

Sequencing

Stalin's rise to power

This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.

Stalin's rise to power was a brilliant piece of political manoeuvring, but it is complicated! Cut out the slips and work on your own or in a group to put the events in the correct sequence.

▼ At the 16th Party Conference, Stalin turned against the NEP and denounced Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsky as 'deviationists'; they were demoted.
▼ Show Trial of the 'Bloc of Rightists and Trotskyites'; Bukharin and Rykov were sentenced to death (Tomsky committed suicide).
▼ Show Trial of the 'Trotskyite-Zinovievite Terrorist Centre'; Trotsky, Zinoviev and Kamenev were sentenced to death.
▼ Stalin joined with Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsky to defend the NEP; they expelled the 'United Opposition' and their supporters (Trotsky was imprisoned, then exiled).
▼ Stalin joined with Kamenev and Zinoviev to form an alliance (the <i>troika</i>) against Trotsky; they forced Trotsky to resign and dismissed the 46.
▼ Stalin moved against Kamenev and Zinoviev, removing their supporters in Moscow and Leningrad, and replacing them with his own supporters.
▼ Stalin projected himself as Lenin's successor – he organised Lenin's funeral, wrote a book on Lenin's ideas, and organised the 'Lenin Levy'.
▼ Stalin was celebrated as Lenin's successor, the new <i>vozhd</i> (leader).
▼ Trotsky forced the Politburo to discuss Lenin's <i>Testament</i>.
▼ Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev formed the 'United Opposition' against Stalin and the NEP.

When you have sorted the events out into the correct order, give each event a date:

1924, 1924, 1925, 1925, 1927, 1927, 1929, Dec 1929, 1936, 1938

Check your answers against the fact sheet.

(And, if you need them, here are the answers!)

1924	Stalin projected himself as Lenin's successor – he organised Lenin's funeral (and told Trotsky the wrong date), wrote a book on Lenin's ideas, and organised the 'Lenin Levy'.
1924	Trotsky forced the Politburo to discuss Lenin's <i>Testament</i> .
1925	Stalin joined with Kamenev and Zinoviev to form an alliance (the <i>troika</i>) against Trotsky; they forced Trotsky to resign and dismissed the 46.
1925	Stalin moved against Kamenev and Zinoviev, removing their supporters in Moscow and Leningrad, and replacing them with his own supporters.
1927	Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev formed the 'United Opposition' against Stalin and the NEP.
1927	Stalin joined with Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsy; they expelled the 'United Opposition' and their supporters (Trotsky was imprisoned, then exiled).
June 1929	At the 16th Party Conference, Stalin turned against the NEP and denounced Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsy as 'deviationists'; they were demoted.
Dec 1929	Stalin was celebrated as Lenin's successor, the new <i>vozhd</i> (leader).
1936	Show Trial of the 'Trotskyite-Zinovievite Terrorist Centre'; Trotsky, Zinoviev and Kamenev were sentenced to death.
1938	Show Trial of the 'Bloc of Rightists and Trotskyites'; Bukharin and Rykov were sentenced to death (Tomsy committed suicide).