

Soviet union foreign policy

Initial stage – Global Revolution

- * Trotsky idea (backed up by Lenin) was to export revolution to all of Europe
- * PLUS – spartakian's revolt in Germany and Hungarian revolt in 1919
- * MINUS – defeat in Russo-Polish War in 1921. Inability to create a buffer state between Europe and Russia, failure to return to old Empire borders

Socialism in one country

- * Initial Stalin goal – to involve more in domestic policy then outside the borders
- * Foreign policy – through involvement in global communist movement – Third International
- * Stalin idea for global communist movement – (1924-1928)-peaceful cooperation of all left parties changed to proclaiming a war to social democrats within communist parties (1929-1933)

One against all

Stalin believed that USSR was treated by all other countries

- *Civil war era intervention
- *USSR wasn't invited to League of Nations
- *USSR wasn't admitted by western powers

When the only friend is your enemy

Under these circumstances the only country that really took Russia seriously was Germany

Germany needed an ally

Germany sought rehabilitation for Versailles's treaty

Just as USSR in 10 years Germany tried to make friend with Russia, fearing spread of permanent revolution

- * Rapallo treaty 1922 (mutual cooperation)
- * Germany used some of USSR bases for militarization
- * Specialist helped to launch industrialization programmes
- * Berlin treaty expanded Rapallo ideas over whole USSR and specifically mentioned 5 year peaceful treaty between countries
- * This rocketed the mutual military cooperation in between 1930-33

How stalin helped hitler

- * Nevertheless – the witch hunt against social democrats led to a conflict inside communist party in germany.
- * Ruling Social Democrat Party choose to favor Nazi party over communist.
- * Hitler choose communist to be a scapegoat for failures of Weimar republic
- * Eventually Hitler was chosen as a Chancellor and later proclaimed himself a Furher

Will it mean another war?

- * As early as 1931 Stalin said that a new war in Europe is inevitable and that Russia should come prepared
- * The idea was to let Hitler invade western countries, specifically France and Britain with at least silent approval of soviet union
- * But Hitler hatred to communism and soviet missions in Germany proved otherwise

Old new friend

- * Stalin or more so foreign minister Litvinov tried to strike a deal with the West
- * As early as Hitler came to power USSR choose to become closer with France
- * 1934 USSR joined League of Nations but stayed there mostly unheard (USSR was strictly against militarization on East and against Fascist rule in Spain)
- * Unfortunately idea to make friends with the west didn't live up to its promises

Some dates

- * September 1934 – joined League.
- * On May 2, 1935, the five-year Soviet-French Treaty of Mutual Assistance was signed
- * 1938 Munich pact where France and Britain let Germany invade Checkoslovakia and later USSR with silent approval of war untill it's fought on eastern front

Back to old school

- * And so the best idea left was to use Nazi Germany against the West, secretly up-building military base to join the winning party later on
- * To do so Russia needed
 - Time to prepare to war
 - Buffer in case of aggression

Besides Stalin used this as a chance to stroke against Poland – country that defeated russia in 1921

Soviet-nazi pact

- * Date 23th august 1939
- * Reason – give time to prepare to war
- * In a way – this was mirror image of Munich pact
- * USSR needed time and it needed to expand her territory as to make sure it took some time for Nazis to reach Moscow

So was stalin preparing the war?

- * In other words – was stalin cunningly planning the strike against germany/west or was his policy less persistent

PRO PLAN

- Choose to befriend germany
- created buffer zone in 1939-1940 (baltic states, bessarabia(moldova-romania) and finland)
- Military production grew rapidly in 1936-1941
- Industrialization in army (USSR had the biggest number of tanks through all armies in the world)

AGAINST

- Inconsistent strikes from one party to another (friends with Germany – enemies with her, social democrats – friends/enemies etc)
- Failure to accept Hitler as a full treat (Hitler was always against slavic states and for expanding german rule eastward rather than westward)
- Purges in army and inconsistent modernization (russian tanks were 1918-1921 models – too old for moder warfare)