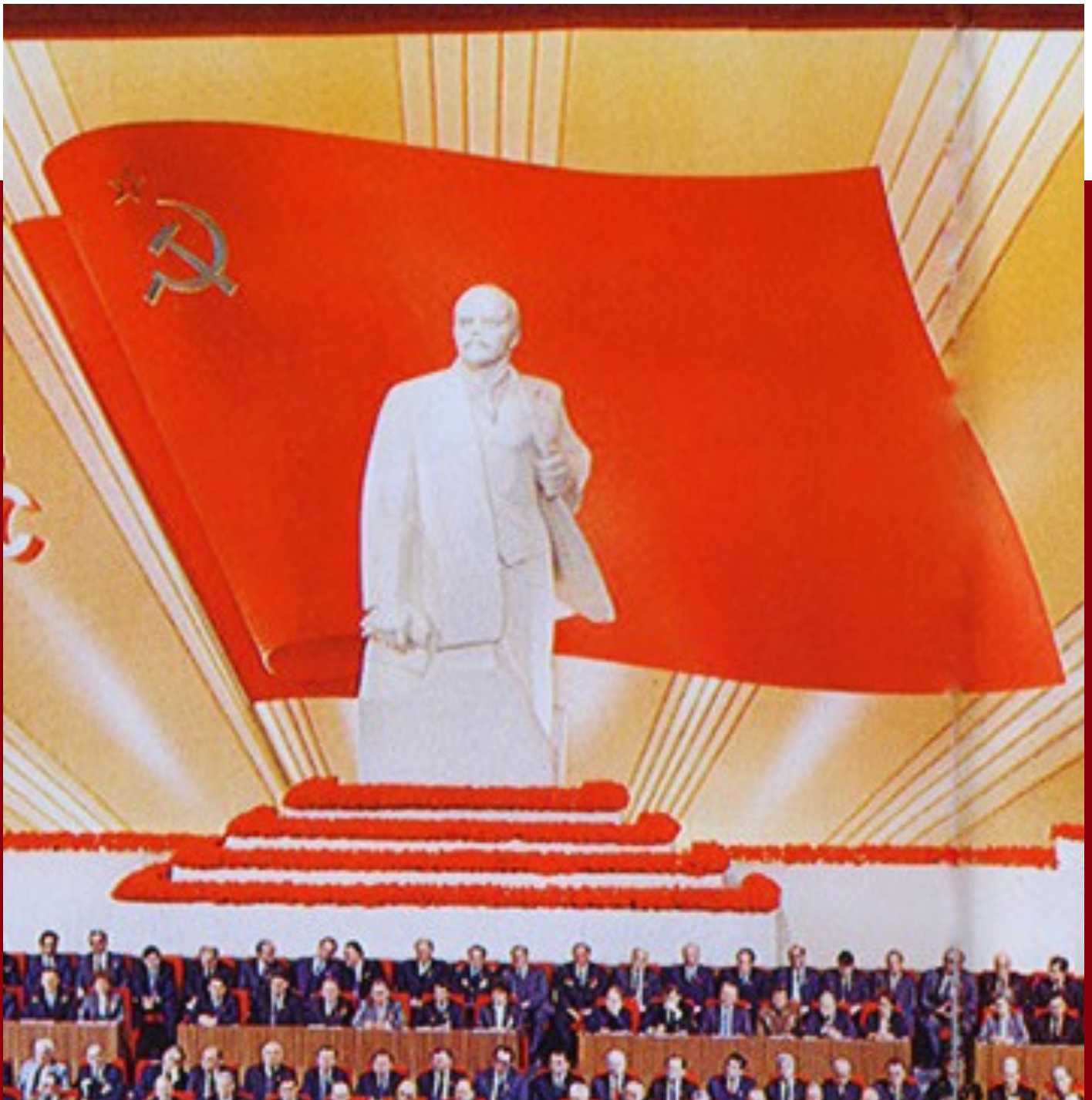


COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION



BACKGROUND GUIDE

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THE DEATH OF LENIN

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LETTER TO THE DELEGATES

Dear delegates,

We are glad to join you in the 2022 edition of YOUMUN. After two years of online conferences at almost all schools, we are honored to serve as your Chairs and see you face to face.

The choice of having this not only as a historical committee, but one taking place outside of the United Nations makes it a challenging experience for all involved. We thank you for your interest, patience and perseverance. Requiring both extensive historical and procedural knowledge, we hope to see a fervent and fun debate as the new environment hopefully brings a new notion of what it means to be interested in politics.. Rather than treading new territory alongside world leaders, you will hopefully take the road not taken, leading us to what could be a completely different 21st century.

As for advice we can give you prior to the conference, be sure to pick the fruits of the special opportunities provided to you by this committee. This means observing what already has been done in your position, and using it as an opportunity to bring about a more positive outcome (for your figure, that is). Furthermore, don't feel tied to what has already happened; that defeats the point of this discussion. "History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as farce". - Karl Marx.

Lastly, remember our job as Chairs is to make the committee, and consequently the delegates, operate on the most effective basis possible. Do not hesitate to reach out prior to or during the conference if you have any questions or concerns; we are here to help.

We look forward to seeing you!

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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION



Emblem of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Founded in 1903 by Vladimir Lenin, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU, also known as the Bolsheviks) is the leading party of the Soviet government. Established with the aim of instituting the “dictatorship of the proletariat”, delegates have been elected by the Congress to be a part of the party’s Central Committee, the supreme governmental body of the Soviet Union. It is the Central Committee that votes on legislation and the members of the Politburo, the Secretariat.

The Politburo consists of five senior elected members who are assigned to determine the most urgent matters of the Soviet Union and do not rely on full party deliberation. Including Lenin himself, the members were Joseph Stalin,



Leon Trotsky, Lev Kamenev and Nikolai Krestinsky. All key issues are determined by those of the Politburo.

The Secretariat of the CPSU is in charge of fulfilling the decisions made by the Central Committee. This means they are the body in charge of measuring fulfillment of agreements, and are allowed to use the functions of the Central Committee when it is not in a meeting. Furthermore, this group can adapt the necessary qualifications for party membership. The Secretariat is led by the Secretary-General.

Created in 1922, the Secretary General is an administrative position within the Secretariat. Set to overlook matters of party composition, membership and assignment, the individual in this position has the power to determine the role of others and keep all party members informed of issues. Being Secretary-General is **not** equivalent to being Head of State or Government (the position taken by the committee's Chairman), though it is a role of extensive power given to senior members of the Party and Politburo.



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Personal pronouns

The use of the personal pronouns is allowed, since the committee addresses an individual and not a delegation. You do not need to use the pronouns that correspond to the gender of the figure, you can match it to what the delegate prefers.

Position Papers

Because this is a special committee with only one topic, position papers are slightly different in terms of content but similar in format.

Firstly, you can use personal pronouns and the first person in your text, since rather than representing a country you are representing a person.

The first paragraph is a short contextualization of the events. Rather than paraphrasing the study guide, simply retell shortly the current political tensions from your figure's point of view. Bias should be noticeable in this part. Keep in mind the first paragraph is the least important and should not be extensive.

The second paragraph gives an overview of your figure's work in the party (the CPSU) and their political beliefs. Here you should also put what kind of relationship they had with Lenin and any other figures they associated themselves with politically.

The last and most important paragraph is about who you believe should be the successor to Lenin and why. Consider what policies this person will implement that benefit you, your relationship with this figure, and what changes will be made to the party once they take over. This should be the most elaborate part of your position paper as it is essential to your positioning in the actual debate.

Please keep your position paper below one page of length.



Rules Governing Debate

Setting the Agenda: Being that this committee will be discussing one large topic rather than two smaller ones, in order to go deeper into the specificities of this subject, the delegates may set an Agenda. This means proposing subtopics to be debated and have resolutions written about.

Points and Motions: The committee's actions will be led by the delegates through points or motions. The main distinction between the two is that motions involve the entire committee whereas points are typically in regard to one delegate. Here are some that will be very useful for this specific committee:

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Used to ask the Chairs a question about procedure.

Point of Order: Used to point out an error in the execution of procedure.

Point of Information: Used after a delegate's speech to ask a question regarding what was said.

Point of Personal Privilege: Used to make a request to the Chairs regarding the delegate's comfort (for example: asking to go to the restroom).

Point of Clarification: During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may rise to a point of clarification to clarify what was stated incorrectly or ambiguously previously. The point must be approved by the Chair and must be in the form of a factual and objective statement, no questions nor arguments can be made using this point.

Right of Reply: Used by a delegate who feels they have been insulted by a statement made by another delegate, requesting time for a 30-second speech as a response.



Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus: Used by a delegate when the floor is open to receive permission from the Chairs to be able to talk and walk around freely for a given amount of time. This is usually used when drafting resolutions.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus: Used by a delegate to set the time and subject for a formal and moderated debate.

Motion to move into voting procedure: Used by a delegate to skip portions of debate and move directly into voting, whether it be on a resolution or an amendment. This motion can only pass with a second and no objections.

Motion to Cite Sources: As the name suggests, a Motion to Cite sources obliges a delegate to disclose where they got their information from by sending the source to the Chairs to be confirmed as factual.

Writing a resolution

When there is a motion for an unmoderated caucus, delegates can get together to discuss the solutions to each issue in the agenda to see what policies they believe would be efficient in addressing the problem. These topics will then be organized into a document that will not require any complex formatting but can be based on a resolution, for example. After that, there is a motion to set an agenda, in which the delegates send this list to the Chairs, which will be passed through a voting process as if it were a resolution. So, if the agenda passes, each motion to unmoderated caucus, moderated caucus, and so on will be requested about which of the agenda topics will be debated.

Once the topics are on the agenda, each of them will be resolved one by one. Then, after a certain time in a moderated debate, the delegates can ask for an unmoderated caucus to discuss their ideas more informally and freely. At this time delegates will even be allowed to leave the room and be released from parliamentary proceedings. The amount of time allotted must first be approved by the Chairs.



Firstly, a working paper will be written, trying to satisfy in a single resolution all the problems that the topic at hand is raising. In this sense, a working paper will still be a document that will be amended, if necessary, and voted on. Remember that the working paper represents a final decision bringing together the interests of the entire committee. So, when it is approved, it means that the majority of the committee agrees that what was written in the document was the best solution found for the problem in question.

Secondly, even if a working paper is rejected, the committee can move to a close debate and then the next topic will be discussed. Then, until the end of the conference, each agenda item must go through at least one working paper. Furthermore, before a working paper can be formally presented to the committee, it must receive the approval of the Chairs.

Finally, in the last section of the committee, after all the working papers have been written and voted on, it is time for a draft resolution. This will consist of a compilation of all the previously discussed working papers together in one document, and no amendments or changes can be made at this point, as they have already been discussed and voted on.

THE DEATH OF VLADMIR LENIN

Historical background

The Russian Revolution

Despite being an empire of impressively large territorial proportions, the Romanov Dynasty's outdated work practices in combination with inexperienced political leaders and a unification of the proletariat led to the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Having been the last nation to abolish serfdom, an exploitative feudal practice that primarily ended in the Medieval ages, Russia's peasantry only grew larger with the Industrialization that took place in the 1900's. After having finally caught



up with the production practices of the rest of the Western world, the population of cities like St. Petersburg and Moscow almost doubled, only worsening class disparities.

In 1855, Tsar Alexander the II took reign after Nicholas the I. This led to what was supposed to be a major change: the Emancipation Reform of 1861, which officially abolished serfdom. Nonetheless, land-owners were obviously upset with the news and in order to please them they were permitted to force workers into paying off 'debt' through labor, meaning virtually nothing changed in most people's lives. Furthermore, despite food being scarce due to the cost of the Crimean War and seasonal drought, the Russian Empire continued exporting grain even if that meant having a starving population. This was aggravated by the larger amount of mouths to feed. Not to mention, migrations to the large cities where people could find industrial work meant that shelter was even harder to find, expensive and overcrowded.

Tensions rose until Alexander the II was assassinated on March 13th, 1881. Alexander the III came to replace him.

These issues were continuously ignored by the Royal family, who maintained their luxurious lifestyle, actively prosecuting and punishing anyone who opposed their government. In 1905, a large peaceful protest consisting of unarmed civilians and workers led to the brutal killing of hundreds by the hands of the Czar's military. This only further compelled the working class to continue their collaboration, leading to massively destructive strikes across the entirety of Russia.

The unstable political climate and society in shambles meant that the peasantry was waiting for the last straw to hit the camel's back. That straw, in this case, is Rasputin. Though he remains a mystery for the most part, Rasputin was allegedly a religious monk who traveled around Russia. Upon being recommended as a miracle worker to the Royal Family, his involvement with them led to the rise of their illegitimacy among the people who came to the conclusion that they were a joke. Coinciding with the rise in popularity of the socialist newspaper run by Lenin, Iskra, the workers came together to demolish the monarchy of Russia and institute the dictatorship of the proletariat in 1917, establishing the government of



the Russian Socio-Democratic Labour Party, which evolved into the currently known USSR.

Lenin and his ideology

A Brief Biography

Born to a very poor family of servants, Vladimir Illych Lenin grew up serving as testimony to the gradual loss in popularity of the Russian Empire. Eventually he studied math and physics in college, launching him into a more comfortable middle class lifestyle that allowed him to study more profoundly and become involved with his university's student council.

Nonetheless such organizations were prohibited by the government, and so when he was arrested during a protest advocating for the cause the selected punishment for him was exile in Kokushinko. There, he had time to read and fall in love with the pro-revolutionary novel *What to do?* by Nikolay Chernyshevsky. This did cause concern from his family, which led to him being freed despite not being permitted back on his university's campus. Little did the government know that in this freedom would he and his friend Nikolai Fedoseev come across Karl Marx's *Das Kapital*, beginning his interest for Marxist studies.

Considered one of if not the most profound analysis of capitalism, *Kapital* describes how concepts like surplus value, alienation, and class struggle create the major inequalities Lenin saw as he grew up. Another work fundamental to his interest and discovery of communism was the *Communist Manifesto* by Marx and Friedrich Engels. This sets up the base for scientific socialism, or the economic and socio-political their of what is socialism, what is communism, and how to achieve both. This book supplemented his knowledge of what it means to be under capitalism by giving him insight into what he needed to do to achieve communism, giving him a new goal.

As he began to read more, his writing took direction towards communism and trying to unite the Russian working class. This meant founding his newspaper



Iskra and the Russian Socio-Democratic Labour Party, which would become the Bolshevik party.

The Fundamentals of Marxism

Developed by Karl Marx over the course of decades, it began with his *Thesis on Feuerbach*, then through the editions of *Das Kapital* until the eventual writing of the *Communist Manifesto*.

The first fundamental belief is that the world is divided into two main classes: the proletariat and the bourgeois. The bourgeoisie consists of the owners of the means of production under capitalism. This means they own farms, factories, companies or land. On this property, the proletariat, also known as the working class, sells their labor in exchange for a wage. Nonetheless, in order to gain profit the bourgeoisie is unable to properly pay these workers, because if they did there would not be any profit. Consequently, they live off of the basis of Value Surplus: this is the difference between the money they make and the value brought by the worker. Marx constitutes this as exploitation and the base of capitalism.

This means that both groups are in a constant fight, called class struggle. One wants to dominate the other. The bourgeoisie, the minority, is the dominating class under capitalism. Socialism would be the institution of a proletarian ruling class, done by having a revolution that consists of workers owning the means of production. This means the abolition of private property, also known as land and machinery that could be used to generate profit through the labor of others, and **not** those of personal use. Under socialism, industries become governmentally regulated and so is the economy. This means many industries (education, health, gas, etc.) become nationalized. Overtime, this government organized by the proletarian class should be spread so far in the world to the point where individually functioning governments should not matter, launching the world into its natural evolution of communism.

Communism can be summarized with three main traits: the absence of money, which means the absence of class, leading to the absence of a state. Only to come as an evolution from socialism, communism is the end goal of Marxism, being



looked at as a naturally occurring possibility hundreds of years into the future. In a communist world, people's lives are not plagued with alienation and consumerism, instead focusing on connections with others and being able to enjoy what Marx believed is the essence of life: work.

Lenin's personal ideology

And after all this, his political theory, Leninism, emerged, which influenced the formation of left parties around the world. The Bolshevik leader's theoretical model was the version that dominated Marxism in Russia, becoming the official ideology of the state that came before the Soviet Union, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR). In this context, their theory, Marxism, advocates a revolution that brings greater importance to the working class, providing them beyond government control and the means of production to the state, the suppression of the bourgeoisie and any maintenance of power derived from it, such as the sets of infrastructure and superstructure. Furthermore, in Leninism it is believed that there is no such thing as democracy or equality under a State. Any form of government will result in the division of classes, leading to class struggle and the natural domination of one class over another. Under capitalism, there is the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, and under communism there is the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Current situation

On January 21, 192, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin died.

"Stalin was the only speaker beside the funeral coffin. The people and party comrades interpreted the scene: Stalin had become Lenin's heir."

After the death of the real father of the Bolshevik revolution, a fight breaks out between various leaders wanting power. Among the leading candidates are Leon Trotsky, a Russian revolutionary and Marxist, and Josef Stalin, a Soviet communist politician. As a result of Lenin's serious accident, all of them were already in the running for his position, seeking to determine a future for the USSR.



It all starts in 1923 when new proposals and divergences of ideas among the main authors begin to emerge. It is believed that the growing bureaucratization of the state and the self-determination of Georgia would be involved in these oppositions. However, the former leader, Lenin, already had in mind who his future successors would be, naming Trotsky, Bukharin, and Piátakov as his favorites, and mainly wanting Trotsky in power. Unfortunately, due to Lenin's serious health condition, he no longer had the strength to make his wish come true. And, by breaches, it was those other great leaders who emerged, such as Stalin, and allowed, in fact, the competition for the position to increase significantly. One example of a gap left, for example, by Trotsky, was that he did not attend Lenin's funeral; a fact that caused quite a repercussion among the population. In addition, Vladimir Lenin's wills claiming to want Leon as his future adept were intercepted, further allowing new drivers to rise up.

In order to avoid any confusion, the dispute between any leader was never just personal but was structured on a series of diverse opinions and theoretical ideals that would carry a lot of weight when it came to leading the Soviet Union. Stalin, for example, implemented the policy of "socialism in one country", which advocated an internal socialist revolution, that is, only in the USSR. This was because the current capitalist world would allow Russian independence from heavy industry, where it would be possible to build, in a solitary way, a socialist society. On the other hand, Trotsky already argued that it would be impossible to implement a socialist culture in the USSR without first implementing this same culture in other countries, internationally, even more, so where capitalism was in crisis. The Marxist claimed that if this did not happen in this way, capitalist countries, such as the United States, would destroy the USSR.

In any case, it was common for different leaders to use concepts from the same author, such as Karl Marx, but without establishing a harmonious relationship between the ideas. Among some of these ideas, the future of the working class was always much debated. And it was based on what the people wanted that the newest leaders based their ideas on. They were always ready to enhance this great mass of workers and peasants, aiming to bring down the Russian monarchy and decrease the bureaucratization of these classes.



This, the following, was a passage that became very popular, written by Trotsky in his last years of life:

"No one, and I make no exception of Hitler, has applied to socialism such a deadly blow. Hitler attacks the workers' organizations from the outside. Stalin attacks them from within. Hitler destroys Marxism; Stalin prostitutes it. There is no principle that remains intact; there is no idea that has not been muddied. Even the terms socialism and communism have been severely compromised, now that the uncontrollable gendarmerie, with 'communist' diplomas, calls the regime they impose socialism. Repugnant desecration!"

Timeline of events

1870 - Born Vladimir Ilyich Ulianov, better known by the pseudonym Lenin or Lenine, was a Russian communist revolutionary, politician, and political theorist who served as head of government of Soviet Russia from 1917 to 1924 and of the Soviet Union from 1922 until his death.

1892 - Lenin gets a license to practice law. A year later, he becomes active in a Marxist study group, in 1893. A little later, the great leader made some trips to Europe to meet European and exiled Russian revolutionaries.

1903 - The second RSDLP congress was realized. During this meeting, two main factions were defined: the Bolsheviks, who represented the will of the majority and united with Lenin, and the Mensheviks. The Bolsheviks were a group that called for the formation of a dictatorship of the proletariat, in which the working class was also included and well represented.

1914 - World War I begins and Germany declared war against Russia. Lenin is forced to leave his country and emigrates to Bern, Switzerland.

1917 - In March, the Russian army garrison in Petrograd defected to the Bolshevik cause, and Tsar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate. Seven months later, under Lenin's leadership, the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia and he became a virtual dictator of the country. However, civil war and foreign intervention delayed



complete Bolshevik control of Russia until 1920.

1918 - The treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed, ending hostilities with Germany. A year later, on March 2, 2019, Lenin founded the COMINTER or Communist International, which brought together the Communist Parties of many different nations.

1922 - The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is established. Led by Vladimir Lenin, they overthrew the provisional government that had been established and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic was then created. After that, the Russian Civil War began. The Red Army entered several territories of the former Russian Empire and helped the local Communists take power. Eventually, the Bolsheviks were victorious.

Later that year Lenin suffered his first stroke.

1924 - After his death, Lenin's body was embalmed and placed in a mausoleum near the Kremlin in Moscow. Petrograd was renamed Leningrad in his honor.

Positions of the representatives

Joseph Stalin and his supporters

Contrary to Lenin, Joseph Stalin supported the concentration of the governmental powers of the Soviet Union in the hands of Russia, seeing the large land expansion and the groups of peoples that were taken over in that explanation as extensions of the Soviet Union rather than independent peoples. Lenin, on the other hand, believed that for working class revolt to happen they ought to satisfy the need each group had for autonomy. This escalated to large conflict between the two, leading to Lenin publishing while in the hospital and Stalin hiding several texts on the matter, including "On the Question of Nationalities or 'Autonomization'".



Joseph Stalin, being a member of the Politburo and the Secretariat, serving as the Secretary General, has major control over the role and position each individual has in the committee. Nonetheless, this does not mean he gets to act freely; he must manage to persuade the senior members of the committee (the politburo), which includes his main competitor, Leon Trotsky.

Members supporting Joseph Stalin include: Sergo Ordzhonikidze, Feliks Dzerzhinsky, Lazar Kaganovich, Vyacheslav Molotov, and Kliment Voroshilov.

Leon Trotsky and his supporters

A close figure to Lenin himself, Trotsky wrote and theorized not only with Lenin, but about him. Describing Vladimir as someone who “put the same exemplary conscientiousness into reading lectures in a small workmen’s club in Zurich and in organizing the first Socialist State in the world”, he felt a large sense of admiration to his senior. Both shared similar ideas on the main issues within the party and as Lenin slowly fell ill, dealing with the paralysis of his limbs and the loss of speech, Trotsky remained supportive of his ideas.

As seen by Lenin, Trotsky believes that the main focuses of the party should be the transition into a dictatorship of the proletariat. This means raising literacy rates and allowing the peasantry to take part in the government. This also included making the work and systems of the party less bureaucratic as to facilitate work and collaboration. Lastly, the belief that created the largest rivalry was the matter of proletarian nationalism. Despite believing in the unification of the working class, in order to allow for socialism’s expansion Lenin and Trotsky believed that different people have the right to governmental autonomy. This is opposite to what Stalin believed, strongly convinced that they must focus on the expansion of the Soviet Union as one centralized government. Towards the end of his life, Lenin tried contacting Leon Trotsky to encourage him in the struggle against Stalin, only to find himself unable to due to his illness.



Trotsky was primarily alone in his opposition to Stalin, but that does not mean that he was alone in his support of Lenin's ideas. Most members of the party highly idealized him as a revolutionary, person, and theorist, meaning they support Trotsky as a part of that.

Guiding questions

1. What did my figure think of Lenin's ideology?
2. Do I look for a successor who will mimic Lenin or one that does not resemble him?
3. How will each candidate change the structure of the Soviet Union and how does that benefit/harm me?
4. How should the relationship between different peoples in the Soviet Union be managed?
5. Do I see Lenin's ideology as integral to the Soviet Union?
6. Do I seek the expansion of the Soviet Union or the socialist movement as a whole?

Further research

1. A quick overview of Lenin's life and his role in the creation of the Soviet Union. <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/vladimir-lenin>
2. While also giving biographical insight on Lenin's life, this focuses more on the political organizations leading up to the Soviet Union. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vladimir-Lenin/Formation-of-the-Third-International>
3. This source goes more into the different 'blocs' that resulted from Lenin's death and the political divisions within the party. <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/vladimir-lenin-dies>
4. This source is a good overview of what happened after Lenin's death and illustrates the consequences of the potential decisions made by you in committee, though you should not base your decisions only off of this. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Soviet-Union/The-U-S-S-R-from-the-dead>



[th-of-Lenin-to-the-death-of-Stalin](#)

- Beyond the timeline available on this website, you'll find most works by Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin and other Marxist figures, including speeches, letters, journal entries, newspapers and important theoretical works by the people in committee.. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/bio/timeline.htm>

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