



PORTFOLIO GUIDE

POLITBURO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION



INDEX

- 1) Joseph Stalin - General Secretary of the Communist Party
- 2) Felix Dzerzhinsky — Chairman of the GPU
- 3) Nadezhda Krupskaya — Wife of Lenin & Commissar for Education
- 4) Grigory Zinoviev — Chairman of the Comintern
- 5) Nikolai Bukharin — Commissar for Propaganda
- 6) Valerian Kuibyshev — Chairman of the Central Control Commission
- 7) Alexandra Artyukhina — Women's Department (Zhenotdel) Representative
- 8) Leon Trotsky — People's Commissar for Military & Naval Affairs
- 9) Grigory Sokolnikov — People's Commissar for Finance
- 10) David Riazanov — Marx-Engels Institute Director
- 11) Nikolai Semashko — Commissar for Public Health
- 12) Mikhail Kalinin — Chairman of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee
- 13) Alexandra Kollontai — Soviet Ambassador to Norway
- 14) Konstantin Yurenev - Soviet Ambassador to Italy
- 15) Vyacheslav Molotov — Party Secretary
- 16) Alexei Serebrovsky — Director of Soviet Mining and Metallurgy
- 17) Vladimir Milyutin — Director of the USSR Central Statistical Administration
- 18) Maria Ilyinichna Ulyanova – Sister of Lenin & Executive Secretary of Pravda
- 19) Karl Radek — Senior Comintern Strategist
- 20) Georgy Chicherin — People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs
- 21) A.P. Smirnov — People's Commissar for Agriculture
- 22) Eduard Essen — People's Commissar for Justice
- 23) Sergo Ordzhonikidze — Head of the Transcaucasian Bureau
- 24) Yevgeny Preobrazhensky — Economic Theorist of the CPSU
- 25) Lazar Kaganovich — First Secretary of the Turkestan Party Committee
- 26) Nikolai Krestinsky — Soviet Ambassador to Germany
- 27) Anatoly Lunacharsky — Commissar for Enlightenment
- 28) Rosalia Zemlyachka — Deputy Chairman, Crimean Regional Executive Committee
- 29) Alexei Rykov — Chairman of the Supreme Council of the National Economy (VSNKh)
- 30) Mikhail Tukhachevsky — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army
- 31) Sergei Kirov — Leningrad Party Committee Secretary
- 32) Konstantin Tsiolkovsky — Commissar for Science and Technological Development



33) Kliment Voroshilov — Deputy Commander, Red Army High Command

34) Stanislav Kosior — Ukrainian Party Secretary

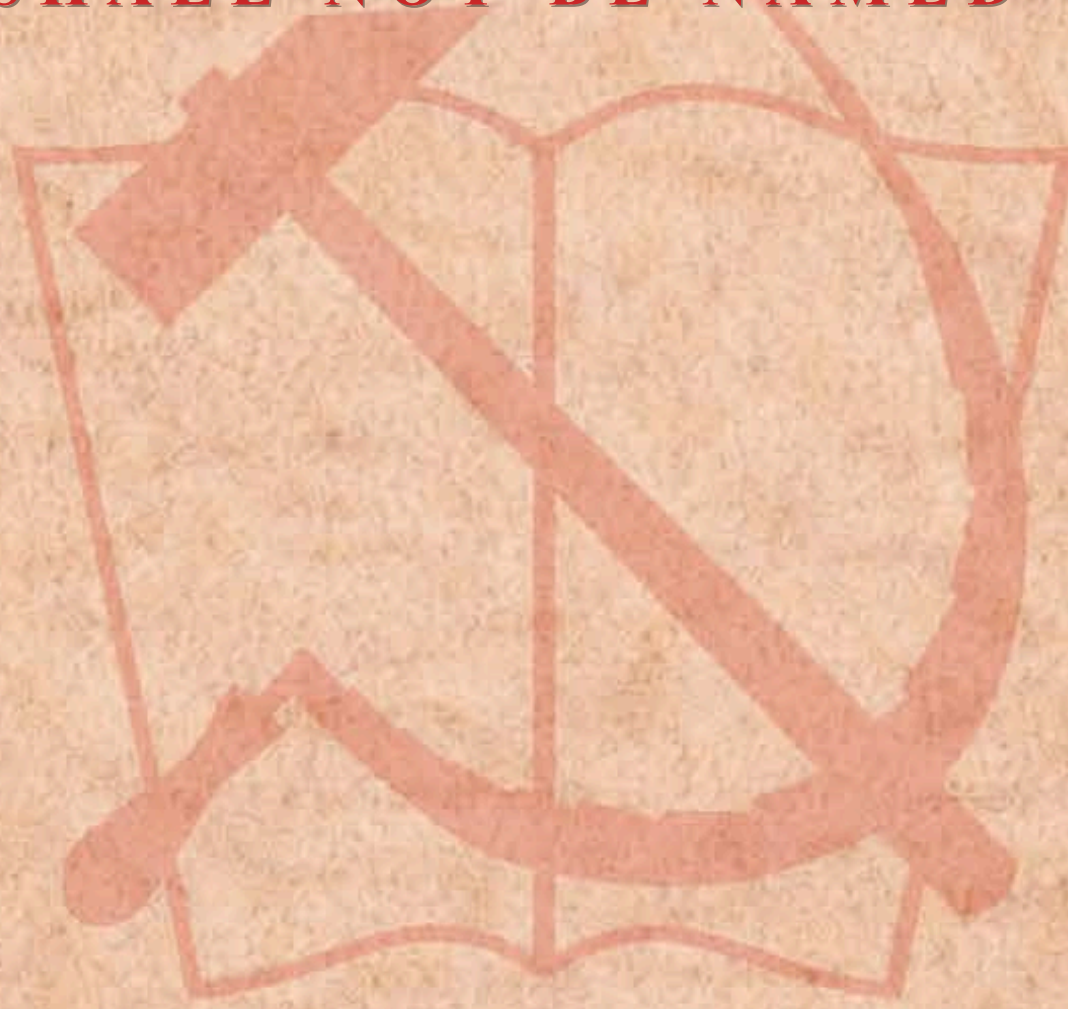
35) Genrikh Yagoda — Deputy Chairman of the GPU

36) Pavel Dybenko — Deputy Naval Commissar

37) Christian Rakovsky — Soviet Ambassador to United Kingdom

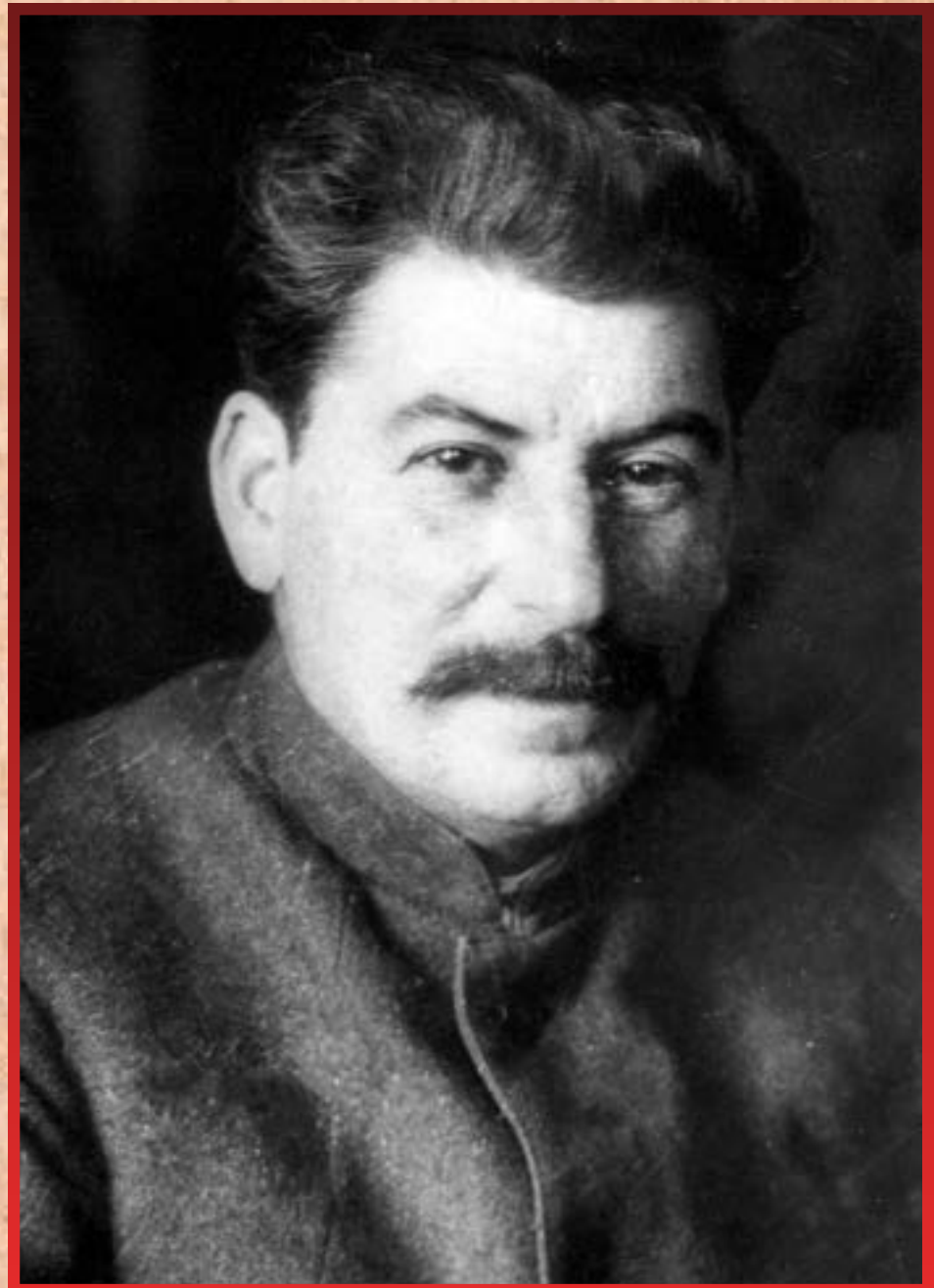
38) Joffe Adolph Abramovich — Soviet Ambassador to China

39) HE WHO SHALL NOT BE NAMED
CITATIONS



1) Joseph Stalin - General Secretary of the Communist Party

Joseph Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, son of Besarion Jughashvili and Ekaterine Geladze, was born on 18th December 1878 in Gori, Georgia, then part of the Tiflis Governorate of the Russian Empire. He was their third child and the only one to survive past infancy. After Besarion's shoemaking workshop (Family business) went into decline, the family fell into poverty, and Joseph's father became an alcoholic who beat his wife and son, thus Joseph's mother and Joseph himself left their home in 1883. In 1890, Joseph was hit by a phaeton(vehicle), which caused him to have a lifelong disability in his left arm.



Joseph joined the Tiflis Orthodox Theological Seminary in 1894, but he was expelled for his involvement in revolutionary activities after being influenced by Nikolay Chernyshevsky's pro-revolutionary novel "What Is to Be Done?" In October 1899, he worked at the Tiflis observatory and attracted a group of socialist supporters, organised a secret meeting, and convinced the members to strike on May Day 1900. This caught the attention of the empire's secret police, and they attempted to arrest him in 1901, but he went into hiding. Caught on numerous occasions for taking part in such acts, he was exiled or imprisoned by czarist authorities on an intermittent basis between 1902 and 1917. The most famous of these was the 1907 Tiflis bank robbery, in which revolutionaries seized a large shipment of government funds. While Lenin defended such expropriations as necessary for revolutionary survival, they were controversial even within socialist circles. Stalin was repeatedly arrested between 1902 and 1913 and exiled to Siberia several times.

Following the Bolshevik victory in October 1917, he was appointed People's Commissar for Nationalities (Narkomnats). In this role, he helped structure the early framework for managing the diverse ethnic territories of the former Russian Empire, laying the groundwork for what would later become the federal structure of the USSR. During the Civil War (1918–1921), Stalin served as a political commissar on several fronts, including Tsaritsyn (later renamed Stalingrad). His conduct there was marked by conflicts with military professionals and with Trotsky, who was People's Commissar for Military Affairs. Stalin favoured harsh measures, strict political control, and distrust of former Tsarist officers. These tensions established an early rivalry between him and Trotsky. From 1917 to 1922, he directed the nationalities policy for the newly installed Bolshevik government led by Lenin. In 1922, Stalin was elected general secretary of the Communist Party at Lenin's behest.



2) Felix Dzerzhinsky — Chairman of the GPU

Felix Dzerzhinsky was born into a Polish noble family in the Russian Empire in 1877. He attended school in Vilnius, where he became associated with the Socialist movement. He became a founder of the Social Democratic Party of Lithuania and later helped found the Social Democratic Party of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania along with Rosa Luxemburg. He was a Communist activist in the areas of Kowno and Warsaw from 1897 to 1899. In the early 1900's, he began to gravitate toward the Russian Social Democratic Party, and by 1906, he was named a member of the Central Committee of the party.



He then began to split his activities between St. Petersburg and Warsaw. Dzerzhinsky was imprisoned frequently between 1908 and 1917. He spent eleven years in and out of prison or exile. In February of 1917, he was released from prison as part of a general amnesty. He became a loyal supporter and ally of Vladimir Ilich Lenin upon Lenin's return to Russia in April 1917.

Following the October Revolution, Lenin appointed Dzerzhinsky to head the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for to Combat of Counterrevolution and Sabotage (Cheka, Vecheka, or the Soviet secret police). The Cheka was meant to be only a temporary creation until the revolution had stabilised society. It operated on the same organisational basis as the Okhrana, the czarist secret police, but incorporated the viciousness and cruelty of the Oprichnina, the secret police of Czar Ivan IV. What few restraints there were on the Cheka dissolved after the assassination of Moisei Uritskii, the Petrograd Party chief, and the attempted assassination of Lenin by Fanya Kalpan. Dzerzhinsky, released from his remaining fetters, let loose the "Red Terror." Dzerzhinsky, who had begun to see himself as the Robespierre of the Russian Revolution, would travel around Russia in an armored train, dispensing swift, inflexible "justice."

He presided over the executions of thousands of people. In addition, the application of class terror was taken to a new extreme, and executions based on class origin became the norm. Mass arrests of wealthy or successful farmers (kulaks) were instituted, and concentration camps (precursors to the Gulags) were developed to detain family members of possible anti-Bolshevik partisans. Sweeping arrests of Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries were carried out under the premise that such elements were provoking the workers in Petrograd and Moscow. Zionists and Roman Catholics were also targeted. The appearance of legality was maintained as so-called kangaroo courts fabricated evidence. Dzerzhinsky instituted the process by which the condemned was forced to sign a confession just before he or she was executed.

Dzerzhinsky turned his attention to cleansing the military after the Kronstadt revolt of 1921. Thirty thousand soldiers and sailors were killed in crushing the military base revolt. The Cheka then began to penetrate every facet of daily life, in order to ensure the security of the state.

By 1922, Lenin and Dzerzhinsky realized that the Cheka had gained a vile reputation for shedding as much innocent blood as guilty. In an attempt to assuage popular concerns, the Cheka in February of 1922 was renamed the State Political Directorate, or GPU. Nothing really changed except the name, which later became the Joint State Political Directorate (OGPU) and then the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD).



3) Nadezhda Krupskaya — Wife of Lenin & Commissar for Education

Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya was a long-standing Bolshevik revolutionary, educator, and Party organizer. Before 1917, she was deeply involved in underground revolutionary activity, including propaganda distribution, organizing study circles, and managing Party correspondence networks. She was arrested and exiled in the 1890s, during which time she married Vladimir Lenin in Siberia. Throughout Lenin's years in exile across Europe, Krupskaya acted as his secretary, editor, and organizational assistant.



She managed communications between Bolshevik cells, handled Party documentation, and helped coordinate the newspaper Iskra. Her administrative discipline and ideological commitment made her central to maintaining Party cohesion before the revolution. After 1917, she did not assume a ceremonial role but instead worked within the People's Commissariat for Education (Narkompros), focusing on literacy campaigns, library development, and adult education. She played a major role in expanding mass literacy programs across the Soviet Union, especially targeting workers and peasants who had been excluded from formal education under the Tsarist regime. Krupskaya strongly supported the creation of a unified state education system based on socialist principles. She was involved in shaping early Soviet pedagogy, advocating polytechnic education, combining academic study with productive labor. She also helped establish a nationwide public library network to promote political education and access to Marxist literature. Krupskaya was Lenin's political partner as well as his spouse. She was deeply familiar with his ideological thinking and strategic approach. During Lenin's final illness (1922–1924), she was closely involved in managing his documents and communications.

After Lenin's death, she retained moral authority as his widow, but she did not command a strong independent faction. Her political influence derived more from ideological legitimacy and her long revolutionary service than from control of Party machinery.

Two days before the upcoming Politburo meeting, Krupskaya was elevated to the position of Commissar for Education due to administrative instability and emergency conditions within Narkompros. Her appointment reflects both her long experience in educational administration and her ideological reliability. As Commissar, she assumes responsibility for national education policy, literacy campaigns, curriculum direction, teacher training institutions, and oversight of cultural-educational bodies. Immediate priorities likely include stabilizing administrative control, ensuring continuity of literacy programs, maintaining ideological consistency in textbooks, and coordinating with regional education committees. Given her previous work inside Narkompros, her promotion formalizes authority she had already exercised informally in educational policy design. However, she must now manage broader bureaucratic structures and balance ideological goals with practical state-building concerns.



4) Grigory Zinoviev — Chairman of the Comintern

Four days before the general election in October 1924, the rightwing Daily Mail published a letter supposedly from Comintern leader Grigory Zinoviev to the Communist Party of Great Britain (or 'British Communist Party' as it is called in the letter). The Comintern was an organisation established by Lenin in 1919 to facilitate international revolution. British politics spun into a spiral of fear about an imminent uprising of workers who were acting on Moscow's orders. He became a non-voting member of the ruling Politburo when it was created after the VIII Congress on 25 March 1919.



He also became the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Comintern when it was created in March 1919. It was in this capacity he presided over the Congress of the Peoples of the East in Baku in September 1920 and gave his famous four-hour speech in German at the Halle congress of the Independent Social Democratic Party of Germany in October 1920. Zinoviev was responsible for Petrograd's defence during two periods of intense clashes with White forces in 1919. Trotsky, who was in overall charge of the Red Army during the Russian Civil War, thought little of Zinoviev's leadership, which aggravated their strained relationship. In early 1921, when the Communist Party was split into several factions, and policy disagreements were threatening the unity of the Party, Zinoviev supported Lenin's faction. As a result, Zinoviev was made a full member of the Politburo after the Xth Party Congress on 16 March 1921. Zinoviev was one of the most influential figures in the Soviet leadership during Lenin's final illness in 1922–23 and immediately after his death in January 1924. He delivered the Central Committee's reports to the XIIth and XIIIth Party Congresses in 1923 and 1924, respectively, something that Lenin had previously done.

5) Nikolai Bukharin — Commissar for Propaganda

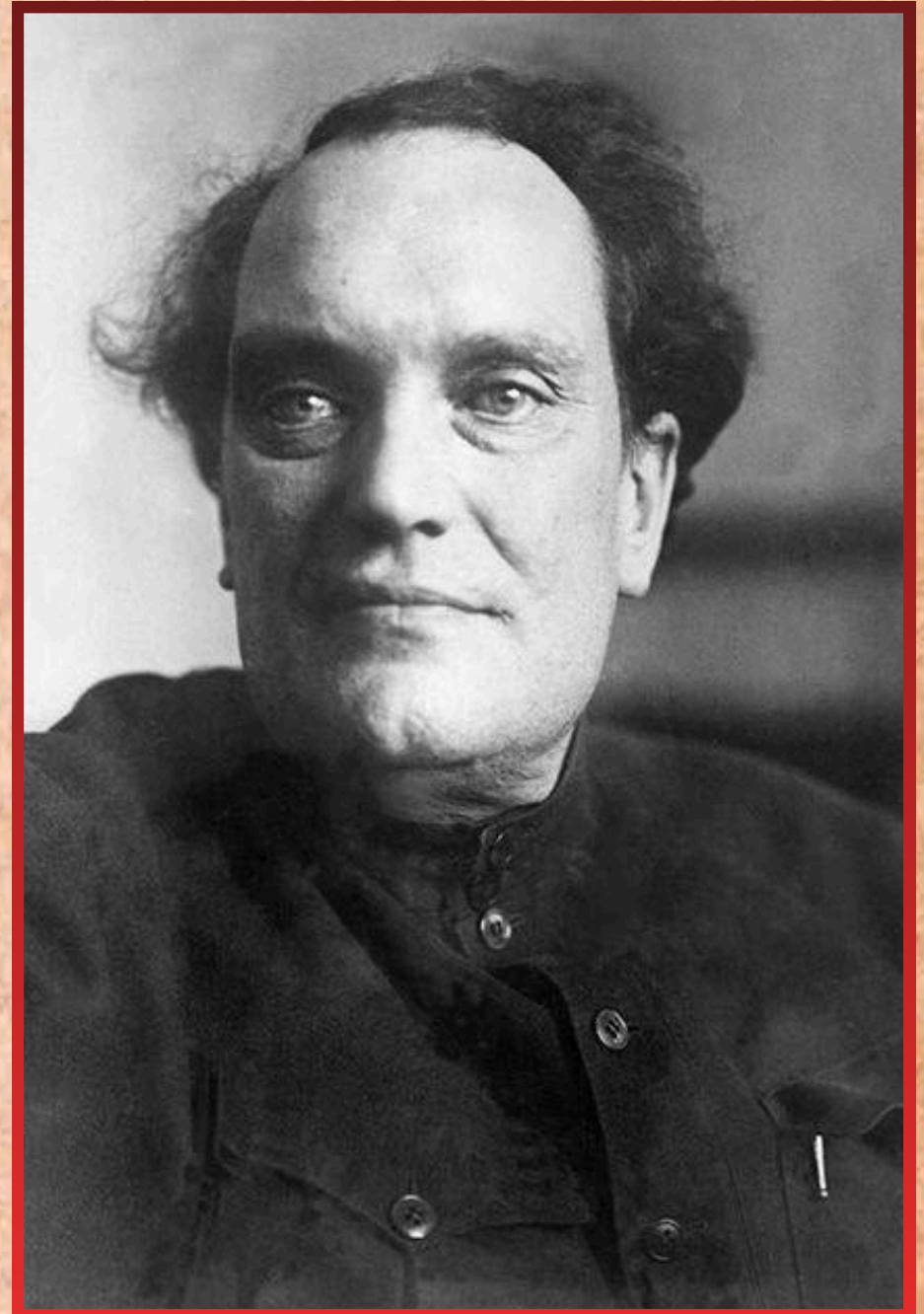
Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin was a Russian revolutionary, Soviet politician and Marxist theorist. He has been active in the Soviet government since 1917 and was made the official Commissar of Propoganda for the Soviet Union shortly before Lenin's death. He is the chief editor of Pravda, the most widely used newspaper in Russia. His role grants him substantial influence over how Party policy is interpreted, communicated, and justified to both Party members and the broader population. As a leading voice associated with Pravda and other official publications, Bukharin exercises control over the dissemination of political narratives, ensuring that Party decisions are framed in a manner consistent with Marxist-Leninist



doctrine. His powers extend to shaping educational materials, guiding agitation and propaganda campaigns (agitprop), and supervising the ideological training of Party cadres, thereby influencing not only public perception but also internal Party discipline and unity. Bukharin plays a central role in legitimising key policies, particularly the New Economic Policy (NEP), by presenting them as necessary and theoretically sound adaptations rather than ideological compromises. Within the Politburo, his authority is not primarily administrative or coercive, but intellectual and persuasive; he helps define the ideological boundaries within which policy debates occur, indirectly shaping decisions by influencing how they are understood. Furthermore, his position allows him to coordinate messaging across various Party organs, ensuring consistency and preventing factional divergence in public discourse. However, his powers are inherently dependent on the collective structure of the leadership, meaning that while he can strongly influence opinion, he cannot enforce policy independently. In this sense, Bukharin functions as the Party's chief interpreter and defender of doctrine.

6) Valerian Kuibyshev — Chairman of the Central Control Commission

In 1920, Kuybyshev became a member of the Praesidium of the Red International of Trade Unions, which charged him with implementing the GOELRO plan. From 6 July 1923 to 5 August 1926 he served as the first economical inspector of the USSR (People's Commissar of the Rabkrin). From 1926 to 1930 he chaired the Supreme Council of the National Economy, from 1930 to 1934 he directed Gosplan, and he served as a full member of the Politburo from 1934 until his death. As a principal economic advisor to Joseph Stalin, he became one of the most influential members in the Communist Party.



He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner. Kuybyshev was one of the initiators of the first edition of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia and served as a member of its chief editorial board. Member of the 11th Secretariat In office 3 April 1922 – 25 April 1923. Full member of the 12th, 17th Orgburo In office 26 April 1923 – 2 June 1924. People's Commissar of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspectorate In office 6 July 1923 – 5 August 1926. Premier Vladimir Lenin. During the Russian Civil War of 1917-1923 he chaired the revolutionary committee of Samara province and became a political commissar in the First and Fourth Red Armies. In 1920 Kuybyshev became a member of the Presidium of the Red International of Trade Unions, which charged him with the implementation of the GOELRO plan.



7) Alexandra Artyukhina — Women's Department (Zhenotdel) Representative

Alexandra Artyukhina was born in Volochoyok. She joined the communist labour movement in Russia and was exiled in circa 1909. After three years, she returned to Russia and resumed her work in both textiles and union organising. She was an early Russian Bolshevik and revolutionary. She is currently head of the Women's Department of the Central Committee of the All-Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks), also known as the Zhenotdel. Before his death, one of Vladimir Lenin's last acts was to remove Klavdiya Nikolayeva from this position, as part of party-restructuring reforms.



The main ideology of the Artyukhina-led Zhenotdel is the creation of a liberated and independent woman who is free and equal to men in every aspect of life. Unlike the Bolsheviks, who believe that once Capitalism is abolished and capital is redistributed to the masses, every person would automatically be rid of their prejudices and an egalitarian society would flourish, Artyukhina's beliefs state that small-scale programs will create the ideal Communist state. One of her main objectives is the creation of daycare centres, factories, and laundries to relieve women from the domestic duties added to their industrial work. In order to eliminate the capitalist state and the exploitation of the proletariat, the Zhenotdel believe that it is essential for women to be liberated and equal to their male comrades. One of the primary tools that Artyukhina possess are the literacy campaigns and political education programs conducted by the Zhenotdel, where the published materials explaining social ideology to women, thus giving her extensive influence over the women of the Soviet Union. The Zhenotdel also sent delegations to rural areas to spread awareness and educate the masses.

8) Leon Trotsky — People's Commissar for Military & Naval Affairs

Leon Trotsky was one of the key figures in the 1905 Revolution, the October Revolution, the Russian Civil War and in the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Trotsky and Vladimir Lenin were considered the most influential figures in the Soviet state till Lenin's death. Trotsky stands as one of the leading contenders to succeed Lenin. Trotsky joined the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in 1898 and was subsequently arrested and exiled to Siberia for his activities. In 1902, he escaped to London, where he met Vladimir Lenin.



Trotsky initially sided with the Mensheviks against Lenin's Bolsheviks in the party's 1903 schism, but later declared himself non-factional in 1904. In 1905, Trotsky was elected chairman of the Saint Petersburg Soviet. He was again exiled to Siberia, but escaped in 1907 and lived abroad. After the February Revolution of 1917, Trotsky joined the Bolsheviks and was elected chairman of the Petrograd Soviet. He helped to lead the October Revolution, and as the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, negotiated the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, by which Russia withdrew from World War I. He has been serving as People's Commissar for Military Affairs since 1918, during which time he built the Red Army and led it to victory in the civil war. In 1922, Lenin formed a bloc with Trotsky against the growing Soviet bureaucracy and proposed that Trotsky should become a deputy premier, but Trotsky declined. Since 1923, Trotsky has been leading the party's Left Opposition faction. Being the founder and head of the Red Army and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Military Council, Trotsky had significant power and influence. His greatest power was the Red Army, and he commanded respect from various military officers due to the important role he played during the Russian Civil War.

However, this power was still politically limited because the Politburo remained wary of military domination. Another major source of power was his prestige as a former revolutionary because he was seen as Lenin's closest intellectual collaborator. He was widely respected as a brilliant orator, theorist and organiser and had a strong influence over ideology and strategy.



9) Grigory Sokolnikov — People's Commissar for Finance

Grigory Sokolnikov was born Girsh Yankelevich Brilliant to a Jewish family. He moved to Moscow and became involved with the Bolshevik faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party along with his friend and classmate Nikolai Bukharin. He was elected to the Moscow party committee in 1917. After the October Revolution, he was a member of the original delegation led by Joffe sent to Brest-Litovsk to sign a truce with Germany. After the October Revolution, he was a member of the original delegation led by Joffe sent to Brest-Litovsk to sign a truce with Germany.

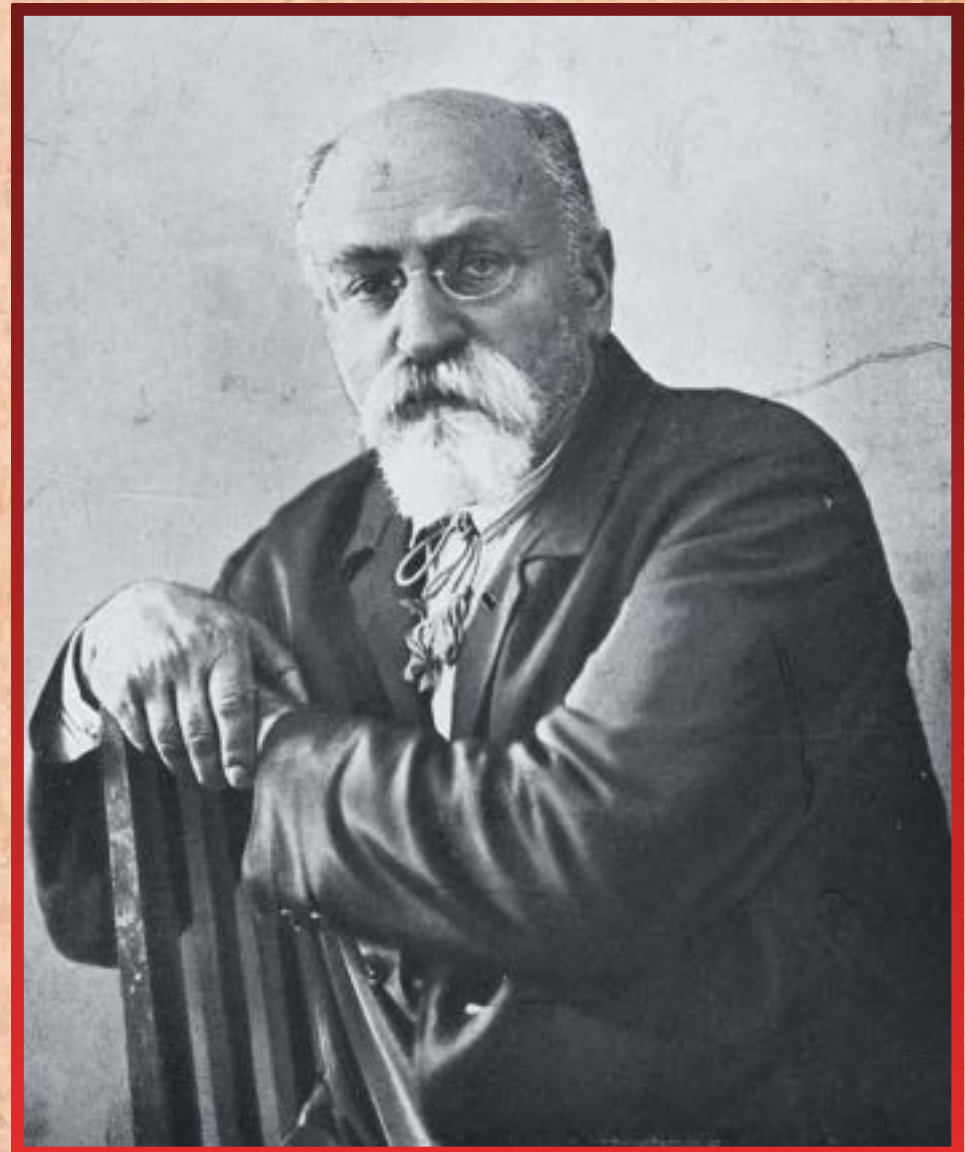


Sokolnikov was appointed USSR Deputy People's Commissar of Finance on 10 January 1922. In March 1922, he was re-elected to the Central Committee (from which he had been dropped in 1920) and in the autumn he was formally appointed as People's Commissar. This role made him central to the introduction of the New Economic Policy (NEP). More than anyone else, he is credited with introducing a stable currency to end the economic chaos of the civil war years. He proposed the introduction of a new currency in the month when he first took office. The 'gold bank notes' or chervontsi were issued by the state bank in November 1922. In 1922, Grigory Sokolnikov consistently advocated weakening the state monopoly on foreign trade. He argued that private enterprises established under the New Economic Policy (NEP) should be allowed to import machinery and export their goods independently, without relying on state agencies. However, he faced strong opposition from Vladimir Lenin, who criticised the proposal as dangerously misguided and warned that it could harm the Soviet state if not corrected. As People's Commissar for Finance, he demonstrated considerable administrative ability, notably overseeing the introduction of the first stable Soviet currency.

10) David Riazanov — Marx-Engels Institute Director

David Riazanov, born David Borisovich Goldendakh, was a Russian revolutionary, bibliographer, Marxist, and archivist. He was an associate of Leon Trotsky and founded the Marx-Engels Institute. He was exiled in 1909 and established a small group of Marxist thinkers in Berlin the following year.

Following Lenin's death in January 1924, Riazanov's position became increasingly precarious despite his institutional prominence.



He was also a founding member of the Socialist Academy, the highest Marxist research institution in the Soviet Union. His intellectual prestige was such that even Lenin had been unable to censor or discipline him. Within party circles, he remained a provocateur, openly refusing factional allegiance, declaring himself neither Bolshevik, Menshevik, nor Leninist, but simply a Marxist. He was also active in the growing trade union movement, helping form the Russian Railway Union. Riazanov was an unorthodox member of the Bolshevik Party. He attended the 4th All-Russian Congress of Trade Unions in May 1921, at which he spoke in favour of the unions' independence from the Communist Party. Working with Communist trade union leader Mikhail Tomsky, Riazanov also authored a resolution calling for wages to be paid with physical commodities rather than the devalued currency of the day. This action put the duo at odds with Lenin, Stalin, and the party's Central Committee. His main power comes from control over the intellectual idea of what communism and Karl Marx's ideas are. Through the Marx-Engels Institute, he published manuscripts authored by the duo and had significant influence over their interpretation, giving him effective ideological control.

11) Nikolai Semashko — Commissar for Public Health

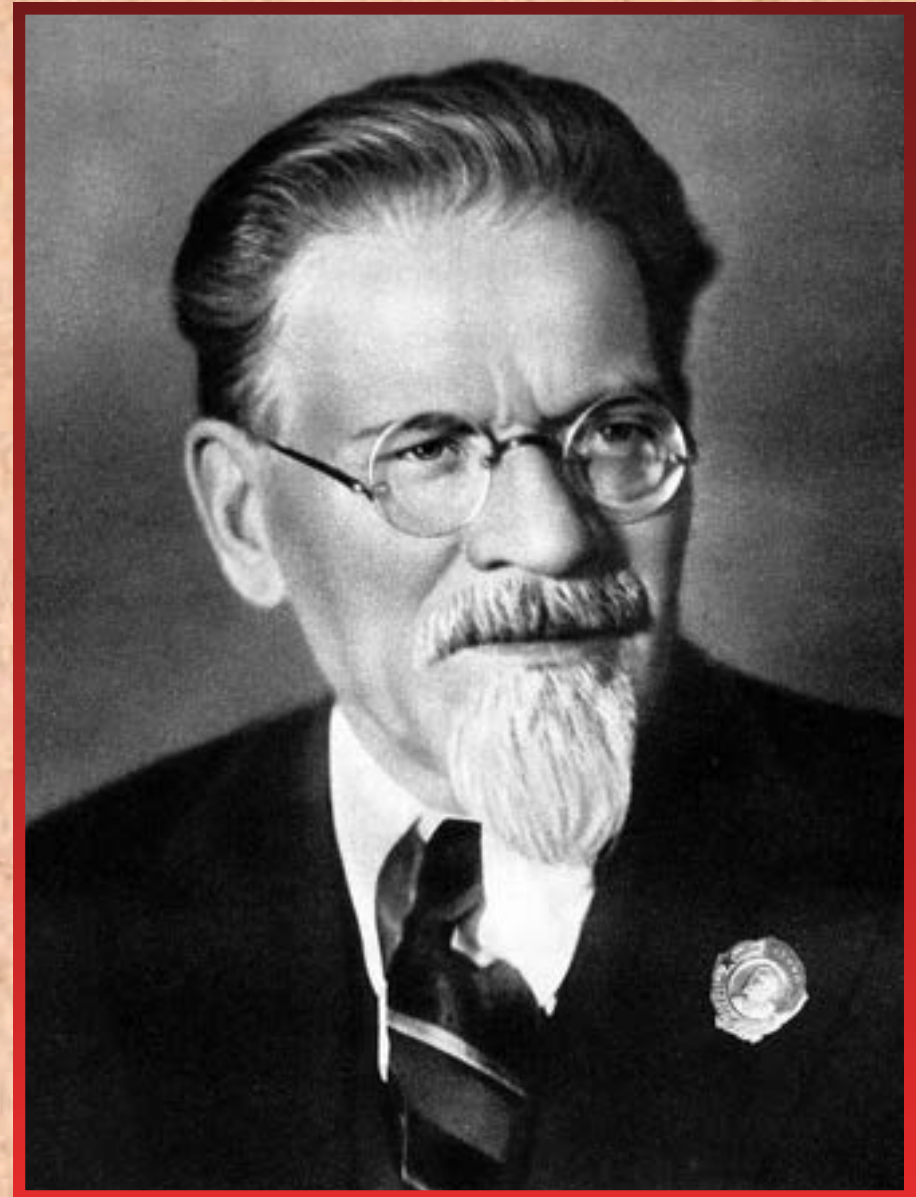
Nikolai Aleksandrovich Semashko was a Russian revolutionary and Soviet bureaucrat and physician who became People's Commissar of Public Health in 1918, and served in that role until 1930. He was one of the organisers of the health system in the Soviet Union (often called the Semashko system). Nikolai Semashko is an important administrative figure within the Soviet state as of 22 January 1924, particularly in the field of public health. A trained physician and early supporter of the Bolshevik movement, he was active in revolutionary circles before 1917 and spent periods in exile due to his political involvement.



Following the October Revolution, he was appointed People's Commissar for Public Health in 1918. In this role, Semashko has been responsible for establishing a centralised, state-controlled healthcare system. His approach emphasises preventive medicine, sanitation, and the expansion of medical services across both urban and rural areas. In the aftermath of the Civil War, his commissariat has taken significant steps to combat epidemics and improve public health through vaccination campaigns and improved medical organisation. Semashko's authority is primarily administrative rather than political. He does not hold a leading position within the Politburo or the central Party leadership, and therefore does not exert major influence over ideological or strategic decisions. However, within his domain, he maintains control over healthcare policy, institutions, and personnel, making him a key executor of state policy. This means he has major control over public healthcare institutions, which gives him an important role in maintaining Marxist policies.

12) Mikhail Kalinin — Chairman of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee

Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin was a Soviet politician and Russian Old Bolshevik revolutionary who served as the nominal head of state of the Soviet Union from 1919. He was integrated into the Politburo by Lenin before his death. Born to a peasant family, Kalinin worked as a metalworker in Saint Petersburg and took part in the 1905 Russian Revolution as an early member of the Bolsheviks. During and after the October Revolution, he served as mayor of Petrograd (St. Petersburg).



After the revolution, Kalinin became the head of the new Soviet state, as well as a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Politburo. He was also the Chairman of the Central Executive Committee in the Russian Federal Republic. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee gave a general direction for the policies of the Worker-Peasant government and all bodies of the Soviet power in the country. It united and coordinated activities for legislation and administration as well as supervised the endorsement of the Soviet Constitution, declarations of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets and central bodies of the Soviet power. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee reviewed and adopted the projects of decrees and other propositions introduced by the Council of People's Commissars and separate departments, as well as issued its own decrees and instructions. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee summoned the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, to which it presented the reports on its activity, general policy, and other inquiries. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee formed the Council of People's Commissars for general administrative affairs of the republic and departments (called People's Commissariats) for the management of separate branches of administration.

13) Alexandra Kollontai — Soviet Ambassador to Norway

Originally from a Russian Aristocratic Family, Alexandra Kollontai became a Marxist in 1899 and initially aligned with the Mensheviks' ideals before joining the Bolsheviks in 1915. Following the October Revolution of 1917, she was appointed as the People's Commissar for Social Welfare, thus becoming the world's first female cabinet minister. In 1919, she was one of the factors in establishing the Zhenotdel (the Women's Department of the Central Committee), where she advocated for women's liberation,



Between 1920 and 1921, Kollontai became a leading intellectual factor behind the "Workers' Opposition" faction alongside Alexander Shlyapnikov. She criticized the growing authoritarianism and bureaucratization of the Communist Party, and was arguing that trade unions, rather than the party officials, should manage the economy of the nation. This put her directly against Vladimir Lenin. At the 10th Party Congress in March 1921, Lenin permanently banned internal party factions, crushing the Workers' Opposition and marginalizing Kollontai. To lower her political influence, the party leadership transferred her into the diplomatic corps. In 1922, she was sent to the Soviet diplomatic legation in Norway. By October 1922, she was elevated to head of the delegation, and in August 1923, she was officially promoted to Minister Plenipotentiary (Ambassador). Thus, making her the world's first official female ambassador. Leading up to January 1924, Kollontai was entirely focused on her diplomatic mission in Oslo. Her primary objective was navigating complex trade negotiations to secure de jure political recognition of the Soviet Union by the Norwegian government, a vital step in breaking the USSR's international isolation, which she successfully laid the foundation for before Lenin's death

14) Konstantin Yurenev - Soviet Ambassador to Italy

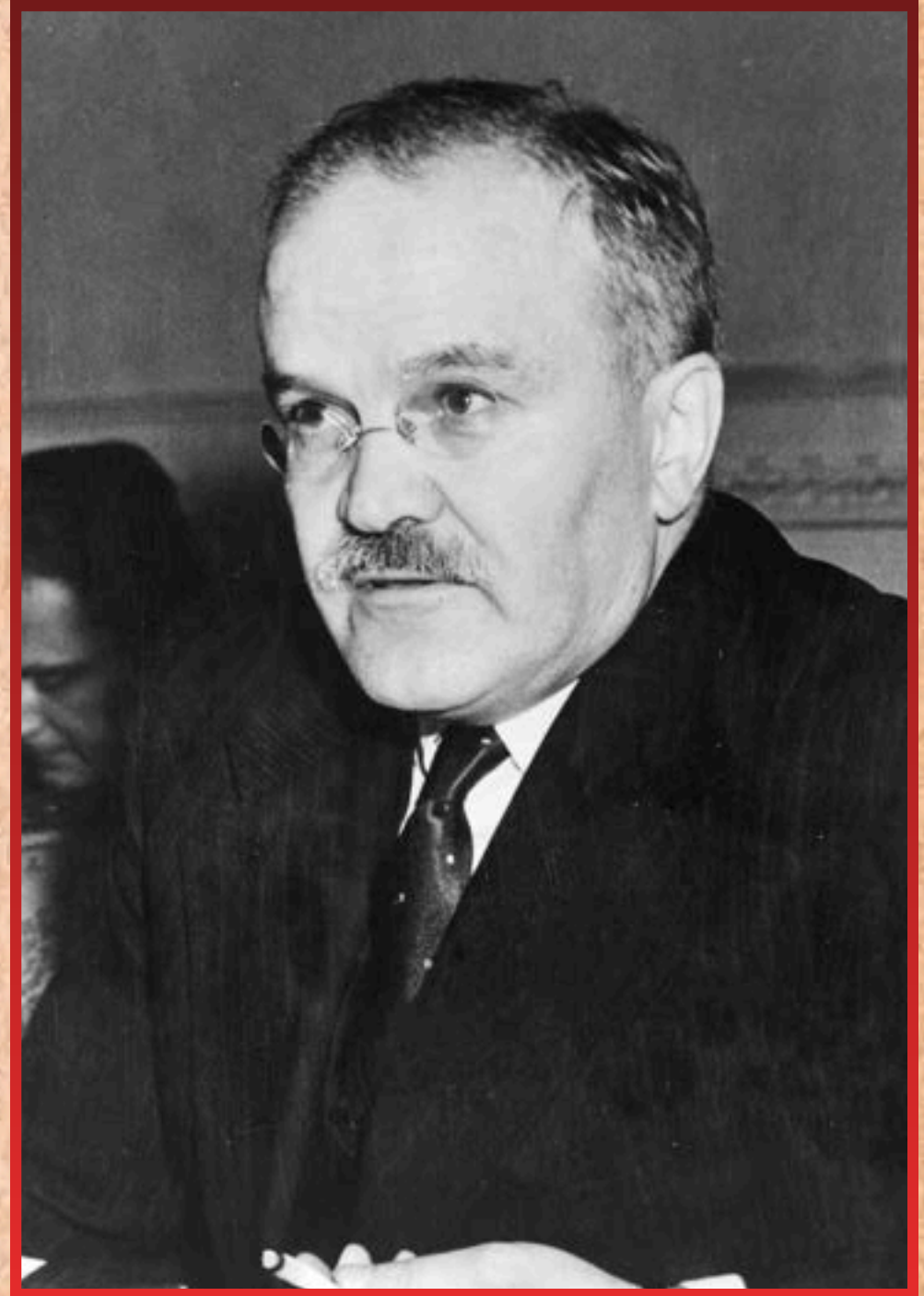
Born in 1888, Konstantin Yurenev joined the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP) in 1906. Before 1917, he was famous within the Mezhraiontsy (the Inter-District Organization), a faction that also included Leon Trotsky and had sought to reconcile the Bolshevik and Menshevik wings. The group merged with the Bolsheviks in the summer of 1917. Yurenev was involved in the October Revolution as a member of the Petrograd Soviet's Executive Committee and acted as a founder in organizing the Red Guards who stormed the capital.



During the Russian Civil War (1918–1920), Yurenev served as a military political organizer. He held several high-ranking positions, including Chairman of the All-Russian Bureau of Political Commissars and was a member of the Revolutionary Military Council (Revvoensoviet) for both the Eastern and Western Fronts. Working closely with Trotsky, he ensured ideological discipline and logistical efficiency within the newly formed Red Army. As the Civil War had finally finished, Yurenev was transferred from military command to foreign diplomacy. In 1921, he was appointed as the plenipotentiary representative to the Bukharan People's Soviet Republic, managing the integration of Central Asia into the Soviet sphere and Union. After he was briefly appointed as the envoy to Latvia in 1922, Yurenev was appointed as the Soviet diplomatic representative to Italy in 1923. His tenure in Rome was around the time of the ascension of Benito Mussolini's fascist regime. Through the end of 1923 and into January 1924, Yurenev's primary directive was to secure a bilateral trade agreement and achieve formal diplomatic recognition from a deeply anti-communist government.

15) Vyacheslav Molotov — Party Secretary

Born Vyacheslav Scriabin, he joined the Bolsheviks in 1906 and adopted the pseudonym "Molotov" (from the Russian word for "hammer", eventually turned into his surname). Unlike most Old Bolshevik intellectuals who spent years in European exile, Molotov spent his pre-revolutionary years engaged in underground organizing and journalism within Russia during the time of the Tsar, serving as an early editor for the party newspaper, Pravda. He was present in Petrograd during the February 1917 revolution, having a hardline stance against the Provisional Government even before Lenin had returned from exile.



After the October Revolution, Molotov had managed provincial party organizations in Nizhny Novgorod and the Donbas. In 1920, He was appointed as the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine. When he was recalled to Moscow the following year, the 10th Party Congress (March 1921) elected him to the Central Committee and appointed him as the "Responsible Secretary" (basically the First Secretary) of the entire party, while also making him a candidate member of the Politburo. From 1921 to 1922, Molotov acted as a chief administrator of the Communist Party. He organized the burgeoning apparatus, managed extensive personnel files, and handled the immense paperwork to run a centralized state. However, Lenin saw him as a rigid, unimaginative bureaucrat, lacking broad political vision. Due to this, in April 1922, the post of "General Secretary" was created for Joseph Stalin, making Molotov his direct subordinate. From 1922 to January 1924, Molotov became one of Stalin's most fiercely loyal and essential lieutenants. While Lenin's health deteriorated, Molotov used his control over the Secretariat to appoint Stalinist loyalists to crucial provincial committees.

16) Alexei Serebrovsky — Director of Soviet Mining and Metallurgy

Born in 1884, Alexei Serebrovsky was an Old Guard revolutionary who was also a highly educated technocrat. He joined the RSDLP in 1903, was arrested multiple times under the Tsarist regime, and graduated as a mechanical engineer from a Belgian institution. After the 1917 October Revolution, he avoided high-level political factionalism, instead being dedicated entirely to the physical and industrial reconstruction of the Soviet state. During the Civil War, he used his logistical expertise to supply materials to the Red Army.



Serebrovsky's most famous accomplishment during this era began in 1920 when Lenin personally dispatched him to Baku, Azerbaijan, to resurrect the devastated petroleum industry. Appointed as the head of the Azneft (the state oil trust), Serebrovsky saw oil fields ruined by war, sabotage, and the chaos of early nationalization. Working with economic authority that can be compared to a dictator's, He prioritized output, imported advanced American rotary drilling technology, and willingly utilized bourgeois specialists, ignoring ideological purity for good results. Because of his turnaround in Baku which gave the struggling Soviet state domestic fuel and needed foreign export capital, his responsibilities were expanded significantly. In 1923, while still controlling the oil sector, he was promoted to the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the National Economy (VSNKh). In this capacity, he was granted overarching authority over Soviet mining and metallurgy. Leading into January 1924, Serebrovsky was a central factor in executing the industrial aspects of the New Economic Policy (NEP). He focused on restructuring state industrial syndicates to ensure profitability and efficiency.

17) Vladimir Milyutin — Director of the USSR Central Statistical Administration

Vladimir Milyutin was a Marxist intellectual and economist who joined the RSDLP. Being imprisoned for years and exiled internally under the Tsarist regime, he became one of the Bolsheviks' leading experts on agrarian and peasant economics. Milyutin played a major factor in the events of 1917 and was then appointed the very first People's Commissar for Agriculture in the original Soviet government (Sovnarkom). In November 1917, alongside leaders like Lev Kamenev and Grigory Zinoviev, he resigned from the Central Committee and the Sovnarkom to protest Lenin's refusal to form a



multi-party socialist coalition government, Milyutin publicly argued that establishing a purely Bolshevik, one-party state would inevitably require maintaining power through political terror. Despite this, he quickly backtracked, submitted to party discipline, and was readmitted to the leadership circles. Between 1918 and 1921, Milyutin served as Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of the National Economy (VSNKh). He was an architect of "War Communism," responsible for nationalizing industry and attempting to centralize production amidst a collapsing, war-torn economy. With the shift to the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1921, his role shifted from forced expropriation to complex economic planning. In 1923, he was appointed as the Director of the Central Statistical Administration (TsSU). Through early 1924, Milyutin was creating the statistical frameworks necessary to map a mixed economy. He had to synthesize agricultural data from the semi-capitalist peasantry with output metrics from state-controlled heavy industry.

18) Maria Ilyinichna Ulyanova – Sister of Lenin & Executive Secretary of Pravda

Born in 1878, Maria Ulyanova was the youngest sibling of Vladimir Lenin. She was integrated into the Russian revolutionary movement, formally joining the RSDLP in 1898. During the Tsarist era, she smuggled illicit Marxist literature and was arrested and exiled multiple times to support her brother's political ambitions. After the October Revolution of 1917, Maria was appointed as the Executive Secretary of Pravda, the official newspaper of the Central Committee. In this position, she managed the daily editorial staff, processed thousands of worker correspondences, and worked as a gatekeeper for the publication of ideological articles.



As Lenin's physical health deteriorated, Maria, alongside Lenin's wife Nadezhda Krupskaya, became his primary caregiver, personal secretary, and political shield at the Gorki estate. Because the Politburo strictly controlled Lenin's access to visitors and external news, Maria was one of the few individuals permitted direct, unfiltered access to the Soviet leader. She recorded his final dictations, including portions of his "Testament" which warned against Stalin's accumulation of power. Upto 22nd January, 1924, Maria was grieving her brother's death while guarding the political secrets of his final writings.



19) Karl Radek — Senior Comintern Strategist

Karl Radek is a senior Bolshevik intellectual and one of the most prominent figures connected with the Comintern apparatus. In January 1924, his influence derived less from a formal state ministry and more from his stature as a strategist, propagandist, and skilled political commentator. He is widely associated with the Communist International's attempt to extend Soviet influence beyond Russia's borders, especially through links with communist movements in Germany and other parts of Europe



Radek is a figure who moves comfortably between ideology and practical politics, and his value to the party lies in his ability to interpret events, frame narratives, and argue for a revolutionary international line when the Soviet state still faces uncertainty at home. He is therefore not merely a theoretician, but a political operator whose words can affect policy direction. Within the Politburo context, Radek's importance lies in his proximity to the question of world revolution and in his ability to influence broader strategic debate. He is not among the principal state administrators, but his access to the highest levels of party discussion makes him a useful and sometimes dangerous voice. Radek is connected to the factional tensions that follow Lenin's death, particularly because he stands at the intersection of ideological discussion and party manoeuvring. His political power is based on argument, networks, and the prestige of Comintern work rather than direct command over organs of state. This gives him significance in succession politics, especially where the future direction of Soviet foreign activism is concerned. Radek's role in the post-Lenin period is therefore best understood as that of an influential political interpreter rather than a formal executive authority. He contributes to the debates surrounding party continuity, security, and the international position of the Soviet state. His standing in the Politburo is shaped by his intelligence, rhetorical force, and ability to remain relevant in a period of rapid consolidation.

20) Georgy Chicherin — People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs

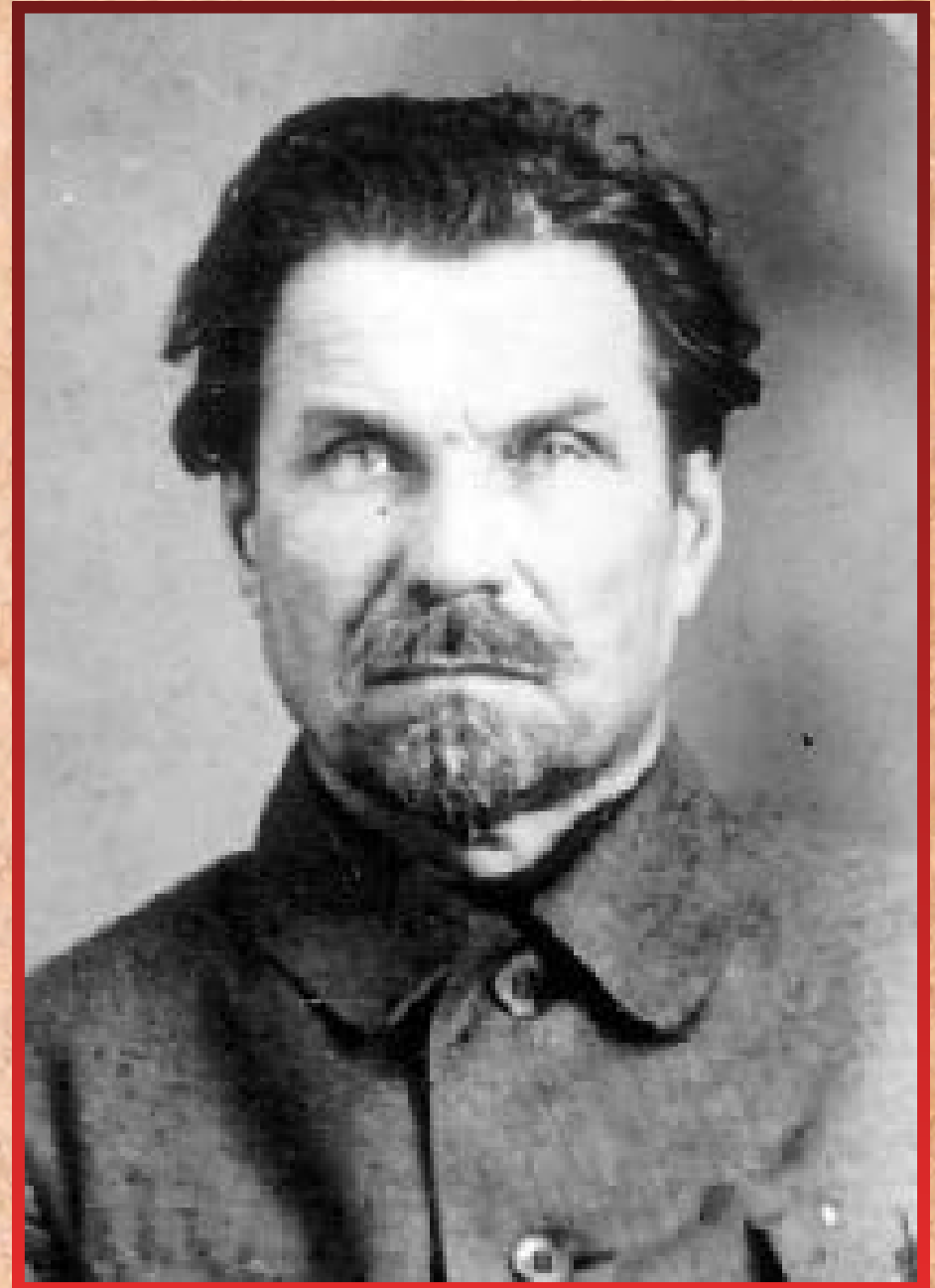
Georgy Chicherin serves as the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, placing him at the centre of Soviet diplomacy at a moment when the young state remains vulnerable to external pressure. He is one of the most important figures in the government's dealings with foreign powers, and his position gives him direct involvement in shaping how the Soviet Union presents itself abroad. Chicherin is associated with a cautious and practical diplomatic style, one that seeks recognition, trade, and security without sacrificing the legitimacy of Soviet power. Within the Politburo, Chicherin represents the foreign policy dimension of Soviet survival.



He is not a mass party speaker like some others, but his influence is felt through treaties, correspondence, and negotiations that determine the Soviet state's room for manoeuvre. He is closely linked to the search for recognition from European powers and to efforts to reduce hostility from capitalist states. Chicherin's position allows him to warn the leadership about external threats, while also arguing for restraint where reckless adventurism could endanger Soviet interests. This makes him a stabilising figure during succession debates, especially when the issue is not only who leads the party, but what kind of foreign line the party should adopt. Chicherin's power is therefore both formal and strategic. He holds one of the most important offices in the Soviet government and has direct influence over relations with the outside world. In a Politburo struggling with the death of Lenin, Chicherin stands for continuity in diplomacy and for a policy that protects the state's survival while it reorganises internally. His role is essential because foreign affairs remain inseparable from domestic security. In any discussion of succession, he would be expected to emphasise stability, international caution, and the need to preserve Soviet legitimacy abroad while the party settles its internal future.

21) A.P. Smirnov — People's Commissar for Agriculture

A.P. Smirnov is associated with agriculture and therefore with one of the most sensitive foundations of Soviet stability: the countryside. His position gives him influence over a sector that remains vital to the Soviet economy and to the political balance between the state and the peasantry. In the years following the Civil War, agriculture is not merely an economic question but a deeply political one, tied to food supply, rural unrest, procurement policy, and the survival of the urban proletariat. Smirnov's importance comes from his connection to this decisive area of governance.



He represents the administrative side of Soviet recovery, especially in a period when the party must balance ideological ambition with practical shortages. In Politburo deliberations, Smirnov's power lies in his ability to speak for agricultural policy and to shape decisions affecting food, land, and rural administration. This makes him important in discussions of state security, because grain supply and peasant compliance are directly connected to political stability. A poor agricultural position can trigger unrest, weaken the cities, and expose the Soviet state to crisis. Smirnov is therefore a figure whose role is not glamorous but highly consequential. He belongs to the group of officials whose authority is measured by the functioning of the state rather than by public rhetoric. His contribution to the Politburo is practical, grounded in the demands of economic order and the needs of a state still consolidating itself after war and revolution. As the succession issue unfolds, Smirnov's significance comes from his proximity to the material foundations of Soviet power. He is likely to favour a leadership line that ensures discipline, continuity, and the protection of rural production. His role would be especially important where food procurement, peasant relations, and agricultural recovery are concerned.

22) Eduard Essen — People's Commissar for Justice

Eduard Essen serves as People's Commissar for Justice, making him a key figure in the legal and institutional order of the Soviet state. His office places him in charge of judicial administration and legal enforcement, both of which are crucial in a system that relies heavily on political discipline and state authority. In the post-Lenin period, justice is not a neutral field; it is part of the machinery that upholds the revolution, suppresses opposition, and defines what is politically acceptable.



Within the Politburo, Essen's influence comes from his ability to shape the legal framework of state policy and to advise on matters involving discipline, procedure, and the treatment of political opponents. He is part of the administrative core that turns political decisions into enforceable mechanisms. His position gives him relevance in questions of factional struggle, because succession disputes are not only political but also legal and institutional. The Commissariat of Justice is important wherever the party seeks to formalise authority, regulate punishment, and preserve state cohesion. Essen would therefore be a useful voice for any leadership that wants to present its decisions as orderly, lawful, and rooted in party discipline. Essen's power is best understood as institutional rather than charismatic. He does not dominate through mass appeal, but through control of legal processes and administrative structures. That makes him especially relevant in a committee concerned with succession and security, since the legal system can be used to define loyalty, suppress instability, and reinforce central authority. In the Soviet context of early 1924, Essen is one of the figures responsible for ensuring that the transition after Lenin does not become a breakdown of order. His role is therefore central to the maintenance of state legitimacy and internal discipline.

23) Sergo Ordzhonikidze — Head of the Transcaucasian Bureau

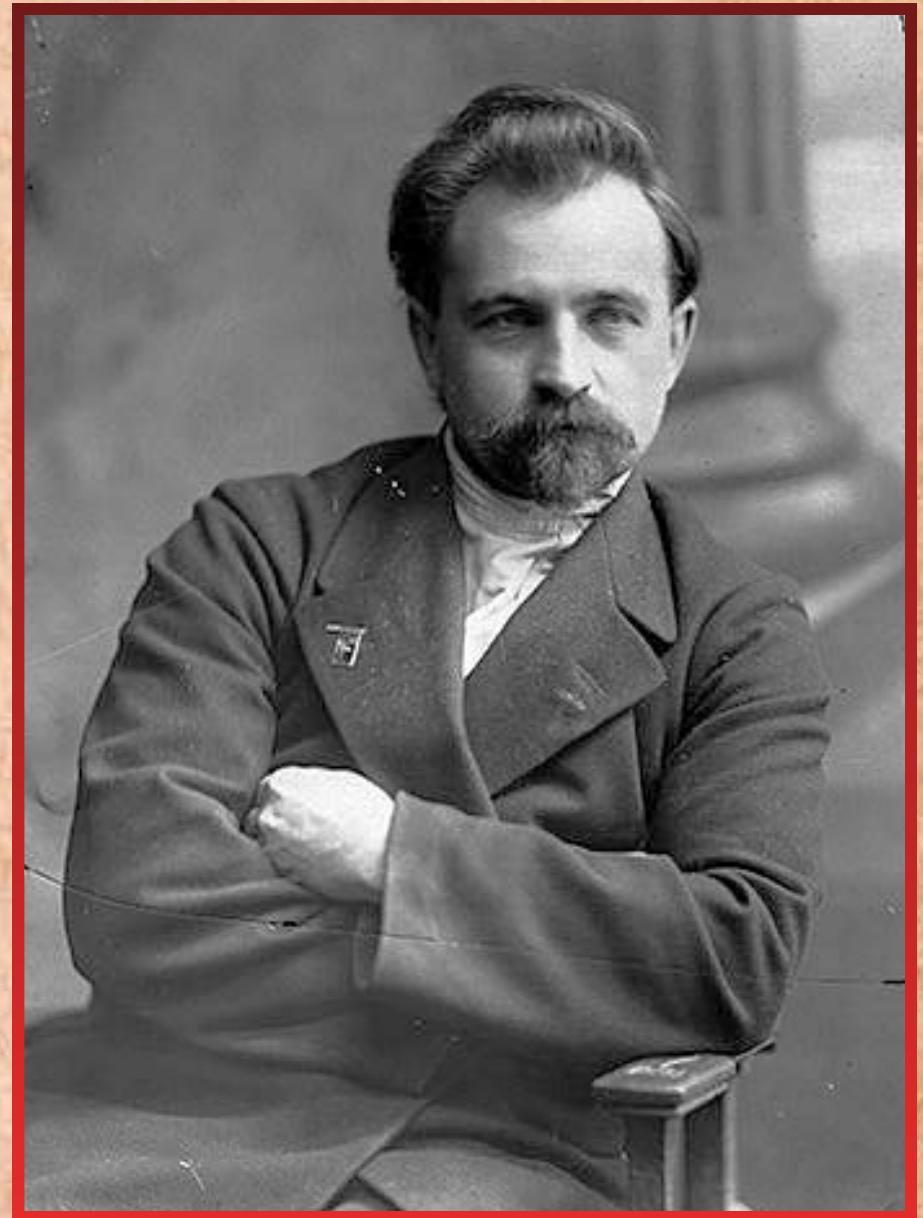
Sergo Ordzhonikidze is one of the most powerful figures connected to the Transcaucasian Bureau, and his position gives him major influence over a strategically sensitive region of the Soviet state. He is associated with the consolidation of Bolshevik authority in the Caucasus, where national questions, local resistance, and border security all remain highly important. Ordzhonikidze's authority comes from both his organisational role and his reputation as a forceful Bolshevik administrator.



He is closely tied to the centralising project of the party and is known for treating regional opposition as something to be broken rather than negotiated with. This gives him a reputation for strength, but also for inflexibility. In Politburo politics, Ordzhonikidze represents hard authority in the borderlands. The Caucasus is not a peripheral issue: it is a region of oil, transport routes, ethnic complexity, and political danger. His power therefore reaches beyond local administration and into the broader security of the Soviet state. He is the kind of figure the leadership relies on when it wants firm implementation and rapid suppression of dissent. Because of this, Ordzhonikidze is important in succession debates, especially for those who favour strong central control and the consolidation of the party's authority over the republics. His position gives him a direct stake in the survival of the state structure created after the revolution and civil war. Ordzhonikidze's influence in January 1924 is best described as forceful, regional, and highly practical. He is not primarily a theorist or diplomat, but an organiser of power in a turbulent frontier zone. In a committee on post-Lenin stability, his presence would matter because the Transcaucasus is a test of whether Soviet authority can hold together its diverse and often unstable territorial base. His role is therefore bound up with security, discipline, and centralisation.

24) Yevgeny Preobrazhensky — Economic Theorist of the CPSU

Yevgeny Preobrazhensky was born in 1886 in the town of Bolkhov in the Orel region of the Russian Empire. He came from a religious background, as his father was a priest, which makes his later shift into revolutionary Marxism quite significant. He joined the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in 1903, the same year the party split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks, and he chose to support the Bolshevik faction led by Vladimir Lenin. During the 1905 Revolution, Preobrazhensky became active in underground party work in the Urals.



His main role was spreading illegal pamphlets, educating workers about socialism, and helping coordinate strikes. Because of this, he was arrested several times by the Tsarist authorities and sent into exile. Instead of losing time, he used exile to study Marxist theory in depth, especially economic theory, which later became his main strength. Between 1905 and 1917, he continued working as a party activist, writer, and organizer, but he never became a major military or street leader. After the February and October Revolutions of 1917, he worked mainly in party committees and administrative roles. During the Russian Civil War, instead of commanding troops, he worked in economic administration and propaganda, helping maintain supplies and communication in areas controlled by the Bolsheviks. By the early 1920s, he had become one of the most respected economic thinkers in Soviet Russia. He was deeply involved in the Communist Academy and party publications. He strongly criticized the New Economic Policy introduced by Lenin in 1921, arguing that it allowed too much private trade and slowed down socialist development. Around 1923 and 1924, he began forming his most famous idea, later known as primitive socialist accumulation, which argued that the Soviet state must take surplus resources from the peasantry and direct them into industrial development.

25) Lazar Kaganovich — First Secretary of the Turkestan Party Committee

Lazar Kaganovich was born in 1893 into a poor Jewish family in the Russian Empire. He worked as a shoemaker in his early life before becoming involved in revolutionary politics. He joined the Bolsheviks in 1911 and worked in underground conditions, organizing workers and avoiding arrest by the Tsarist police. After the February Revolution of 1917, Kaganovich quickly rose through local Soviet structures in places like Gomel and Saratov. During the Civil War, he worked as a political commissar and regional administrator.



One of his most important roles was in Central Asia between 1920 and 1922, where he helped suppress the Basmachi movement, which was a major anti Bolshevik resistance group. He used both military force and strong political control to bring the region under Soviet authority. His success in difficult regions brought him to the attention of Joseph Stalin. By 1922, Stalin placed him in charge of the Organisation and Instruction Department of the Communist Party. This role gave him control over party appointments and promotions, which made him extremely powerful behind the scenes. After Lenin's death in January 1924, Kaganovich strongly supported Stalin. He became part of Stalin's growing power network and helped build the system that allowed Stalin to dominate the party. His control over party appointments made him extremely influential. By early 1924, he was already one of the key organizers behind Stalin's rise.



26) Nikolai Krestinsky — Soviet Ambassador to Germany

Nikolai Krestinsky was born in 1883 and trained as a lawyer before becoming a revolutionary. He joined the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in 1903 and became a Bolshevik in 1905. Before 1917, he was arrested multiple times and spent years involved in political work. After the February Revolution, he became a major Bolshevik leader in Yekaterinburg and was elected to the Central Committee in 1917. After the October Revolution, he worked in financial administration and became People's commissar for Finance.



During the Civil War, he helped stabilize the Soviet financial system. In 1923, he was appointed Soviet ambassador to Germany. This was one of the most important diplomatic posts, as Germany was a key partner for the Soviet Union under the Rapallo Treaty, which allowed economic and secret military cooperation.

After January 1924, Krestinsky was politically aligned with Trotsky. He believed the Soviet leadership was too cautious in foreign policy. While he remained in his diplomatic role, he was not part of the dominant power group inside the party.

27) Anatoly Lunacharsky — Commissar for Enlightenment

Anatoly Lunacharsky was born in 1875 and became involved in Marxist politics at a young age. He studied in Zurich, where he met other socialist thinkers and became close to Vladimir Lenin. After the October Revolution, he was appointed People's Commissar for Enlightenment. He held this position through the Civil War and into the early Soviet period. His job was to manage education, culture, and public information. He worked to expand literacy, reform schools, and promote art and culture.



He also helped protect important cultural institutions during a time of major change. Lunacharsky believed that culture should support the revolution, but still remain creative and diverse. After January 1924, Lunacharsky stayed mostly neutral but leaned slightly toward Trotsky on cultural matters. He remained respected and focused on education and culture rather than political struggles.

28) Rosalia Zemlyachka — Deputy Chairman, Crimean Regional Executive Committee

Rosalia Zemlyachka was born in 1876 and quickly emerged as a dedicated revolutionary within the Russian socialist movement. From an early age, she aligned herself with the Bolshevik cause and engaged in clandestine political activities during a time when revolutionary efforts in the Russian Empire posed significant personal dangers. Her initial involvement in the movement demonstrated both ideological dedication and political resolve, and she soon gained recognition as an activist willing to face repeated arrests, surveillance, and repression to remain active in the fight against the tsarist regime.

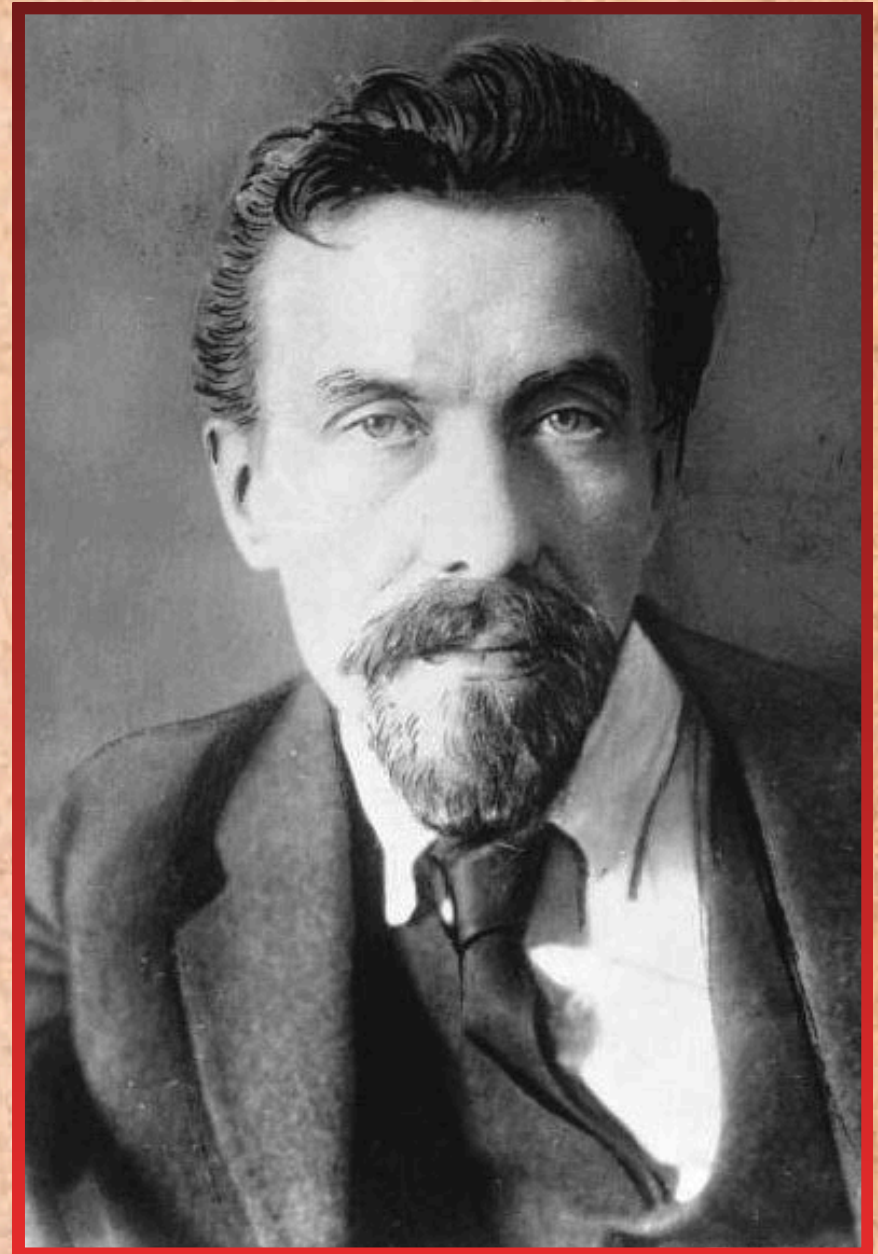


During the 1905 Revolution, Zemlyachka took on an active role within the broader Bolshevik movement. This era was crucial in shaping numerous revolutionary leaders, and Zemlyachka distinguished herself as someone capable of functioning under perilous and volatile conditions. Despite facing multiple arrests, she persistently returned to underground politics, showcasing her determination and discipline. Her revolutionary journey was characterized by unwavering loyalty to the Bolshevik cause and a readiness to operate in secrecy when open political engagement was unfeasible. This commitment made her one of the most seasoned women revolutionaries of her time.

Her most infamous role occurred during the Russian Civil War, where she served as a political commissar and was subsequently dispatched to Crimea in 1920 alongside Béla Kun. Following the defeat of the anti-Bolshevik forces in that region, she became associated with severe repression against the adversaries of the Soviet state. The campaign in Crimea rendered her name feared among opponents of Bolshevik authority, and her actions became synonymous with the most brutal methods of revolutionary consolidation.

29) Alexei Rykov — Chairman of the Supreme Council of the National Economy (VSNKh)

Alexei Ivanovich Rykov, as of 22 January 1924, stands among the most senior and experienced administrators in the Soviet leadership, widely regarded as one of the Bolshevik Party's foremost practical organizers. Born in 1881, Rykov joined the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in the early revolutionary period and aligned himself firmly with the Bolshevik faction under Vladimir Lenin. Unlike many prominent revolutionaries known chiefly for ideological rhetoric, Rykov built his reputation through administrative competence, economic management, and organizational discipline.



Following the October Revolution of 1917, Rykov held several crucial posts in the new Soviet state. He served as People's Commissar of Internal Affairs briefly and later became deeply involved in managing the national economy, particularly through the Supreme Council of the National Economy (Vesenkha). His role expanded during the Civil War and reconstruction years, where he became associated with pragmatic economic stabilization rather than radical theoretical innovation. Rykov was a strong supporter of the New Economic Policy (NEP), backing Lenin's partial reintroduction of market mechanisms as necessary for Soviet recovery after War Communism.

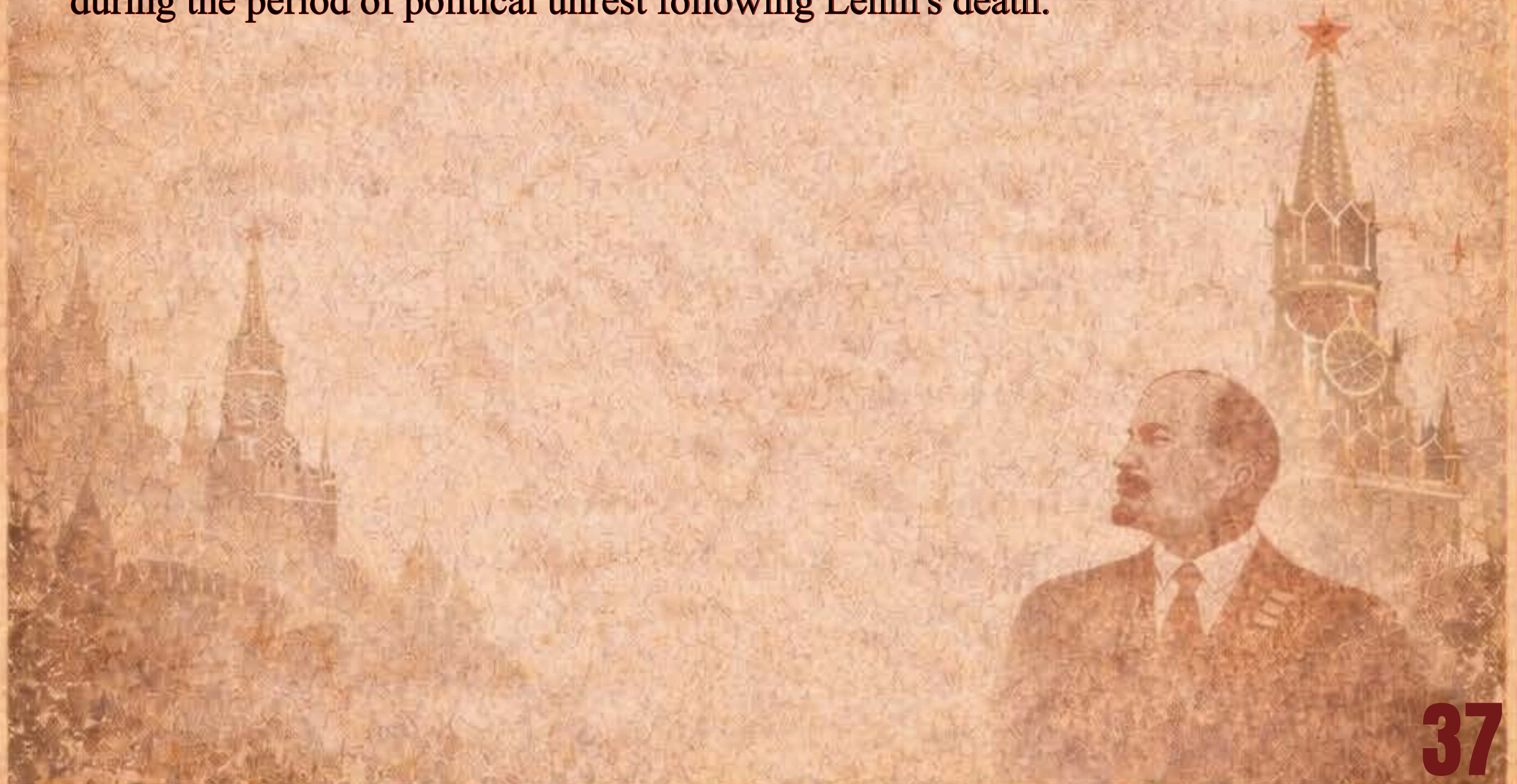
By January 1924, Rykov is a full member of the Politburo and a trusted figure in state governance, often seen as a moderate and reliable executor rather than a charismatic power contender like Leon Trotsky or Joseph Stalin. His influence lies in his institutional authority, especially in economic administration and government procedure.

30) Mikhail Tukhachevsky — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army

Mikhail Tukhachevsky was a renowned Soviet military Commander and theorist who was widely regarded as one of the most talented leaders of the Red Army. He was born in 1893 and initially served in the Imperial Army during the first World War where he was captured by German forces but expertly escaped. After the October Revolution, he joined the Bolsheviks and rose to an important post during the Russian Civil War, playing a decisive role in its key campaigns which ultimately secured Bolshevik victory.



By the early 1920s, he became a central figure within the Red Army's high command, helping to shape its organizational structure and operational doctrine. He was known for Emphasising the importance of tanks and artillery, subsequently coordinating and planning large scale offensives, truly a revolutionary mind. His influence reflected the importance of military power and his innovation was a light during the period of political unrest following Lenin's death.

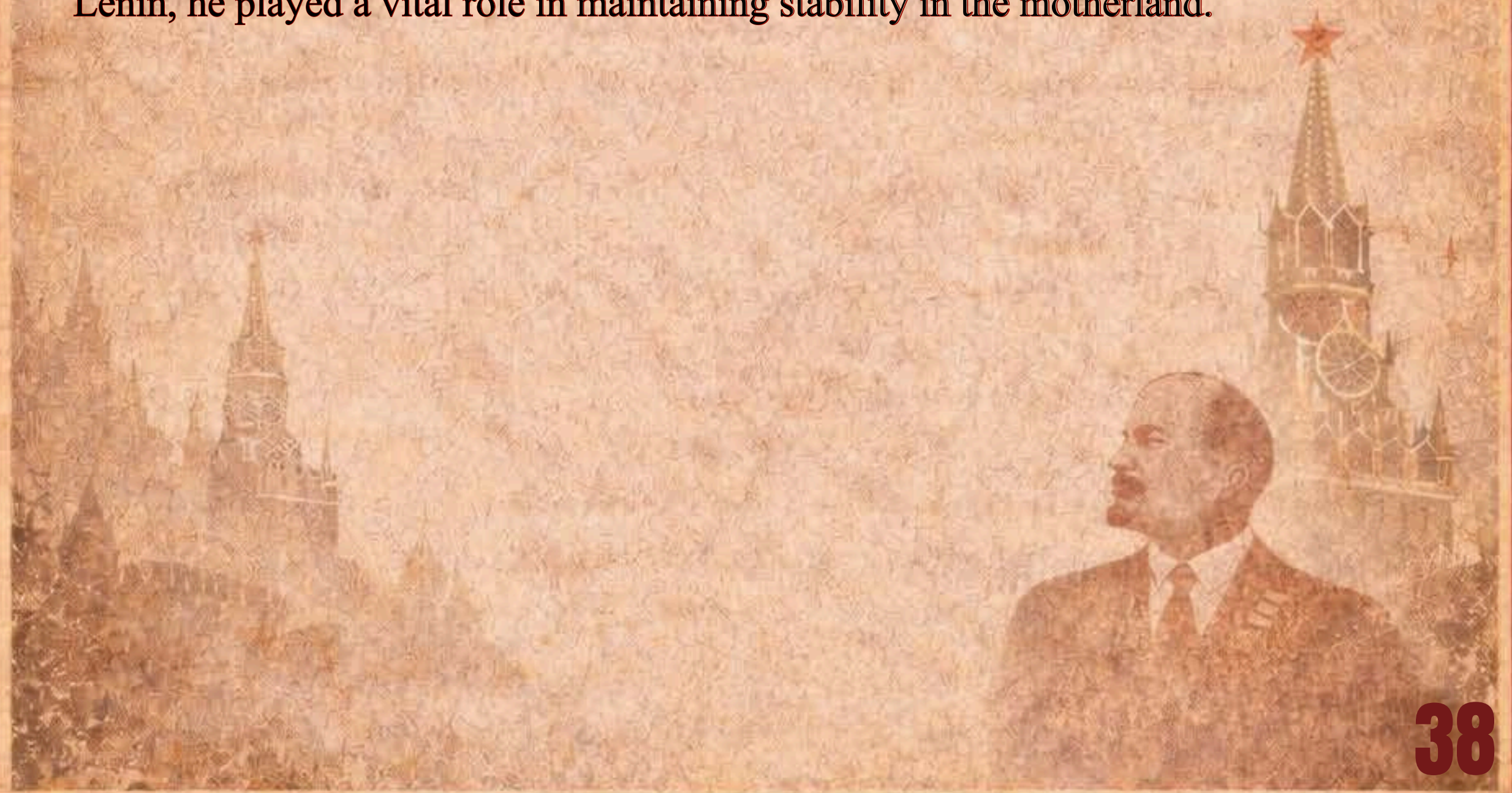


31) Sergei Kirov — Leningrad Party Committee Secretary

Sergei Kirov was a Bolshevik Party member and organiser and was arrested several times for his revolutionary activities before the October Revolution (1917), which placed the Bolsheviks in power in central Russia. Kirov worked to extend their control in Transcaucasia; in 1921, he was appointed first secretary of the Azerbaijan party organisation and subsequently helped organise the Transcaucasian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (March 1922), which at the end of 1922 was incorporated into the U.S.S.R.



During the Russian Civil War and the years that followed, Kirov worked mainly in Party organisation and leadership roles rather than military ones. By the early 1920s, he had gained the trust of the Party because of his discipline and ability to manage people. He later became the head of the Leningrad Party organisation, which was one of the most important positions in the country. After the death of Lenin, he played a vital role in maintaining stability in the motherland.



32) Konstantin Tsiolkovsky — Commissar for Science and Technological Development

Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovsky, by 22 January 1924, is celebrated across Russia as the foremost visionary of modern rocketry and astronautics, a scientist whose theories extend far beyond Earth itself. Born in 1857, Tsiolkovsky overcame near-total deafness in childhood to become one of the most original scientific minds of his age. Though never a conventional political operator, his intellectual stature has earned him immense prestige within Soviet scientific circles, making him an indispensable figure in any state apparatus concerned with technological progress.



Best known for formulating the Tsiolkovsky Rocket Equation, the mathematical foundation of rocket propulsion, he is regarded as the father of astronautical theory, having laid out the principles for multistage rockets, liquid-fuel propulsion, and even interplanetary travel decades before such technology is physically achievable. From his modest base in Kaluga, he has transformed speculative science into a disciplined theoretical framework that may one day define humanity's future beyond Earth.

Yet Tsiolkovsky's significance is not merely technical. He is also a philosopher of cosmic destiny, believing that humankind is meant to expand into the universe through reason, invention, and collective progress. His cosmic philosophy aligns naturally with socialist ideals: that science, when directed by a rational and organized society, can liberate mankind from material limitation. In the uncertain aftermath of Vladimir Lenin's death, such a vision gives him symbolic importance beyond laboratories and equations.

33) Kliment Voroshilov — Deputy Commander, Red Army High Command

Kliment Voroshilov was a military leader and a loyal addition to the Bolshevik Party. He became a close associate of Joseph Stalin and supported the Bolsheviks not only through military genius but also masterful tactics. He played an active role in the Red Army, helping the Bolsheviks conquer opposing forces. Voroshilov was in Petrograd during the February Revolution but returned to Lugansk, where he was chairman of the town soviet, and was elected to the Constituent Assembly.



His military career began early in 1918, when he was given command of the Fifth Ukrainian Army, which was made up of a few scattered units that were driven out of Ukraine by the German army. After a long, hazardous retreat, his group reached Tsaritsyn, where Stalin was posted in summer 1918 as representative of the central party leadership, and where Voroshilov was given command of the Tenth Army. Stalin and Voroshilov led the Red Army's 1918 defence of Tsaritsyn. They also sponsored the creation of the first Red Cavalry unit, commanded by Semyon Budyonny, which was composed chiefly of peasants from southern Russia. His presence was a driving factor in the Bolshevik campaign, making him a powerful politician and friend or a worthy adversary.

34) Stanislav Kosior — Ukrainian Party Secretary

Mr Stanislav Kosior is a senior party leader in the Soviet structure serving as the Ukrainian Party Secretary (Secretary of the All-Union Communist Party - Bolsheviks), a role which gives him strong influence over one of the most important regions in the Soviet Union – Ukraine. It's crucial because of its population, agriculture and large number of industries. He is responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the party are properly carried out in the region while dealing with local issues in the region.



His position is important because Ukraine has the potential to either strengthen the Soviet system or create serious instability if not consolidated carefully. In the broader context, Kosior helps the central government to have more control over the different areas. His main job is to make sure that the personnel carry out the tasks assigned to them. His role is very important in the context of the relations between the Central government and the regional administration. Any failure in leadership in Ukraine can affect the entire state.

Kosior's influence is mainly practical rather than being based on ideas. He's not focused on major theoretical debates but on execution. In a committee dealing with succession and stability, he would likely support strong central leadership and strict discipline within the party. It highlights the importance of regional control in maintaining overall stability. Kosior would focus on ensuring that Ukraine remains stable, productive and aligned with the central authority.

35) Genrikh Yagoda — Deputy Chairman of the GPU

Genrikh Yagoda serves as the Deputy Chairman of the OGPU, placing him at the centre of the Soviet Security System. His role involves intelligence gathering, surveillance, and dealing with the opposition, making him a key figure in maintaining internal order. During this period, security is very closely linked to political power, and Yagoda's position reflects that connection. He plays an important role in protecting the state from both internal and external threats.



In leadership discussions, Yagoda represents the security of the OGPU (Security Apparatus). His influence comes from his access to important information and his ability to act quickly against threats. Although he doesn't operate in public politics, his position ensures that he remains closely connected to the top leadership, especially during the times after Lenin's death. Yagoda's authority is based on enforcement rather than persuasion. He is responsible for making sure that decisions are followed and the opposition is kept in check. In a committee focused on succession and stability, he would support and adhere to policies to strengthen internal security and prevent any conflicts within the party. His role tells us the importance of control and discipline to maintain power. He would prioritise stability and protection of the Soviet State above everything else.

36) Pavel Dybenko — Deputy Naval Commissar

Pavel Dybenko, a Bolshevik, serves as the Deputy Naval Commissar, giving him a very important role in the soviet military system, especially in naval operations. His position connects him to the defence of the state at a time when the Soviet Union is still very vulnerable. Although the Navy may not be the most dominant branch, overshadowed by the Army and Air Force, it remains important for protecting coastal areas and helps to maintain strategic strength.



In a political context, Dybenko represents the military side of state power. His influence comes from his knowledge of defence and his role in maintaining discipline within the armed forces. Stability in the military is very important during such a critical time, as any division under leadership transition could weaken the state. Dybenko's position ensures that the navy remains loyal and organised under central command.

Dybenko's role is practical and focused on defence rather than ideology. He would support leadership that would ensure a strong organisation and clear command within the military. In a committee overshadowed with instability, his focus would be on maintaining discipline and preventing conflict within the military itself. His job is to ensure that the state remains capable of defending itself and to maintain control if needed.

37) Christian Rakovsky — Soviet Ambassador to United Kingdom

Mr Rakovsky serves as the Soviet Ambassador to the United Kingdom, making his role a diplomatic one with one of the major Western Powers. His work involves managing relations with a country that is cautious about the Soviet system, which makes his position important in shaping how the Soviet Union is viewed internationally and in securing diplomatic and economic connections.



In political discussions, Rakovsky represents the foreign policy side of leadership. His influence comes from his experience and his ability to handle complex and diverse relations with other countries. He is connected to many debates about whether the Soviet Union should focus more on spreading its ideology or on building stable diplomatic ties with other nations. His authority is mainly diplomatic. He doesn't control internal systems but his role affects the country and its global position. In a succession context, he would likely support an approach that would avoid unnecessary conflict while protecting national interests. His role tells us about the importance of diplomacy in maintaining stability and avoiding isolation. He would focus on improving international relations while ensuring that the Soviet Union would remain secure.

38) Joffe Adolph Abramovich — Soviet Ambassador to China

Adolph Abramovich Joffe serves as the Soviet Ambassador to China, making him an important figure in Soviet relations with Asia. His role is significant because China is both unstable and strategically important for expanding the influence of soviet ideologies. Joffe works as the common link between diplomacy and political strategy, as involvement in China includes both official relations and support for local movements.



In political discussions and context, he represents the eastern side of foreign policy. His influence comes from his diplomatic skills and his understanding of the Asian region. China is not only a partner but also where the Soviet Union can increase its influence, making its role very important as it lays down the foundation for further expansion of Soviet ideology.

Joffe's authority is based on negotiation and judgment rather than direct power. Although he is not involved in domestic control, his work has a strong impact on international positioning. In a committee focused on stability, he would be expected to support policies that would expand Soviet influence while simultaneously maintaining control. His role shows the importance of balancing great ideas and ambition with careful diplomacy. He would most likely focus on strengthening relations in Asia while ensuring that Soviet interests are protected.

39) [ЗАСЕКРЕЧЕНО: КОНФИДЕНЦИАЛЬНО]

С горных перевалов, где снег [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] грехи и старые имена,
шепот начал [REDACTED] в
Россию.

В деревнях говорят о страннике,
которого [REDACTED] сумерках —
сапоги потемнели от инея, глаза
светятся, как церковные светильники,
[REDACTED] там, где больные не могут
спать,

и исчезая, прежде чем [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] колокола.

Ни один указ не носит его имени,
и все же на [REDACTED] и в разрушенных
монастырях люди понижают голоса,
когда говорят о нем.

[REDACTED] реки не [REDACTED]
было дано,
и что зима вернулась в этом году
сильнее ветра.

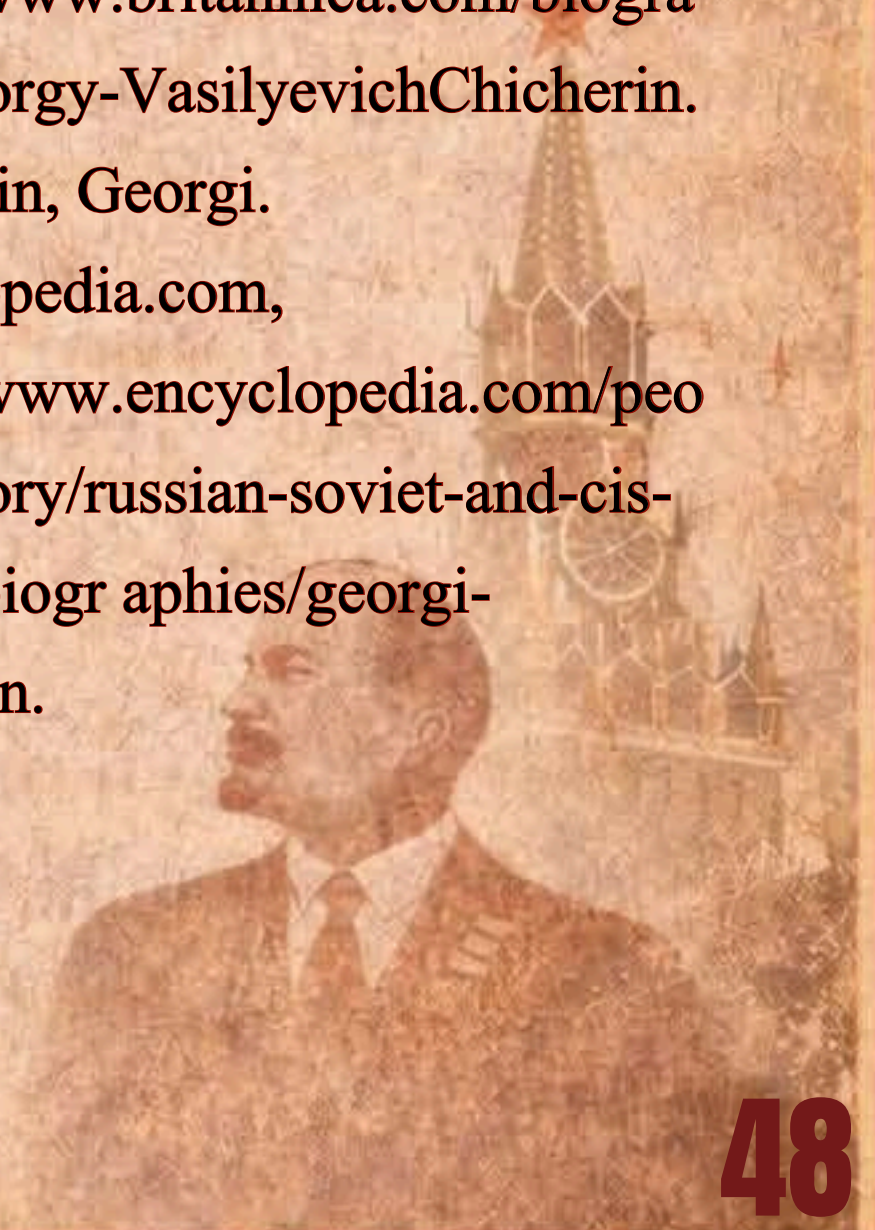
Теперь, в длинной тени января,
[REDACTED] камнем в
Москве,
другой слух идет на юг из гор,
и снег помнит [REDACTED]



CITATIONS

1. “Joseph Stalin: History: Research Starters: EBSCO Research.” EBSCO, www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/joseph-stalin. Accessed 11 Apr. 2026.
2. HistoryExtra. “Josef Stalin: The Paranoid Dictator Who Forged the Soviet Union into a Superpower.” HistoryExtra, 20 Aug. 2024, www.historyextra.com/period/20th-century/josef-stalin-soviet-uniondictator/. Accessed 11 Apr. 2026.
3. Gellately, Robert. *Stalin's Curse: Battling for Communism in War and Cold War*. New York: Knopf, 2013.
4. Andrew, Christopher. *The Sword and Shield*. New York: Basic Books, 1999.
5. Conquest, Robert. *The Great Terror*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.
6. Kromova, C. *Dzerzhinsky: A Biography*. Moscow: Progress, 1988.
7. “Grigory Zinoviev.” Visit the Main Page, www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Grigory_Zinoviev. Accessed 12 Apr. 2026.
8. Wikipedia Contributors. “Aleksandra Artyukhina.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 23 May 2025.
9. “Artyukhina, Aleksandra (1889–1969) | Encyclopedia.com.” Encyclopedia.com, 2025, www.encyclopedia.com/women/dictionaries-thesauruses-pictures-and-pressreleases/arty-ukhina-aleksandra-1889-1969
10. TROTSKY .” The New York Times, 22 Aug. 1940, www.nytimes.com/1940/08/22/archives/trotsky.htm.
11. BBC. “BBC - History - Historic Figures: Leon Trotsky (1879 - 1940).” Wwww.bbc.co.uk, 2014, www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/trotsky_leon.shtm.
12. Grigory Sokolnikov. “Grigory Sokolnikov Archive.” Marxists.org, 2021, www.marxists.org/archive/sokolnikov/index.htm.
13. Grigory Sokolnikov. “Grigory Sokolnikov Archive.” Marxists.org, 2021, www.marxists.org/archive/sokolnikov/index.htm.

14. "David Riazanov Internet Archive." Marxists.org, 2025, www.marxists.org/archive/riazanov/index.htm.
15. "Nikolai Alexandrovich Semashko Archive." Marxists.org, 2026, www.marxists.org/archive/semashko/index.htm.
16. Haines, Anna J. "Dr N. A. Semashko: The Commissar of Health." Marxists.org, 2026, www.marxists.org/archive/semashko/semashko.htm
17. "Nikolai Alexandrovich Semashko Archive." Marxists.org, 2026, www.marxists.org/archive/semashko/index.htm.
18. Haines, Anna J. "Dr N. A. Semashko: The Commissar of Health." Marxists.org, 2026, www.marxists.org/archive/semashko/semashko.htm
19. Ryan, Sally. "Alexandra Kollontai." The Alexandra Kollontai Archive, www.marxists.org/archive/kollontai/. Accessed 10 Apr. 2026
20. "Seventeen Moments in Soviet History." Seventeen Moments in Soviet History Atom, soviethistory.msu.edu/.
21. <https://www.marxists.org/glossary/people/fl.htm#ulyanova-maria>. Accessed 10 Apr. 2026.
22. Radek, Karl. Karl Radek. Encyclopaedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Karl-Radek>. Radek, Karl Bernardovich. Encyclopedia.com, Karl Bernardovich Radek| Encyclopedia.com.
23. "Karl Radek, Bolshevik Revolutionary." The Charnel-House, <https://thecharnelhouse.org/2014/12/24/karl-radek-bolshevik-revolutionary/>.
24. Chicherin, Georgy Vasilyevich. Georgy Vasilyevich Chicherin. Encyclopaedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Georgy-VasilyevichChicherin>.
25. Chicherin, Georgi. Encyclopedia.com, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/history/russian-soviet-and-cis-history/biographies/georgi-chicherin>.



26. A.P. Smirnov. Aleksandr Petrovich Smirnov. Wikipedia,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleksandr_Petrovich_Smirnov.
27. People's Commissariat for Agriculture. Wikipedia,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Commissariat_for_Agriculture.
28. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Soviet Union). Wikipedia,
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Agriculture_and_Food_\(Soviet_Union\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Agriculture_and_Food_(Soviet_Union))
29. Essen, Eduard. Eduard Essen. Wikipedia,
https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eduard_Essen.
30. Ordzhonikidze, Grigory Konstantinovich. Grigory Konstantinovich Ordzhonikidze. Encyclopaedia Britannica,
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Grigory-KonstantinovichOrdzhonikidze>.
31. Wikipedia Yevgeni Preobrazhensky
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yevgeni_Preobrazhensky
32. Historical Materialism: The Preobrazhensky Papers
<https://www.historicalmaterialism.org/book-series/the-preobrazhensky-papers-volume-2-the-new-economics-theory-and-practice-1922-1928/>
33. Jacobin Yevgeni Preobrazhensky's Plan to Build a Socialist Economy
<https://jacobin.com/2025/08/preobrazhensky-ussr-stalin-economysocialism>
34. Wikipedia Lazar Kaganovich
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazar_Kaganovich
35. Britannica Lazar Moiseyevich Kaganovich
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lazar-MoiseyevichKaganovich>
36. YIVO Encyclopedia Kaganovich
https://encyclopedia.yivo.org/article.aspx/Kaganovich_Lazar_Moiseevich
37. Wikipedia Nikolay Krestinsky
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikolay_Krestinsky
38. Marxists.org archive
[https://www.marxists.org/archive/rotsky/1924/06/10.htm](https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1924/06/10.htm)
39. German History in Documents
<https://germanhistorydocs.org>

40. Wikipedia Anatoly Lunacharsky
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatoly_Lunacharsky
41. Spartacus Educational
<https://spartacuseducational.com/RUSlunacharsky.htm>
42. Academia.edu paper
<https://www.academia.edu/116042486>
43. Wikipedia Rosalia Zemlyachka
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosalia_Zemlyachka
44. Engelsberg Ideas
<https://engelsbergideas.com/portraits/blood-redrosalia/>
45. Futurist Dolmen
<https://futuristdolmen.wordpress.com/2016/07/24/zemlyachka-anincomplete-biography/>
46. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexei_Rykov
47. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Aleksey-Ivanovich-Rykov>
48. <https://www.marxists.org/glossary/people/r/y.htm>
49. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail_Tukhachevsky
50. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mikhail-Tukhachevsky>
51. <https://newleftreview.org/issues/i55/articles/nlr-editors-nlr-editors-introduction-to-tukhachevsky.pdf>
52. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergei_Kirov
53. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sergei-Kirov>
54. <https://warhistory.org/article/konstantin-eduardovich-tsiolkovsky>
55. <https://www.marxists.org/espanol/voroshilov/index.htm>
56. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kliment_Voroshilov
57. “Alexei Rykov.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 1 Apr. 2026, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexei_Rykov. Accessed 14 Apr. 2026.
58. “Alexei Rykov.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 1 Apr. 2026, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexei_Rykov. Accessed 14 Apr. 2026.
59. Sergei Kirov | Biography, Assassination, & Facts | Britannica, www.britannica.com/biography/Sergei-Kirov. Accessed 14 Apr. 2026.
60. “Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovsky.” War History, 14 Dec. 2024, warhistory.org/article/konstantin-eduardovich-tsiolkovsky. Accessed 14 Apr. 2026.