

CALVERT HALL COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

February 24th, 2024

All-Union Congress of Soviets



Historical Crisis: The Death of Lenin

Chair: Scott Pawley

Letters to the Delegates:

Dear delegates,

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Scott Pawley

Historical Situation




It is February 1st, 1924. Just one week earlier, Vladimir Lenin fell into a coma and died mere hours later, after struggling for years with serious illness. In response, Joseph Stalin has called a meeting of the All-Union Congress of Soviets, to decide what to do next. Lenin's departure has left a severe power vacuum in his place. Two main factions have emerged, each led by an influential member of the Soviet Union's political elite: Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky. Each has a deep animosity for the other, and their own claims to legitimacy as the true successor to Lenin and leader of the Soviet Union.

The Stalinists have the upper hand, at least for now. During Lenin's prolonged illness, Stalin, along with Lev Kamenev and Grigory Zinoviev, formed the first troika, a triumvirate that effectively governs the Soviet Union. Not all is lost for the Trotskyists, however. The alliance is tenuous, with personal disagreements threatening to undermine their rule. Perhaps even more dangerous, there are rumors of a document that could discredit Stalin as a successor to Lenin.






The Trotskyists, also known as the Left Opposition, are seeking to wrest back control from the Stalinists. They have lost much political power to the Stalinists, but they are not out yet. Trotsky has a tremendous level of support from the Red Army, and the backing of military leaders including Ivar Smilga and Sergei Mrachkovsky, although leveraging this support may be risky.

Whether a Stalinist, Trotskyist, or not yet aligned, each delegate must exercise their powers and work to resolve this crisis. The stakes are unimaginably high, as any failure could result in the collapse of the Soviet Union, and even death for the losing faction.





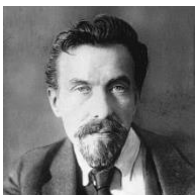
The Stalinists

 <p>Joseph Stalin</p>	<p>Joseph Stalin is the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and one of the leading candidates to succeed Lenin. He has increasingly sought to concentrate power within his office and has successfully reduced the influence of Trotskyists in the Soviet government. Now that Lenin is dead, and Trotsky is weakened, he is hoping to secure a complete victory.</p>
 <p>Lev Kamenev</p>	<p>Lev Kamenev is the acting President of the Council of People's Commissars and Chairman of the Politburo. He previously opposed Lenin and Trotsky's decision-making in the aftermath of the October Revolution, a lapse that Lenin never forgave. While Trotsky is his brother-in-law, their relationship has deteriorated since 1920.</p>
 <p>Grigory Zinoviev</p>	<p>Grigory Zinoviev is the Chairman of the Communist International, also known as Comintern. Along with Kamenev, he was harshly criticized by Lenin for his actions shortly after the October Revolution. He felt that Trotsky did not recognize him enough for his successful defense of Petrograd (later Leningrad) from White Army forces. He was responsible for Stalin's original appointment to General Secretary.</p>
 <p>Vyacheslav Molotov</p>	<p>Vyacheslav Molotov is the Second Secretary under Stalin. Publicly derided by both Lenin and Trotsky, he is emblematic of the bureaucratic machine that they were dedicated towards preventing. Considered unintelligent by both his enemies and allies, he is an effective minister, and one of Stalin's most loyal contemporaries. He was one of the members of the Politburo who recommended shortening Lenin's work hours, a successful attempt at sidelining him.</p>
 <p>Sergei Kirov</p>	<p>Sergei Kirov is the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, and a close personal friend of Stalin, who appointed him to the role. He supported rapid industrialization and forced collectivization of farms and other means of capital production. While private disagreements with Stalin have been rumored, there is no indication that he is interested in breaking with him.</p>






The Trotskyists

 <p>Leon Trotsky</p>	<p>Leon Trotsky is the People's Commissar of Army and Navy Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Military Council, and the head of the Red Army. He previously directed the foreign affairs of the Soviet Union. While he is as outspoken as ever, he has been rapidly losing backers and influence. Trotsky is desperately looking to shore up support in order to resist Stalin's power grab.</p>
 <p>Ivar Smilga</p>	<p>Ivar Smilga is a member of the Revolutionary War Council. While originally a close ally of Stalin, he switched loyalties when Trotsky defended himself after Stalin attempted to blame the loss of the war with Poland on Smilga. This switch included his rise to be one of the most prominent members of the Left Opposition. He is also a noted economist.</p>
 <p>Sergei Mrachkovsky</p>	<p>Sergei Mrachkovsky is the Red Army commander of the Volga Military District. During the early days of the Soviet Union, he was known, along with Trotsky, for his success at brutally crushing attempted uprisings against the newly formed state. He also embraced Trotsky's dual strategy of utilizing propaganda and force to discourage desertion and ensure effective fighting against the White Army.</p>
 <p>Andrei Bubnov</p>	<p>Andrei Bubnov is the head of the Agitprop department of the Central Committee, the main propaganda division of the Soviet Union. Although not directly tied to Trotsky, he has been a member of the Left Opposition to Lenin and Stalin for many years. He received the Order of the Red Banner for his success suppressing the Kronstadt Revolution, which targeted Petrograd (now Leningrad).</p>
 <p>Nikolay Muralov</p>	<p>Nikolay Muralov is the district commander of the Red Army in the Moscow Military District and the North Caucus Military District. He is a close personal friend of Trotsky and served with him on the Revolutionary Military Council during the October Revolution. He has been outspoken against Stalin's rise and wants to prevent further marginalization of the Left Opposition from the mainstream Soviet government.</p>

The Independents

 <p>Sergey Gusev</p>	<p>Sergey Gusev is the Secretary of the Central Control Commission and was appointed to lead an investigation into the Red Army, a previously untouchable institution. While he has been privately critical of Trotsky's record leading the Red Army, he has not openly supported either side of the power struggle. He is ambitious and opportunistic and will likely back whoever will benefit him most.</p>
 <p>Nikolai Bukharin</p>	<p>Nikolai Bukharin was the primary proponent of the New Economic Policy, despite an earlier support for war communism. He has had a complex relationship with Lenin and Trotsky. He has both previously authored economic papers with both Lenin and Trotsky and fiercely resisted Lenin's plan to withdraw from the First World War. He is also the editor of <i>Pravda</i>, the Soviet Union's official newspaper.</p>
 <p>Nadezhda Krupskaya</p>	<p>Nadezhda Krupskaya is Lenin's widow and the People's Commissar for Education. She deeply dislikes Stalin and once had an argument with him that was so violent that Lenin threatened to cut him out of the Soviet government. Despite this, she is largely aligned with Kamenev and Zinoviev, the two other members of the triumvirate. She must decide whether to prioritize policy considerations or personal distaste to determine a way forward.</p>
 <p>Nikita Khrushchev</p>	<p>Nikita Khrushchev is the Party Secretary of the Tekhnikum and member of the Bureau of Yuzovka (now Donetsk). He is known for his support of the New Economic Policy, to the derision of many fellow Bolsheviks in the region. He is also known for restarting the manufacturing machinery and mine equipment in the Donbass region, in an attempt to restore the area to full production during the Russian Civil War.</p>
 <p>Alexei Rykov</p>	<p>Alexei Rykov is the Chairman of the USSR Supreme Council of National Economy. He is considered a moderate, unaligned with neither the Left nor Right Opposition movements. He is also being considered by some as a potential candidate for the premier of the Soviet Union and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.</p>

The Independents (cont.)

 <p>Mikhail Tomsky</p>	<p>Mikhail Tomsky is the Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. Along with Bukharin and Rykov, he is considered one of the moderate members of the Politburo. He as an advocate for labor unions throughout his political career and argued that the October Revolution fundamentally altered the relationship of labor unions with every state and country, especially in the Soviet Union.</p>
 <p>Kliment Voroshilov</p>	<p>Kliment Voroshilov is a member of the Central Committee and a commander of the North Caucus Military District. He has previously fought with Leon Trotsky, primarily over the recruitment of tsarist soldiers and officers into the Red Army, although his objections were overruled by Lenin. He also became a close friend of Stalin during their successful defense of Tsaritsyn (now Volgograd). Despite this, he resents being excluded from Stalin's inner circle.</p>
 <p>Mikhail Kalinin</p>	<p>Mikhail Kalinin is the President of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, the nominal head of state. While he has few direct powers or responsibilities, and does not wield an inordinate amount of influence, he is very important for the Soviet Union. As one of the few members of the Politburo to have grown up as a peasant, he is widely respected and presented as an example of the progress the Soviet Union has made.</p>
 <p>Osip Piatnitsky</p>	<p>Osip Piatitsky is a member of the Comintern Bureau, Budget Commission, and Secretariat. Some consider him to be a better candidate for leadership of the Comintern than its current leader, Grigory Zinoviev. Previously, he was the head of the Railroad Workers' Trade Union, which propelled him into a career on the Central Committee and later a prominent position as part of the Comintern's top brass.</p>
 <p>Grigory Kaminsky</p>	<p>Grigory Kaminsky is the Chairman of the Union of Agricultural and Forestry Workers and is focused on expanding peasant cooperatives. At the age of 25 he was the First Secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party, until he was replaced by Sergei Kirov, under the direction of Stalin. Despite this embarrassing demotion, he has maintained some status and influence, especially in the promotion of cooperatives.</p>

Abridged Timeline

- 1903 – Vladimir Lenin and his Bolsheviks win control of the Central Committee against the Mensheviks.
- 1905 – Lenin returns to Russia to support the failed First Russian Revolution against the tsar.
- 1914 – The First World War breaks out between the Allied and Central Powers, with Russia on the side of the Allies.
- 1917 – The February Revolution overthrows the tsar and establishes a provisional government.
- 1917 – Lenin leads the October Revolution, which overthrows the provisional government and creates a Bolshevik-led government.
- 1918 – Lenin signs the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk that ends the Russian participation in the First World War.
- 1918 – The policy of war communism is implemented throughout Russia, and the Red Terror is in full swing.
- 1920 – The last of the White Army is defeated, and majority of the Red Army is dedicated to reconquering breakaway states.
- 1921 – The Peace of Riga is signed, ending the war with Poland and ceding some Russian territories.
- 1921 – The New Economic Policy is introduced in response to widespread famines and poverty.
- 1922 – The Union of Soviet Social Republics is formed, reuniting the Soviet Union with its breakaway constituents.
- 1923 – Lenin suffers a third, debilitating stroke that leaves him almost totally incapacitated.
- 1924 – Lenin dies, and an emergency session of the All-Union Congress of Soviets is called.