Promises and Compromises

Trace the effects of Lenin's beliefs and policies.

TOT.C.3.2.E "impact of the beliefs and policies of Vladimir Lenin,"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements of Lenin's beliefs, circle policies his government put into action, and place a star beside their effects. Use your marks to trace how his goals and decisions shaped people's lives.

Lenin's Revolution in Practice

1. When the Bolsheviks took power in Russia in October 1917, Vladimir Lenin argued that workers and peasants should control the state rather than wealthy owners. His party promised "peace, land, and bread" to people exhausted by war and hunger. Lenin's government recognized peasants' seizure of land from large estates and left World War I through the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Leaving the war brought peace with Germany, but Russia lost vast territory. Lenin also defended a government led by one revolutionary party. His government dissolved an elected assembly and restricted rival voices, limiting the political choices people had.

2. During the civil war that followed, Lenin's government put major industries under state control and sent officials to take grain from peasants for the army and cities. These measures, often called War Communism, reflected his belief that the state should direct the economy in a crisis. Grain seizures helped feed troops, but they also reduced farmers' incentive to grow extra crops. War, disrupted transport, and harsh policies together deepened shortages. Some peasants resisted, and workers faced hunger in cities. Lenin's policies protected the Bolsheviks' hold on power during the fighting, yet they placed heavy costs on ordinary families.

3. By 1921, unrest and economic collapse pushed Lenin to change course. Under the New Economic Policy, or NEP, the government replaced grain seizures with a tax paid in grain. Peasants could sell produce left after paying that tax, and small private shops could operate again. The state still controlled banks and major industries. Markets revived and food supplies improved in the following years, although recovery also depended on the end of civil war. Some Communists disliked the return of private trade because it conflicted with their hopes for a fully socialist economy. Lenin accepted this compromise to keep the revolution alive.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Lenin's decision to leave World War I fulfill one promise while creating a cost for Russia?

2. How did Lenin's government limit political choices despite his stated goal for workers and peasants?

3. Explain one intended effect and one harmful effect of grain seizures during the civil war.

4. How did the NEP address a problem from War Communism while keeping part of Lenin's economic vision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence letter from a farmer in 1922 to a neighbor. Explain how two of Lenin's policies affected daily life, then judge whether his actions matched his promises, using evidence from at least two paragraphs.

ANSWER KEY

Promises and Compromises

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.3.2.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline statements of Lenin's beliefs, circle policies his government put into action, and place a star beside their effects. Use your marks to trace how his goals and decisions shaped people's lives. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Lenin's decision to leave World War I fulfill one promise while creating a cost for Russia?	**It fulfilled the promise of peace by ending Russia's war with Germany, but Russia lost vast territory.**
2	How did Lenin's government limit political choices despite his stated goal for workers and peasants?	**Although Lenin argued that workers and peasants should control the state, his government dissolved an elected assembly and restricted rival voices.**
3	Explain one intended effect and one harmful effect of grain seizures during the civil war.	**The seizures helped feed the army and cities, but they reduced farmers' incentive to grow extra crops.**
4	How did the NEP address a problem from War Communism while keeping part of Lenin's economic vision?	**It ended grain seizures, allowing peasants to sell crops left after paying a tax, while the state kept control of banks and major industries.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear neighbor, I wanted peasants to have more say when the Bolsheviks promised land and bread. During the civil war, officials took grain to feed soldiers and cities, leaving us less reason to grow extra. Now the grain tax lets us sell what remains, so I hope to plant more. Still, the dissolution of the elected assembly makes me doubt that ordinary people control the government. Lenin's new policy may improve our food supply, but his promise of political power remains uncertain.

Accept other passage-supported effects and judgments. The letter should contain five sentences, discuss two policies, and draw evidence from at least two paragraphs.