# Power Under Pressure

War, repression, and rebellion in early Soviet Russia

**TOT.C.3.2.C** "Civil War, the Red Terror, and the Kronstadt Rebellion,"

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one pressure facing the Bolsheviks in each paragraph, then circle how their government responded.

### From Civil War to Kronstadt

1. In 1918, Russia's new Bolshevik government faced armed opposition. In the Civil War, the Red Army fought White forces, a loose collection of groups that opposed Bolshevik rule. Foreign governments also supplied or sent troops to fight the Bolsheviks. To feed cities and soldiers, the government seized grain from peasants. This policy helped supply the army but fueled anger in the countryside. By 1921, the Red Army had defeated the main White armies, yet the country was exhausted.

2. During the war, Bolshevik leaders feared enemies inside the territory they controlled. After attacks on Bolshevik officials in 1918, the government announced the Red Terror. Its political police, the Cheka, arrested and executed people accused of opposing the revolution, often without fair trials. Leaders said harsh measures were needed to defend their rule. White forces also committed atrocities. The Red Terror shows how the Civil War extended beyond battlefields into homes, prisons, and political life.

3. In March 1921, sailors at the Kronstadt naval base near Petrograd rebelled against Bolshevik rule. Many had once supported the revolution. They demanded freer elections to soviets, councils of workers, peasants, and soldiers, and an end to grain seizures. Bolshevik troops crushed the rebellion. That same month, Lenin's government introduced the New Economic Policy, replacing grain seizures with a tax and allowing some private trade. The crackdown and the policy shift reveal different responses to mounting unrest.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did a Civil War policy help the Red Army but increase unrest?

2. How did the Red Terror reflect Bolshevik leaders' fears during the war?

3. Which Kronstadt demand addressed a policy used during the Civil War?

4. Why was the Kronstadt Rebellion a different challenge from the White forces?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining how Bolshevik leaders used both force and policy change to keep power. Include evidence from the Civil War, Red Terror, Kronstadt Rebellion, and New Economic Policy.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.3.2.C

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one pressure facing the Bolsheviks in each paragraph, then circle how their government responded. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did a Civil War policy help the Red Army but increase unrest? | **Seizing grain supplied soldiers but angered peasants.** |
| 2 | How did the Red Terror reflect Bolshevik leaders' fears during the war? | **Fearing enemies in areas they controlled, leaders used the Cheka to arrest and execute people accused of opposition.** |
| 3 | Which Kronstadt demand addressed a policy used during the Civil War? | **The sailors demanded an end to grain seizures, which the government had used to supply cities and soldiers.** |
| 4 | Why was the Kronstadt Rebellion a different challenge from the White forces? | **Many Kronstadt sailors had supported the revolution, while the White forces opposed Bolshevik rule.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the Civil War, the Bolsheviks fought the White forces and seized grain to supply their army. They also used the Red Terror to arrest and execute people accused of opposition. When sailors at Kronstadt rebelled, Bolshevik troops crushed the uprising. Yet the New Economic Policy replaced grain seizures with a tax, showing that the government also changed a policy that had caused anger.

Accept responses that connect each action to defending Bolshevik rule or addressing unrest. Students should distinguish the use of force at Kronstadt from the economic policy change.