

How did the Bolsheviks consolidate their power, 1917-1924?

Card categorisation task

<p>The Bolsheviks used War Communism to run industries essential to the war effort. They nationalised industry, banned strikes, introduced internal passports, and used managers and elite workers to control the workers.</p>	<p>The Cheka aimed to remove all forms of political opposition in a campaign that became known as the Red Terror. The historian Robert Service estimates 500,000 were sent to Gulags during over this period.</p>	<p>The Bolsheviks controlled the media. Only newspapers like Pravda could be published and Lenin was able to make sure through censorship that the Russian people only heard what he wanted them to hear.</p>	<p>The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was established in 1922 to overcome ethnic divisions which may have threatened communism. Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan all had their own government as part of a federal system and sent representatives to the Congress of Republics.</p>
<p>The Cheka was created in 1917 (replaced by GPU in 1922). This was a political police force who used terror (e.g. Gulags from 1918) to eliminate opposition.</p>	<p>The Bolsheviks defeated the Whites in the Civil War. They were seen as defending Russia from foreign imperialists and interventionists.</p>	<p>In 1921, Lenin announced a ban on factions within the Communist Party. Party members were not allowed to form groups independent of Lenin's leadership.</p>	<p>The Bolsheviks banned all other parties in 1921. This created a one party state with no challenges to their power.</p>
<p>The main policy making body of the USSR was the Politburo, the senior committee of the Communist Party.</p>	<p>Universities lost all of their autonomy.</p>	<p>The NEP meant that the Bolsheviks controlled the 'commanding heights of industry'.</p>	<p>Lenin set up the Sovnarkom as the new body of government of the USSR.</p>
<p>Class warfare was used to terrorise the middle classes and all hostile social groups. This was popular with the workers and soldiers and made it difficult for people to criticise a new government.</p>	<p>Trotsky's Red Army was effective and strong. They were able to put down significant uprisings or rebellions, for example the Kronstadt Rebellion. This limited challenges to Bolshevik power.</p>	<p>Lenin ended Russia's involvement in the First World War. This led to huge territorial and industrial losses in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, but when war ended in 1918, Lenin just ignored the treaty.</p>	<p>The Bolsheviks closed the Constituent Assembly in January 1918, refusing to take part in a socialist coalition. This made Russia a one party state.</p>
<p>Lenin had enormous prestige. As the founder and major political thinker of the Bolshevik Party, he was widely respected.</p>	<p>Democratic centralism from 1921 meant that all decisions made by Lenin and the Politburo had to be followed by the entire party.</p>	<p>The Bolsheviks increased the use of propaganda that glorified Lenin and their party. Lenin was heralded as the 'Father of the Nation'.</p>	<p>After 1921, only the Communist Party were allowed to field candidates for election to the Soviets.</p>

Tasks

The cards above describe different ways that Lenin and the Bolsheviks consolidated their power after the October Revolution.

- 1) Colour code the cards to show which of the methods below each card describes:

Control of the economy

Cult of Lenin

Repression and Terror

Political control

Control of society and nationalities

- 2) Write a definition of the key words/phrases which appear **in bold**.

- 3) Write an extended answer to the question '**How did the Bolsheviks consolidate their power, 1917-1924?**' using the five methods to help you structure your answer. The information on the cards can then provide evidence to support your points. Remember to include a judgement explaining what *you* think was the most important method of consolidating power.