

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

EARLY SUMMER 1918–
DECEMBER 1920 Civil war (and period of “war communism”).

1921

MARCH New Economic Policy proclaimed (grain requisition replaced by a tax, first in kind, later in money).
DECEMBER Lenin sick.

1922

JANUARY–
FEBRUARY Lenin gets additional six weeks vacation from the Politburo because of his illness.
MARCH 3 First letter to Kamenev against any weakening of the state’s monopoly of foreign trade.
MARCH 6–
MARCH 25 A new long vacation because of poor health.
MARCH 27–
APRIL 2 Eleventh Party Congress.

- APRIL 23 Operation to extract from Lenin's body one of the two bullets fired at him in August 1918 by the Social Revolutionary Fanya Kaplan.
- MAY 15 Letter to Stalin suggesting a decision of the Politburo to reconfirm as inalterable the principle of state monopoly of foreign trade. Stalin resists.
- MAY 22 Politburo accepts Lenin's demands concerning foreign trade monopoly.
- MAY 25 Lenin partly paralyzed and loses ability to speak.
- MIDDLE OF JUNE Lenin's health improves.
- AUGUST 10 Decision to convene a commission on relations among the Soviet Republics.
- AUGUST 11 Commission works on and adopts Stalin's "autonomization" project.
- AUGUST 21 Lenin talks with Stalin about the RKI and the next day writes a letter to RKI leaders criticizing the work of this institution.
- SEPTEMBER 15 Stalin's project bluntly rejected by the Georgian Central Committee.
- SEPTEMBER 22 Lenin asks Stalin to keep him informed about the decisions concerning relations among the Republics.
- SEPTEMBER 24-25 Stalin's commission reconvenes and adopts Stalin's "autonomization" project in a more definite version.
- SEPTEMBER 25 The dossier on the commission's work transmitted by Stalin to Lenin.
- SEPTEMBER 26 Lenin invites Stalin for a talk on the unification of the Republics.

- Lenin writes to Kamenev proposing his own version: the creation of the USSR.
- SEPTEMBER 27 Lenin receives Mdivani for a talk on the unification project.
Stalin, in a letter to Politburo members, accuses Lenin of "national liberalism."
- SEPTEMBER 28-30 Lenin meets separately with Ordzhonikidze, three members of the Georgian CC, and Myasnikov from Azerbaijan, to discuss the unification problems.
- OCTOBER 2 Lenin back from Gorki and working in the Kremlin.
- OCTOBER 6 The Politburo session (Lenin absent) decides to limit the state's foreign trade monopoly; Lenin's USSR project adopted; Lenin writes to Kamenev that he is going to fight Great Russian chauvinism.
- OCTOBER 11 Lenin meets Trotsky. They discuss the monopoly problem and common fight against bureaucracy.
- OCTOBER 13 Letter to Stalin criticizing decision on foreign trade and asking for it to be revised.
- OCTOBER 21 Lenin assails the Georgians for their refusal to accept the Transcaucasian Federation.
- OCTOBER 22 The Georgian CC resigns collectively.
- NOVEMBER (FIRST PART) Numerous complaints from Georgia to Moscow against Ordzhonikidze.
Tsintsadze's letter reaches Lenin and arouses his suspicions against the Stalin-Ordzhonikidze line in Georgia.

- NOVEMBER 5—
DECEMBER 5 The Fourth Congress of the Comintern in Moscow.
- NOVEMBER 13 Lenin's speech at the Fourth Comintern Congress.
- NOVEMBER 20 Lenin's last public speech (at the session of the Moscow Soviet).
- NOVEMBER 24 Lenin, suspicious, abstains from voting on the composition of the investigation commission on the Georgian affair.
- NOVEMBER 25 Politburo approves the composition of this commission under Dzerzhinsky; the commission leaves for Tbilisi.
- END OF
NOVEMBER "The incident": Ordzhonikidze strikes Kabanidze, Mdivani's supporter.
- DECEMBER 7—12 Lenin on leave in Gorki.
- DECEMBER 9 Rykov comes back from Georgia, sees Lenin.
- DECEMBER 12 Proposition to Trotsky to defend, at the next CC session, their common opinions on the foreign trade monopoly.
- DECEMBER 12—15 Exchange of letters between Lenin and Trotsky on Lenin's proposition and Trotsky's suggestions.
- DECEMBER 13 Lenin suffers two dangerous strokes.
- DECEMBER 15 Lenin writes to Stalin that he "has taken the necessary steps to retire" and that he has concluded an agreement with Trotsky, who will defend their common position on the foreign trade monopoly.
- DECEMBER 18 CC session rescinds previous decision and reaffirms adoption of the Lenin-Trotsky position on foreign trade; CC makes Sta-

- lin responsible for Lenin's medical supervision.
- DECEMBER 21 Lenin's brief letter congratulating Trotsky on the victory at the CC session.
- DECEMBER 22 Stalin assails Krupskaya for having written letter dictated by Lenin.
- NIGHT OF
DECEMBER 22-23 Lenin again half paralyzed.
- DECEMBER 23 Lenin asks his doctors' permission to dictate some notes.
- DECEMBER 24 Lenin says he will refuse to be treated by his doctors if he is not permitted to dictate his "journal." Permission is granted by the Politburo.
- DECEMBER 23-31 Lenin dictates his notes, known as his "Testament." The memorandum on the national question and the Georgian affair, dictated on December 30-31, is the last of these notes, with a subsequent addition on Stalin.
- DECEMBER 30 The first Congress of Soviets proclaims the creation of the USSR.

1923

- JANUARY-
FEBRUARY Lenin dictates five articles: "Pages from a Journal," "On Cooperation," "Our Revolution," "On the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection," and "Better Fewer, But Better."
- JANUARY 4 Lenin adds to his "Testament" a proposition to demote Stalin.
- JANUARY 24 Lenin asks for the dossiers of the Dzerzhinsky commission findings. The Politburo is reluctant.

- JANUARY 25** The Politburo session endorses the conclusions of the Dzerzhinsky commission on the Georgian affair which whitewashes Ordzhonikidze and condemns Mdivani and the Georgian CC.
- FEBRUARY 1** The Politburo yields to Lenin's demand and turns over to him the commission's papers. Lenin asks his secretaries to study the material and gives instructions how to do it.
- MARCH 3** Lenin's private investigation committee submits to him its findings on the Georgian affair.
- MARCH 5** Letter to Trotsky asking him to take up, in both their names, the defense of the Georgian CC at the CC session. Trotsky answers the same day. Lenin begins dictating a letter to Stalin.
- MARCH 6** Lenin finishes a letter to Stalin demanding that he apologize for his rude treatment of Krupskaya. Another letter to the Georgians, Mdivani and his friends, announcing that Lenin is on their side against Stalin and Ordzhonikidze. Kamenev hears from Krupskaya that Lenin intends to crush Stalin politically. Lenin's health worsens critically.
- MARCH 10** A new stroke paralyzes half of Lenin's body and deprives him of his capacity to speak. Lenin's political activity is finished.

1924

JANUARY 21 Lenin's death.