Methods Used to Establish the Authoritarian State: Soviet Union

We will dive into the specifics of the methods used to establish the Soviet Union by engaging in historic research.

**Use of Force/Coercion:**

Consider finding evidence based in the CHEKA (Secret Police) or the Civil War engagements. For this method, we need to address tactics and their successes in securing legitimacy to power.

*What tactics were used? How successful were these tactics in establishing the Soviet state?*

**Role of Leaders:**

Find evidence of the specific roles that leaders played within the revolutionary period – were they charged with creating propaganda? Were they a mechanism for enforcing policy? Again, find their specific role. Leaders: *Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin, Bukharin, Zinoviev, Kamenev, Rykov, Stasova.*

*Add these to either your Use of Force section OR your Propaganda section, depending on the person and where they belong. Some will be important in both areas.*

**Propaganda/Persuasion and Ideology:**

Find evidence of the various mediums of propaganda – newspapers, posters, pamphlets and other publications, etc. – do not limit yourself to one medium. Identify and explore the motifs, symbolism, themes, etc. that run concurrent within these various forms. Think of how these messages and mediums were effective in convincing people to support the Bolsheviks/Soviets.

*What mediums and messages were used in propaganda? How effective were they in establishing the Soviet state?*

To conduct your own search for primary source material remember: *digital collections + your topic* in Google works wonders. The topic should be Russia Revolutions.

If you need support in your search: <https://cdm21047.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/russian/search>

<https://guides.wpunj.edu/c.php?g=365018&p=2467271>

<https://repository.duke.edu/dc/russianposters>

<https://www.bl.uk/russian-revolution/>

<https://digitalcollections.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/collections/soviet-posters>

<https://www.marxists.org/subject/bolsheviks/index.htm>

<https://guides.loc.gov/russian-newspapers/online>

<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/intn.html>