



BESTMUN'22

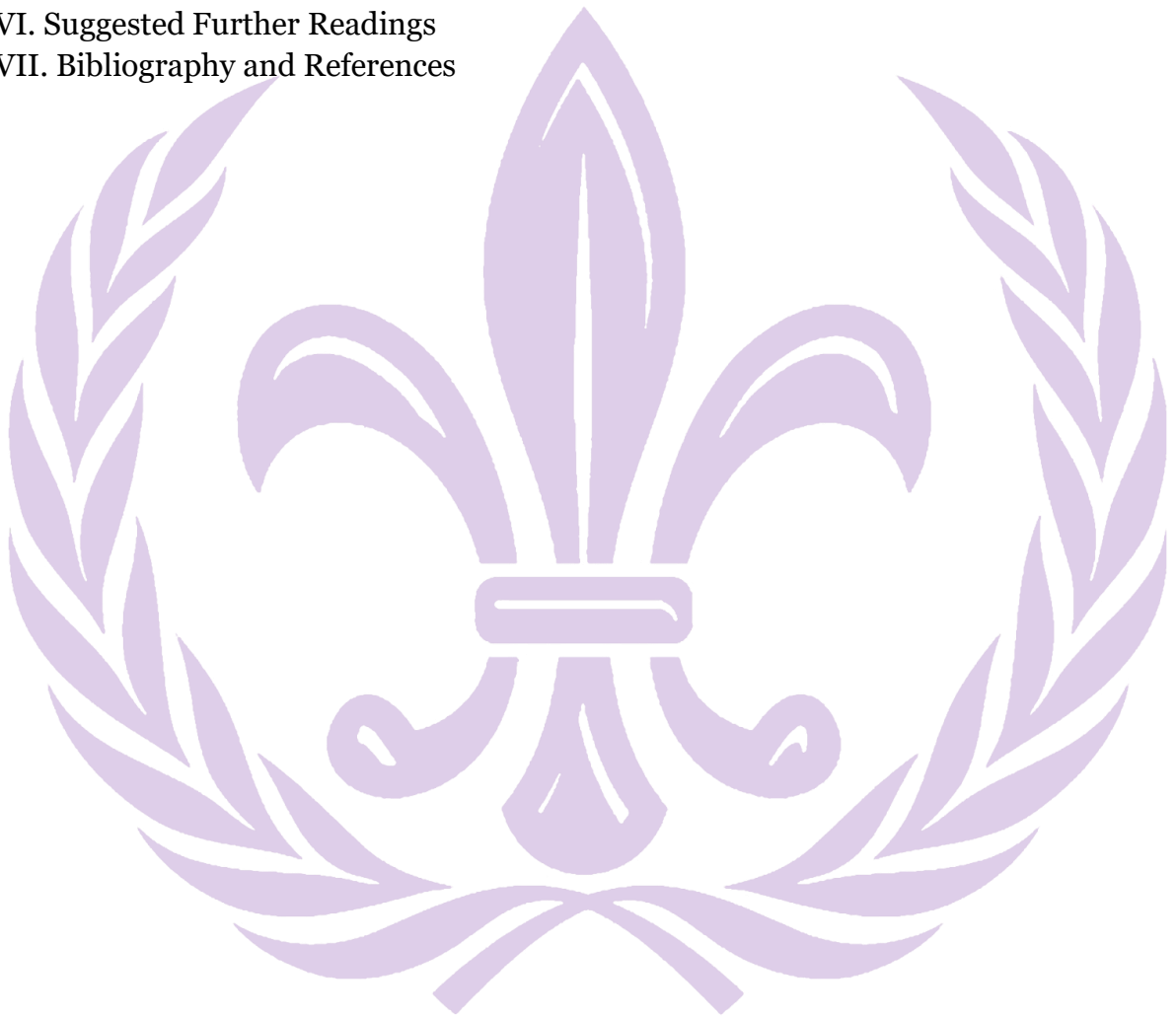
JCC: RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

STUDY GUIDE



Table of Contents

- I. Letter from Secretary-General
- II. Letter from Under-Secretary-General
- III. Agenda Item: The Bolshevik Revolution
 - a. Background
 - b. February Revolution and October Revolution
 - c. Russian Civil War
- IV. Situation of Cabinets
- V. Helpful Maps
- VI. Suggested Further Readings
- VII. Bibliography and References



I. Letter from Secretary-General

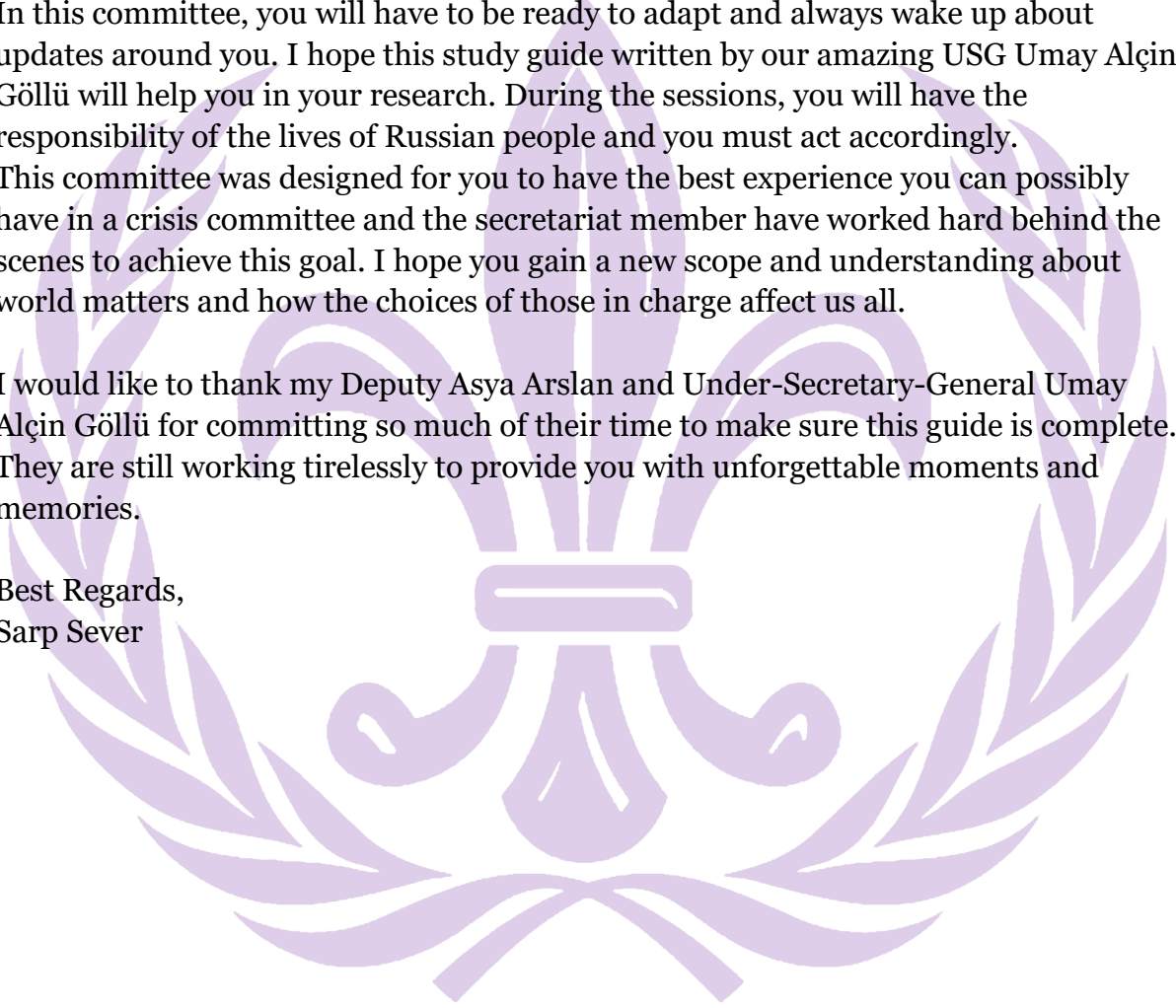
Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Sarp Sever and I am the Secretary-General of BESTMUN'22. In this second edition of our conference, we have two Joint Crisis Cabinet committees and the Russian Civil War is one of them.

In this committee, you will have to be ready to adapt and always wake up about updates around you. I hope this study guide written by our amazing USG Umay Alçin Göllü will help you in your research. During the sessions, you will have the responsibility of the lives of Russian people and you must act accordingly. This committee was designed for you to have the best experience you can possibly have in a crisis committee and the secretariat member have worked hard behind the scenes to achieve this goal. I hope you gain a new scope and understanding about world matters and how the choices of those in charge affect us all.

I would like to thank my Deputy Asya Arslan and Under-Secretary-General Umay Alçin Göllü for committing so much of their time to make sure this guide is complete. They are still working tirelessly to provide you with unforgettable moments and memories.

Best Regards,
Sarp Sever



II. Letter from Under-Secretary-General

Most distinguished participants,

My name is Umay Alçin Göllü, and I am a Political Science and Public Administration student in İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University. I will be the Under-Secretary-General of Joint Crisis Committee: Russian Civil War, as it is very on-brand with me to indulge myself with Russian Historical Committees. Despite my extremely busy schedule, when I heard that it would make a second session this year, I was ecstatic, as BESTMUN has a special place in my heart. I've been doing Model United Nations for about five years now, and it's easy to say that this prestigious conference will be one of the best experiences in your Academic career.

Even though the topic we expect you to discuss at this conference is a historical occurrence that was decades ago and the Crisis Committee Dynamic will carry out from the Civil War, I did my best to present a guide that would be beneficial to all of our delegates. As the Joint Crisis Committee/Cabinet, we will be expecting you to think fast and take actions that you believe will be the most beneficial for your side of the battle and the diplomatic talks. Do not forget that your actions will have consequences and what you'll do will be decided upon hundreds of lives.

I want to conclude my letter by thanking the Secretary-General, Sarp Sever and Deputy-Secretary-General Asya Arslan for having me as part of the academic team, and Yüksel Çağlar Baypınar for helping me with the matrix which was a job I despised dearly due to the fact that it is extremely hard to find proper resources for Russian History.

Should you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me via my email, umay.gollu@ug.bilkent.edu.tr.

III. Agenda Item: The Bolshevik Revolution

a. Background

Russians had long contemplated revolution, and by late 1916, there was a widespread belief that some type of upheaval might occur at any time. At last, in February 1917, the Russian Revolution erupted unexpectedly. The Russian Revolution was a successful political revolution that destroyed Nicholas II's reign and declared the establishment of a new governmental system a primary issue of the revolution.¹

Alexander II inherited an underdeveloped country in addition to a stale worldview. Despite the fact that Alexander II's reforms in the early 1860s were a significant achievement, he failed to demonstrate the vision, drive, or leadership that Russia required to effectively navigate the twentieth century. Russian autocracy was still in force at the time of his death, and the economic situation of the vast majority of Russians, the peasants, was likely no better than it had been a few decades before. In reality, the fast rise of the rural population, along with low agricultural yields, high taxes, and redemption payments, has increased the strain on most peasants' limited resources. Nicholas became heir after his grandfather, Tsar Alexander II, was assassinated. Nicholas' father neglected to prepare him for his eventual position as Tsar, despite the fact that he was the heir apparent to the throne. As a result, with such an inadequate Tsar, Russia's growth would be set back- resulting in paving the way to revolution.²

There are, of course, many events that led up to the Revolution in 1917, starting with the Revolution of 1905 which was a turning point in modern Russian history. Beginning about the mid-nineteenth century, society, comprised of educated, articulate layers of the people, grew more distanced from what its members regarded to be an anachronistic political structure. At a time when much of Western and Central Europe was embracing some sort of constitutional democracy, the Russian Empire was still ruled by a hereditary monarchy that claimed the right to rule autocratically. Despite his middling intelligence, Tsar Nicholas lacked the personal will and vision to seize power, acquaint himself with the administration's intricacies, and create a sense of purpose and direction in the ministers and bureaucracy. He was also a narrow-minded, prejudiced individual who couldn't stand anybody who didn't suit his image of a real Russian, and he suppressed ethnic minorities. The administration went to tremendous pains to prevent an organized opposition to the dictatorial system from forming.³

¹ Rex A. Wade, *The Russian Revolution, 1917* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), 1.

² Walter G. Moss, *Russia in the Age of Alexander II, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky* (London: Anthem Press, 2003).

³ Abraham Ascher, *Revolution of Nineteen Hundred and Five* (Stanford, CA: Stanford Univ. Pr., 1988).

In 1905, a major peaceful protest against the Tsarist regime resulted in the Russian Bloody Sunday Massacre, in which Tsarist soldiers massacred hundreds of citizens. Georgi Gapon, a social movement leader and Orthodox priest, organized a well-planned organizing operation in which he recruited employees at the Putilov plant in St Petersburg. In the early twentieth century, St Petersburg was a major Northern industrial center that housed a considerable proportion of the Russian Empire's urban workforce. Petersburg was the center of the Tsarist government and the residence of Tsar Nicholas II. Initially a small workers' organization, the Gapon-organized social movement grew into a mass entity known as the "Association of Russian Factory Workers of St. Petersburg," which Gapon convinced up to 85 percent of St. Petersburg's laborers to join in the run-up to the murder. Gapon skillfully combined a wide range of social and political demands into a single equalized political force that represented the whole working class and Russian Orthodox community. The petition called for shorter workdays, increased social assistance, and for the Tsar to return to his divine duty as king and leader of Orthodox Russia. Hundreds of thousands marched to the Tsar's Winter Palace on January 9, 1905. The Orthodox priest-led movement was confronted by oppressive governmental troops in this region, resulting in the deaths of hundreds.⁴

In 1904, relatively small portions of the people engaged in unlawful political reform initiatives. The uprising of 1905, on the other hand, had resulted in a substantially enlarged political arena. The enactment of suffrage in December was limited, uneven, and indirect, but it permitted hundreds of thousands of residents to declare their political views at the polls. The pressure from mass movements grew so intense in October 1905 that it brought the autocracy to the brink of collapse; it appeared as though Russia might be turned into a constitutional state on the Western model. Early in 1906, the crucial concern was the long-term viability of the new relationship between the state and society established by the October settlement. It was a sloppy agreement, implying a type of powersharing between the Tsar and the people without defining each's function or depriving the officials of the ability to reclaim their lost position. To bring the new arrangements to life and make them function, a great deal of good will and political savviness would be necessary. And yet, according to the history of the revolution in 1904 and 1905, the chances of establishing an efficient and innovative government were not promising.⁵

In 1905, Russia was emerging from a colonial battle in which the country's military intelligence had been a subject of public controversy both before and during the war. The Russo-Japanese War highlighted Russian army intelligence shortcomings at every level, tactical, operational, and strategic.⁶ Meanwhile, tensions building up in Europe broke out as the First World War by 1914. On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz

⁴ "The Russian Bloody Sunday Massacre of 1905: A Discursive Account of Nonviolent Transformation," Taylor & Francis, accessed January 23, 2022, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21565503.2014.969741>.

⁵ Abraham Ascher, *Revolution of Nineteen Hundred and Five* (Stanford, CA: Stanford Univ. Pr., 1988).

⁶ Marshall, Alex. "Russian Military Intelligence, 1905-1917: The Untold Story behind Tsarist Russia in the First World War." *War in History* 11, no. 4 (October 2004): 393-423. <https://doi.org/10.1191/0968344504wh3070a>.

Ferdinand, Austria-Hungary's successor to the throne, was killed by a member of a gang of Serb and Croat nationalists. He was in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, a previously Ottoman region that had been ruled by Austria-Hungary since 1878 and annexed to the monarchy in 1908. The governments directly engaged at first were those of Austria-Hungary and Serbia, because Austrian officials presumed instantly that the assassins were acting from within the kingdom of Serbia. As a result, immediately following the archduke's burial, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, Count Leopold von Berchtold, and Conrad, the head of the military staff, agreed to seek German assistance. The head of Berchtold's private office, persuaded of the need for action against Serbia, was dispatched to Berlin, accompanied by a personal letter from Franz Josef to Wilhelm II, which was delivered on July 5. The kaiser promised the Austrian delegation that Austria would have complete German backing even if Russia was engaged within the conflict. The Austro-Hungarian administration decided on a draft ultimatum to be issued to Serbia on July 14, and the document was eventually accepted on July 19. On July 23, a stringent list of demands was to be delivered to the Serbian government, which was to be required to respond within 48 hours. When the requests were turned down, two nations waged war on each other. Russia entered World War I in the three days following July 28, 1914, with Austria-Hungary declaring war on Serbia. As it is obvious from the sudden actions taken by all sides for the July Crisis, the European alliance structure seemed to be in disarray at the beginning of 1914. Both Austria-Hungary and Russia believed that they had not gotten the diplomatic help they deserved from their allies during the recent crises in the Balkans and in Constantinople.⁷

The First World War was a war that was rationalised by many participating states, in their respective ways. The Austrians were battling for the survival of their ancient multinational empire, which had been threatened by fragmentation by their old foe, Russia. The Russians fought for the safety of their Slavic relatives, the preservation of their national honor (and since the Tsar had left great distaste in the people's eyes, a victorious war would assure public support), and the fulfillment of their duties to their ally France. The British on the other hand were battling to protect international law and to avert the biggest threat the continent had ever posed. The Germans were coming to the aid of their only surviving ally, as well as to resist a Slavic menace from the east, which had allied with their envious enemies in the west to hinder their rightful development as a World Power.⁸

Russia's military agents in the apolitical states of Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands took on a heavier load in the regulation of agent connections in Germany and Austria-Hungary after the declaration of war and the departure of its military agents in Germany and Austria-Hungary. In the fight itself, Russian military intelligence was hampered by an exceptional act of self-sabotage

⁷ Joll, J., & Martel, G. (2007). *The Origins of the First World War* (3rd ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315837932>

⁸ Michael Eliot Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 28.

performed by the Russian General Staff at the commencement of the conflict. The mutual animosity between War Minister Vladimir Sukhomlinov and the seasoned warrior Grand Duke Nicholas, who led the forces in the field, severely undermined the Russian High Command. The Russian General Staff's belief that the war would be short led to a critical underestimation of the value of a centralized military intelligence network, and it was not until 1916 that Russia took steps not only to reform its military intelligence system, but also to essentially reshape its entire war effort.⁹ On the Eastern Front of World War I, Germany and Russia were locked in a stalemate, and the Russian economy had nearly collapsed under the pressure of the war effort. As a result, Germany brought Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin and thirty-one supporters from exile in Switzerland to Finland Station, Petrograd, aboard a sealed train in April 1917. Bolsheviks demanded the toppling of the Provisional Government and the termination of the war throughout 1917. The Russian army's discipline deteriorated dramatically after the devastating failure of the Kerensky Offensive. The overall inefficiency in performance by the Russian military resulted in a great surge of disappointment in the people of Russia, which also helped pave the way to the upcoming revolution. With the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in 1918, Russia was pulled out of the war. With this treaty, Russia handed control over Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to Germany, with the intention of these nations becoming German vassal states ruled by German princelings. Russia also acknowledged Ukraine's independence and gave its region of Kars in the South Caucasus to the Ottoman Empire. The Armistice of 11 November 1918, when Germany surrendered to the western Allies, revoked the treaty.¹⁰

Lenin who was sentenced to three years' exile in Siberia in February 1897 was in Galicia (Spain) when the First World War emerged. Between his time in exile and until the First World War, he had tried to urge the Russians to revolt in many instances (the 1905 Revolution being a good example), which all of them had failed. Lenin once again was away from Russia until the February Revolution broke out, where he mostly worked on his ideology and party related affairs. Once it was 1917, he was sent to Finland, and later on moved to Petrograd.¹¹ Lenin's ideology that he was trying to spread was based on Marxist doctrines, and he looked to history for authoritative and exculpatory references and instances, particularly from the French Revolution. The future, according to Lenin, belongs to the world's workers and could only be obtained via violent class warfare. He had no patience for people he perceived as having been left behind in the previous groups.¹² It is best to keep in mind that Lenin was either away from the country or in hiding and out of regular touch with his colleagues in

⁹ Marshall, Alex. "Russian Military Intelligence, 1905-1917: The Untold Story behind Tsarist Russia in the First World War." *War in History* 11, no. 4 (October 2004): 393-423. <https://doi.org/10.1191/0968344504wh3070a>.

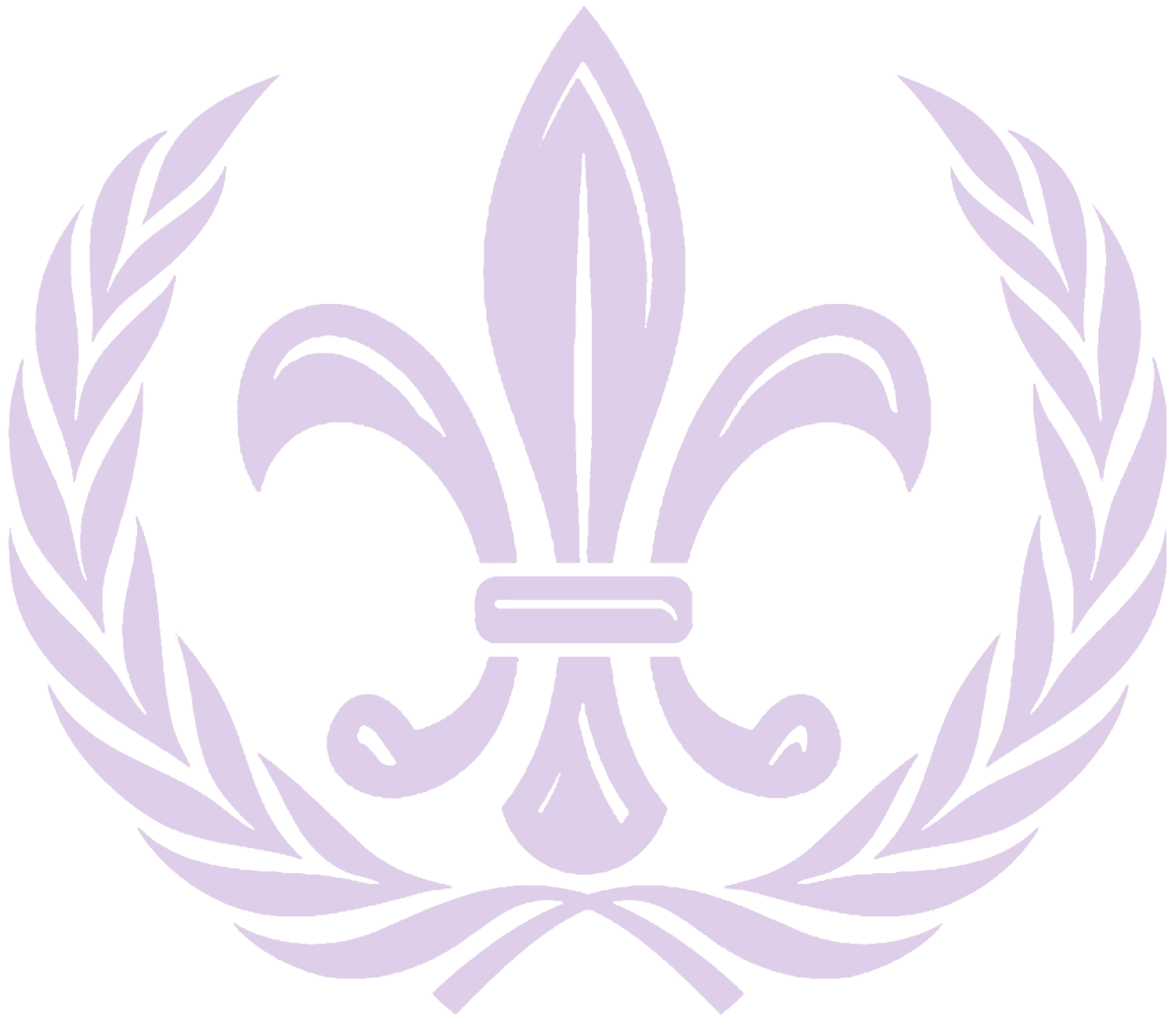
¹⁰ Borislav Chernev, *Twilight of Empire: The Brest-Litovsk Conference and the Remaking of East-Central Europe, 1917-1918* (2019), 3-38.

¹¹ Robert Service, *Lenin: A Biography* (London: Macmillan, 2000).

¹² Neil J. Mitchell, "FOUR: The Russian Civil War," in *Agents of Atrocity: Leaders, Followers, and the Violation of Human Rights in Civil War* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), 98.

Russia for much of the time between February and October 1917 even though he was the founder and chief leader of the Bolshevik Party.¹³

In conclusion, the emergence of the intellectuals, the Tsar's resistance to share political authority, and Russia's social and economic issues all resulted in organized revolutionary movements of remarkable endurance and effect.¹⁴



¹³ Alexander Rabinowitch, *The Bolsheviks in Power: The First Year of Soviet Rule in Petrograd* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2008).

¹⁴ Rex A. Wade, *The Russian Revolution, 1917* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), 9.

b. February Revolution and October Revolution

It is vital to take into consideration the consequences of Tsar Nicholas II's overthrow in February, and moreover, the character of the Bolshevik party in 1917, as well as the dynamics of the October revolution that propelled it to power. The February 1917 revolution led to formation of two prospective national governments as a result of political and economic instabilities, intellectual backwardness, and fundamental social differences, as well as poor administration of the war. The first was the Provisional Government, which was initially headed by notable liberals, and the second was the Soviet—originally the Petrograd Soviet.¹⁵ The newly resurrected Petrograd Soviet would speak for the people's revolution, while the new Provisional Government would represent the elite revolution. Their partnership would be mutually beneficial rather than competing with each other, and their 'dual power' would be a source of strength rather than weakness.¹⁶

The Bolsheviks began as the smallest and least powerful of the three major socialist parties in the spring of 1917, but they quickly rose in number and prominence. By the fall, they had overtaken the Mensheviks in public support and were challenging the SRs; in Petrograd and many other cities, they had exceeded both parties. The Bolsheviks also had the benefit of having a well-known leader like Lenin, who had a desire for power and a concept for a new political order. Only later did people who were in close contact with Lenin comprehend how far his thought had progressed toward a brutal conquest and the establishment of a new kind of government based on the soviets. This transformation began even before his April return to Russia, and it persisted and solidified during the summer. Although Lenin returned to his excitement for the Soviet Union as the foundation for a new type of government, state, and society, he did so quickly. He wasn't simply talking about changing who governed the government; he was talking about changing the essence of government itself. In mid-September, Lenin wrote, "Power to the Soviets."¹⁷ Lenin possessed an unrivaled capacity to organize his thoughts and present a strong case. Everyone got the impression that he was a man who could wield governmental authority because of his strong assessments of his adversaries. By comparison, Provisional Government ministers were timid. Compromise was required by Kadets, Mensheviks, and Socialist-Revolutionaries; nevertheless, Lenin regarded compromise as a terrible word. He argued that only a stance based on 'class warfare' would suffice if dynamic, relentless, and accurate actions were employed.¹⁸ The Bolshevik slogan 'All power to the soviets' was primarily provocative from April to August, a taunt thrown at the moderates who

¹⁵ Alexander Rabinowitch, *The Bolsheviks in Power: The First Year of Soviet Rule in Petrograd* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2008).

¹⁶ Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), 2 1917: The Revolutions of February and October.

¹⁷ Rex A. Wade, *The Russian Revolution, 1917* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), 205-207.

¹⁸ Robert Service, *Lenin: A Biography* (London: Macmillan, 2000), 411.

controlled the Petrograd Soviet and did not want to gain full authority. However, following the Kornilov Affair, when the moderates lost control, the situation altered.¹⁹

As public dissatisfaction with the February revolution rose, so did pressure from Petrograd's rebellious masses on the moderate socialist-controlled national soviet bodies to seize power. The events of February would demonstrate that the fundamental social forces that erupted during the revolution could not be reversed or stopped in the middle of it, and that soviets were recognized as the harbinger and engine of social development on a popular level. Because events proceeded so quickly most of the time, the Bolshevik Central Committee was forced to formulate policy without consulting Lenin. The factory workers, soldiers, sailors, and peasants' revolution had its own dynamics, to the point where the Bolsheviks sometimes followed their constituency rather than the other way around.²⁰ February's hopes and aspirations were shattered in less than eight months. 'Dual power' turned out to be a mirage. The 'dual power' system was designed as a stopgap measure until a Constituent Assembly could be convened. However, in mid-1917, its disintegration under attack from both the left and the right, as well as the rising division of Russian politics, generated troubling issues about the future as well as the present. As combat fatigue grew and the economic situation in the towns deteriorated, popular resistance to the 'bourgeois' Provisional Government grew in the late spring. Demonstrators hoisted placards asking for 'All power to the Soviets' during the July Days public protests, which effectively signified the transfer of authority from the Provisional Government.²¹ The slogan "All Power to the Soviets," the Bolshevik Revolution was carried out. This did not imply 'Power to the Bolsheviks,' because Lenin's party was just one among several on the political scene. The term 'soviets' did not imply 'communists,' as many in the West misinterpreted it later in the Cold War. During the 1917 revolutions, the soviets were workers' and soldiers' councils, with over 900 of them springing up across the former Russian Empire's cities, workplaces, and Red Guard units.²²

The July Days did not put an end to the revolution's disgruntled summer. On one hand, the upper classes' fears of chaos and disorder from below appeared to have been realized; on the other hand, the Provisional Government, now led by Aleksandr Kerensky and incited into action against the Bolsheviks, appeared less likely than ever to relieve the lower classes' economic hardship and social frustration. General Lavr Kornilov, who was named Supreme Commander of the Russian Armed Forces on July 18, seemed to many as a rescuer who yearned for an end to the revolution's turmoil. Several major politicians from the conservative and centrist parties, elite military

¹⁹ Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), 2 1917: The Revolutions of February and October.

²⁰ Alexander Rabinowitch, *The Bolsheviks in Power: The First Year of Soviet Rule in Petrograd* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2008).

²¹ Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), 2 1917: The Revolutions of February and October.

²² David Bullock, *The Russian Civil War, 1918-22* (London: Osprey Publishing, 2012).

officials, and financial and industrial figures linked with the Society for the Economic Rehabilitation of Russia and the Republican Center sponsored his candidacy for the post of military dictator. The extreme left, particularly the Bolsheviks, emerged victorious in the Kornilov Affair, has long warned of the dangers of a counter-revolutionary assault.²³ On August 24, 1917, Kornilov, the Russian Army's commander-in-chief, received government-strengthening plans allegedly issued by Prime Minister Kerensky. One suggestion was for Kornilov to establish a military dictatorship. Kornilov resolved to grab power, believing he was working in the best interests of his nation. Kornilov ordered his soldiers to move on Petrograd on August 27, 1917. When Kerensky realized Kornilov was moving on Petrograd, he appealed to the Petrograd Soviet to put an end to the coup attempt. Kornilov and his forces were apprehended outside of the city, and the Soviets were able to persuade the troops that they were betraying the revolution by obeying Kornilov's commands. Without any violence or bloodshed, the coup was averted.²⁴

Lenin reemphasized the imperative necessity of an armed rebellion to progress the revolution in mid-September. On the 12th and 14th of September, as the Democratic State Meeting was getting underway, Lenin sent two scathing letters to the Central Committee, urging that the party leave the conference and immediately begin planning an armed rebellion. Despite these instructions, the Bolshevik leadership, in collaboration with the Left SRs and other left-wing organizations, remained committed to forming a unified socialist government at the next National Congress of Soviets. This rebuke infuriated Lenin, who retaliated with rage. On the 10th of October, during a momentous meeting of the Central Committee, Lenin presented his case in person. The problem was the reversal of the party's exceptional growth in popularity and authority among the revolutionary masses since April, which had been fueled by a policy targeted at a peaceful transfer of power to multiparty soviets. The Bolshevik leadership in Petrograd, both Lenin's partisans and those of Kamenev, pursued a strategy based on the following principles: the soviets (because of their stature in the eyes of the masses), rather than party bodies, should be used to overthrow the Provisional Government. Between October 21 and 24, Bolshevik leaders refused Lenin's proposal for rapid, open offensive revolutionary action in favor of planning for a decisive battle against the Provisional Government at the next plenary session of soviets. In hindsight, Lenin's primary motivation for insisting on the violent overthrow of the Provisional Government prior to the opening of the Congress of Soviets was to eliminate any possibility of the congress forming a socialist coalition in which the moderate socialists would have had a significant voice. This method worked quite well and the comparatively quiet victory was all but secured by the time the Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets began on October 25. At another level, the October revolution was a struggle, primarily within the

²³ "Kornilov Affair." Seventeen Moments in Soviet History, December 29, 2015. <http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1917-2/kornilov-affair/>.

²⁴ Molly Martin, "The Kornilov Affair: a Failed Coup D'état - Rewrite - MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology," accessed February 3, 2022, <http://web.mit.edu/russia1917/papers/o825-KornilovAffair.pdf>.

Bolshevik leadership, between proponents of a multiparty, exclusively socialist government that would lead Russia to a Constituent Assembly in which socialists would have a dominant voice and Leninists, who ultimately favored violent revolutionary action as the best means of striking out on an ultra-radical, individual revolutionary course in Russia, which would trigger decisive soviet action.²⁵ “Lenin had absorbed the violent and polarizing lessons of the French Revolution. That revolution had had its ‘white’ counterrevolutionaries (they wore white cockades), its revolutionary tribunals, and its enemies of the people. But if the Cossacks were the Vendée, Lenin was Marat (the Friend of the People), the French revolutionary ‘who believed the only solution to scarcity was to guillotine hoarders and speculators.’”²⁶

c. Russian Civil War

The Bolshevik Revolution did not stop with the October revolution but rather began with it. After a week of street combat, the Bolsheviks had gained control of Petrograd and Moscow. In truth, Russia's future political structure remained a mystery. The Bolsheviks had doubts about their own motto of 'All Power to the Soviets,' as evidenced by the October coup in Petrograd. The slogan, on the other hand, seemed to reflect the spirit of the provinces during the winter of 1917-1918, but this may just be another way of indicating that central governmental power had temporarily disintegrated. The meaning of the Bolsheviks' other phrase, "dictatorship of the proletariat," remained unclear.²⁷

In the summer of 1918, the Civil War officially started, pitting Bolshevik 'Reds' against Russian anti-Bolshevik 'Whites.' The Red Army, established under the command of Trotsky, who became Commissar for War in the spring of 1918, was the Bolsheviks' military force. The Soviet leadership rapidly established a security organization, the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Struggle against Counter-Revolution, Sabotage, and Speculation, or Cheka, in addition to its armed forces. Both the Red Army and the Cheka played key roles in the Bolshevik triumph in the Civil War.²⁸ The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) was established on November 7, 1917, which was called Revolution Day, with the new state's constitution confirmed on July 7, 1918. On March 10, 1918, one of the first actions of state was to move the capital from Petrograd to Moscow. The Bolsheviks, who had played a key role in weakening the Provisional Government's army's morale via agitation and propaganda, now had to construct a new army capable of fighting. For the first month after the Revolution, the Russian Army was largely left to its own devices. The Bolsheviks then established

²⁵ Alexander Rabinowitch, *The Bolsheviks in Power: The First Year of Soviet Rule in Petrograd* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2008).

²⁶ Neil J. Mitchell, “FOUR: The Russian Civil War,” in *Agents of Atrocity: Leaders, Followers, and the Violation of Human Rights in Civil War* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), 100.

²⁷ Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), 2 1917: The Revolutions of February and October.

²⁸ Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), 2 1917: The Revolutions of February and October.

a formal program for progressive demobilization in December. Carefully chosen units were indoctrinated into military formations that may be beneficial in the future. Another issue was how to transform the Red Guards into more regular forces, i.e. the Red Army. The terms 'Red Guards,' 'Red Army,' and 'Red Forces,' have all been used indiscriminately. The term 'Red Guards', on the other hand, refers to 'politically aware' paramilitary units that protected revolutionary goals. By the spring and summer of 1917, Red Guards were established as the soviets' militant force in several of Russia's regions. At the weakest state, Red Guard formations were made up of 13-man 'decades,' with four of these forming a corporal's squad, three of these forming a company, and three companies forming a battalion. The battalion had a total strength of 500-600 soldiers when combined with technical troops, and all battalions within a certain region were under the command of the district division. Officers have been chosen. In the absence of an instant, professional army, the Red Guards fought on their own in the initial months of 1918, aided by sailors,'revolutionized' soldiers from the front, and foreign volunteers. Although the foundations for a more regular army were built in January, the Red Army's first recognized troops did not materialize until February 23, 1918. By the end of December 1918, the Red Army had 600,000 rations.²⁹

Looking to make peace with European powers to avoid external conflicts, During the peace talks in Brest-Litovsk in January, Trotsky rejected the German proposals and adopted a tactic of 'No war, no peace,' implying that the Russians would not prolong the war nor sign a peace treaty on unfavorable terms. The Germans demanded tougher terms after their victorious onslaught than they had proposed in January, but the Bolsheviks were fortunate: Germany went on to lose the European war and, as a result, its victories in the East. The Brest-Litovsk Peace merely gave a temporary reprieve from war threats. Admiral Kolchak was building an anti-Bolshevik administration in Siberia, while officers of the old Russian Army were assembling forces in the south, in the Cossack region of the Don and the Kuban. The British had landed soldiers in Russia's northern ports of Arkhangelsk and Murmansk, allegedly to combat the Germans but in reality to help local resistance to the new Soviet rule.³⁰

Lavr Kornilov, Mikhail Alexiev, and Anton Denikin were three White generals who were key in organizing the first resistance that led to civil war in the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution. They met with Alexiev and the Don Cossacks' ataman, General A. Kaledin, in December to discuss unified resistance. However, the Revolution had spread to Cossack territory, and Kaledin was unable to raise a loyal force. Alexiev utilized his vast contacts to seek alliances and acquire finance while Kornilov was busy establishing the new Volunteer Army. Between December 1917 and February 1918, over 4,000 volunteers enlisted. Officers and teens from the Cadet and Junker military schools made up the majority of the group, as well as combatants and nursing nuns. Meanwhile, the Red Army had entered the Don in January. The following campaign,

²⁹ David Bullock, *The Russian Civil War, 1918-22* (London: Osprey Publishing, 2012).

³⁰ Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), 2 1917: The Revolutions of February and October.

recognized by historians as the First Kuban Campaign and soldiers as the 'Ice March,' was one of the most epic in military history. ³¹

Russia was a slaughterhouse from 1917 until 1921. One's fate was determined by which side of the political debate one supported, as shown by a system of categorization and color-coding. During the Russian Civil War, both whites and reds committed atrocities on a regular basis. In reaction to peasant insurgencies and Soviet intervention, Admiral Kolchak's White soldiers killed, raped, and amputated their way across Siberia. Blood spilled in Russia as a result of the disastrous effects of an intolerant political argument's logic, as well as the leniency afforded to repressive agents. Lenin's actions mirrored this political reasoning, in that he pushed relentlessly from premise to conclusion, resulting in a bloody civil war.³²

Although the cabinets will carry out from the date established within the timeline and will be further explained in the next title which is the *Situation of Cabinets*, delegates having a general outline of the entire history of not only the Civil War but the uprising of the Soviet Republic and the events until Lenin's death is important to know what sort of decisions the cabinet members would take, as well as being a helpful tool for the academic team. So below is the Full Timeline, including the background in summary.

3 March 1861: Tsar Alexander II passes the Emancipation Edict, ending serfdom in Russia (but keeps peasants tied to the land through continuing labour obligations).

17 February 1880: Failed attempt (no. 5) to assassinate Tsar Alexander II by blowing up his palace dining room kills 11 and wounds 56. The Tsar survives through being late to dinner.

13 March 1881: Tsar Alexander II is assassinated by a member of the radical group People's Will. He is succeeded by his son, Alexander III, who enacts anti-terrorism measures that curb civil rights and freedom of the press.

1882: Pogroms against Jews spread across the Russian Empire, leading to mass emigration of the Jewish population.

1891–1892: Famine in Russia kills between 375,000 and 400,000 and affects millions more.

1 November 1894: Tsar Alexander III dies after a sudden illness; his son Nicholas (Nicholas II) assumes the throne.

20 December 1895: Lenin, future leader of the Bolsheviks, is arrested to be kept in solitary confinement for 13 months and then exiled to Siberia.

The Khodynka Tragedy: 30 May 1896: A stampede in Moscow occurs during festivities following Nicholas II's coronation, as crowds, worried that the supplies of

³¹ David Bullock, *The Russian Civil War, 1918-22* (London: Osprey Publishing, 2012).

³² Neil J. Mitchell, "FOUR: The Russian Civil War," in *Agents of Atrocity: Leaders, Followers, and the Violation of Human Rights in Civil War* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).

free souvenirs would run out, rushed for the stalls to get them. This results in the deaths of over 1,300 people.

22 January 1905 (Bloody Sunday): Troops and police open fire on a peaceful demonstration outside the Winter Palace and elsewhere in St Petersburg, killing and injuring around 1,000 people. The liberal press blames Nicholas II.

June 1905: Sailors mutiny on the battleship Potemkin, part of the Black Sea Fleet. The mutiny triggers riots in Odessa, which are quashed by troops on the Tsar's orders.

30 October 1905: October Manifesto – Tsar Nicholas II issues the October Manifesto, promising civil liberties (such as freedom of speech) and an elected parliament (Duma). As a result, restrictions are implemented on the absolute power of the Russian monarch, and a de facto constitution (the Fundamental Laws of 1906) is issued.

16 June 1907: Coup of June 1907, which led to the dissolution of the Second State Duma of the Russian Empire, the arrest of some of its members and a fundamental change in the Russian electoral law.

1 August 1914: Germany declares war on Russia, with Russia entering the First World War.

18 August 1914: St Petersburg is renamed Petrograd to make it sound less German.

30 (17) December 1916: Grigorii Rasputin, the controversial 'holy man' and close friend of Tsar Nicholas II's family, is murdered after several failed attempts.

February Revolution: 8–16 March (23 February – 3 March) 1917: A series of public protests begin in Petrograd, which last for eight days and eventually result in the abolition of the monarchy in Russia. The total number of killed and injured in clashes with the police and government troops in Petrograd is estimated at around 1,300 people.

8 March 1917: On International Women's Day, demonstrators and striking workers – many of whom are women – take to the streets to protest against food shortages and the war. Two days later, the strikes spread across Petrograd.

15 March 1917: Tsar Nicholas II abdicates and also removes his son from the succession. The following day Nicholas' brother Mikhail announces his refusal to accept the throne. A Provisional Government is formed to replace the tsarist government, with Prince Lvov becoming the leader.

April 1917: Lenin returns from exile, travelling to Petrograd in a sealed train from Switzerland via Germany and Finland.

1 May 1917: The Milyukov note: A telegram sent to the Allied Powers by Foreign Minister Pavel Milyukov states the Provisional Government's intention to continue the war. The note is leaked, resulting in protests and increased support for the Bolsheviks.

Following this, Milyukov resigns and members of the Socialist-Revolutionaries and Mensheviks join the Provisional Government.

June Offensive: 1 July 1917: Russian minister of war Alexander Kerensky launches an offensive against Austria-Hungary forces in Galicia. Although the Russian effort is initially successful, the soldiers soon refuse to leave their trenches and fight due to the low morale caused by the Revolution. Soldiers' committees debate orders and encourage soldiers to disobey officers. Many soldiers return home to take part in the redistribution of land. The offensive collapses four days later and Russian troops have to respond to the Austrians' and Germans' counteroffensive.

July Days: 16–20 July 1917: The July Days, a series of spontaneous armed anti-government demonstrations of industrial workers and soldiers, begin in Petrograd. Lvov resigns as leader of the Provisional Government, with Alexander Kerensky taking over and crushing the demonstrations. In the same month, the death penalty is reintroduced and women are granted the right to vote and hold office. Kerensky issues the arrest of Lenin, who goes into hiding. The printing offices of the Bolshevik newspaper *Pravda* – the headquarters of the Bolshevik Central Committee – are raided, with many Bolshevik leaders arrested. The aborted uprising resulted in the Soviets losing their control over the Provisional Government, signifying the end of the 'Dual Power' situation. This is seen by many as the point of no return for the peaceful development of the Revolution.

9 September (22–27 August in Julian Calendar) 1917: The Kornilov affair.

14 September 1917: Russia has officially declared a republic.

7–8 November (25–26 October according to Julian Calendar) 1917: The October Revolution Starts

7 November 1917: The Bolsheviks seize control of Petrograd.

8 November 1917: The Bolsheviks take control of the Winter Palace, the last remaining holdout of the Provisional Government.

8 November 1917: The Decrees on Land (proclaiming the abolition of private property and the redistribution of the land amongst the peasantry), and Peace (proposing an immediate withdrawal of Russia from the First World War), are issued by the new Bolshevik government. Subsequent workers' decrees outline measures for an eight-hour working day, minimum wage and the running of factories. The death penalty is abolished once again.

9 November (27 October) 1917: The Decree on the Press, the first Bolshevik censorship decree, abolishes the 'bourgeois' press.

25 November 1917: Elections to the Constituent Assembly take place. The Socialist Revolutionaries win the largest number of seats, while the Bolsheviks win less than one-quarter of the vote.

December 1917: Each person receives 1/4 pound of bread per day. Bread and flour are still being sold openly, but for extortionate prices.

15 December 1917: An armistice between Russia and the Central Powers is signed, and fighting stops.

18–19 January 1918: The Constituent Assembly meets but is dissolved by the Bolsheviks.

28 January 1918: The Council of People's Commissars (Sovnarkom) issues a decree forming the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

14 February 1918: Russia adopts the Western (Gregorian) calendar. This replaced the Julian calendar, which was 13 days behind. The timeline however is with the Gregorian calendar.

Brest-Litovsk Treaty: 3 March 1918: Russia ends its participation in the First World War. Bolshevik Russia loses one-third of the old empire's population, one-third of its railway network, half its industry, three-quarters of its supplies of iron ore, nine-tenths of its coal resources and much of its food supplies.

8 March 1918: At the 7th Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party, the Bolsheviks change the name of their party to the Russian Communist Party. The Russian capital is also moved from Petrograd to Moscow this year.

10 July 1918: The first constitution of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic grants equal rights to men and women. (Starting point of the committee.)

16–17 July 1918: Tsar Nicholas II and his family are executed by the Bolsheviks in Yekaterinburg.

11 August 1918: Lenin sends a telegram to communists in Penza, Central Russia, complaining about uprisings in the area and calling for the public execution of 100 kulaks (wealthy landlords).

30 August 1918: Beginning of 'Red Terror': An assassination attempt on Lenin by the Socialist Revolutionary Fanny Kaplan leaves him seriously wounded. The attempt, together with the murder of Uritskii, sparks a period of mass arrests and executions known as the 'Red Terror'.

March 1919: The Comintern (or Third International) is formed in Moscow, to spread revolution all over the world.

1920: Communist parties from across the world.

November 1920: The Red Army invades and occupies Crimea and the White Army is forced to withdraw.

1921: By the beginning of 1921 the rouble has lost 96% of its pre-war value; industrial production has fallen to 10% of its 1913 level. The population of Petrograd has fallen from 2.5 million in 1917 to 600,000 in 1920.

March 1921: The Kronstadt mutiny, an unsuccessful uprising against the Bolsheviks, takes place.

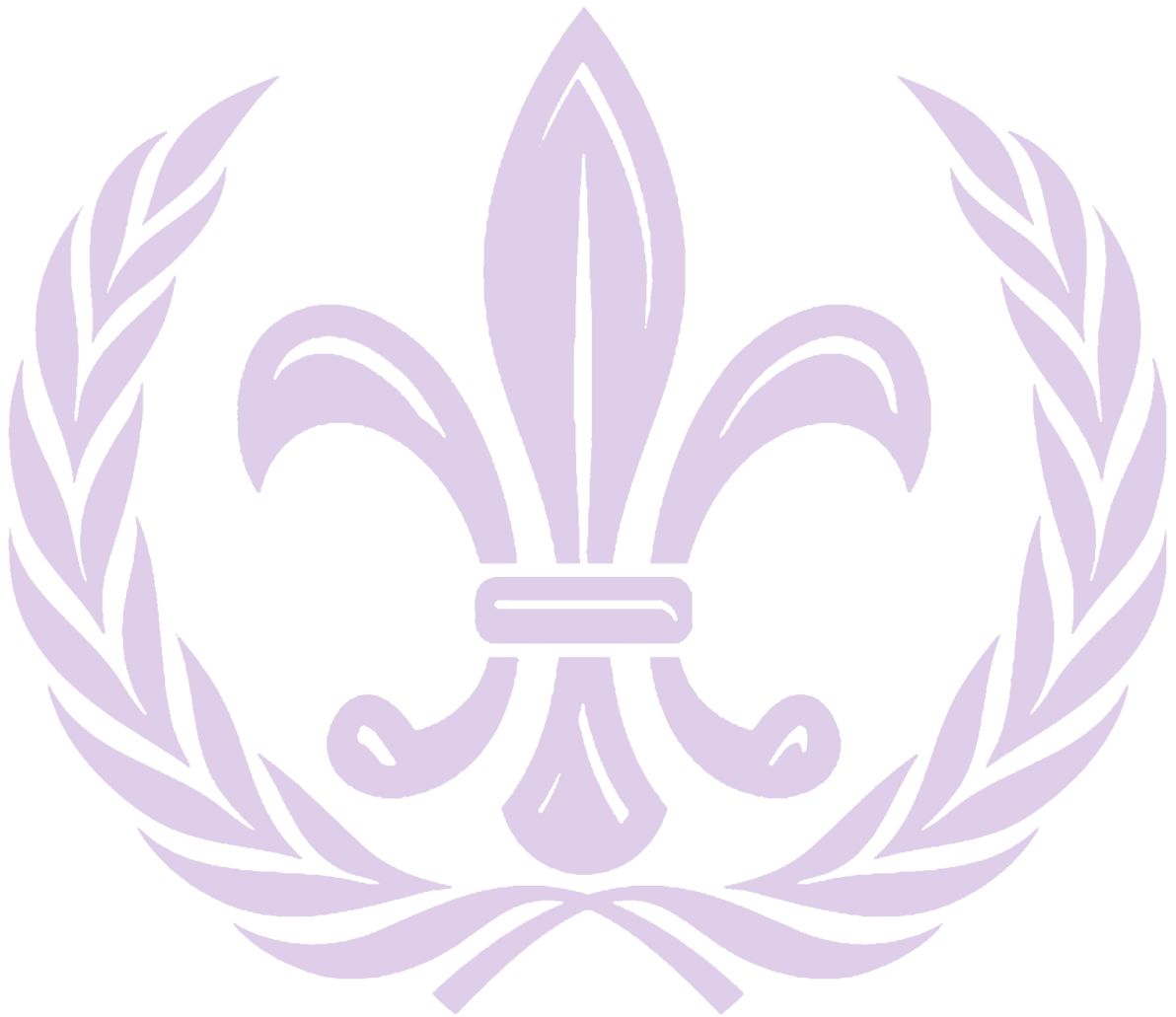
March 1921: End of 'War Communism' and the introduction of the 'New Economic Policy (NEP).

3 April 1922: Stalin is appointed General Secretary of the Communist Party.

December 1922: Creation of the Soviet Union.

21 January 1924: Lenin dies, leading to a power struggle within the party. Stalin emerges as a Party leader. His rival Leon Leon Trotsky is dismissed, then exiled and finally murdered in 1940.

Source: "Russian Civil War, Timeline," British Library, accessed February 4, 2022, <https://www.bl.uk/russian-revolution/articles/timeline-of-the-russian-revolution>



IV. Situation of Cabinets

The starting point of the Cabinets will be the Brest-Litovsk Treaty: 3 March 1918, when Russia ends its participation in the First World War. Any and all character correlation discrepancies with history was altered to fit the cabinet and the cabinet members will be considered the ones below for the time being.

Red Cabinet (Chair: Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin))

- Leon Trotsky: *Bolshevik Commissar of Military Affairs*
- Joseph Stalin: People's Commissar for Nationalities of the RSFSR
- Grigory Zinoviev: Chairman of the Petrograd Soviet
- Lev Kamenev: Chairman of the Moscow Soviet
- Nikolai Podvoisky: Commissar of Defence of Russia
- Jukums Vācietis: First commander in chief of Red Army
- Yakov Sverdlov: Chairman of All-Russian Central Executive Committee
- Viktor Nogin: People's Commissar for Trade and Industry
- Nikolai Pavlovich Glebov-Avilov: People's Commissar for Posts and Telegraphs of the RSFSR
- Alexei Rykov: People's Commissariat for Interior Affairs of the RSFSR
- Ivan Teodorovich: People's Commissariat for Food
- Vladimir Alexandrovich Antonov-Ovseyenko: People's Commissar of Military Affairs of the Russian SFSR
- Vasily Ivanovich Chapayev: Commander of the 2nd Nikolaev Division and the 25th Rifle Division

White Cabinet (Chair: Alexander Vasilyevich Kolchak)

- Alexei Kaledin: Leader of the Don Cossack White Movement
- Mihail Vasilyevich Alekseyev: Imperial Russian Army General
- Anton Ivanovich Denikin: *Commander of the Volunteer Army (got in command of the volunteer army after Kornilov's death, and pulled back to don region, the ice march)*
- Pyotr Nikolayevich Wrangel: General of White Army in Southern Russia
- Nikolai Yudeich: *Leader of White Movement in Northwestern Russia*
- Grigory Mikhaylovich Semyonov: leader of the White movement in Transbaikal (*will be there for the whole committee timeline even though in reality, he escapes to Finland in 1920*)
- Viktor Nikolayevich Pepelyayev: Different Positions in the Serbian Government of Kolchak, during the committee he will be mainly used for publications and such interior ministerial work.
- Alexander Pavlovich Rodzyanko: Lieutenant-general of the white army
- Pavel Rafalovich Bermon(d)t-Avalov: Leader of Bermontians, the German established western Russian army.
- Vladimir Kappel: Commander of the Komuch White Army group
- Pyotr Nikolayevich Krasnov: Imperial Russian Army officer and a Commander of anti-Bolshevik forces



V. Helpful Maps

The Starting Point of The Committee, after Brest-Litovsk (the map above, only with labels and events): <https://omniatlas.com/maps/northern-eurasia/19180501/>

Europe After Brest-Litovsk: <https://omniatlas.com/maps/europe/19180320>

The Russian Civil War Every Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-mcMoxcQgI>

The New York Times February 1918 Map of Russia:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Civil_War#/media/File:Dismembered_Russia_%E2%80%94_Some_Fragments_\(NYT_article,_Feb._17,_1918\).png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Civil_War#/media/File:Dismembered_Russia_%E2%80%94_Some_Fragments_(NYT_article,_Feb._17,_1918).png)

Triumph and Liquidation, An essay and guide to a series of ten pictorial wall maps produced to illustrate the military successes of The Red Army in the Russian Civil War of 1917 to 1922: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/pdf/ruscw/ruscwmaps.html>

The Ephemeral States of the Russian civil war: <https://vividmaps.com/ephemeral-states-russian-civil-war>

VI. Suggested Further Readings

As the guide is only a very brief tool for research and has left out a lot of the details of major events after the year 1917 since the committee will start and be shaped according to the actions taken by delegates, it is also important for each and every cabinet member to know the background and the history thoroughly. Although a timeline is given to the delegates so that they could see how history actually carried out, reasons perhaps a hundred pages worth of history left out was due to the fact that delegates will be expected to help reshape the actions taken in the past instead of swallowing the history that has been taught to us.

Even though nothing surpasses one's own research, the suggested readings below will prove to be highly efficient to help cabinet members prepare. Details such as relations with other countries (especially the west), ideologies in the region and knowledge of the people and terrain will prove to be useful in the committee.

Lenin's April Theses:

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/apr/04.htm>

Smele, Jonathan. *Russian Civil Wars 1916-1926: Ten Years That Shook the World*. Erscheinungsort nicht ermittelbar: Oxford University Press, 2016.

<https://oxford.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190233044.001.0001/acprof-9780190233044-chapter-1>

Allied Intervention and the Russian Civil War, 1917-1922:

https://www.jstor.org/stable/40106089?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Sergey Petrovich Melgounov, The Red Terror in Russia: <https://ww2truth.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/redterrorinrussia.pdf>

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Joll, J., & Martel, G. (2007). The Origins of the First World War (3rd ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315837932>

“Timeline of the 1917 Russian Revolution.” 1917 Revolution Timeline - Miami University. Accessed January 21, 2022. <https://www.miamioh.edu/cas/academics/centers/havighurst/additional-resources/havighurst-special-programing/1917-centennial/timeline-1917/index.html>.

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