

Lore

Chapter I - A Revolution Victorious (1919)

The Russian Civil War officially ended in late 1919 after the Bolsheviks secured victory over the remaining White Armies and anti-revolutionary movements. Years of war had devastated the former Russian Empire. Millions had perished through combat, famine and disease, while industry lay in ruins and transportation networks barely functioned.

Leading the victorious revolution was Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, who immediately rejected proposals to restore a highly centralized socialist government. Having witnessed how imperial rule ignored the needs of Russia's many nationalities, Lenin argued that socialism could only survive if every people of the former Empire possessed meaningful self-government.

During the First People's Congress held in Moscow, Lenin delivered the speech that would define the Soviet Federation.

"To achieve true Marxism and democracy, we must decentralize. Moscow shall lead, but it shall not command every village, every city and every republic. Socialism belongs to all peoples—not merely Russians."

The speech became known simply as The Decentralization Doctrine.

Its principles shaped the political system of the new state.

Instead of creating one centralized republic, Lenin established the Union of Soviet Federations, a federation composed of autonomous socialist republics sharing military, economic and foreign policy while maintaining considerable authority over local affairs.

Among the founding republics were:

- Russian Soviet Federative Republic
- Ukrainian Soviet Republic
- Belarusian Soviet Republic
- Karelian Soviet Republic
- Siberian Soviet Republic
- Green Ukraine Soviet Republic
- Caucasian Soviet Republics
- Alasian People's Republic (Kazakhstan)
- Various Central Asian republics

Each republic possessed its own parliament, administration and regional leadership while remaining loyal to the federal government in Moscow.

Although critics claimed such decentralization would weaken socialism, Lenin insisted that voluntary unity would always prove stronger than forced obedience.

Chapter II - Reconstruction and the Polish Humiliation (1920)

The new Federation inherited a nation in ruins.

Factories stood abandoned.

Railways had been destroyed.

Agriculture barely produced enough food to sustain the population.

Millions of veterans returned home to villages that no longer existed.

Lenin introduced the New Economic Policy (NEP) to stabilize the economy while simultaneously launching enormous reconstruction efforts.

State resources focused first upon restoring transportation, repairing industry and reopening schools.

While reconstruction continued, Lenin also hoped to spread socialism beyond Russia's borders.

Believing workers throughout Eastern Europe would welcome revolution, Soviet forces crossed into Poland during 1920.

Instead of sparking widespread uprisings, the campaign devolved into brutal positional warfare.

Months of fighting produced enormous casualties.

Neither army achieved decisive victory.

Eventually both governments accepted a negotiated stalemate.

Throughout Soviet history the campaign became known as:

The Polish Humiliation

The defeat profoundly affected Lenin.

He concluded that military conquest alone could not spread socialism.

Instead, future expansion would rely increasingly upon political influence, diplomacy and local revolutionary movements.

Chapter III - Expansion of the Federation (1920-1922)

Despite the failure in Poland, the Soviet Federation continued expanding.

During 1920 Soviet forces entered Latvia, where revolutionary movements quickly established the Latvian Soviet Republic. Rather than abolishing

Latvian institutions, Moscow recognized Latvia as an autonomous member of the Federation.

Lenin described the event as proof that decentralized socialism could unite different nationalities without destroying their identities.

Throughout the following years additional autonomous republics strengthened their ties with Moscow while retaining broad domestic authority.

The Federation increasingly resembled a multinational commonwealth rather than a traditional empire.

Foreign observers often struggled to classify the new state.

Some considered it a federation.

Others called it a socialist confederation.

Many simply referred to it as The Soviet Federation.

Chapter IV - The Great Social Reforms (1923)

By 1923 reconstruction had progressed sufficiently for Lenin to begin his ambitious program of social reform.

The People's Congress approved one of the most comprehensive equality packages of the twentieth century.

Women received complete legal equality with men.

Equal pay protections were introduced.

Women gained unrestricted access to universities, public office and military service.

Racial discrimination became illegal throughout every member republic.

Black citizens received equal legal status and could freely join the armed forces, universities and government institutions.

Government propaganda promoted equality among all peoples of the Federation, portraying racism as incompatible with socialism.

The welfare system expanded dramatically.

Healthcare became increasingly accessible.

Public education received massive investment.

Universities became free for qualified students.

Lenin believed education represented the greatest weapon against both poverty and reactionary politics.

The government also invited the Left Socialist Revolutionaries into coalition, broadening political participation inside the socialist system.

Although the Communist Party remained dominant, debates within parliament became increasingly open.

Many foreign journalists remarked that political discussion inside the Federation appeared more diverse than expected.

Chapter V - The Soviet Industrial Plan (1923-1927)

Recognizing that socialism required industrial strength, Lenin approved the Soviet Industrial Plan.

Heavy industry expanded rapidly.

Steel mills, railways and machine factories received priority investment.

Civilian industry grew alongside military production.

By 1925, Soviet engineers produced the Federation's first domestically designed military aircraft.

Two years later, in 1927, the first Soviet-designed tanks entered service.

Simultaneously, enormous railway projects connected distant republics.

Factories appeared throughout Siberia, Ukraine and the Caucasus.

Industrialization proceeded faster than many European economists believed possible.

While living standards remained modest, optimism spread throughout much of the Federation.

Chapter VI - New Members of the Revolution

The Soviet Federation increasingly expanded its influence through neighboring socialist movements.

Romania entered the Soviet sphere during 1925, becoming an autonomous partner aligned with Moscow.

Relations with Estonia deteriorated after Estonian forces attacked Soviet positions during the aftermath of the Polish conflict.

The Soviet Army responded immediately.

Tallinn fell within days.

A socialist government was installed and Estonia became another autonomous republic.

Lenin insisted these republics retain broad domestic authority, reinforcing his belief that socialism should unite peoples voluntarily rather than erase national identity.

Chapter VII - Death of Lenin and the Rise of Stalin (1924)

Lenin's declining health culminated in his death during 1924.

His passing shocked the Federation.

Many expected Leon Trotsky, hero of the Civil War, to become Lenin's successor.

Instead, the Supreme People's Soviet elected Joseph Stalin as the new Chairman.

Rather than removing Trotsky from public life, Stalin surprised many observers.

He appointed Trotsky Commander of the Armed Forces, allowing him complete military authority while excluding him from civilian government.

Historians later argued this decision temporarily prevented an immediate split within the revolutionary leadership.

Chapter VIII - Poland, Lithuania and Democratic Centralism (1925-1928)

Under Stalin, Soviet foreign policy became increasingly assertive.

Romania officially entered the Soviet sphere during 1925.

In 1927, deteriorating relations with Poland and Lithuania culminated in war.

Soviet forces rapidly advanced into both countries.

Following victory, neither nation was fully annexed.

Instead, Poland and Lithuania became autonomous socialist republics within the Federation.

Lithuania lost territory to Latvia and Belarus while the remaining lands formed a Lithuanian autonomous republic.

Stalin defended the arrangement by declaring:

"We will not abandon our comrades. Every worker deserves a republic of his own, but every republic belongs to the Revolution."

Meanwhile, Stalin introduced Democratic Centralism as the constitutional foundation of the Federation.

National elections continued.

Political debate remained legal inside the Communist movement.

The Supreme People's Soviet became divided into three principal factions:

Hardliners

Centrists

Socialists

In the elections of 1927, Stalin and the Communist Party won approximately 94 percent of the national vote, though ideological factions continued competing within parliament.

For many citizens, the Federation appeared stable and increasingly prosperous.

Chapter IX - The Fall of Stalin (1933)

By 1933, the Soviet Federation had entered its deepest political crisis since the end of the First Russian Civil War.

Although the Federation had become one of the world's strongest economies under Joseph Stalin, years of continuous warfare had exhausted both the state and its people.

Japan had attacked Green Ukraine in the Far East.

Azerbaijan had once again risen in rebellion.

Monarchist organizations expanded throughout Russia.

The Russian All-Military Union, a fascist underground movement composed largely of former Imperial officers, carried out sabotage and spread anti-communist propaganda.

The situation worsened dramatically when Azerbaijan launched another offensive while much of the Red Army remained deployed in Asia. Azerbaijani troops overran much of the Caucasus, and artillery shells landed near Stalingrad.

Witnesses later recalled that Stalin repeatedly demanded only one piece of information.

"Where is Army Four?"

For hours he paced inside his office, whispering to himself.

"Army Four will save us... It has to... It cannot happen again..."

Years of constant war finally broke Stalin's spirit. He fell into severe depression and became convinced that Lenin's revolution might ultimately fail.

Privately, he confessed to Leon Trotsky that if he could no longer lead the Federation, Trotsky should succeed him.

History would not wait that long.

Chapter X - Trotsky's Coup

In late 1933 Stalin began recovering from his illness and attempted to strengthen central authority.

Trotsky believed Stalin had betrayed the international revolution.

Supported by loyal officers and revolutionary soldiers, Trotsky launched a military coup against the government.

The Supreme People's Soviet quickly fell under his control.

Joseph Stalin was arrested.

A revolutionary tribunal accused him of 859 criminal offenses, the most severe being:

Failure to spread the world revolution.

The trial ended with a unanimous guilty verdict.

Stalin was sentenced to death by firing squad.

His execution was broadcast live over Soviet radio.

Millions listened as Joseph Stalin spoke his final words.

"So this is how it ends?"

Moments later the rifles fired.

With Stalin's death, the Soviet Federation entered its darkest hour.

The Second Russian Civil War had begun.

Chapter XI - The Collapse of the Soviet Federation

Trotsky proclaimed himself the defender of Lenin's revolution.

Instead of restoring stability, he announced plans to continue spreading revolution across the globe.

The announcement terrified both foreign governments and many Soviet republics.

One after another, the autonomous republics declared independence.

Ukraine broke away.

Belarus followed.

Latvia proclaimed independence.

The Caucasian republics left the Federation.

Central Asia separated itself from Moscow.

The Comintern effectively collapsed.

Within weeks the once-powerful Soviet Federation had ceased to exist outside central Russia.

Recognizing Trotsky as a threat to global stability, monarchies, democracies and fascist governments alike began supporting anti-Trotsky forces.

For one of the few times in modern history, governments with completely opposing ideologies united against a common enemy.

Chapter XII - The Restoration Movement

The anti-communist coalition gradually united under Ilya Surkov, whose provisional government promised to restore order before deciding Russia's permanent future.

The Imperial Guard marched into Moscow.

Communist officials fled eastward.

The old Russian tricolour once again flew above government buildings beside the Imperial double-headed eagle.

Social Democrats agreed to cooperate with monarchists.

Conservative liberals entered the coalition.

Only a small group of fascist generals demanded complete military rule.

The House of Romanov quickly became the dominant political force.

Chapter XIII - The Death of Trotsky (1934)

After months of brutal fighting, Trotsky's forces collapsed.

Marshal Georgy Zhukov organized a retreat into Siberia while Trotsky attempted one final defense of central Russia.

Imperial forces captured Moscow.

Trotsky was arrested.

In a symbolic act of revenge, he was imprisoned inside the same building where Tsar Nicholas II and his family had once been executed.

Several days later members of the Imperial Guard entered his room.

One guard shouted:

"Die like a pig!"

Trotsky answered:

"You fucking traitor."

The firing squad immediately opened fire.

Trotsky died where the Romanov dynasty had once fallen.

At exactly 9:00 a.m. on 19 April 1934, Ilya Surkov addressed the nation over radio.

"The Civil War is over."

The Soviet Federation officially ceased to exist.

Chapter XIV - The Restoration of the Monarchy

With the Civil War over, Russia entered another period of uncertainty.

For several months the nation remained officially known as the Russian Federation while politicians debated the country's future.

The Romanov restorationists steadily gained support.

By the end of 1934 they controlled nearly 68 percent of Parliament.

Then came the greatest surprise of the age.

Rumors that had circulated for years proved to be true.

Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich Romanov, long believed to have perished alongside his family in 1918, had in fact survived.

The circumstances of his survival remained classified by the government, though many believed loyal officers had secretly rescued him during the chaos of the Revolution.

His public appearance shocked the world.

Following months of negotiations, Alexei Romanov was crowned Tsar of Russia, restoring the House of Romanov after more than sixteen years without a monarch.

His coronation marked the official rebirth of the Russian Empire.

Unlike the old Empire, however, the restored monarchy accepted constitutional limits.

Parliament remained in existence.

Political parties remained legal.

The Tsar possessed broad executive authority but could never abolish the legislature.

Russia became a constitutional monarchy.

Chapter XV - Reform under Tsar Alexei (1935-1937)

The new government gradually dismantled many Soviet economic policies.

State capitalism replaced the communal economy.

Private investment returned.

Foreign businesses received carefully regulated access to Russian markets.

Economic growth accelerated rapidly.

By 1936 Russia possessed the world's fifth-largest economy.

Many Soviet social reforms were reversed.

Women's compulsory participation in the workforce ended.

Some LGBT legal protections were removed.

However, widespread protests and public unrest forced Tsar Alexei to halt further restrictions.

Lenin's cultural revolution had permanently changed Russian society.

Although the government became more conservative, much of the population continued supporting equality and tolerance.

Labour unions remained legal.

Volunteer military service replaced mass conscription.

The welfare state survived almost completely under a new doctrine known as Welfare Capitalism.

Healthcare remained free.

Education remained free.

Universities continued receiving state funding.

Tsar Alexei believed another revolution could only be prevented if ordinary Russians enjoyed a decent standard of living

Chapter XVII - The Uncertain Era (1937-1940)

Although Russia stabilized internally, the rest of the world descended into chaos.

Iran was invaded following diplomatic failure.

The Summer War against Finland erupted in 1938.

Russian forces reached Helsinki and Tampere before accepting the Treaty of Helsinki, securing Karelia, Petsamo and Salla.

Japan refused Russia's proposal for an alliance.

In response, Russia established the Treaty of Independent States, creating a new international alliance based upon mutual defense rather than ideology.

Siberia embraced fascism and aligned with Britain.

Russian armies launched a successful campaign that reunited Siberia with the Empire.

Britain emerged as the world's principal fascist power.

The United States transformed into a capitalist dictatorship.

Communist China abandoned socialism in favor of capitalism.

Wars spread throughout Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Historians would later describe these years simply as The Uncertain Era, a time when almost nowhere on Earth remained truly peaceful.

Chapter XVIII - The Second Great War

The regional conflicts eventually merged into another global war.

Britain, the United States and their allies fought against the Treaty of Independent States.

Russian commanders perfected Blitzkrieg tactics, using concentrated armored formations supported by strong logistics and infrastructure.

The campaigns in Finland, Iran and Siberia demonstrated the effectiveness of this doctrine.

Russian forces participated in the liberation of British extermination camps.

Investigators discovered systematic genocide carried out by the British regime against Jews, homosexuals, Muslims and numerous ethnic minorities.

Survivors received free medical care and rehabilitation under Russian military administration.

Following victory, Russia proposed an International Day of Remembrance for the victims.

The proposal received worldwide approval.

Russia also joined Germany, Italy and the French Commune in founding the International Human Rights Organization.

The Washington and London Treaties dismantled the British Empire.

Russian soldiers occupied London.

One famous photograph showing an Imperial Russian soldier raising the double-headed eagle above London Bridge became one of the defining images of the twentieth century.

Chapter XIX - The Great Patriotic War (1941)

Peace proved temporary.

One day after attending the funeral of Kaiser Wilhelm II, Germany unexpectedly invaded Alsace-Lorraine, betraying previous agreements.

The Treaty of Independent States immediately declared war.

The Great Patriotic War had begun.

Germany adopted scorched-earth tactics.

Cities burned.

Entire regions collapsed into famine.

Russian armies liberated Warsaw, raising both the Imperial Russian flag and the tattered banner of the Polish Resistance.

Finland launched the Continuation War but was eventually defeated.

Meanwhile Russian scientists secretly completed Reactor F-1, making Russia the first nation to construct a functioning nuclear reactor.

Before Berlin itself fell, Germany accepted complete capitulation.

The Treaty of Berlin partitioned Germany into several occupation zones and successor states, ensuring that no single German government could again threaten Europe.

Chapter XX - The Dawn of the Cold War (Late 1941)

Although open warfare had ended, genuine peace never arrived.

Britain remained under international supervision.

France and Italy insisted that Britain must never again become an imperial threat.

Russia agreed and stationed observers and military forces in key strategic areas.

The Treaty of Independent States emerged as the most powerful alliance on Earth.

Russia entered the Atomic Age before any rival.

Russian became one of the most widely spoken international languages within the alliance due to its role during the wars and the alliance's policy of multilingual cooperation.

Most historians identify late 1941 as the beginning of the Cold War. Unlike in our own history, it began while much of the world was still rebuilding from continuous conflict. Rivalries shifted from battlefields to diplomacy, espionage, economics, scientific competition and nuclear development.

The Soviet Federation was gone.

Under Tsar Alexei Romanov, the Russian Empire had returned.