

Useful Information #9
From NEP to Stalinism
The USSR from 1921 to 1939

Terms and People:

Kronstadt	NEP	kulaks
USSR	<i>korenizatsiia</i> (indigenization)	socialism in one country
Nikolai Bukharin	Joseph Stalin	Leon Trotsky
Stalin Revolution	"Great Retreat"	soft line on culture
Cultural Revolution	"bourgeois experts"	Shakhty trial
Magnitogorsk	Dneprostroi	Mikhail Tomskii
Nikolai Bukharin	Aleksei Rykov	"Right Opposition"
First Five-Year Plan (1928-32)	Stakhanovite movement	Ural-Siberian method
Kolkhoz	"Dizzy with Success" article	Cheka
GPU / OGPU / NKVD	Sergei Kirov	Nikolai Ezhov
Great Terror (<i>Ezhovshchina</i>)	"show trials"	Gulag

Important moments (1917-39)

1917

Dec Finland & Lithuania declare independence from Russian empire

1918

Jan-Feb Latvia & Estonia proclaim independence

March Bolsheviks sign peace treaty with Germans at Brest-Litovsk

May Recently formed Transcaucasian Federation dissolves

Georgians declare independence with German encouragement

Azerbaijan & Armenia declare independence more or less by default

Nov End of World War I; Bolsheviks repudiate treaty of Brest-Litovsk

1919

Feb Signing of Soviet-Bashkir agreement (to make Bashkir Autonomous Republic)

1920

April Outbreak of Soviet-Polish War

May Establishment of Tatar Socialist Soviet Republic (within RSFSR)

Begins the process of creation of many autonomous regions (1920-22)

1921

March Treaty of Riga ends Russo-Polish war

Revolt of sailors at Kronstadt fortress against communist rule

Passing of resolution against factions within Communist Party

Introduction of New Economic Policy

summer Famine begins to spread in Russia, lasting until 1922

1922

March Lenin suffers first stroke

Stalin becomes General Secretary of the Communist Party

1923	March July	Lenin suffers another stroke, removing him from political life Formation of USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
1924	Jan Dec	Lenin dies. Stalin, Zinoviev, and Kamenev form Triumvirate Stalin & Bukharin promote idea of "Socialism in One Country"
1926	Oct Nov	Trotsky & Kamenev removed from Politburo Code on Marriage, Family, and Guardianship
1927	Nov Dec	Trotsky and Zinoviev are expelled from Communist Party Peasants begin reducing grain sales to state authorities Party calls for 5-Year Plan of economic development, collectivization
1928	Jan March May	Trotsky exiled to Kazakhstan (eventually deported from USSR in 1929) "Cultural Revolution" begins with Stalin's attack on "bourgeois specialists" Beginning of the Shakhty trial
1929	Feb Dec Dec	Politburo condemns Bukharin, Rykov, & Tomskii (the "Right") Stalin's 50th birthday: beginning of the "Stalin Cult." Stalin calls for more rapid collectivization and liquidation of kulaks
1930	March July	Stalin's "Dizzy with Success" article Peasant communes & village gatherings are officially abolished ¹
1931	June	Cultural Revolution comes to a close
1932	Nov Dec Dec	Stalin's wife (Nadezhda Allilueva) commits suicide Introduction of internal passports for urban population Beginning of famine in Ukraine (lasts into 1933)
1933	Jan	Beginning of Second Five-Year-Plan
1934	June Dec	Law on "betrayal of motherland" prescribes the death penalty Assassination of Leningrad party head Sergei Kirov
1935	Jan Aug	First trial of Old Bolsheviks Kamenev & Zinoviev Beginning of Stakhanovism campaign
1936	June Aug Dec	New laws prohibiting abortion and tightening structure of family Moscow "show trial" of Zinoviev & Kamenev, who are convicted & shot Adoption of new constitution of USSR
1937	May	Great Purges (" <i>Ezhovshchina</i> ") reach their height
1938	March Dec	"Show trial" of Bukharin & Rykov Lavrentii Beria replaces Ezhov as head of NKVD

¹ Surely, Stolypin would have been proud!

Who gets what after 1917-23?

Full Independence (for now): Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Temporary independence, but eventual inclusion in USSR as SSRs: eastern Belorussia, eastern & central Ukraine, Transcaucasia (Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan).

Structure of USSR (December 1922)

Union Republics (SSR)²	Autonomous Republics (ASSR)³	Autonomous Regions
Russian Federated	Bashkir	Komi
Ukrainian	Tatar	Votiak (Udmurt)
Belorussian	Mountaineer (Norh Cauc.)	Mari
Moldovan	Nachichevan	Chuvash
Georgian	Dagestan	Adigei
Armenian	Abkhaz	Karachai-Cherkess
Azerbaijani	Kirgiz [Kazakh] ⁴	Kabardino-Balkar
	Turkestan	Chechen
	Crimean	Buriat-Mongol (East Sib.)
	Yakut	Buriat-Mongol (Far East)
		South Ossetian
		Kalmyk
		Karelian (Toilers' Commune)
		Volga German (Toilers' Com)

² By 1939, the following additional SSRs had been created (some of them promoted from ASSRs): Turkman, Uzbek, Tajik, Kirgiz, Kazakh.

³ By 1939, the following additional ASSRs had been created (or were promoted from lesser status): Ajarian, Kabardino-Balkar, North Ossetian, Chechen-Ingush, Moldavian, Kalmyk, Volga-German, Mordvin, Chuvash, Mari, Karelian, Udmurt, Karakalpak, Komi, Buriat-Mongol

⁴ "Kirgiz" was the pre-revolutionary Russian name for Kazakhs. The people now called "Kirgiz" were called "Kara-kirgiz" before the revolution.