Houston Area Model United Nations

Crisis Committee

Russian Revolution: Whites

Crisis Director | Claire Templet

Houston Area Model United Nations 51
February 6 & 7, 2025

Note to Delegates

Delegates,

Welcome to HAMUN, and to one of our amazing Crisis Committees! My name is Claire Templet, and I will be serving as the Crisis Director of the Whites in our committee, the Russian Revolution.

I would love to tell you all a little bit more about myself! I am a rising Freshman at The University of Texas at Austin, majoring in Government. I am so excited for my upcoming year at UT, and even more excited to be a Crisis Director at HAMUN! Model UN was a huge part of my life in high school, and I intend to continue it throughout all of college. I have competed in six MUN conferences and previously chaired a seventh conference as a high school senior. I have learned so much in my time involved in MUN, and I am so excited to see all that you guys learn and experience as well.

I chose to staff Crisis because I am in love with its historical aspect. This, paired with the fast-paced nature of the committee, makes it truly unique from anything a standard committee offers. As delegates in the Russian Revolution, expect to challenge your creativity, critical-thinking skills, and the strength of your research. Most importantly, have fun and make many wonderful memories!

Delegates, whatever you do, don't feel intimidated by this committee! The rest of the amazing staff at HAMUN and I are here to help you. We all want you to succeed, enjoy yourself, and experience all that HAMUN has to offer. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach out! I will do my very best to help in any way that I can.

Claire Templet
Crisis Director of Russian Revolution: Whites
clairetemplet2@gmail.com



Note to Delegates

Delegates,

Delegates,
Welcome to HAMUN! My name is Abigail Bishai, and I am proud to serve as the Chair for the Russian Revolution Whites!

For a little bit about me, I am currently a freshman at Texas A&M University, majoring in business. Model UN was a huge part of my high school experience, and I am so excited to continue participating in it in college. I started MUN in 9th grade, and I have been a delegate at 7 conferences. I chaired a crisis committee once, at my high school's annual conference, and I have attended HAMUN 4 times as a delegate. From public speaking to research skills, I have learned so many valuable skills through MUN that I use in my everyday life.

I chose to chair a crisis committee in particular because I love the creative freedom it gives delegates, and I can't wait to see the direction you all take it in. Also, I love the fast-paced style of the committee. I can't wait to see every single one of you challenge your public speaking ability, your ability to come up with innovative ideas on the spot, and your rapid problem-solving skills.

Please do not be nervous about this committee, all of the HAMUN staff are here to help you. We all just want you to have so much fun and grow in your MUN skills. You are always welcome to reach out to me with any questions you might have and I will help you in any way that I can!

Abigail Bishai
Chair of Russian Revolution: Whites
abigailbishai8@gmail.com



Background

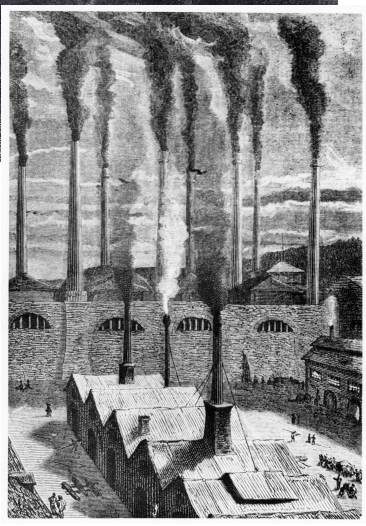
Russia in the 1900s

At the beginning of the 20th century, Russia remained one of the largest empires in the world. Despite its enormous territorial and military strength, however, it faced serious economic, political, and social problems. The majority of the populations consisted of peasants who lived in poverty.

Industrialization arrived relatively late in Russia, but developed rapidly. The rapidly expanding industrial working class faced law wages, dangerous working conditions, and overcrowded cities like Moscow and Petrograd. At the same time, peasants continued to rely on agriculture and remained economically vulnerable to poor harvests and food shortages. Politically Russia remained largely autocratic. The public believed Russia was unwilling to provide meaningful political representation.

As can be seen, Russia problems were not solely caused by World War 1 or the Bolsheviks. Decades of economic inequality political instability, and public dissatisfaction with the government had already weakened the state.





Background

Serfdom



For centuries, much of Russia's population lived under a tyrannical system known as serfdom. Serfs, the working/lower class, were legally tied to the land owned by their landowners. This meant they had borderline no rights and freedoms, less than even a free peasant. By the 19th century serfs made up a vast portion of Russia's population.



In 1861 Tsar Alexander II issued the Emancipation Manifesto, abolishing serfdom throughout most of the Russian empire. This emancipation had a number of unintended consequences. Many former serfs had to make payments for the land they were given per the emancipation manifesto. In a similar vein, the land given to the peasants was often insufficient to support them and their families. As Russia industrialized, many people began to move from the countryside to the city.

Russo-Japanese War

In 1904 Russia entered the Russo-Japanese War as both countries competed for influence in East Asia. Expected to easily win, Russia was shocked when Japan achieved a series of major victories against Russian forces. Russia's defeat in 1905 of the Russo-Japanese war seriously damaged the reputation of the Tsar and exposed weaknesses in the Russian military. Russia lost soldiers, ships, resources, and international prestige. The consequences spread beyond the battlefield. Anger over military failures combined with existing political grievances directly contributed to the 1905 Revolution.



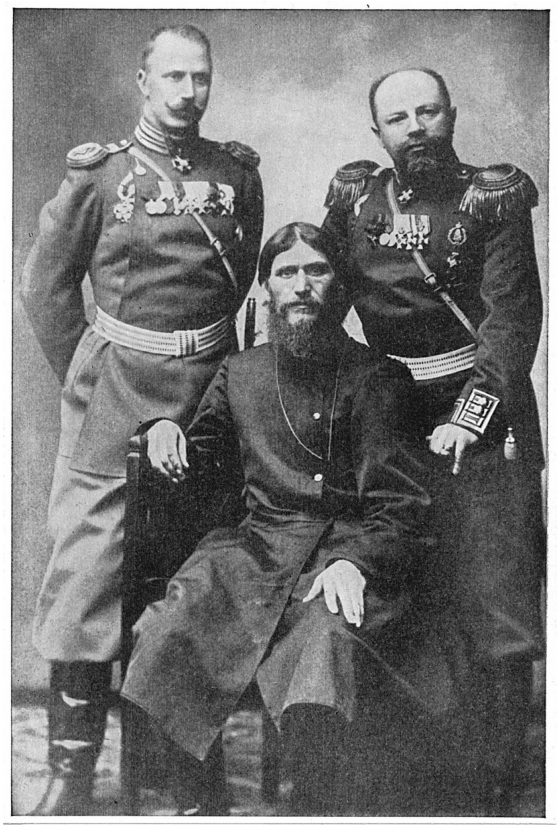


1905 Revolution

In 1905, protests, strikes, and demonstrations spread throughout Russia. The most notable of these was Bloody Sunday, when imperial troops fired on peaceful demonstrators. The unrest eventually forced Nicholas the II to make concessions. Through the October Manifesto, the Tsar promised civil liberties and the creation of a legislative Duma. Obviously Russia was no full democracy, but the government had been forced to recognize that some form of political reform was necessary. These reforms did not permanently solve Russia's political problem though, and Revolutionary groups remained active.

In 1914, Russia entered World War I. Millions of Russian soldiers were killed, wounded, or captured during the war. Additionally, the war devastated Russia's economy, Inflation increased, transportation struggled, and food became increasingly scarce. Confidence in the Tsar continued to decline.

In 1915, Tsar Nicholas the II left Petrograd to man the army at its front lines. He left control to his wife Empress Alexandra and her ministers. Alexandra's association with the controversial figure Grigori Rasputin damaged the reputation of the monarchy. In 1916, Rasputin was assassinated by members of the Russian aristocracy. His murder demonstrated how divided Russia's ruling class had become. By this point, the monarchy was losing support from almost every major section of Russian society.



In March 1917, demonstrations erupted in Petrograd over food shortages, inflation, working conditions, and the continuation of the war. Soldiers who were ordered to suppress the demonstrations were, in mass, refusing and instead joining protests. Nicholas the II abdicated the throne. The Provisional Government, formed largely by members of the Duma, claimed political authority. At the same time, the Petrograd Soviet, made up of workers and soldiers, significantly influenced events in the capitol. The provisional government chose to continue fighting WWI, a decision which proved extremely controversial. During the 1917 October Revolution, the Bolsheviks presented themselves as an alternative to the provisional government. The White army begun to form as a broad coalition of groups united primarily by their opposition to Bolshevik rule.



Timeline

1861: Serfdom is abolished under Tsar Alexander the 2nd. Russia begins to rapidly industrialize, growing an urban working-class. An unintended consequence of this industrialization is overcrowding in cities, poor working conditions, and severe economic inequality. As a result, Russia is faced with a growing revolutionary movement that threatens the just, existing political order.

1904: Russia enters the Russo-Japanese war in an attempt to expand its influence in East Asia. The War places more economic and military pressure on the already-struggling Russian Empire.

1905: Defeat against Japan damages the image of lowers the public's confidence in the Tsarist government. This unrest culminates in the 1905 Revolution. This "revolution" brings about strikes, protests, and the formation of worker councils known as the Soviets.

1914: Russia enters World War 1. The war exposes many of the weaknesses in Russia's military organization, transportation systems, and economy. Dissatisfaction with the Tsar grows in tandem with the number of casualties racked up in the war.

1915: The Tsar takes control of the army, leaving Petrograd. He leaves command to his wife who finds herself confiding in controversial figure Grigori Rasputin, further damaging the public image of the Tsarist regime.

1916: Grigori Rasputin is assassinated by the Russian aristocracy, exposing deep divisions within Russia's ruling elites.

1917: Strikes and demonstrations in Petrograd cause the Tsar to abdicate. A provisional government is established. The provisional government's inability to solve Russia's issues leads to widespread support for Bolshevik rule.

Committee Brief

Much of Russia was in ruins in the 1917's. The 1917 October Revolution marked a huge turning point in Russian History, and kick-started the bloody and infamous Russian Revolution. October 24, 1917, the revolted and Russian Bolsheviks filled the power vacuum left by the assassination of Russia's previous governing body, the Tsar. In protest, the White Army was created, united in their anti-communist beliefs. This ragtag militia of anti-communists wished to overthrow Vladimir Lenin's Bolshevik government, and halt the spread of communism. Beyond this goal white army general's shared little common ground, opening up room for potential infighting and weakness. This committee will explore the events of the October Revolution and the broader Russian Revolution from the Whites' perspective. Delegates will represent the White Army and all of their different, but united, political perspectives.

The White Army consisted of loyalists to the Tsar, Democratic liberals, Moderate Socialists, Mensheviks, and essentially all other anti-communist ideologues. Getting such a diverse group to work together is a challenge, but a challenge delegates must undertake. The current goal of the whites is to successfully take power back from the Bolsheviks, and decide what form of government they want to implement. Different ideological groups want different forms of government, ranging from a Constitutional Monarchy to a Democratic Socialist State.

This committee will be focused on creating a permanent and/or provisional government for Russia, taking back power, handling the Revolutionaries, and maintaining Russia's Eastern Front in WWI. The Whites will have to tackle all of this, while remaining unified, if they wish to win the Revolutionary War and rewrite history.

Your Goals

- Determine how to organize White Army forces and successfully challenge Bolshevik control over Russia. The ultimate goal is to defeat the Bolsheviks and prevent the establishment of a permanent, one-party, communist government. However, beating and removing the Bolsheviks from power is only the beginning.
- Figure out what government will replace the Bolshevik regime and how the new government will avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. Should Russia restore the monarchy, establish a constitutional monarchy, create a democratic republic, or establish another form of representative government? The White movement contains monarchists, conservatives, liberals, military leaders, and many other groups, all of which have different ideas for Russia's future.
- Work together in order to prevent creating another political crisis. The new government must have legitimate leadership, functioning laws, and a system capable of maintaining order.
- Address and begin to reverse the economic and humanitarian effects World War 1 and the Revolution had on Russia. Russia faces severe food shortages, inflation, damaged infrastructure, and unemployment. Soldiers and civilians are exhausted from the years of fighting, and many have been displaced, not even having a home to return to
- Consider ways to help agriculture and industry recover, and how to restore transportation and trade systems throughout Russia.
- Create a stable Russian state capable of restoring economic prosperity, maintaining territorial unity, protecting its citizens, and rebuilding Russia's influence abroad while preventing another revolution.

Characters



Alexander Kolchak

Alexander Kolchak was a Russian admiral and one of the most powerful leaders of the White movement. After the Bolsheviks took power, Kolchak became the leader of the anti-Bolshevik government based in Omsk. In November 1918, he took the title of Supreme Ruler of Russia, giving him authority over much of the White movement in Siberia. His forces launched a major offensive toward western Russia in 1919, making Siberia one of the most important fronts against the Bolsheviks. Kolchak strongly opposed Bolshevism and wanted to restore a united Russian state.



Anton Denikin

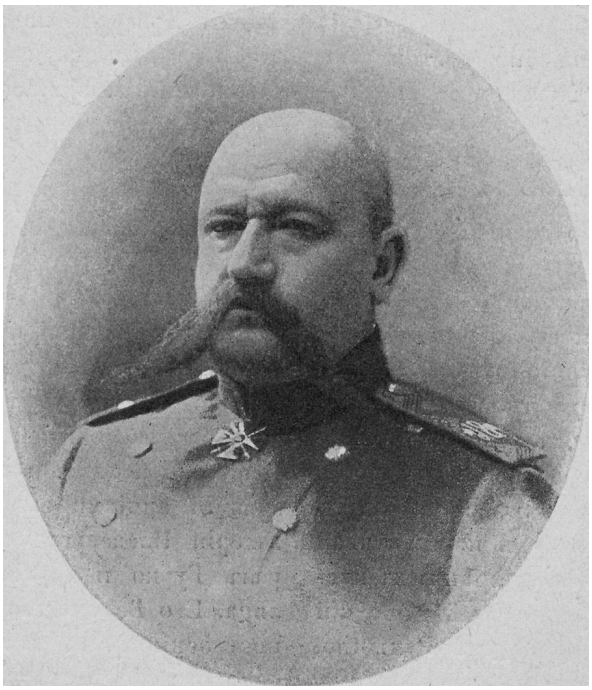
Anton Denikin was an experienced Russian general who fought in both the Russo-Japanese War and World War I. After the October Revolution, he helped build the Volunteer Army, one of the first major White military forces in southern Russia. Denikin became one of the leading commanders of the White movement. He eventually commanded the Armed Forces of South Russia, controlling a large anti-Bolshevik army made up of volunteers and Cossacks. In 1919, his forces launched a major offensive toward Moscow in an attempt to defeat the Bolsheviks. Denikin strongly opposed Bolshevism.

Characters



Pyotr Wrangel

Pyotr Wrangel was a Russian general and cavalry commander who fought in the Russo-Japanese War and World War I. After the October Revolution, he joined the White Volunteer Army and became an important commander under Anton Denikin. Wrangel commanded the Caucasian Army and gained attention after his forces captured the important city of Tsaritsyn in 1919. He replaced Denikin as the leader of the White forces in southern Russia. Wrangel attempted to strengthen White support by introducing land reforms. He became the final major White commander in Crimea before evacuating his army in 1920.



Nikolai Yudenich

Nikolai Yudenich was an experienced Imperial Russian general and one of the major military leaders of the White movement. He had commanded Russian forces during World War I before becoming a leader of the anti-Bolshevik forces in northwestern Russia. In 1919, Alexander Kolchak recognized Yudenich as commander of White forces operating near the Baltic region. Yudenich organized the Northwestern Army and launched an offensive against Petrograd, one of the Bolsheviks' most important cities. His position made him one of the Whites' most important commanders on the western front.

Characters



Yevgeny Miller

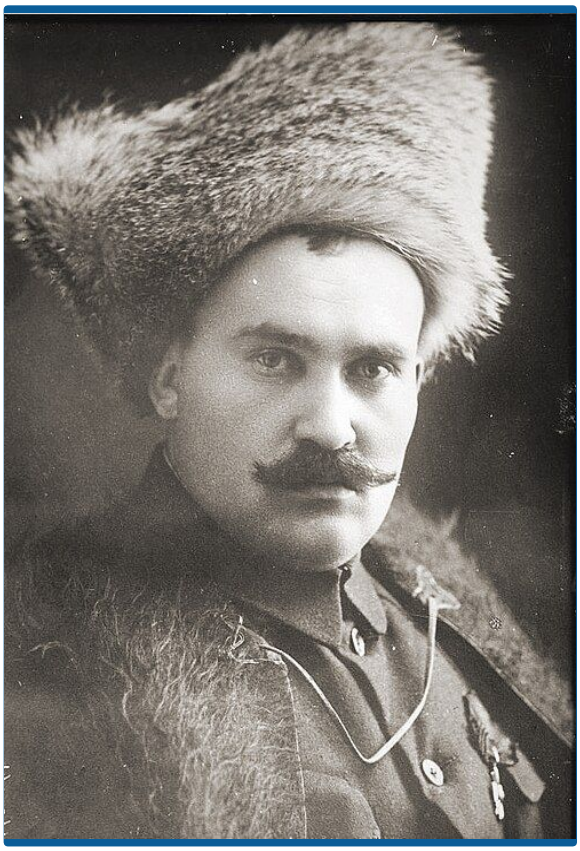
Evgeny Miller was a Russian military officer who served as a military attaché in several European countries. During World War I, he commanded the 26th Army Corps and reached the rank of lieutenant general. After the October Revolution, Miller became involved with the anti-Bolshevik government in northern Russia and commanded the White Northern Army from Arkhangelsk. His forces received significant support from the Allied powers, especially Britain. When Allied troops withdrew, Miller continued fighting the Red Army but became increasingly isolated. In 1920, the collapse of the Northern Front forced him to evacuate Arkhangelsk.



Pyotr Krasnov

Pyotr Krasnov comes from a long line of generals. Both his father and his grandfather were high ranking officers in the Tsar's army. Krasnov graduated from Pavlovsk Military School and joined the Ataman regiment in the Imperial Russian Army. He fought in the Russo-Japanese war and the Boxer Rebellion. He has an extreme amount of experience. As the Ataman of the Don Cossacks, Krasnov holds immense power by being in command of an anti-bolshevik cossack army. Krasnov believes that being on the offensive is key to success. He sees Petrograd as a strategic city to take.

Characters



Grigory Semyonov

Grigory Semyonov was born in Eastern Siberia. He can speak Russian, Mongolian, and Buryat fluently. During his time in WW1, he rose to the rank of Yesaul (Cossack Captain), and earned the Saint George's Cross for courage. When the October Revolution broke out, he managed to stir up a sizable anti-Soviet rebellion, from which he oversaw in his home province of Transbaikal.



Ivan Kalmykov

Ivan Kalmykov is known as a patriotic Cossack. He was originally a Junker although he rose to the rank of captain during WW1. He impressively won a total of 4 awards including the Order of St. Vladimir and the Sword of St. George. When the October revolution broke out, he took to guerrilla fighting against the newly created Red Army. He was eventually promoted to the rank of Major-General due to his effectiveness in the revolution.

Characters



Anatoly Pepelyayev

Anatoly Pepelyayev was brought up “in the family of a military man”. He graduated from the Omsk Cadets Corps, followed by his graduation from the Pavalovsk Military School. He had experience fighting in WW1, where he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. He managed to become a Lieutenant Colonel by the time the revolution broke out. He was most notable for taking the helm of the White movement in his native Siberian city of Tomsk, raising the 1st Middle Siberian Corps and joining forces with the White Czechs.



Vladimir May-Mayevsky

Despite his appearance, he was one of the ablest White military leaders. He graduated from Nikolaev Engineering Institute, serving as a lieutenant with the elite Izmailovsky Life Guards Regiment. He graduated from the Nicholas General Staff Academy in 1896 and was promoted captain of the General Staff. Having served in both the Russo-Japanese war and WW1, he was promoted to Major General. He was also awarded the Order, Cross, and the Golden Sword of St. George. By the time of the revolution, he was in charge of the 1st Guard Corps. He was known for his militaristic talent, calm bravery, quick decisive action, and his ingenious use of railroads and other logistical strategies during the war.

Characters



Yakov Slashchov

Slashchov, known among his subordinates as "General Yasha", joined the Volunteer Army in December 1917. He was appointed Andrei Shkuro's chief of staff in May 1918. His eager attitude and cunning strategies allowed him rise through the ranks of the White Army quickly. Slashchov, however, later became notorious for his cruelty against the Jews as he was responsible for the murder of 200 in Holovanivsk.



Andrei Shkuro

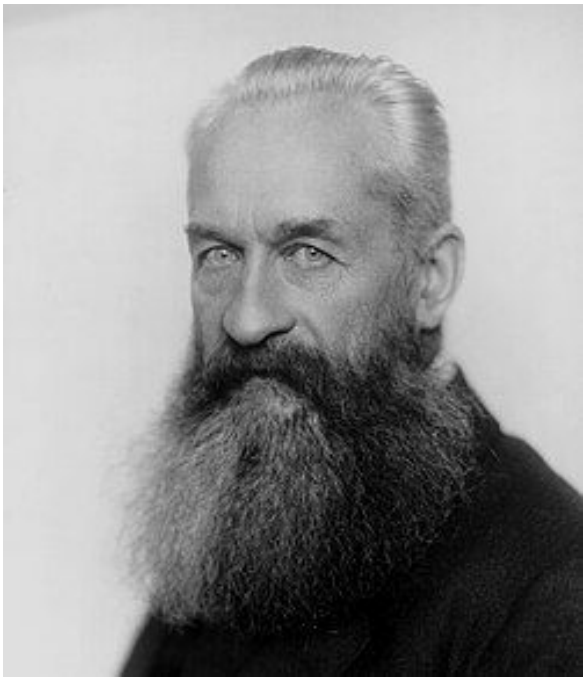
Andrei Shkuro was born into a Cossack family. During WW1, Shkuro became the commander of a special partisan unit which executed several daring raids behind German lines. He has experience in conducting secretive underground operations. When the revolution broke out, Shkuro organized an anti-Bolshevik Cossack unit. He also eventually gained an entire cavalry corps of Cossacks under his command.

Characters



Peter Struve

Peter Struve was a Russian political thinker, economist, and liberal who became a strong opponent of Bolshevism. His political views shifted toward liberalism and support for constitutional government. After the October Revolution, Struve joined the anti-Bolshevik movement and worked with the Volunteer Army. He later represented Denikin's government in Paris and London, helping the Whites communicate with foreign governments. When Pyotr Wrangel took control of the White forces in southern Russia, Struve became his foreign minister. His experience made him an important civilian voice within the White movement.



Georgy Lvov

Georgy Lvov was a liberal Russian politician and the first Prime Minister of the Russian Provisional Government. Before the revolution, he had been involved in local government through the zemstvos and served as a member of the State Duma. Following the February Revolution of 1917, Lvov became the head of the new Provisional Government and attempted to establish a more liberal and representative government in Russia. \. After the Bolsheviks took power, Lvov left Russia and became involved with Russian anti-Bolshevik political organizations abroad, including efforts to gain foreign support for the anti-Bolshevik cause.

Characters



Konstantin Mamontov

A Russian Cossack cavalry commander and prominent leader of the Don Cossacks during the Russian Civil war. He was a committed opponent of the Bolsheviks, and he commanded large Cossack forces and was known for his cavalry raids against the Red Army supply lines. He was focussed on protecting the Cossack interests and keeping their military and political independence during the revolution. His forces have the potential to be valuable allies to other anti-Bolshevik groups. He wanted a unified Russian state, but also fiercely defended Cossack autonomy.



Vladimir Sidorin

A prominent Don Cossack military commander and senior officer for the Whites. As a veteran of the Imperial Russian Army, he became one of the leading commanders for the Don Cossack forces fighting against the Bolsheviks. Over time, he became one of the most important military leaders, and that gave him significant influence over the Cossack's troops and territory. He was a strong proponent for the Don Cossack Host's autonomy and he opposed the spread of Bolshevism. He valued discipline and the preservation of traditional Cossack institutions.

Characters



Mikhail Diterkhs

Mikhail Diterikhs comes from a military family. He has extensive military and strategic training because graduated from the Page Corps and the Nicholas General Staff Academy. He fought in the Russo-Japanese War and later was a senior staff officer during World War I. Eventually, in Siberia, he became one of the major White commanders in the Siberian Army and the Eastern Front. He was incredibly religious and supported the restoration of the Russian Monarchy. He has a great amount of military and political influence because of his control over the White forces in Siberia and the Russian Far East.



Sergey Wojciechowski

Sergey Wojciechowski was a Russian military officer and later became an important commander for the anti-Bolshevik forces in Siberia. He was trained as an officer when he was a part of the Imperial Russian Army, and he gained combat experience during World War I. After the Bolsheviks gained power, he joined the Whites and became closely affiliated with the Czechoslovak Legion. Eventually, he played an incredibly important role in the fighting that happened along the Trans-Siberian Railway. He had control over many major military formations during the Russian Revolution.

Characters



Sergey Sazonov

Sergey Sazonov was a diplomat. He was Russia's Foreign Minister from 1910-1916, and he was heavily involved in Russian foreign policy before and during World War I. He had a great amount of experience dealing with European governments, and he had a deep understanding of how significant foreign support could be for Russia. Because he strongly opposed the Bolshevik movement, he later became affiliated with the whites and served as the Foreign Minister in Kolchak's anti-Bolshevik government (i.e. the Russian State). He represented them at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919.



Boris Savinkov

Boris Savinkov was a leading member of the Socialist Revolutionary Party's Combat Organization, and he later became involved in assasination attempts against Tsarist government officials. After the February Revolution, he became involved in the Provisional Government, and then he turned against the Bolsheviks. In 1918, he organized the Union for the Defense of the Motherland and Freedom, which was an anti-Bolshevik organization that tried to organize uprisings against the Soviets. He used unconventional tactics and believed that defeating the Bolsheviks required aggressive action.

Characters



Alexander Guchkov

Alexander Guchkov was a conservative Russian politician and he became one of the most influential people in the political opposition to Tsar Nicholas II. He volunteered to fight alongside the Boer forces during the Second Boer War and was wounded and captured. In Russia, he became a leader of the Octobrist party, and later, he served as the Chairman of the State Duma. During World War I, he gained experience with Russia's military and supply issues after he became the Chairman of the Central Military-Industrial Committee. He later became the Minister of War and Navy in the Provisional Government and wanted to replace the Tsarist government with a constitutional one.



Vasily Shulgin

Vasily Shulgin was a conservative politician and journalist that strongly supported Russian nationalism and monarchy. He studied law at Kyiv University, and later he became a member of the State Duma. He became one of the leading voices on the political right, and he strongly opposed revolutionary movements because he believed in a strong Russian government. During the February Revolution, he became a member of the Provisional Committee of the Duma. After the Bolshevik revolution, he joined the Whites. He was opposed to Ukrainian independence and wanted a unified Russian state.

Characters



Victor Chernov

Viktor Chernov was a leading member of the Socialist Revolutionary Party and strongly supported Russia's peasants and land reform. After the February Revolution, he served as Minister of Agriculture in the Provisional Government. Following the October Revolution, Chernov opposed the Bolsheviks and became President of the Russian Constituent Assembly in 1918. After the Bolsheviks dissolved the Assembly, he opposed their government. During the Civil War, Chernov supported representative government and a democratic alternative to Bolshevik rule and the authoritarian elements of the White movement.



Vladimir Purishkevich

Vladimir Purishkevich was a Russian politician known for his strong support of the monarchy and Russian nationalism. He served in the State Duma and became one of the most outspoken politicians on the Russian right. In 1916, he participated in the plot that killed Rasputin, believing his influence was damaging the monarchy. After the Bolsheviks took power, Purishkevich strongly opposed them and supported anti-Bolshevik resistance. His monarchist and nationalist beliefs placed him among the most conservative figures opposed to the Bolsheviks.

Characters



Nikolai Markov

Nikolai Markov was a conservative Russian politician and one of the strongest supporters of the monarchy. He served as a deputy in the State Duma and became a prominent leader of the Russian nationalist and monarchist movement. Markov strongly opposed liberal, socialist, and revolutionary movements and supported maintaining a powerful Russian monarchy. After the Bolsheviks seized power, he supported the anti-Bolshevik cause and continued advocating for the restoration of the monarchy. His views represented the strongly monarchist side of the wider White movement.



Nikolai Avksientiev

Nikolai Avksientiev was a Russian Socialist revolutionary politician who became an important person in the revolutionary government after the fall of the tsar. At first, he was involved in the Socialist Revolutionary movement, and wanted political reforms that would give more power to the Russian people. After the February Revolution, he got involved in the Provisional government; later, he served as the chairman for the All-Russian Council of Peasants' Deputies. After the Bolshevik seized power, he became strongly opposed to them. Eventually, he became Chairman of the Ufa Directory.

Characters



Mikhail Alekseev

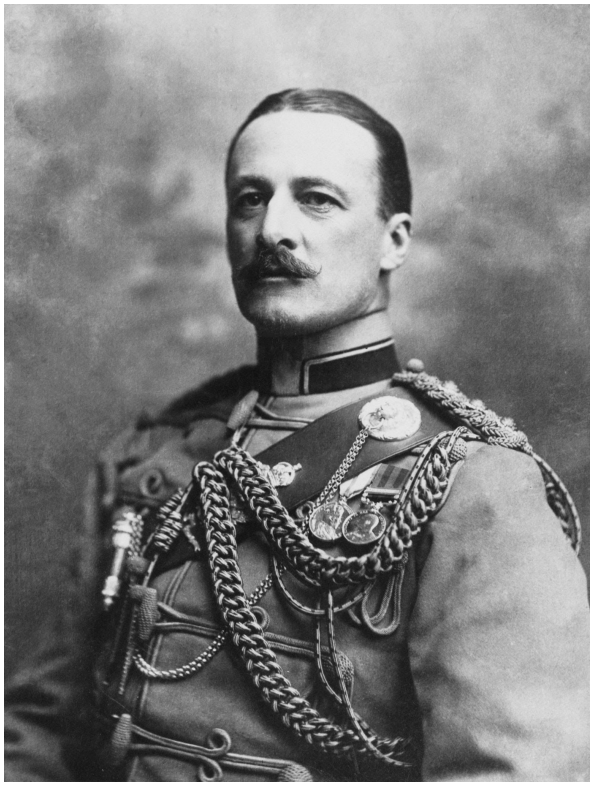
Mikhail Alekseev was a senior Russian military officer and became one of the founders of the Whites. He had a large amount of military experience because of the Russo-Turkish War and WWI; eventually, he became one of the most senior commanders of the Imperial Russian Army. After the February Revolution, he was the Chief of Staff in the Provisional Government. He opposed the Bolsheviks. After the October Revolution, he aided in organizing the volunteer army in southern Russia with Lavr Kornilov. He wanted to defeat the Bolsheviks, but didn't want to immediately restore the monarchy.



Lavr Kornilov

Lavr Kornilov was an experienced Russian military commander, and he became one of the most well known leaders of the early Whites. He had a great amount of combat experience because of the Russo-Japanese War and WWI, and eventually, he became the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army. In August of 1917, he was involved with the Kornilov Affair; this was when he tried to pressure the Provisional Government to restore order and strengthen military authority. When the Bolsheviks gained power, he helped establish the Volunteer Army with Alekseev.

Characters



Alfred Knox

Alfred Knox was a British military officer and diplomat who was involved in Russia during the revolutionary period. He was the British military representative and was in Petrograd during the February and October Revolutions. This gave him a first-hand account of the collapse of the Russian government. After the Bolsheviks gained control, Knox supported anti-Bolshevik forces. Later, he became the head of the British military mission with Kolchak in Siberia and he helped coordinate the British military assistance to the Whites. He thought that defeating the Bolshevik forces was important for Europe's security and Britain's interest.



David R. Francis

David R. Francis was an American businessman, politician, and diplomat. He served as the United States Ambassador to Russia from 1916-1918. He was in Russia during the February and Bolshevik Revolutions, which gave him firsthand experience with the collapse of the Romanov and Provisional governments, as well as the rise of the Bolsheviks. His job as an ambassador was to report developments in Russia to the American government and he questioned how the United States should respond to the Revolution. He was opposed to the Bolsheviks, and he supported continued U.S. involvement in Russia.

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