



A Single-Party State



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Characteristics of a Single Party State

1. Control the masses through fear/terror or loyalty
2. Use propaganda to show how your ideology will get your people to “the top.”
3. Secret police
4. Military control
5. Clandestine intelligence agency
6. Seize power through military coup
7. Get rid of opposition (likely by force) & legislate by decree
8. Control media, education & civil liberties

Structure of the Soviet State

- Dual Authority – Communist Party is “dictatorship exercised by a private body”
 - Marx – no political structure
 - Applied Bolshevik Party org. to whole country
 - Democratic institutions are maintained, but had to become Bolshevik loyalists
- Cheka – Secret police force



State-Building

1. Destroy everything from before (military, economics, political institutions) “SMASH!”
2. Construct a new order free from Soviets/Constituent Assembly → absolutism (took 6 mos.)
3. Communist Party (born Mar.1918) remained private, though they controlled everything
4. Central Committee (highest branch of Party, born Mar. 1919)
 - Politburo – Decisionmaking
 - Orgburo – Personnel development



5. Lenin was dictator & Sovnarkom (executive) approved decisions
6. Russia returns to 33 self-governing principalities w/ Communist support (like pre-Romanov)
7. Mar. 1918 Constitution – Weak, anarchist, doesn't mention Communists (basically, a joke)
8. Sovnarkom now responsible to Central Committee of Party, neither of which Lenin listened to, exemplified by “Constitutional crisis” over the press
 - Back to pre-Duma days of 1905 w/Lenin as dictator



Resistance

- Intelligentsia (Pipes: got what they deserve for breaking down old order)
- Walkouts (Trotsky)
- Refusal for money by state banks for Bolsheviks



Trotsky!



But I am the new
Foreign
Minister!

...

(ironic laughter)

Bolshevik Answers

- “Bolsheviks would neither share power, nor surrender it.” (158)
- Replace workers w/ junior officials until strikers realize the Bolsheviks aren’t going anywhere
- Bank robbery by armed guards



Constituent Assembly Issues

- Directly elected body; last bastion of PG
- Bolsheviks win in Nov. 1917 elections, but not in cities (Kadets – liberals!)→
- Lenin outlaws Kadets (of course he does.)



Communism in the Balance

- Bolsheviks recruit Latvian riflemen
- Once CA opened, Bolsheviks booed & aimed guns @ opposition leaders
- Ask the CA to renounce its own authority to Bolshevik decrees → No → Bolsheviks leave.
- Within hours, troops entered CA & disbanded it → Pravda linked CA to American Capitalism (*first time US used negatively*)



Aftermath

- 3rd Congress of Soviets opens in place of CA
 - 94% Bolshevik; Immediately declares all decrees law of the land → now permanent government of Russia
- Socialist intellectuals: Candles & sandwiches instead of guns; “Better to let the CA die a quiet death than provoke a civil war” (164)
- Spring 1918: If you don’t succeed, have more “elections”
 - Disqualified Mensheviks & SRs from running



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