

The struggle for Power:

Stalin/ Trotsky

Key words: Leon Trotsky, Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, struggle for power



Leon Trotsky: 1879 – 1940:

- member of the Bolsheviks from August 1917, before as a Menshevik
- one of the leaders of the Russian Revolution
- founder and commander of the Army
- served as People's Commissar of War.
- major figure in the Bolshevik victory in the Russian War.
- After leading a **failed struggle** of the **Left Opposition** against the policies and rise of Joseph Stalin in the 1920s in the Soviet Union, Trotsky was successively **removed** from power: **dismissed** as Commissar for War in 1924, **expelled** from the Communist Party in 1927, **exiled** to Siberia in 1928, **deported** from the Soviet Union in 1929 and **assassinated** on Stalin's orders in 1940.

- *Look at the methods of Stalin's struggle for power: Trotsky was:*

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Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin: 1878 – 1953:

USSR under Stalin:

- Born in the Republic of, his real name was Joseph **Jughasvili**. He changed his name to "**Stalin**" – – when he was imprisoned as a revolutionary.

Head of the state and the Party (1924-1953)

- In 1928, Stalin replaced the NEP of the 1920s with a **economy and Plans**, launching a period of **rapid industrialization** and **economic collectivization** in the countryside. As a result, the USSR was **transformed from a largely agrarian society into a great industrial power**.

- However, during this period of rapid economical and social changes, millions of people were sent to, including

many **political convicts**.

- In 1937–38, a campaign against former members of the communist opposition, potential rivals in the party, and other alleged enemies of the regime culminated in the, a period of **mass repression** in which hundreds of thousands of people were executed.

- In August 1939, USSR entered into a non-aggression, dividing their spheres of influence in Eastern Europe. This pact allowed the Soviet Union to regain some of the former territories of the Russian Empire in Poland, Finland, the Baltics, Bessarabia and northern Bukovina during the early period of **World War II**.

- After Germany violated the Pact by invading the Soviet Union in 1941, **the Soviet Union joined the Allies**.

- Despite heavy human and territorial losses in the initial period of war, the Soviet Union managed to stop the Axis advance in the battles of Moscow and Stalingrad. Eventually,

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- Having played the decisive role in the Allied victory, the USSR emerged as recognized **after the war.**
 - Stalin attended the meeting of the during WWII: **The Tehran Conference** (1943): the first meeting of Joseph Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. The chief discussion was centered on the **opening of a second front in Western Europe, The Yalta Conference:** (February 1945): another meeting of the Big Three. **The Potsdam Conference** (July – August 1945): Stalin, Churchill and new US President **Harry S. Truman, because** Roosevelt
 - After WWII, USSR under Stalin was in the “**Cold War**” with the and
 - Stalin died in 1953.

Work to do: sum up the info u just read about „the man of steel“ into several sentences

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Theories to understand: Trotskyism, Stalinism, Leninism

Trotskyism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The idea of revolution. Revolution to be spread to other countries • The idea of permanent revolution • Fast economic modernization • Critic of the domination of bureaucratic caste over the populace
Stalinism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory of the Communism in country. This theory became Party policy in 1925
Leninism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenin believed that only revolutions in economically advanced countries could achieve Communism. • Political revolution led by a party of professional revolutionaries

By 1924 = Lenin's death:

- **By 1924 Trotsky** believed that the NEP was successful and should be ended. He believed it was now necessary to begin and industrialization program and to start large collective farms. Trotsky believed in the importance of **world revolution.**

X

- **Stalin** countered Trotsky's theory of with his own view of Socialism in **One Country.** This said that Russia could become Socialist on its own, provided Lenin's NEP was followed.

After 1924:

1.	Triumvirate	Vs.	Left Opposition
2.	Stalin	Vs.	United Opposition = Left-wingers = Leftists
3.	Stalin	Vs.	Bukharin and the Right

1.

Triumvirate Vs. Left Opposition:

- **Grigorij Zinoviev, Leon Kamenev and Joseph Stalin** joined together in what became known as the „Triumvirate“,
- Trotsky and his supporters were known as the **Left Opposition**.
- The Triumvirs began to remove Trotsky’s supporters from influential positions (*Stalin became General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1922. This gave him the power to control membership and appointments = Stalin was in control of the Party organization*). Trotsky was increasingly outvoted and isolated. In 1925, he was forced to resign from his powerful position as Commissar for War.

1922: Stalin became General Secretary of the Communist Party. This gave him the power to control membership and appointments = Stalin was in control of the Party organization

Triumvirate		Left Opposition
•	X	•

2. **Stalin X United Opposition = Left-wingers = Leftists:**

- **At this time Stalin 1. supported the NEP and 2. gradual reform of the economy.**
- **The leftist = left-wing.** Zinoviev and Kamenev were dismissed from the Politburo in 1926 because they believed in **fast** economic modernization - one of Trotsky’s main ideas. They joined Trotsky to protest against Stalin and **were exiled in 1928.**

Stalin and his supporters: Nikolai Bukharin and the Right		United Opposition= Left-wingers = Leftists:
		Zinoviev, Kamenev, Trotsky
•	X	•
•		•

- By using his control of Party Congresses and elections, **Stalin** was able to outvote his ex-partners.
- By December **1927, Trotsky, Zinoviev, Kamenev and other left-wing Communists** lost important positions and were **expelled from the party.**

3. **Stalin X Nikolai Bukharin and the Right:**

- Stalin earlier favored the policy of the NEP. But in 1925, he seems to have started to favor an industrialization program. **By the end of 1927, the United opposition was defeated.** and Stalin announced that Soviet agriculture and industry needed to be modernized. He decided to adopt Trotsky’s earlier suggestions for a program of

In 1929 Stalin was left as the most important leader of the Communist Party