died 29 July 1939, Knorin served as the second

First secretary of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Byelorussian SSR. Knorin first became a member of the Bolshevik party in 1910. He was a Moscow appointed head of state to Belarus and believed that all Byelorussians must band together to forge a strong Soviet state with the Bolsheviks.

From 1920-1922 he served as the second First secretary of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Byelorussian SSR. Following the end of the war he would serve as the head of the propaganda department of the central committee of the All-Union Communist party from 1926-1927. From 1935-1937 he served as deputy head of the department of propaganda and agitation for the central committee of the All-Union Communist party. He was executed in 1939 as a part of the great purge.

Vladimir Lenin: Born 22 April (N.S) 1870, and died 21 January 1924, Vladimir Lenin was a key figure in the Russian Revolution. Lenin studied at Kazan University in 1887, but was arrested and expelled after being arrested during a demonstration that December. In 1893 Lenin moved to Petrograd (Saint Petersburg), where he began his involvement in a Marxist revolutionary cell called the Social-Democrats. By late 1894 Lenin was leading a circle of Marxist workers as well as began dating Nadezhda "Nadya" Krupskaya who would become his future wife.

Lenin also authored the paper *What the "Friends of the People" Are and How They Fight the Social-Democrats*. As Lenin increased his involvement in the party, he soon became a target of police and was arrested in 1897, becoming exiled in Siberia for three years. It was here in 1898 where Lenin and Nadya got married. Following his exile Lenin moved to Pskov where he began raising funds for the newspaper "Iskra" (Spark) that was a vital part of the Russian Marxist movement.



Russian Civil War, 1917-23



In late 1900 Lenin moved to Munich in western Europe and began printing copies for Iskra in secret to be smuggled into Russia. In order to avoid police Lenin was forced to move to London in 1902. It was here that he met Leon Trotsky. Lenin attracted erysipelas and was unable to lead the Iskra, causing the headquarters of the paper to be moved to Geneva. In 1903 the second conference of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (RSDLP) was held. It was here where a schism began to form between Lenin's supporters and supporters of Julius Martov. Lenin argued that party members should echo the sentiments of party leadership while Martov believed they should be allowed to express themselves freely. It was here when Lenin officially created his Bolshevik party.

In 1905 a massacre of protesters in Petrograd occurred in an event known as Bloody Sunday. This sparked the Revolution of 1905, where Lenin encouraged members of the Bolshevik party to take up arms and host violent insurrections against the Government. These actions led to Tsar Nicholas II to accept liberal reforms cited in the October Manifesto. The RSDLP continued to become divided over Lenin's and Martov's ideology leading the Bolsheviks to split by 1910. In 1910 the Bolsheviks headquarters was moved to Paris.

Following the start of World War One, Lenin continued his teachings all across eastern Europe where support for his movement began to grow. By November of 1917 Lenin had the support of large numbers in Russia and decided it was time to take control of the Government. Lenin successfully overthrew the Russian Provisional Government and established the Bolsheviks as the leading party.

Lenin was key to the organization of the new Soviet Government and would serve as the head of Soviet Russia (1917-1924) as well as the Head of the Soviet Union (1922-1924).

Alexei Rykov: Born 25 February 1881 and died 15 March 1938 was a moderate Bolshevik who served as people's Commissariat for internal affairs during the Russian Civil War. He joined the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in 1898, and joined Lenin's Bolsheviks after the party split. Prior to the October Revolution he was a member of the Petrograd and Moscow Soviets, and was elected to the Bolsheviks central committee from July to August of 1917. During the war he implemented the "War Communism" economic policy, and oversaw food distribution to military forces.

In 1918 he was appointed chairman of the supreme council of national economy. Following Lenin's death in 1924 he was briefly appointed as premier of the USSR until May 1929 and Soviet Union until December 1930. He was removed from the politburo in 1930 and was arrested and executed for treason in 1938.

Grigori Sokolnikov: Born on 15 August 1888 and died 21 May 1939, Sokolnikov served as a prominent member of the Bolsheviks party and was key to setting up a national banking system during the Russian Revolution. In 1905 he joined the Bolsheviks and served as an editor for Pravda, a propaganda newspaper published by the Bolsheviks. In 1909 he was exiled from Russia and returned in 1917 following the February Revolution. In 1918 he served as a Political Commissar to the Second Army and for a brief time was later put in command of the Eighth Army. Despite his lack of military ingenuity, he made his name with the finances. In 1922 he was appointed as the USSR Deputy of People's Commissar of Finance. It was here where he set up national banks and is accredited to helping solve the economic crisis that came out of the War. He was later a victim of the great purge, being arrested in 1936 and executed in 1939.

Yakov Sverdlov: Born on 3 June 1885, and died 16 March 1919, Sverdlov would serve as



Russian Civil War, 1917-23



the chairman of the All-Russian central executive committee from November of 1917 to his death in 1919. In 1902 Sverdlov joined the RSDLP and supported Lenin's bolsheviks during the party's schism. In 1905 he was active in Urals during the 1905 Revolution, and spent the better part of the next decade in prison and exiled. Following the February Revolution in 1917 Sverdlov returned to Petrograd and was appointed chairman of the Party Secretariat.

His position as Chairman of the Party Secretariat allowed him to play an important role in the October Revolution. In November 1917 Sverdlov was elected Chairman of the All-Russian Central Executive committee, where he worked to consolidate the Bolshevik's control over the new regime. He was a big supporter of the Red Terror campaign and decossackization policies. He is believed to have played a large role in the execution of the Romanov royal family in 1918. In March 1919 Sverdlov died of the Spanish flu. His death is considered by some historians to have allowed Stalin to elevate his position.

Joseph Stalin: Born 18 December 1879, and died 5 March 1953, Stalin would be an important member of the Bolshevik party during the Russian Civil War and would be the successor to Lenin after Lenin's death in 1924. Stalin was born to a poor family and joined the Marxist RSDLP in 1901. He was an editor for one of the Newspapers Pravda and raised funds for Lenin's Bolsheviks by way of robberies, kidnapping, and Protection Rackets.

Stalin was exiled to Siberia several times, and did not play a major role until after the October Revolution. Following the October Revolution Stalin was appointed to the Politburo where he became a top figure in policy making for the communist party. Stalin worked hand and hand with Lenin and signed policies against anti-communist ideology as well as being a major supporter for the Red Terror.

In 1918 Stalin was granted a military command, however his initial engagements resulted in heavy losses for the Red Army. Stalin was moved to an advisor role for active military leaders and was entrusted to analyze the situations on the Southern front, as well as the strength of Kolchak's white army in the east. Despite his troubled military career he was still awarded the Order of the Red Banner in 1919 for his military service. In 1920 Stalin requested to be removed from the Military due to feeling humiliated and under appreciated during the Soviet-Polish war.

In 1922 Lenin nominated Stalin as the party's new General Secretary. In May 1922 Lenin suffered a stroke, and Stalin and Lenin faced many disagreements between each other regarding the policies for minorities who weren't communist. Following Lenin's death in 1924, Stalin began using his position as General Secretary to appoint loyal members into high party positions. Stalin turned against Kamenev and Zinoviev, discarding them out of key positions. Stalin would become the second leader of the Soviet Union and would remain in this position until his death.

Leon Trotsky: Born on 7 November 1879, and died 12 August 1940, Leon Trotsky was Lenin's right-hand man for the Russian Revolution and was involved in the establishment of Soviet Russia. In 1898 Trotsky was arrested and exiled to Siberia. In 1902 he escaped to London which is where he met Vladimir Lenin. Like Lenin, Trotsky wrote for the RSDLP's paper the Iskra. In 1903 during the party's split Trotsky originally sided with Martov over Lenin's Bolsheviks, however by 1904 had become neutral in the matter.

In 1905 during the 1905 Revolution, Trotsky was appointed Chairman of the Petrograd Soviets. Trotsky was yet again exiled to Siberia in 1907 where he decided to travel to Vienna, Switzerland, Paris, and New York. Following



Russian Civil War, 1917-23



the February Revolution of 1917, Trotsky returned to Russia to resume his position as Chairman of the Petrograd Soviets. Trotsky was very influential during the October Revolution and helped the Bolsheviks achieve control of the Government.

In Lenin's first Government Trotsky was appointed People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs. It was in this office that he became influential in the negotiations of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, successfully negotiating Russia out of World War One. From 1918 to 1925 Trotsky served as People's Commissar for Military and Naval affairs, and founded the Red Army. Lenin and Trotsky's relationship grew and in 1922 Lenin offered Trotsky the position of his deputy, however Trotsky declined.

Following Lenin's death in 1924, Trotsky was out maneuvered by Joseph Stalin and was expelled from the Politburo in 1926 and the Party in 1927. For the remainder of his life Trotsky spoke out against Stalin's communist policies from exile. He settled in Mexico in 1937, and was assassinated there by a Soviet agent in 1940.

Mikhail Tukhachevsky: Born 16 February 1893 and died 12 June 1937, Tukhachevsky served as a leading general for the Red Army and would earn the nickname "Red Napoleon" during the Russian Civil war. He served as an Officer in the Army during World War 1 and later as a general in the Red Army. In 1918 he was tasked with defending Moscow and later that year he commanded forces on the Eastern Front. In 1919 he was given command of the 5th Army.

Some of his notable victories included recapturing Siberia from Kolchak and leading Cossack forces against Denikin. In 1921 he would command forces against Poland, successfully repelling them from Ukraine. The Red Army however would suffer a major defeat outside of Warsaw, which led to a Polish Victory. Tukhachevsky is said to have blamed Joseph Stalin for this defeat. While most of his time was spent as a military man, he became associated with progressive military thought and innovative ideas about warfare. In 1925 he served as Chief of Staff for the Red Army, an assistant in the People's Commissar of Defense in 1934 and in Command of Volga Military district in 1937. In 1935 he achieved the Rank of Marshall of the Soviet Union. He was executed in 1937 during the Yezhov's Military Purges.

Grigory Zinoviev: Born 23 September 1883 and died 25 August 1936, Grigory Zinoviev served as a prominent member of the central committee during the Russian Revolution. Zinoviev joined the Democratic Labour party in 1901 before siding with Lenin's Bolsheviks in 1903 following the party's split. He and Lenin were both exiled and spent time together before returning to Russia following the February Revolution. Prior to the October Revolution Zinoviev opposed an armed revolution, losing some of Lenin's trust in him.

During the early stage of the war he was placed in charge of Petrograd, and was in command of Petrograd's defense during two assaults by the Whites. Following Lenin's death Zinoviev sided with Stalin against Trotsky, but eventually joined in an opposition against Stalin in 1926. In 1936 he was executed as part of the great purge ordered by Stalin.



Russian Civil War, 1917-23



Bibliography

Wikipedia used for character backgrounds.

Beevor, Antony. *Russia: Revolution and Civil War 1917-1921*. New York: Viking, 2022, <https://www.amazon.com/Russia-Revolution-Civil-War-1917-1921/dp/0593493877/>

Bullock, David. *The Russian Civil War 1918–22*. Oxford: Osprey Publishing, 2008

Llewellyn, Jennifer. “The Russian Civil War.” *Russian Revolution*, 15 August 2019, <https://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/russian-civil-war/>

Mawdsley, Evan. *The Russian Civil War*. New York: Pegasus Books, 2007

Ray, Michael. “Russian Civil War.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, n.d., www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Civil-War

“Russian Civil War.” *Wikipedia*, n.d., https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Civil_War

“Russian Revolution: Causes, Timeline & Bolsheviks - History.” *History.Com*, 9 November 2009, www.history.com/topics/european-history/russian-revolution