The Kornilov revolt, September 1917 -

- General Kornilov, army general, tried to seize power
- Wanted to replace PG with military dictatorship
- Kerensky panics, calls on Bolsheviks
- Trotsky became MP
- Bolsheviks were strengthened, also legitimised them
- Armed Bolsheviks, leaving them free after
- Made PG look weak

Problems Bolshevik’s faced securing power –

- Still fighting within WW1, suffering great loss
- Seized power with little bloodshed
- PG melted away so threats still there
- General starvation and lack of resources

The October Revolution 1917 -

- Trotsky (strategist) was key in making plans for the night
- Adapted initial red guards to a tsarist army of more experienced soldiers to save time
- Planned route to target main parts of city before heading to winter palace
- Against PG, attempt to seize power
- Key buildings such as telegraph offices and railway stations were captured by the Bolsheviks.
- Winter Palace (where PG was in session) was surrounded.
- Very little resistance in Petrograd and citizens went about their everyday lives.
- Kerensky escaped
- Weakness of opposition parties (PG) and kadets (only supported the wealthy) meant they had more support and was made easier
- Rest of the PG were in Winter Palace defended only by the Women’s Batallion and military cadets
- In total only 6 soldiers died, 18 arrests and the collapse of the Provisional Government
- The following day Lenin formed a government called the Council of People’s Commissars with him as head (sovnarkom)

How significant was Lenin’s role?

- Slogans & April Thesis were very catchy and attractive.
- Popular & offered the people what they wanted.
- Judged time for revolution, when PG & other parties were at their weakest.
- Trotsky did a lot of the intricate planning & led the Red Guards
- Therefore, important but not vital.

How Did the Bolsheviks consolidate Power?

- In November, only had control of Petrograd & Moscow
- Nationalised the land to be redistributed among the peasants
- Any extra could be sold for own profit
- Increased production would mean less tax required
- Money reintroduced into society
- Key industries owned by state
- Electrification – network of power stations established
- Allows private trading and small private businesses
- Private business in agriculture for Kulaks
- Recover to pre-war levels
- Peasants who increased food production paid less tax

**Successes –**
- Restored aspects of prosperity
- Food increasing
- Businesses re-opened
- Wealth increasing
- Rapid recovery of peasants

**Failures –**
- Greed and selfishness reintroduced
- Increasing fondness of capitalist society
- Anger due to Bolsheviks disregarding previous ways
- Prostitution and crime increased
- Risking of kulaks

**Lenin’s death 1924 –**
- Suffered numerous strokes, lost control over limbs and speech
- Passed away and desired to be embalmed
- People able to visit him
- Preventing the deterioration of his significance
- Though of himself as God
- Before passing, left political testament as to who should be next in power
- Believed Stalin had too much authority he was unable to control, too rude and intolerable
- Believed Trotsky was too self-confident and arrogant but was “most capable”
- Despite this, Stalin emerged as the Soviet leader by 1928

**Stalin’s claim to power 1924-1928 –**

**Trotsky’s weaknesses –**
- He was Jewish and had previously been a Menshevik
- Resigned as commander of the Red Army rather than fought back
- He promoted ‘world revolution’

**Stalin’s strengths –**
- Born in December 1817
- Died March 1953
- Altered history, as if Trotsky was never there, and he was (false propaganda)
- Made himself out to be Lenin’s right-hand man