Non-Bolshevik newspapers banned
Churches confiscated

1921
Cheka can arrest people w/o reason
all parties shut down = one party state

Constituent Assembly shut down by Lenin after one day because Bolsheviks
Elections took place in Nov 1917 but Bolsheviks weren't a majority
Shut down Jan 1918, after one meeting, at gun-point

Politburo 1917
Seven-member committee that became the leading policy-making body of the Communist Party in Russia

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk – March 1918 and the end of the First World War for Russia
Harsh Treaty:
Russia lost 26% of population
27% of farmland
74% of iron ore and coal
Ukraine (main source of grain) lost
Huge reparations

Why did the Bolsheviks agree to it?
Assumed that other workers in other countries would rise up in communist revolt
International borders would be irrelevant when the workers had control over Europe
They needed military support in Russia
The war was hugely unpopular w/in Russia

Nov. 1918 Germany was forced to retreat on Western Front and the war ended. German troops withdrawn from Russia and the treaty was left meaningless.

War Communism
Background:
Land confiscation and redistribution
Factories under state control

What was it?
Major parts of the economy was taken over
All firms employing >10 workers were nationalized
Peasants were forced to hand over food
Any extra food found was assumed to be surplus and requisitioned
Control of industry and agriculture
Red Army had to be supplied w/ food and industrial equipment
Achievement: Reds won the war

What was the reaction?
Kulaks (richer peasants) were angry at having to hand over food and wanted a profit from selling it
Kulaks cut down the amount of food produced so there would be less surplus to be requisitioned
Famine, 5m die
 Strikes in early 1921, in Petrograd and other cities
Collapse of industrial output
Mutiny at Kronstadt Naval Base: sailor refused to obey in March 1921
T sends 60,000 soldiers to defeat sailor: 20,000 men killed or wounded
Lenin realizes that change is necessary, he is persuaded by Bolshevik leaders that Russia was going too far, too fast and needed a ‘breather’

New Economic Policy

Background:
- Introduced in March 1921: trying to take a step back from Communism

What was it?
- Government stopped taking surplus crops
- Peasants were allowed to sell their surplus food for a profit, paying a 10% tax, paid in crops
- Government let most industry to be run privately (keeping control of the largest industries)
  - Money became important
  - People could buy, sell, make a profit

Why was it introduced?
- Lenin needed to compromise, be pragmatic: he said Russia ‘wasn’t ready yet’

Pros:
- More technological innovations, Lenin planned a great network of power stations = Electrification
  - He wanted to put an electric light in every home, replacing oil lights and candles
  - Huge successes in modernization
- Increased trade w/ West
  - Great boost in Soviet economy, Anglo-Soviet trade agreement 1921
- Large scale exchanges of Western industrial goods for Russian oil etc
- Grain requisition kept down – surplus could be sold on open markets
- Traders could buy/ sell goods
- People more productive
  - 1921-1928 =
    - Grain: 37.6million to 773.3million tonnes
    - Coal: 9 to 35 million tonnes
    - Steel: 0.2 to 4 million tonnes
    - Electricity: 0.5 to 5 billion kWh
- 1921-1928 wages =
  - 10.2 – 25.2 roubles monthly

Cons:
- Prices for manufactured goods high
  - Peasants unwilling to sell grain for money because they couldn’t buy much with it
- Many remained poor and continued using backward methods of farming
- Levels of unemployment remained serious problem for young people
- People were angry about profiteering NEP men and growth of rich businessmen
- Achievements still not as high as pre-war years
- Lenin criticized by own party for being too liberal

Komsomol:
- Communist Youth League, set up by Bolsheviks in 1918
- For young people between 14 and 28
- Aim: to teach the value values of Communism to young people