

**The Russia Revolution, or  
How Not to Make a Revolution  
Part II: Periodization of the History of the Soviet Union (to 1941)**

November 7, 1917, to May 24, 1918: Consolidation by Bolsheviks of Successful Coup

- A. Bolshevik Reform Measures
- B. Red Terror
- C. Election for Constituent Assembly
- D. Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- E. Suppression of Political Opposition

May 24, 1918, to March 15, 1921: Civil War, Russo-Polish War, and War Communism

- A. Civil War
  - 1. Whites
    - a. Admiral Aleksandr V. Kolchak
    - b. General Anton I. Denikin
    - c. Baron Petr N. Wrangel (Vrangel')
  - 2. Czech Legions—Trans-Siberian Railroad
  - 3. American, Japanese, French, and British Intervention
  - 4. Role of Leon Trotskii
  - 5. Murder of the Romanov Family
  - 6. Anarchists—Nestor Makhno
  - 7. Greens—Aleksandr Antonov
- B. Russo-Polish War 1920–1921
  - 1. Russian Side (Mikhail N. Tukachevskii; Semen M. Budennyi; Role of Stalin)
  - 2. Polish Side (Marshal Josef Pilsudski)
- C. War Communism
  - 1. Characteristics: Nationalization, Centralization, Mobilization
  - 2. Attempt to Establish a Communist Society Immediately
  - 3. Heavy Contribution to Economic Chaos
  - 4. Establishment of Direct Control over All Production and Distribution
  - 5. Development of Violent Struggle with Peasants

March 15, 1921, to January 15, 1928: New Economic Policy (NEP) and Succession Struggle

- A. Response to Failure of War Communism

## B. Characteristics of New Economic Policy (NEP)

1. Concessions to Peasants
2. Legalization of Private Trade
3. Resumption of Use of Money

## C. Succession Struggle After Death of Lenin, January 21, 1924

1. First Phase, 1923–1925: Kamenev, Zinoviev, and Stalin vs. Trotskii
2. Second Phase, 1925–1928: Stalin allies with those who favor NEP
3. Third Phase, 1928–1929: Stalin adopts policies of the “Left”

January 15, 1928, to June 22, 1941: Forced Industrialization, Collectivization, Purges

## A. Five-Year Plans

1. First: 1928–1932 (October 1, 1928–December 31, 1932)
2. Second: 1933–1937

## B. Effects of Super-Industrialization

1. Material Waste
2. Great human sacrifices
3. Misrepresentation of Results
4. Stakhanovite Movement

## C. Collectivization

1. Russian Peasant Households on eve of collectivization = 25,500,000
  - a. Typology of the Russian Peasantry
  - b. Number of Peasant Households Collectivized
2. Period of Licensed Chaos
  - a. The Ups and Downs of the Drive to Collectivize
  - b. Established Agricultural Institutions until 1958

## D. The Purges: Causes

1. Theories
2. *Chistka* (= Cleansing): Pre-Purge Purges and Pre-Purge Show Trials
3. Suicide of Nadezhda Allilueva, November 8, 1932
4. Purge of 1934 to 1938
  - a. Vote at Seventeenth Party Congress, February 1934
  - b. Assassination of Sergei M. Kirov, December 1, 1934
  - c. Blame placed on foreign powers; Stalin’s opponents
  - d. Central Committee deprived those accused of “terrorist” acts right of defense

## E. The Purges: Effects

1. Show Trials
2. Body count
3. Social Deformations
4. Historical Manipulation