**War Communism**

Appalling shortages during the Civil War - Coal, Iron

Cast iron dropped to a twelfth of 1918 production by 1920

Bolsheviks printed rubles like ten bear - hyperinflation - by 1920 ruble worth 1% of its 1917 value

Magnified food shortages because farmers resorted to subsistence farming - why sell it for worthless money

By 1919 urban workers were paying 75% of their wages for subsistence rations

Huge nationalization - by 1920 37,0000 businesses (1.5 million workers) had been nationalized - bureaucratization

Lenin centralized into managers and single bodies to increase efficiency

Kulaks are middling independent farmers - kept to them

Commissariat of Supplies was in charge of requisitioning of supplies

Armed workers and soldiers took grain from kulaks

Later each small rural admin unit had grain requisition quotas to meet

Cautiously moving toward collectivization of agriculture - issue of land was touchy - 3,100 by 1918 and 4,400 by 1920

War Communism worked to feed the cities and the soldiers, but it couldn’t go on forever

NEP - New Economic Policy

A compromise on the road to socialism

After victory country lay in ruins

* Industrial output was minimal
* Currency in collapse - barter in countryside
* Food distribution system failing - huge famine in the south
* Peasants were sowing secret small fields

Unrest in the countryside

Menshevik rep in soviets increasing

March 1921 Krondstadt naval base revolted against Bolsheviks - freedom of speech, economic freedom

Sailors massacred by Trotsky

Allowed Lenin to push NEP

Recognized problem as one of incentive

Large industry, finance etc maintained by gov’t

Private enterprise was allowed in small enterprise - plants employing less than twenty workers, and the retail trade

Requisitioning stopped - replaced by a tax in kind & later money (encouraged production)

Eventually allowed a small amount of hired labour in agriculture

State owned industries had to account and pay for themselves

Contradiction of Marxism - the Bolsheviks would eventually be overthrown by this class

Closed ranks, limited internal debate

NEP was a success - helped by US relief

By 1928 land under the plow had exceeded pre WWI levels, production had reached 1914 levels

Lenin died in 1924

The Struggle for Power

Three points of view emerged among Russian communists in the 1920s

Left - promote world revolution and ruthlessly suppress noncomunists at home - Trotsky, Zinoviev, Kemenev

Right - World revolution later, pursue NEP further - Bukharin

Centre - consolidate communism in Russia - opposed NEP

Stalin had been the General Secretary of the Communist Party

Built up followers in key positions through his power to appoint officers

Kemenev controlled Moscow, Zinoviev controlled Petrograd

Stalin allied himself with K and Z against Trotsky

The with right against the left and then against the left

Accused others of splitting the party

Finally at 15th All-Union Congress of the Communist Party established Stalin’s policy as the policy

Others recanted or were exiled

Trotsky was expelled in 1929 and murdered in Mexico in 1940

Only Stalin offered a sweeping program with the hope of success