

Glossary

All-Russian Constituent Assembly A parliament representing the whole of Russia.

Allied Control Commission The body set up in 1945 to co-ordinate ways of administering Germany.

American Relief Association Formed by Herbert Hoover (a future President of the USA, 1928–32) to provide food and medical supplies for post-war Europe.

Anschluss Incorporation of Austria into the Third Reich in March 1938.

Anti-Comintern Pact Formed by the fascist nations, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Anti-Semitism Hatred of the Jewish race.

Big Three The Soviet Union, the USA and Britain.

Bolshevisation The process of subjecting international Communist parties to the will of Moscow.

Bourgeoisie The owners of capital, the boss class, who exploited the workers.

Brest-Litovsk Treaty 1918 Ended the war with Germany. Russia had to give up a third of its European territory, including the Ukraine, and pay three million roubles to Germany for the cost of the war.

Cadres Party members who were sent into factories and onto construction sites to spy and report back on managers and workers.

Centralisation The concentration of political and economic power at the centre.

Cheka 'The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Fighting Counter-Revolution, Sabotage and Speculation'.

Chimera A powerful but ultimately meaningless myth.

Collective farms Run as co-operatives in which the peasants pooled their resources and shared the labour and the wages.

Collective security Nations acting together to protect individual states from attack.

Collectivisation The taking over by the Soviet State of the land and property previously owned by the peasants accompanied by the requirement that the peasants now live and work communally.

COMECON The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Cominform As a gesture of goodwill towards its wartime allies, the Soviet Union had abolished the Comintern. However, in the strained post-war atmosphere the organisation was re-formed under the new title Cominform in 1947.

Comintern The Communist International, a body set up in Moscow in March 1919 to organise global revolution.

Commissar for Foreign Affairs Equivalent to the Foreign Secretary in Britain.

Commissar for Nationalities Minister responsible for liaising with the non-Russian national minorities.

Commissar of Enlightenment Equivalent to an arts minister.

Conscription The forcing of large numbers of peasants to join the armed services.

Co-operatives Groups of workers or farmers working together on their own enterprise.

Council of Peoples' Commissars A cabinet of ministers, responsible for creating government policies.

Counter-revolution A term used by the Bolsheviks to cover any action of which they disapproved by branding it as reactionary.

CPSU The Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Dacha Russian term for country house.

DDR East German People's Republic.

Decree against terrorist acts Gave the NKVD limitless powers in pursuing the enemies of the State and the Party.

Decree on Nationalisation Announced the take-over by the State of the larger industrial concerns in Russia.

Democratic centralism The notion that true democracy in the Bolshevik party lay in the obedience of the members to the instructions of the leaders.

Eastern Bloc The USSR and its satellites.

Economism Putting the improvement of the workers' conditions before the need for revolution.

Factionalism The forming within the party of groups with a particular complaint or grievance.

FDR West German Federal Republic.

February Revolution The collapse of the tsarist system in February 1917.

General Assembly The UN body in which all member-states were represented.

German-Polish treaty, January 1934 A 10-year non-aggression pact between the two countries.

Gosplan The government body responsible for national economic planning, which replaced *Vesenkha*.

Great Depression A period of economic stagnation in the USA and Europe that lasted for most of the 1930s. It affected the whole of the industrial world and was interpreted by Marxists as the beginning of the final collapse of capitalism.

Gulag The term for the vast system of prison and labour camps that spread across the USSR during the purges.

Hydrogen bombs Weapons of awesome explosive power, which used the atomic bomb simply as a detonator.

Icons Two-dimensional representations of Jesus Christ and the saints.

Industrialisation The introduction of a vast scheme for the building of factories which would produce heavy goods such as iron and steel.

Intelligentsia The group in society distinguished by their intellectual or creative abilities, e.g. writers, artists, composers, academics.

International revolutionary A Marxist willing to sacrifice national interests for the worldwide rising of the workers.

Ivan the Terrible (reigned 1547–84) A powerful tsar who considerably extended Russian territory through conquest.

Kadets (The Constitutional Democrats) The major liberal reforming party in Russia.

Komsomol The Communist Union of Youth.

KPD The German Communist Party.

Kremlin The former tsarist fortress in Moscow that became the centre of Soviet government.

Kulaks The Bolshevik term for the class of rich exploiting peasants. The notion was largely a myth.

Labour Code Severe regulations imposed on the workers.

Labour commissar Equivalent to a minister of labour, responsible for industry and its workers.

Laity The congregation who attend church services.

League of Nations The body set up in 1919 with the aim of resolving all

international disputes and so maintaining world peace.

Left Communists Those members of the CPSU who opposed the continuation of NEP.

Lend-lease programme The importing by the Soviet Union of war materials from the USA with no obligation to pay for them until after the war.

Leningrad Petrograd was renamed in Lenin's honour.

Manhattan project The code name for the US nuclear development programme.

Martial law The whole of the population being placed under military discipline.

Marxism–Leninism The notion that Marx's theory of class war as interpreted by Lenin was a supremely accurate and unchallengeable piece of scientific analysis.

Marxist Relates to the ideas of Karl Marx (1818–83), a German revolutionary, who believed that the whole of history was a story of class struggle between those who possessed economic and political power and those who did not.

May Day Or 'Labour Day' – usually reckoned as 1 May, became traditionally regarded as a special day for honouring the workers and the achievements of socialism.

Mein Kampf 'My Struggle', the title of Hitler's autobiographical book, written in the 1920s and regarded as the Nazi bible.

Mensheviks A Marxist party that had broken with the Bolsheviks in 1903.

Moscow In 1918, for security reasons, Moscow replaced Petrograd as the capital of Soviet Russia.

NATO The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, made up of 12 West European countries plus the USA and Canada.

Neopatriarchy A new form of male domination.

Nepmen Those who stood to gain from the free trading permitted under NEP, e.g. rich peasants, retailers, traders.

Sukhanov, Nicolai An anti-Bolshevik who wrote one of the most influential accounts of the Revolution.

NKVD The State secret police, a successor of the *Cheka* and a forerunner of the KGB.

Nomenklatura The Soviet 'establishment' – a privileged élite of officials who ran the Party machine.

October deserters Those Bolsheviks who in October 1917, believing that the Party was not yet strong enough, had advised against a Bolshevik rising.

OEEC The Organisation for European Economic Co-operation.

OGPU Succeeded the GPU as the State security force. In turn it became the NKVD and then the KGB.

Orgburo Short for Organisation Bureau.

Paranoia A persecution complex, a conviction in the sufferer that he is surrounded by enemies intent on harming him.

Party card An official CPSU document granting membership and guaranteeing privileges to the holder. It was a prized possession in Soviet Russia.

Patronage The right to appoint individuals to official posts in the Party and government.

Peter the Great (reigned 1689–1725) A reforming tsar who attempted to modernise his nation by incorporating western European ways.

Pogrom State-organised persecution that involved physical attacks upon Jews and the destruction of their property.

Politburo Short for the Political Bureau, responsible for major policy decisions.

Political commissars Party workers who permanently accompanied the army

officers and reported on their political correctness.

Political Left Progressives who, without necessarily being Marxist, believed in state planning and radical social change, which made them sympathetic towards the USSR.

Popular front An alliance of all Communist, socialist and progressive parties.

Potsdam A suburb of Berlin.

Pravda (the truth) The Bolshevik newspaper dating from 1912 that, after October 1917, became a principal means of spreading government propaganda.

Proletkult Proletarian culture.

Proletariat The exploited industrial working class.

Purge In theory a means of purifying the Communist Party. In practice, it was a terror tactic by which Stalin removed anyone regarded as a threat to his authority.

Quasi-religious faith A conviction so powerful that it has the intensity of religious belief.

Reactionary Resistant to any form of progressive change.

Reparations Payments for the costs of the war.

Right Communists Those members of the CPSU who favoured the continuation of NEP.

Ryutin group The followers of M.N. Ryutin, a Right Communist, who had published an attack on Stalin, describing him as 'the evil genius who had brought the Revolution to the verge of destruction'.

Satellites A Western metaphor denoting the various countries orbiting around the sun (the USSR) and held unbreakably in its magnetic grip.

Secretariat A form of civil service that carried out the administration of policies.

Security Council The permanent five-member body (originally made up of the USSR, the USA, Britain, France and Chiang Kai-shek's China) responsible for settling international disputes.

Seminaries Training colleges for priests.

Show trial A special public court hearing, meant as a propaganda exercise in which the accused, whose guilt is assumed, are paraded as enemies of the people.

Social-fascists Those who pretend to favour socialist progress but whose real aim is to prevent progress towards genuine revolution.

Social Revolutionaries Before 1918 the largest of the revolutionary parties in Russia, particularly popular among the peasants.

Socialist realism A form of art that is directly accessible to the people, who can recognise it and relate it to their own lives.

Soviet Union of Writers The body that had authority over all published writers. Under Stalin's direction it had the right to ban or censor any work of which it disapproved.

Soviets The soviets began as organisations to represent the workers and soldiers. However, by October 1917 they had been infiltrated by the Bolsheviks who then made them a cover for their actions.

Sovnarkom The government that Lenin set up after coming to power. It was composed of commissars (ministers) under his direction.

Spanish Civil War 1936–9 Fought principally between General Franco's fascist forces and the republicans. Franco was the eventual winner.

Spartacists German Communist movement (named after Spartacus, the leader of the slave rebellion in ancient Rome).

State capitalism The pre-revolutionary economic system, which the Bolsheviks left in place during their first year of rule, 1917–18.

State farms Peasants worked directly for the State, which paid them a wage.

State grain procurements Enforced collections of fixed quotas of grain from the peasants.

Tax in kind The surrendering by the peasant of a certain amount of his produce, equivalent to a fixed sum of money.

'To deliver the votes' To use one's control of the party machine to gain majority support in key votes.

Total theatre An approach which endeavours to break down the barriers between players and audience by revolutionary use of lighting, sound and stage-settings.

Treaty of Rapallo, April 1922 Provided German forces with training grounds in Soviet Russia in return for Russian trading rights in Germany.

Triumvirate A ruling or influential bloc of three persons.

United Nations Organisation The international body agreed to at Yalta to replace the League of Nations.

United Opposition The group led by Kamenev and Zinoviev, sometimes known as the New Opposition, who called for an end to NEP and the adoption of an industrialisation programme.

Vesenkha The Supreme Council of the National Economy, forerunner of *Gosplan*.

Warsaw Pact, May 1955 The member countries were Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the USSR.

Yezhovschina The period of terror directed at ordinary Soviet citizens in the late 1930s and presided over by Yezhov, the head of the NKVD.

Zhenotdel The Women's Bureau of the Communist Party.

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