Power and Daily Life

Trace how Soviet policies changed people's choices.

MWH.C.6.3.B "Summarize the consequences of Soviet communism, including the establishment of a one-party dictatorship under Lenin, government seizure of private property, and the persecution of religious believers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one consequence for political choice, one for ownership, and one for religious practice. Number them 1, 2, and 3 in that order.

Changes Under Lenin

1. After the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917, they promised rule by workers' councils called soviets. Yet Lenin's party shut down an elected Constituent Assembly in January 1918 after failing to win a majority. The government then restricted rival parties and newspapers, while its political police arrested opponents. By 1921, the Communist Party held a monopoly on national power. For a voter who supported another party, an election no longer offered a real way to replace the rulers.

2. The new government also took control of banks and major factories, removing them from private ownership. It declared land the property of the state, while peasants seized large estates and divided much of that land among themselves. During the civil war, officials took grain from villages to feed cities and the army, often by force. Factory owners lost control of their businesses, and many peasants lost food they had planned to keep or sell.

3. The Bolsheviks wanted public life to be separate from religious institutions. In 1918, the government ended the Russian Orthodox Church's official status and took church property. Religious schools were closed, and some clergy were arrested or killed during campaigns against the church. Many people continued to worship, but believers could face pressure when they practiced openly. Alongside limits on political opposition and private ownership, these measures gave the state more power over people's daily lives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Summarize how Lenin's party changed voters' ability to replace the government.

2. Summarize one consequence of government control of factories and one consequence of grain seizures.

3. How did government actions change religious institutions and the lives of believers?

4. Summarize how two different policies increased state power over daily life.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a factory worker in 1920 whose family attends church. Write a three-sentence diary entry showing how one-party rule, state control of your workplace, and pressure on religious believers affect your choices.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Daily Life

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.6.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one consequence for political choice, one for ownership, and one for religious practice. Number them 1, 2, and 3 in that order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Summarize how Lenin's party changed voters' ability to replace the government.	**The Communist Party held a monopoly on national power, so voters could not use an election to replace it with a rival party.**
2	Summarize one consequence of government control of factories and one consequence of grain seizures.	**Factory owners lost control of their businesses. Many peasants lost grain they had planned to keep or sell.**
3	How did government actions change religious institutions and the lives of believers?	**The government took church property and closed religious schools. Some clergy were persecuted, and believers could face pressure for worshiping openly.**
4	Summarize how two different policies increased state power over daily life.	**State control of factories took decisions away from private owners, while restrictions on religious institutions made open worship more difficult.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Today a state manager set the hours at the factory, where the former owner no longer makes the rules. My mother wants me to join her at church, but I worry that worshiping openly will bring unwanted attention. I cannot count on a rival party to challenge these policies, so I must decide whether to attend the service.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the passage. For the diary entry, look for all three specified consequences expressed through the worker's choices, not a claim that religious worship was completely banned.