From Seizure to Rule

Trace how the October Revolution led to one-party dictatorship.

TOT.C.3.2.B "October Revolution, the Bolshevik seizure of power, and the establishment of one-party dictatorship,"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the actions that let the Bolsheviks seize power. Circle the later actions that limited political competition so you can trace how the takeover became one-party rule.

Who Would Govern Russia?

1 In February 1917, bread shortages and war losses brought crowds into the streets of Petrograd. Soldiers refused orders to fire on protesters, and Tsar Nicholas II abdicated. A Provisional Government took office, but it kept Russia in World War I and delayed major land reform. Meanwhile, workers and soldiers elected councils called soviets. The Petrograd Soviet held influence because its members could sway troops and workers. Many people now faced two competing centers of authority. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, promised "peace, land, and bread" and argued that power should pass to the soviets. Their promises drew support as the crisis continued.

2 By autumn, the Bolsheviks had won majorities in the Petrograd and Moscow soviets, though they did not speak for every Russian. In October 1917, by the calendar then used in Russia, armed Bolshevik-led forces occupied bridges, rail stations, and communication centers in Petrograd. They then moved against the Provisional Government at the Winter Palace. Its ministers were arrested, and a new government led by Lenin claimed authority in the name of the soviets. The Bolsheviks issued decrees calling for peace talks and transferring landed estates to local land committees. Seizing the capital was rapid; securing authority across Russia was not.

3 Elections for a Constituent Assembly, held after the takeover, gave the Bolsheviks fewer seats than the Socialist Revolutionaries. When the assembly met in January 1918, Bolshevik leaders dissolved it after one day rather than share authority with an elected body. Civil war followed, and the Bolshevik government used force against rival armies and political opponents. Other parties lost the ability to compete openly for national power, while Bolshevik institutions controlled government decisions. In 1921, the ruling party also banned organized factions within its own ranks. The October seizure had removed one government; these later steps helped build a one-party dictatorship.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did the Provisional Government face a challenge from the Bolsheviks before October 1917?

2. How did the Bolsheviks turn armed action in Petrograd into a claim to govern?

3. Why did dissolving the Constituent Assembly limit political competition?

4. How did the government's actions during the civil war and the 1921 faction ban restrict different kinds of opposition?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label titled “From Takeover to One-Party Rule.” Use at least two dated events from the passage and explain how control of the government became control over political competition.

ANSWER KEY

From Seizure to Rule

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.3.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the actions that let the Bolsheviks seize power. Circle the later actions that limited political competition so you can trace how the takeover became one-party rule. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the Provisional Government face a challenge from the Bolsheviks before October 1917?	**It continued the war and delayed land reform, while the Bolsheviks gained support by promising peace, land, and power to the soviets.**
2	How did the Bolsheviks turn armed action in Petrograd into a claim to govern?	**Their forces occupied key sites and arrested the Provisional Government's ministers. A government led by Lenin then claimed authority in the name of the soviets.**
3	Why did dissolving the Constituent Assembly limit political competition?	**The assembly was an elected body in which the Bolsheviks had fewer seats than the Socialist Revolutionaries. Dissolving it removed a rival source of authority.**
4	How did the government's actions during the civil war and the 1921 faction ban restrict different kinds of opposition?	**The government used force against rival armies and political opponents during the civil war. The 1921 ban also stopped organized factions within the ruling party.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

From Takeover to One-Party Rule: In October 1917, Bolshevik-led forces captured key sites in Petrograd and removed the Provisional Government. In January 1918, Bolshevik leaders dissolved the elected Constituent Assembly, blocking a rival source of authority. The ban on factions within the ruling party in 1921 narrowed debate even inside that party. Together, these steps show how an armed takeover developed into one-party rule rather than an open contest for power.

Accept labels that use at least two accurate dated events and explain the difference between seizing the government and limiting political competition. Students may choose other supported evidence from the passage.