

War Communism & New Economic Policy

Background

In many respects the entire history of Russia in the twentieth century is a matter of economics.

Russia was no match for Germany in the First World War.

With only limited industrialization and a near feudal society, Russia could never sustain a prolonged duel with Germany.

The consequence of the disaster in the First World War was the Bolshevik Revolution.

Lenin saw the writing on the wall. He understood that Russia needed an industrial revolution. Without an improved economy, the Communist Party was exposed to all sorts of threats.

Domestically, the people wanted an end to the hardship. Lenin needed to deliver!

Internationally, communism was seen as a clear and present danger. Why not root out the weed before it spreads?

Lenin needed to make Russia strong.

The stakes were high, and Lenin knew that those who gain power with the sword often die by the sword.

The question was how to balance Marxist ideology with real economic growth.

The answer was . . . experimentation!

Assignment

At the end of this task, you should be an expert on the following . . .

- A) War Communism (Pg. 34 – 35)
- B) New Economic Policy (Pg. 36)

War Communism

<i>Why</i>	<i>How</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lenin needed to feed the cities since they brought him to power on a promise of food.</i> • <i>Lenin needed to feed the Red Army during the Civil War.</i> 	
<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Keywords</i>
<p><i>Pros</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Food for cities.</i> • <i>Established the Bolsheviks as rulers of Russia.</i> <p><i>Cons</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Economic failure . . . production decreased, rather than increased.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nationalization</i> • <i>Requisition</i> • <i>Rationing</i>

New Economic Policy

<i>Why</i>	<i>How</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lenin needed to increase production, and bring about an economic recovery.</i> 	
<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Keywords</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Surplus</i>