

# The Two Sides in the Civil War



## The Reds

**The Bolshevik Party**

**Industrial workers in the towns and cities**

**Former soldiers and sailors**

**Some of the peasants**

## The Whites



**Supporters of the Tsar**

**Supporters of the Provisional Government**

**The Social Revolutionaries**

**The Mensheviks**

**Landowners**

**Factory owners**

**The Church**

**Some of the peasants**

Some Russians refused to support either the REDS or the WHITES



In the Ukraine, the courageous peasant leader, *Nestor Makhno* fought against the REDS *and* the WHITES. He wanted the peasants to be able to run their own lives. Eventually he had to flee overseas and went to live in France.

## In charge of the Red Army



**Leon Trotsky**



## In charge of the White Army



**Admiral Kolchak**





**General  
Yudenitch**

**General  
Deniken**



**British, French and Americans**

 Bolshevik controlled territory

 Attacks on the Bolsheviks by the Whites and their allies

**Kolchak** White commander



# The Civil War : Advantages and Disadvantages



Controlled the main industries

Controlled the railways

Red army was under unified control of Trotsky and followed Bolshevik ideas

Communication among the Reds was relatively easy



Did not control any of the main industries

Only controlled a section of the trans-Siberian railway

White army disunited under several different leaders with different aims and ideas

Communication among the Whites was very difficult

**The Whites had assistance from the Allies who sent troops to help**



**USA**



**JAPAN**

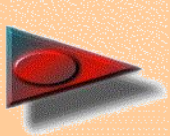
**FRANCE**



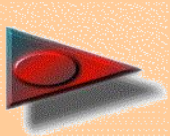
**UK**



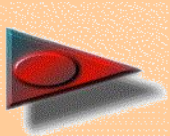
# **Why did the Allies intervene on the side of the Whites?**



**To prevent supplies that they had sent to Russia from falling into German hands.**



**To help the Whites to continue the war against Germany**



**To try to prevent the Bolsheviks from winning the Civil War and spreading Communism**



## The Fate of the Royal Family

The Tsar and his family were taken captive by the Bolsheviks and moved to [Ekaterinburg](#) under house arrest



By July 1918, Admiral **Kolchak** and his army were close to Ekaterinburg. They would soon be in a position to rescue the Tsar



The Bolsheviks decided to kill the Tsar and all of the royal family. Tsar = symbol of old empire = reason to unite the Whites.

The Tsar and his family were killed by members of the local *CHEKA* but the order seems to have been given by *LENIN*

**“We decided it here. *Vladimir Ilyich* (Lenin) believed that we shouldn’t leave the Whites a live banner to rally round”**

**(*Sverdlov*. Secretary of the Communist Party talking to *Trotsky* in 1918**

## Reasons for the Bolshevik victory



- Trotsky creates efficient and well organised Red army
- Reds united behind Bolshevik Ideas
- Reds have strategic advantages (industrial cities and railways)
- Communication was easier in the Red controlled area
- Allied support for Whites allows the Reds to be seen as 'patriots'

## Reasons for the Whites' defeat

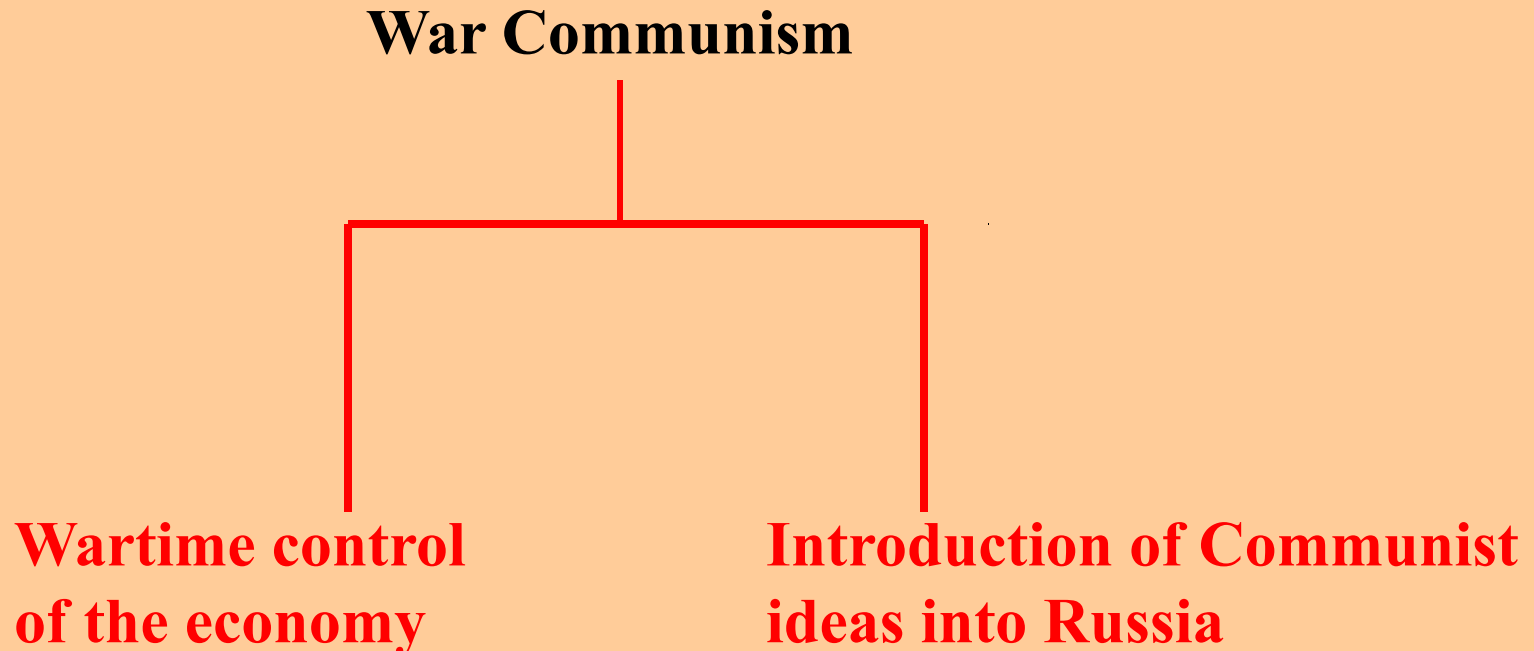


- Poor leadership and lack of organisation in the White army
- Whites were divided and disunited and were associated with the Tsarist government which was hated by the vast majority of Russians.
- Whites controlled few industries and only a small section of railway
- Communication was difficult in the huge White controlled area
- The Whites seen as unpatriotic because of Allied support for them.

# The Policy of War Communism.

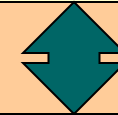
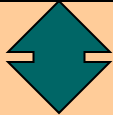
During the Civil War, Lenin introduced the policy of **War Communism** in Russia

There were **two** reasons for this policy:



**Nationalisation of Industries**

**Private Trade forbidden**

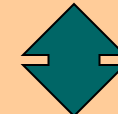
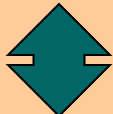


**Food requisitioned from the peasants**

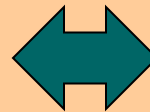


**WAR  
COMMUNISM**

**Transport taken over by the Government**



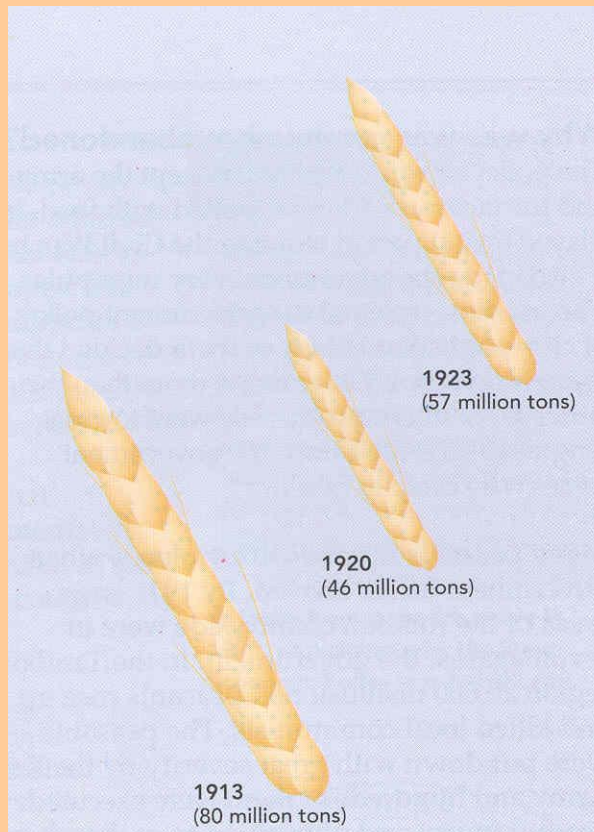
**Labour controlled by the Government**



**Rationing introduced**

# The Failure of War Communism

**The Policy of War Communism failed to improve the Russian economy.**



**During the period of War Communism, the production of grain declined and only recovered after 1923**



**The fall in Grain production led to food shortages and starvation**



**Scenes like this were common in many Russian villages during the civil war**

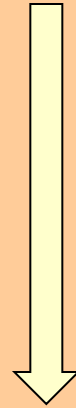
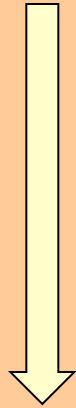
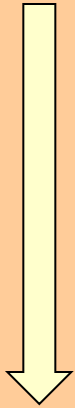
**During the period of War Communism,  
industrial production also declined.**

**Coal**

**Oil**

**Steel**

**Bricks**



**From 29m to  
9m tons**

**From 9.3m  
to 3.8m tons**

**From 4.3m  
to 0.2 m tons**

**From 2.1m to  
0.1m tons**

# **The Kronstadt Rebellion**

**The policy of War Communism became very unpopular**

**In March 1921 there was a rebellion against Lenin by the sailors of the Kronstadt Naval base near St Petersburg**

**Troubles □ Kronstadt sailors active supporters of revolution.**

**Many participated in October revolution**

## **Demands of the Kronstadt Sailors**

**Elections to the Soviets by secret ballot**

**Freedom of speech**

**Freedom for Trade Unions**

**Release of all political prisoners**

**End to requisitioning of grain from  
the peasants**

**The Kronstadt Naval Base is attacked by the Red army over the frozen ice**



**Although Lenin crushed the rebellion, he realised that he would have to change the policy of War Communism or risk being overthrown.**



## **The New Economic Policy (NEP)**

**Lenin decided that there was so much opposition to the policy of war communism that it had to be changed.**

**He wanted the change to be temporary: he would re-introduce communism when the time was right.**



**We'll take one step back,  
but later make two ahead**

**In 1921, he decided to replace War Communism with.....  
the New Economic Policy (NEP)**

# The NEW Economic Policy (NEP)

The New Economic Policy helped Russian agriculture and industry to gradually improve.

## NEP

▼ The effects of the NEP (official government figures).



1922



77.7 hectares sown



50.3 million tons



0.2 tons



1923



91.7 hectares sown



50.6 million tons



0.3 tons



1924



98.1 hectares sown



51.4 million tons



0.8 tons



1925



104.3 hectares sown



72.5 million tons



1.5 tons



1926



110.3 hectares sown



76.8 million tons



2.4 tons

**Grain Production** increased after NEP was introduced

**Iron Production** increased after NEP was introduced

**Coal and Oil production** also increased as a result of NEP

**Railway transport** was also improved

## **The success of the NEP**

**The success of the NEP helped to keep Lenin and the Bolsheviks in Power.**

**The Peasants supported the end of grain requisitioning and began to grow more grain and sell the surplus. More food was now available in the towns and cities.**

**Private businessmen and traders were happy with their right to set up their own shops and businesses**

**The workers in the industrial towns and cities supported NEP because it helped to increase the supply of food and also helped to increase the number of jobs available in industry**

## The criticism of the NEP

- Anti-communist ideology – not everyone equal
- Growth due to restoration. From zero to hero
- Scissors Crisis – industrial prices grew up, agriculture goods fall down.
- NEP focused on agriculture and so growth in industry were only relatively high