

**Foreign Policy of Soviet Russia:
1917-1922**

Key words: the Third International, relation to the League of Nations, spreading the revolutions, recognition, Russo-Polish War

Communist danger:

- After WWI, Russian Communism was seen as a **danger** especially after failed Communist revolts in Eastern Europe – countries like France and Britain were afraid of world revolution and had sent troops to help the forces in the Civil War.

Winston Churchill in 1919: *“Communism is not a policy, it is a Communism means war of the most ruthless character, the slaughter of men, women, and children, the burning of homes, and the inviting in of”*

Debts:

- Russia also had many debts to the West dating from the Tsarist period (See also below: Genoa Conference in 1922)

Recognition:

- Soviet Russia was not invited to the first meeting on the League of Nations in 1922 as many countries still had not recognized that the Communist government was legal.

- **USSR joined the League of Nations in 1934.**

Lenin: *“The League is a robbers’ den to safeguard the unjust spoils of Versailles.”*

- **Genoa Conference in 1922:** (watch out: Genoa = Janov, Genève = Ženeva): conference to discuss economic issues.

Germany and Russia out:

1.
2.
3.

- **Rapallo Treaty in 1922:** The **Treaty of Rapallo** was an agreement signed between and **Soviet Russia** under which each renounced all territorial and financial claims against the other following the Treaty of and World War I.

The two governments also agreed to normalize their diplomatic relations and to *“co-operate in a spirit of mutual goodwill in meeting the economic needs of both countries”*. **Berlin recognized Soviets de iure** and gave up its claims on the nationalized German possession.

- **In the 1920s and early '30s capitalist countries gradually came to accept Russia.**

Comintern:

- **The Third International (=the Comintern):** international communist organization founded in **1919 in Moscow** formed to promote revolution **abroad**, spread communist ideas and to plan revolution.

- Comintern gave **literature, funds and advice** to the Communist revolutions abroad.
- Communist parties abroad joined the Comintern. At first, the Russian Communists did not try to force other Communist Parties to agree with them. **This changed under Stalin.**

The Russo-Polish War (1920-1921):

- Poland invaded Russia to gain more land. The treaty from 1921 gave Poland a large area of Russian land.

Spreading the Revolution: Hungary, Germany, Czechoslovakia:

Hungary:

The **Hungarian Soviet Republic** or **Soviet Republic of Hungary** (March - August 1919) was a Communist regime established in Hungary. This republic, led by **Béla Kun**, collapsed when Romanian forces occupied Budapest during the Hungarian-Romanian War. **It was the Communist government to be formed in Europe after the October Revolution in Russia brought the Bolsheviks to power in that country.**

Béla Kun attempted to fulfill his promise to restore Hungary's borders. In June, the Hungarian Red Army invaded the eastern part of the newly-forming Czechoslovak state and declared a **Slovak Soviet Republic** in on **16 June 1919** – lasted **from 16 June to 7 July 1919**. **Brief war between Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Romania** fully restored Slovakia into Czechoslovakia.

Germany:

The German Revolution: (from November 1918 until the formal establishment of the Republic in August 1919): The revolutionaries, **inspired by communist ideas**, failed to take control as the Bolsheviks had in Russia, as the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) leadership refused to work with those who supported the Bolsheviks. **The political fragmentation among the left-wing** was a significant factor in the **failure of the left to seize power.**

The Bavarian Soviet Republic, also known as the **Munich Soviet Republic** was, as part of the German Revolution of 1918-19, the short-lived attempt to establish a socialist state in form of a council republic in the Free State of Bavaria.

	In Slovak	Years:
Soviet Russia		
The USSR		



The flag of the USSR:

Work to do: name four republics that made up the USSR:

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