

STALIN – COMING INTO POWER

1. **Lenin sick** – His health had not been good since the assassination attempt by Fanya Kaplan in 1918. 1922 – two strokes; third stroke in March 1923; died January 1924
2. **POWER STRUGGLE** started in 1922 with Lenin's sickness and thereby absence from political affairs...
3. **LENIN'S TESTAMENT:** It's important to know that Stalin was charged by the Central Committee with supervising Lenin's medical treatment and therefore he was closely informed about Lenin's health. In this position he behaved very poorly against Lenin's wife Krupskaya (very chauvinistic). This made Lenin suggest the removal of Stalin from any higher position within the Party. He also reflected over the personalities as well as the potential leadership capabilities of the other "Candidates". He came to the conclusion that they all had some flaws... nobody could fully replace Lenin according to Lenin...
4. **CANDIDATES TO TAKE OVER AFTER LENIN:**
 - a. **Trotsky** (Lev Bronstein) – brilliant orator and strategist. Planned the revolution in October 1917 and led the Red Army to victory in the Russian Civil War! Commissar for Foreign Affairs; Commissar for Military and Naval Affairs
 - b. **Kamenev** – Bolshevik since 1903 and close to Lenin. Member of the Politburo and Chairman of the Moscow Party.
 - c. **Zinoviev** – Bolshevik since 1903 and close to Lenin. Member of the Politburo and the Chairman of the Petrograd (Leningrad) Party; First Chairman of Comintern 1919
 - d. **Bukharin** – Bolshevik since 1906. Editor of Pravda (Party Newspaper). Member of the Politburo; In the Committee of Comintern
 - e. **Rykov** – Bolshevik since 1903. Deputy Chairman of Sovnarkom; Chairman of Gosplan
 - f. **Tomsky** – Bolshevik since 1906. Trade Union leader. Elected to the Politburo 1927
5. **POLITBURO:** Seven officials elected from the Central Committee of the Communist Party. These officials decided on the Party policies – extremely influential! The Politburo was chaired by Lenin and they met regularly. After Lenin died the Politburo formed a "collective leadership" although the idea had been that Trotsky probably would succeed Lenin as its Chairman and leader.
6. **ORGBURO/SECRETARIAT:** Dealt with the more practical aspects of the day-to-day running of the party. They dealt with issues like the election of representatives at a local level, the promotion of members within the party, etc... As the importance of the Party grew Stalin through the Secretariat (and Orgburo) was well-placed to ensure that he controlled its membership at all levels... (Stalin was also a member of the Politburo – the only leading member of the Party that was in all three leading Committees – Politburo, Orgburo and the Secretariat...)
7. **COMINTERN:** Third Communist international. An organization founded in Moscow 1919 – dedicated to the global spread of Communism
8. **SOVNARKOM:** When the Provisional Government was overthrown by the Bolsheviks in 1917 it was replaced by a temporary government until elections could be held. Sovnarkom was the name of this temporary council of 15 "*Commissars*" (= *Ministers*). Lenin became the Chairman ("*Prime Minister*") of the Council and Trotsky became the Commissar of Foreign Affairs ("*Foreign Minister*"). Stalin was named the Commissar for Nationalities ("*Minority Minister*")
9. **GOSPLAN:** The "*State Planning Commission*" was set up in February 1921 to coordinate and organize the Soviet Economy.

NOTE + ASSIGNMENT: even if it's tempting to see Stalin's position as well as his bid for power and the success of this bid as inevitable – that his road to power was determined! We need to avoid such deterministic history writing when we deal with the establishment of Stalin as the leader of the USSR. Write down some main arguments that help you avoid a deterministic way of writing this part of history:
