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Exam focus

Stalin's rise to power

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This resource presents an overview of Stalin's rise to power.

Timeline

1923

Stalin, Zinoviev and Kamenev form their alliance. They want to exclude Trotsky from power.

1924

May: The Central Committee decide not to publish Lenin's testament.

October: Trotsky publishes *The Lessons of October*, attacking Zinoviev and Kamenev for failing to support the October Revolution.

1925

January: Trotsky loses his position as commissar for war and thus his powerbase.

Zinoviev and Kamenev attack Stalin and his new ally Bukharin. They call for a no-confidence vote at the 14th Party Congress, but Stalin's support easily defeats the motion.

1926

Zinoviev and Kamenev form the United Opposition with Trotsky. Zinoviev and Kamenev lose their positions in Leningrad and Moscow and all three are expelled from the party.

1928

Stalin confronts the right. He comes out in favour of rapid industrialisation and against the NEP. People see this as pragmatic and sensible.

From January 1928 Stalin leads a campaign of forcible grain requisitioning that results in the collectivisation policy of 1929.

1929

1929 Party Congress — Stalin moves Bukharin's supporters to vote against him. Bukharin is removed from the Politburo and Comintern, making Stalin the only contender left to take ultimate power.

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