

## Lenin and Russia:

**Key words:** *Lenin, The Kronstadt Rebellion, The NEP, War Communism, The April Theses, Leninism, Lenin's Testament*



**Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov = ..... (1870–1924):**

- Russian Marxist .....
- Creator of the Soviet Communist Party
- Leader of the 1917 October .....
- As head of the Bolsheviks (1917–1924) he led the Red Army to victory in the Russian Civil War
- Founder of the USSR in 1922

**The April Theses** (April 1917):

- **program for the ..... Party**
- In the Theses, Lenin argued that the Bolsheviks should not rest content, like almost all other Russian socialists, with the "bourgeois" February Revolution. Instead the Bolsheviks should **press ahead to a ... socialist revolution** of the workers and poorest peasants:

Lenin: *“The specific feature of the present situation in Russia is that the country is passing from the **first stage** of the revolution—which, owing to the insufficient class-consciousness and organisation of the proletariat, placed power in the hands of the **bourgeoisie**—to its **second stage**, which must place power in the hands of the **proletariat** and the poorest sections of the peasants.”*

In your own words, summarize the main characteristics of the “Theses”: .....

.....

**Decrees from 1917+ All-Russian Congress of Soviets:**

1. **Decree on Peace:** withdrawal from the First World War without 1a. .... or 1b. ...."
2. **Decree on Land:** forceful dissolution of land among peasants.

Decrees were **passed** by **The Congress of Soviets**: this was the **..... governing body** of the Soviet Russia and several other Soviet republics from 1917 to 1936, when new Constitution was adopted.

The Congress of Soviets created laws and elected the **Council of People's Commissars (Rada Pudových Komisárov)** = .....

**“War Communism”**:

See former worksheet *Revolution in Russia*

**The Kronstadt Rebellion in 1921:**

This rebellion was a result of the poor situation in Russia: .....

In March 1921 the sailors and workers in the important naval base in Kronstadt rose up in protest. These rebels demanded: .....

.....

The rebellion was **crushed by the Red Army** soldiers. The rebels were killed or executed as **traitors**.

**The New Economic Policy (NEP): 1921 - 1929**

- Aim of the NEP was to **restore order and increase prosperity** after the chaos of Revolution, Civil War and War Communism.
- NEP: was a **partial return to** ..... in some aspect of the economy when **smaller factories and shops** were returned to their former owners in order to **make a profit**. The forcible seizure of surplus grain was stopped. Instead, peasants were allowed to sell a part of their extra grain ....., **once a certain amount had been sold to the State at a fixed price**.
- Name the NEP in two simple words: a period of **"....."**
- By 1924, the NEP had **achieved some successes**: agricultural and industrial production was increasing, and in many cases had returned to the levels which had existed in 1913, before Russia had got involved in the First World War.

**Communist political control grows:**

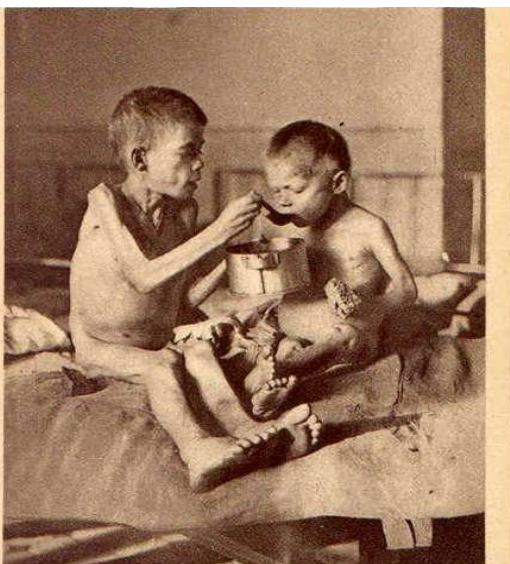
- **Congress decided to ban other parties, and the operation of factions.** A “purge” in 1921 expelled about ..... of Party members who did not agree with Lenin.
- Communist governments were imposed in areas recaptured in the Civil War such as the **Ukraine**, **against** the will of independent nationalists in these areas.

**The Russian famine of 1921:**

The famine began in the early spring of that year, and lasted through 1922. The famine, which **killed an estimated 5 million**, affected mostly the Volga-Ural region.

The famine resulted from the combined effect of the disruption of the agricultural production, which already started during World War I and continued through the disturbances of the Russian ..... of 1917 and Russian ..... War with its policy of “War .....

- **The USA** sent help in the form of food, medicine and clothing.



*La famine en Russie. III. LES DEUX ÉTAPES DE LA FAIM: les membres squelettiques, le ventre ballonné (par l'herbe, la paille, l'écorce d'arbre, les vers, la terre). Ces enfants ne peuvent plus être sauvés, il est trop tard. Pour les sauver, il eût fallu les nourrir avant ce degré d'épuisement.*

- Fridtjof Nansen, a Norwegian, headed a huge **Red Cross** project which sent 80 000 tons of food to starving Russians.

**USSR** (The **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**) 1922 and 1991:



*Flag of the USSR:* The colour red refers to the term ".....", which represents the suffering of the proletariat. Look at the symbols on the flag: .....

**The USSR was formed in 1922 out of these 4 Socialist Republics:**

1. the ..... SFSR, 2. the ..... SFSR: consisted of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, 3. the .....
- SSR, 4. the ..... SSR



**The Soviet Union** had a **single-party political system** dominated by the **Communist Party**. The USSR was a **highly centralized state** with a ..... **economy** with capital in .....

**Lenin's Testament from 1922:**

The Testament describes **strengths and weaknesses of the main leaders.**

Lenin on **Stalin**: "Comrade Stalin, having become Secretary-General, has **unlimited** authority

*concentrated in his hands, and I am not sure whether he will always be capable of using that authority with sufficient caution."*

Shortly after publication of the Testament, Lenin had serious disagreements with Stalin over policy towards the different national groups. So in January 1923 he wrote a **Postscript** recommending that **Stalin be removed from all positions of:**

*"Stalin is too rude and this defect, although quite tolerable in our midst and in dealing among us Communists, becomes intolerable in a Secretary-General. That is why I suggest that the comrades think about a way of **removing Stalin from that post and appointing another man** in his stead who in all other respects differs from Comrade Stalin in having only one advantage, namely, that of being more tolerant, more loyal, more polite and more considerate to the comrades, less capricious, etc. This circumstance may appear to be a negligible detail. But I think that from the standpoint of safeguards against a split and from the standpoint of what I wrote above about the relationship between Stalin and Trotsky it is not a [minor] detail, but it is a detail which can assume decisive importance."*

However, when Lenin died, other Communist leaders persuaded the Party leadership not to act on Lenin's advice, and Stalin kept his jobs. The leaders also decided not to publish the Testament.

**Constitution from 1924:**

- **Federal system** with greater control over the different republics in the USSR.
- Much of work on the Constitution was done by Josef Stalin.
- Each Republic had a government with some policy freedom, but they all had to be Communist, and the system was **run centrally by the Politburo** – .....

**Leninism**

- Leninism reversed Marx's order of economics over politics, allowing for a political revolution led by a **vanguard party of professional revolutionaries** rather than a spontaneous uprising of the working class as predicted by Karl Marx.

Marx	
Base	Superstructure
Economy	Politics, Law, Art, Philosophy,...

**Lenin's short Bio:**

- 1870 born
- In 1895, he founded the *League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class*, the embryonic revolutionary party. The League was active among the Russian labour organisations.
- In 1895, Lenin was arrested for plotting against Tsar Alexander III, and was then imprisoned for fourteen months in St. Petersburg. In 1897, he was exiled to eastern Siberia.
- In 1900 he co-founded the newspaper *Iskra (Spark)*, and published articles and books about revolutionary politics, whilst recruiting for the Marxist Russian Social Democratic Labour Party.
- At the end of his exile in 1900, Lenin left Russia and lived in Munich (1900–1902), London (1902–1903) and Geneva (1903–1905).
- In November 1905, Lenin returned to Russia to support the 1905 Russian Revolution.
- Until the February and October revolutions of 1917, he lived in Western Europe, where, despite relative poverty, he developed Leninism.
- On 5 September 1914 Lenin moved to neutral Switzerland, residing first at Bern, then at Zürich.
- In April 1917 Lenin arrived to Petrograd.
- On the train from Switzerland, Lenin had composed his famous *April Theses*: his program for the Bolshevik Party.
- Leader of the 1917 October Revolution.
- As head of the Bolsheviks (1917–1924) he led the Red Army to victory in the Russian Civil War.
- Founder of the USSR in 1922.
- Died in 1924.

