Authoritarian State: Lenin & Stalin USSR

**Emergence Period (41)**

Leaders

Lenin

Stalin

Trotsky

Kerensky

General Kornilov

Tsar Nicholas II

Bukharin

Kamenev

Events, Groups

Emancipation Manifesto

Mensheviks

Bolsheviks

Witte Reforms

State Capitalism

Imperial Duma

Russo-Japanese War

Bloody Sunday

1905 Revolution

October Manifesto

1917 Revolution (Feb)

Provisional Government

Petrograd Soviet

July Days

August Coup (Kornilov)

Peace, Land, Bread

1917 Revolution (Oct)

Constituent Assembly

Ideology and Methods to Establish Rule

Marxism

Marxism-Leninism

Internationalism vs Socialism in One State

*Pravda*

*Izvetzia*

*Bednota*

*Trud*

April Theses

Agitprop

*What is to be Done?*

Proletariat

Bourgeoise

Military Revolutionary Committee (MRC)

Kulaks

“withering away of the state”

**Consolidation and Maintenance Period (89)**

Sovnarkom

Politburo

Central Executive Committee

Orgburo

Party Congress

Secretariat

All Russian Congress of Worker’s Deputies

Democratic centralism

Decree on Peace

Decree on Land

Supreme Council of the National Economy

Declaration of Rights of the Working and Exploited People

Soviet Constitution (Basic Law) 1918, 1922, 1924

Stalin Constitution 1936

War Communism

New Economic Policy

Russia’s Second Revolution

Nomenklatura

Cheka

Red Army

Dzerzhinsky

NKVD (People’s Commissariat for Internal Affairs)

Red Terror

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

People’s Court

Civil War 1918-1922

White Movement

Cossacks

Gulags (Glavnoe Upravelenie Lagerei)

Purges of the 1930’s

Charismatic Leadership

Cult of Stalin

Agitprop

Glavlit

*Goskomisdat*

*Goskino*

*Gosteleradio*

*Iskra*

*Pravda*

*Izvestia*

*Bednota*

New Soviet Man/Woman

*What is to be Done?*

*Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*

*The State and Revolution*

*The Foundations of Leninism*

*The History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks): Short Course*

Posters

Sovkino, Soyuzkino, Central Committee for Cinema Affairs

Socialist Realism

People’s Commissariat for Posts and Telegraphs

Agit-trains, agit-streetcars, agit-boats

Youth League of the Communist Party (Komsomol)

*Aktiv*

Pavlik Morozov

Alexei Stakhanov

Kronstadt Rising

Opposition Groups

League of Militant Atheists

SR

International Opposition

Ban of Factions

Show Trials

Shakhty Trial

Ryutin Affair

Kirov Assassination

Left Opposition

Right Opposition

United Opposition

Commissar for Foreign Affairs

Nazi-Soviet Pact

Tehran

Yalta

Potsdam

Anglo-Soviet Trade Agreement

Curzon Ultimatum

Rapallo Treaty

Treaty of Berlin

Spanish Civil War

Anti-Comintern Pact

Munich Conference

Operation Barbarossa

Battle of Moscow

Siege of Stalingrad

Battle of Kursk

Grand Alliance

**Domestic Policies (40)**

Political Policies

Three Constitutions

Objectives: keep power, extend hold over entire country, eliminate opposition, legal and constitutional framework to transform the economic, cultural, societal norms of the Russian populace

1922 Treaty on the Creation of the Soviet Union

Stalin constitution – bans political party opposition

Dictatorship of the Proletariat

Ban on Factions 1921

Economic Policies

War Communism

New Economic Policy (NEP)

5 Year Plans – goals – industrialize, collectivize agriculture

Gosplan

Socialism in One Country/State

First 5 Year Plan 1928-1932

Second 5 Year Plan 1933-1937

Third 5 Year Plan 1938-WWII

Collectivization

Kulak

Dizzy with Success

Social Policies

New Soviet Man/Woman

Uniform Labour Schools & the Narkompros

Literacy campaigns

Little Octobrists, Young Pioneers, Komsomol

Decree on Separation of the Church and the State

Cultural Policies

Bolshevik views on the importance of culture in building a new human

Shostakovich and Mayakovsky

Smenovekhism

Constructivists

Proletkult

Socialist Realism

Censorship and Stalin’s attack on the arts

Impact of Policies on Women

Code on Marriage, the Family, and Guardianship (Family Code of 1918)

*Zhenotdel*

Party Membership increases

Women in the Five Year Plans (include numbers in various industries)

Babi bunty

New Soviet Woman

The Great Retreat – Stalin’s return to traditional roles

Impact of Policies on Minorities

Great Terror – focus on minority populations that posed external threat

Decree on the Rights of the Peoples of Russia and the Treatment of National Minorities

*Korenizatsiia*

Mass deportations

Shifting Policies on homosexuality

How to write about these topics:

**Conditions leading to the Emergence of the State:**

**Economic Conditions**

***Addressing the question***: *providing specific details of economic conditions is key. It is not enough to only say that conditions were poor, this is assumed. How were they poor? Which reforms were put in place and how did they change/continue previous conditions? Were they a success (define success)? Do they overlap with other conditions at play? Do economic conditions worsen due to an encroaching or already existing war? Do economic conditions exacerbate already existing social divisions based in race, ethnicity, etc.?*

**Weak Political System**

***Addressing the question:*** *Failures of policies, etc****.*** *– it can always be claimed that the failures of policies to meet certain ends, the failures in wars, etc. can be viewed as indicative of a weak political figurehead, leadership, or decision making body. What evidence exists for this? Russo-Japanese War, WWI, reforms of Stolypin, etc. How are these weaknesses manifested in other realms? Do they impact social divisions? Economic conditions? Successes/failures in war? How do people view the leadership or leading body? Is there trust in the system itself? If not, how does this factor play out as an underlying condition ripe for change?*

**Impact of War**

***Addressing the question:*** *Wars have long lasting impacts on societies, as do their treaties and the resulting loss of land, status, power, prestige, etc. Wars oftentimes aggravate other underlying conditions through forced conscription, levying of taxes, requisitioning of food, etc. How have losses in wars contributed to the sentiments of the people within a country? How have the wars magnified social division, economic conditions, or views that the political system is a weak body?*

**Social Division**

***Addressing the question:*** *Social divisions that existed were often pointed out through various impacts that were felt by policies or decisions in other areas of society. How did war impact the peasants in ways that were different from the aristocracy/middle class? How did land reform affect peasants vs aristocracy vs women, etc.? Were divisions based solely in class? Minority status?*

**Methods used to Establish the State**

**Persuasion and Coercion**

***Addressing the question:*** *How are ideological components tied to the persuasive mechanisms (propaganda) at place in a society and how do these contribute to the rise of the authoritarian state? Were people easily persuaded? If so, why might this be the case? Were persuasive mechanisms pinpointing existing social division, economic conditions, etc. effectively? Were coercive measures effective at generating support or did they lead to greater levels of oppositions and uprising?*

**Role of Leaders**

***Addressing the question:*** *What role do these leaders play in creating revolutionary fervor? In providing an understanding of the role and nature of the state? In being a figurehead or idol of the underlying revolution? In applying force or coercion? In developing persuasive mechanisms?*

**Ideology**

***Addressing the question:*** *These ideologies inform the basis of the revolution within Russia. How can we address the importance of these ideologies as a method to establishing rule? Think of these ideas: How might these ideas be used to coerce or persuade individuals to come over to your position? How might these ideas inform the mechanisms put into place for establishing the state’s apparatus? How might it adjust our understanding of the role of the state in creating progress? In putting down dissenting voices? In dealing with foreign powers?*

**Propaganda**

***Addressing the question:*** *A question related to the use of propaganda in establishing the state will need to see students combine their understanding of the mechanisms/means of spreading propaganda as well as the messages that would have been present! How have the messages been formulated to hit on the underlying conditions that exist in the society? How have the messages been crafted to establish support for positions that the Soviet’s held? Did the means have greater importance than the message?*

**Use of Force**

***Addressing the question:*** *The use of force here is largely relegated to the moments AS the Bolsheviks came to power. The Kornilov Affair, secret police bodies, specific tactics of coercion or repression – summary execution, arrests, etc.*

**Consolidation and Maintenance of Power**

**Use of Legal Methods**

***Addressing the question:*** *A question related to the use of legal methods will want you to identify specific legal mechanisms that the Soviet state used to maintain its authority. Discussing the organizational structure of the Soviet government along with important pieces of legislation or decrees will serve as a base to identify legal methods. These legal methods, however, should also be addressed with specific impacts they had on people and how this lead to maintaining power. Were rights granted, taken away? Were legal means used to establish new rights and bring new support/greater support? Were they used to repress?*

**Use of Force**

***Addressing the question:*** *A question related to the use of force will want you to identify specific means of force that the Soviet state used to maintain authority. Discussing groups, tactics, methods of force here will serve as a basis. The secret police, prison systems, assassinations, etc. will be a solid starting point. This idea, in combination with treatment of opposition, will allow you to discuss the exact means by which force was implemented to keep the Soviet state in power.*

**Charismatic Leadership**

***Addressing the question:*** *One method of maintaining power is pointing towards a strong leader to establish legitimacy of power. Identifying the nature of Lenin/Stalin as either holding either a truly charismatic role or a manufactured charisma will be important for a question related to charisma. A truly charismatic leader will have natural followers who believe in the end goal, a manufactured charisma must be tied to mechanisms of propaganda to build the persona. Again, always remember here to tie these ideas back to maintenance of power – whether that is through a group of natural followers or not.*

**Propaganda**

***Addressing the question:*** *A question related to propaganda will require specific reference to the various methods and messages of propaganda. What mediums were used? Which specific names of organizations created which specific types of propaganda? The messaging is also equally as important in this section. This can be tied specifically to domestic policies, as each campaign (economic, cultural, social, political) would have specific pieces of propaganda associated with them. The wide reach of propaganda, in this sense, could convince people of the importance of or successes of the policies being enacted. Think of how this would bring aboard support and allow for the maintenance of power.*

**Nature, Extent, and Treatment of Opposition**

***Addressing the question:*** *A question related to the nature, extent, and treatment of opposition should be broken into those three parts. What was the nature of the opposition? Who were the groups/people who were opposed to the ruling party? What was their extent? How far reaching was the opposition? Was it party leadership? Internal groups? External threats? How were these groups treated? Was treatment of the opposition based in legal means? Based in the use of force? What were the reactions to the treatment of these opposing forces? Did it lead to internal disputes? Was it successful in eliminating threats and securing power?*

**Successes and Failures of Foreign Policy**

***Addressing the question:*** *This is perhaps the most challenging method of maintaining power. It requires that we first identify the goals of foreign policy for the state. Does the state seek expansion? Securing of its borders? Securing of its people? Alliances? Foreign intervention? Next, we must assess whether or not the decisions (treaties, wars, colonizing, etc.) aided in maintaining power by following through on promises/goals. Were people supportive of actions taken? Were wars won? Were empires secured?*

*For each of these, we can also think to tying them together with domestic policies – if domestic policies create new changes that people support, we could say that it would be easier to maintain power; if not…well..*

**Aims and Results of Domestic Policies**

**Economic, Social, Cultural, Political Policies**

***Addressing the question:*** *Our first step here is to identify the specific goals for each respective category. What were the economic goals? Social goals? Cultural goals? Political goals? Did we wish to industrialize? Collectivize agriculture? Secure a working class state? Create new men/women? Add to the rights of people? Restrict rights further? Return to traditionalism? After identifying the goals, we can then assess the results and whether or not these goals were met or unmet. Were certain parts of a goal met, while others weren’t? Was there a change or reversion of a goal at any point? This also requires that we do a bit of contextualizing – impacts of policies can be understood contextually, as well. This means…we return to the conditions that lead to the emergence of the state. What major changes occur between these two periods? What continuity exists?*

**Impact of Policies on Women and Minorities**

***Addressing the question:*** *First we must identify which policies we want to discuss – economic, social, cultural, or political (or more than one!). Then we must return to the condition of these groups prior to the policy being enacted. Finally we may address whether or not there were significant changes that occurred for these populations! What was the status of women prior to the policies? After? For minorities?*

**Authoritarian Control and Extent to Which it Was Achieved**

***Addressing the question:*** *Was the state fully authoritarian? What does authoritarian mean? Were people severely repressed? Were democratic institutions still in existence? Characteristics: centralized government power, political repression & exclusion of challengers (unless operating under competitive authoritarianism, in which case oppositional parties are allowed but work towards similar ends), political parties and mass mobilization work towards the end goals of those in power, elected of self-appointed officials are difficult to displace from power, deprivation of civil liberties, range of social controls and policing, support of armed forces, bureaucracy staffed by regime and created via various means of socialization and indoctrination (education, propaganda mechanisms), ruling party/parties are indefinite.*