

RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War left lots of resentment on both sides. The Soviet Union could look for little help, trade or friendship from the Western powers. Their participation in the Civil War had left each suspicious and convinced that the war between communism and the West was not over. The Soviet Union needed trade with the West to help build up industrial expertise. A few **smaller trade treaties** were signed (with **Great Britain** and **Germany 1921**) but the big breakthrough came in Italy 1922. For the very first time since WWI both Soviet Union and Germany got to participate as delegates in an International Conference. Both of these states had been alienated from the rest of Europe. The French government demanded that the Soviet government should repay the debts of the Tsarist Russia to France. The Soviets refused and demanded that the Western powers should pay reparations for their involvement in the Civil War. The Conference seemed to fail. During an intermission Germany and Soviet, the two "outcasts" started to negotiate and draw up an agreement of friendship and trade - the **Treaty of Rapallo** (6 April 1922). They agreed to cancel all territorial claims against each other and to cooperate economically. **A supplementary commercial of 1925 and a treaty of friendship and neutrality (the treaty of Berlin) of 1926** further consolidated the alliance. By secret agreements German factories producing military goods were built inside Russia, thus enabling the Germans to get round the military terms of Versailles and the Russians to see Western military technology. By earlier arrangements, several German companies worked in Russia, especially in mining. Until the early 1930s Russo-German friendship of considerable mutual advantage, but it also provided the Western powers with severe embarrassment. **The Russo-German agreements eventually opened for trade with other Western Powers. In 1924 the earlier isolation was broken, and Great Britain, Italy and France negotiated and concluded several trade agreements with the Soviet Union.**