Summary

Starting during World War One with the collapse of the Russian Empire, the Russian Civil War lasted considerably longer, killing an estimated seven million people in Russia and neighboring countries, from 1917 to 1923. It led to the transformation of Russia and its empire. It was pivotal for Russia and its neighbors, and influences 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. Two major powers emerged in an effort to seize control of the Russian Empire: Lenin’s Bolshevik Party (Reds) and the White Movement (the 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

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 (Reds) and the White Movement (the 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 Russian Civil War (1917-1923): An Overview

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 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 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 “White 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. Admiral 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 its 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 Birsk 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.

![Image showing a Bolshevik propaganda poster](image)

‘Beat the Whites with a Red Wedge’, a famous Bolshevik propaganda poster used abstract symbolism to depict the defeat of the Whites by the Red Army.

**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.

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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)

Sergy Kamenev: Born 16 April 1881, and died 25 August 1936, Kamenev was a military leader who served for the Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War. Kamenev was born in Kiev to a noble family and graduated from Vladimir Kiev cadet school in 1898. At the start of World War One Kamenev was a Captain and commanded the 30th Poltava Infantry regiment. Later in the war he was promoted to Colonel and held numerous staff officer positions.

In April of 1918 Kamenev served in the western front in the Red Army. By mid- 1918 Kamenev had made a name for himself and began to receive promotions. In September of 1918 Kamenev was promoted to Commander of the eastern front. In late 1918 and early 1919 his armies captured Ufa and Orenburg, but were forced to retreat due to offensives by the White Army. By Mid 1919 Kamenev was pinned up against Kolchak's White Army.

In the summer of 1919 Kamenev successfully launched the Eastern Counter Offensive, forcing Kolchak’s forces east of the Urals and back into Siberia. Upon these victories Kamenev requested permission to engage into Siberia but was denied by Jukums Vācietis who was the Commander and Chief at the time. Following a scandal regarding Vācietis, Kamenev would be appointed new Commander and Chief of the Red Army. Kamenev led a successful series of counter offensives during the late 1919s and ended the White’s offensive campaign. Kamenev remained the Commander and Chief for the remainder of the War.

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 ban 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.

Alexander Krasnoshchyokov: Born 10 October 1880 and died 26 November 1937, Krasnoshchyokov served as the first leader of the Far Eastern Republic. In 1896 he joined a marxist group as a teenager as well as the RSDLP after it was formed. He was arrested in 1898 and was exiled to Nikolaevsk where he met Leon Trotsky. He was arrested yet again in 1901 and by 1902 was forced to escape to Berlin in order to avoid being exiled to Siberia.

In 1903 Krasnoshchyokov immigrated to the United States of America where he joined the Socialist labor party of America. In 1912 he graduated as a Lawyer and began defending striking workers. Following the February Revolution of 1917, he returned to Russia, and immediately joined the Bolshevik party, soon becoming president of the Far Eastern Soviet of People's Commissars, established in Khabarovsk in December of 1917. By the summer of 1918, Krasnoshchyokov lost full control of eastern Russia as the Czechs, Japanese, British, and American forces began fighting against the Red Army. In an effort to escape he was captured near Samara and held in prison until being released in December of 1919.

In 1920 he convinced Lenin to allow him to create a buffer state in far eastern Russia and wrote the constitution of the far Eastern Republic. He was assigned as First minister of the far eastern republic from April 1920 to July 1921. On 15 July 920 the Gongota treaty was signed, which established a neutral zone between Verkhenukinsk and Chita which allowed Japanese forces to retreat without embarrassment.

In April 1921 Krasnoschyokov was removed from office after coming down with tuberculosis, and re-appointed Second Deputy USSR People’s commissary in the People's Commissariat for finance in December of that year. Throughout 1922 Krasnoschyokov suffered medical issues that were used by his opponents to remove him from positions. In November of 1922 he was able to establish a Prombank using support from the Politburo.

In March of 1923 Lenin suffered his third stroke, leaving Krasnoschyokov unprotected. In September 1924 he was arrested on charges of corruption and was sent to prison. He was released under amnesty in 1925 and went on to work for the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1937 he was arrested for espionage and sentenced to death. He was one of several former Bolsheviks to be executed on 26 November 1937.

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.

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 Julies 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 Marov’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).

**Yukhym Medvedev:** Born 1 April 1886, and died 7 June 1938, Medvedev would serve as Chairman of the Soviet parliament in Ukraine during the Russian Civil War. Born of Ukrainian ethnicity, Medvedev joined the RSDLP in 1904. In 1917 he became a member of the Ukrainian Social Democratic labor party and founded the Kharkiv Ukrainian Social Democrats which worked with the Bolsheviks.

In December 1917 Medvedev became an organizer for the 1st All-Ukrainian Congress of Soviet peasant, workers, and soldiers deputies in Kharkiv. The congress then formed the All-Ukrainian Central Executive committee in which Medvedev was appointed Chairman of. From January-February of 1918 Medvedev headed the Soviet Ukrainian delegation to the Brest’s negotiations. After Russian aggression in Ukraine in 1919 Medvedev joined the Borotbists, who by July of 1920 had disintegrated with most of its members joining the Bolshevik party of Ukraine. Medvedev began to fade to the back and by 1930 had given up his political career. In 1938 he was arrested by state security and shot on charges of being an anti-Soviet terrorist.

**Nikolai Podvoisky:** Born on 16 February 1880, and died 28 July 1948, he served as a leader of the Bolshevik Party during the Russian Civil War. Throughout his early life Podvoisky was arrested multiple times for organizing strikes. In 1906 after being arrested Podvoisky returned to Russia and became a Boleshevik organizer in Petrograd, Kostroma, and Baku. In 1913 he settled near Petrograd and began smuggling Bolshevik literature into Russia. In 1916 he was
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arrested and released following the February Revolution.

In March 1917 Podvoisky was appointed head of the Bolshevik Military Organisation as a member of the Bolsheviks organization of Petrograd. Following the Bolsheviks takeover, Podvoisky was appointed People’s Commissar for defense along with two others. By March 1918 they had been replaced by Trotsky and began to lose power as the war progressed. In March 1920 he proposed that the Red Army be demobilized and replaced with a system of local Militia.

During that same year he was appointed Chairman of the Supreme Council of Physical Culture and founded the Red Sport International in 1921. In 1923 he lost his position as Chairman of the Supreme Council of Physical Culture and by 1926 had lost control of the Red Sport International.

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

Maria Spiridonova: Born 16 October 1884, and died 11 September 1941, Spiridonova was a renowned Russian revolutionist. In 1905 she joined the Party of Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs) and became a full-time activist. In 1906 she was a member of the local combat group the Tambov Socialist Revolutionaries and assassinated Gavril Luzhenovskl. She was abused harshly by police and became well known with those who opposed the Tsars. She was sentenced to prison for 11 years.

Following the February Revolution in 1917 Spiridonova was released from prison due to her popularity amongst the common people. She then traveled from Siberia to Moscow in order to attend the 3rd National Congress of the Party of Socialist Revolutionaries. Despite not being elected to a position she continued her work, turning peasants into soviets. Following the October Revolution, she joined a leftist group of the SRs that believed in working with the Bolsheviks.

She was recommended for a ministerial role in the new Bolshevik-Left SRs government, however did not accept any appointment. Instead she was appointed head of the Central Executive Committee of the All-Russian Soviet Workers, Peasants, and Soldiers deputies. She was one of few Left SRs members who offered support to Lenin’s decision to sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. On 18 January 1918 Spiridonova was proposed by both the Bolsheviks and Left SRs as their candidate for the Chair, however Viktor Chernov was elected instead, and the body was dissolved after the first session.

In mid-1918 relations between the Left SRs and Bolsheviks deteriorated and in July of 1918 Ambassador Wilhelm Mirbach was assassinated by two Left SRs members. Spiridonova ultimately took the political blame for the assassination and was imprisoned following an uprising by the Left SRs against the Bolsheviks.
Following her release in 1919 she continued her anti-Bolshevik activities and was arrested again for giving a speech in opposition of the communist government. She was accused of being mentally ill and sentenced to another year in prison.

By 1923 she had stepped back from the political landscape, however she was arrested yet again on 16 May. She would spend the next decade being arrested following her releases. In 1937 she was yet again arrested and in 1938 was sentenced to 25 years in prison. On 11 September 1941 Stalin ordered the execution of nearly 150 prisoners including Spiridonova in the Medvedovsky forest massacre.

**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 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 underappreciated 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 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
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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.

Jukums Vācietis: Jukums Vācietis was born on 23 November 1873, and died 28 July 1938, served as a General for the Red Army during the Russian Revolution. In 1891 Vācietis joined the Russian Military, where he graduated as a Second Lieutenant in the infantry Corp in 1895. In 1914, at the start of World War One, Vācietis was a battalion Commander who fought in Poland and eastern Prussia. He was wounded several times during this campaign and was promoted to the rank of Colonel after his treatment.

In October of 1916 Vācietis was given command of the 5th Latvian Zemgale Rifle Regiment and made a name for himself during the defense of Riga against German forces in august of 1916. Vācietis was not politically active during his military career, however sided with the Bolsheviks following the October Revolution. It was here that he was given command of the 12th Red Army, as well as retaining command of the Red Latvian Riflemen division.

In July of 1918 Vācietis put down a rebellion consisting of left socialist revolutionaries who opposed Russia getting out of World War One. Between July 1918 and September 1918 Vācietis commanded the eastern front, and scored the Bolsheviks first major victory when his forces recaptured Kazan. On 2 September 1918, Vācietis was appointed the first commander in chief of the Red Army and a member of the Revolutionary Military Council.

In the Summer of 1919 Vācietis proposed that forces of the eastern front be transferred to the south in order to combat general Denikin and the Don Cossacks. Sergy Kamenev, the new commander of the eastern front, disagreed with this move claiming that the Eastern Front could advance into Siberia and still supply troops to the south. After being humiliated by his proposal, Vācietis was removed from command and Sergy Kamenev became commander and Chief of the Red Army.

On 8 July 1919, Vācietis was accused of being involved in a White organization and arrested. Vācietis was proven innocent and released, however never held active command again. Vācietis ended the war as a professor of the Red Army Military Academy.

Vladimir Vol’skii: Born 23 June 1877, and died 4 October 1937, would serve as the Chairman of the Committee of Members of the Constituent Assembly. In 1903 Vol’skii joined the Socialist Revolutionary Party (PSR), and became involved in the terrorist tactics of the PSR. In 1904 he became involved in a plot to assassinate the Governor of Baku. In 1908 he was sentenced to three years of prison, and by the start of World War One had been exiled to Kashin and Kostroma.

Following the February Revolution Vol'skii and his brother were elected to the Constituent assembly as the representatives of Tver Oblast. Following the October Revolution, he became chairman of the committee of members of the constituent assembly which was based in Samara. He was originally declared a counter revolutionist and charges were sent out for his arrest by the Bolsheviks. He went underground and began plotting an uprising against the Bolsheviks.
Following Kolchak's coup in 1918 he announced the election of a committee responsible for the congress of the All-Russian Constituent assembly. He was arrested by some of Kolchak's White officers, but was freed by Czechoslovakians. He joined the anti-Kolchak underground and following the Red Army's capture of Ufa joined in SR Committee talks of joint movements against Kolchak. Following this he became a member of the MPSR. He served as a member of the Political Center in 1921. In 1922 the Political Center was exposed for corruption and Vol'skii was arrested. In February 1937 he was arrested again as part of the Great Purge. He was shot on 22 September 1937 for supposedly being a member of an anti-Soviet terrorist organization.
Bibliography

Wikipedia used for character backgrounds.


