

# The Age of Anxiety

## Dissatisfied Powers

- **Germany**
  - Weimar Republic
    - Democracy
    - Only formed to get better terms at the Treaty of Versailles
      - *Everybody hated it*
  - No experience with democracy
  - Social Democrats
    - Dominant in Weimar
  - Dissatisfied
    - Workers had no work
    - Soldiers had feeling they could have won the war
      - Government stopped it too early
    - Spartacists
      - Communists
      - Republic too conservative
    - Rapid inflation and unemployment
      - 1914 - \$1 equals 4 German Marks
      - 1923 - \$1 equals 1,000,000,000,000 German Marks
    - German communist party grew
- **Hungary**
  - Karolyi
    - 1918
    - Land reforms
  - **Bella Kun**
    - 1919
    - Overthrew the government
      - Communist
      - Nationalized industry
  - Horthy
    - 1920
    - Dictatorship
      - Conservative
      - Repressive
        - Persecution
- **Poland**
  - Democracy difficult
    - 59 parties
  - Pilsudski
    - Dictator of Poland
- Bulgaria and Albania
  - Both became dictatorships
- Czechoslovakia
  - Only one where democracy worked
    - Remained a republic



## Rebuilding Powers

### - France

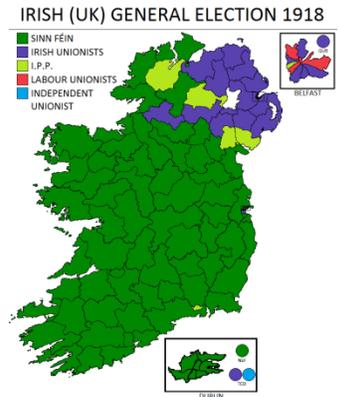
- Obsessed with security
  - Maginot line
    - Along German border
    - Defensive wall
- Debt
  - Also dealt with inflation
- **Ruhr crisis**
  - Ruhr is a river valley
  - Germans angry over paying reparations
    - Britain and France demanded this money
  - Ruhr miners went on strike
    - All the profits were being sent to France
  - French occupied the Ruhr valley
    - Almost led to war
  - Dawes Plan
    - Negotiations after the Ruhr crisis
    - France would withdraw troops
    - Germany would have some time
    - Americans would lend money to help Germany
      - Fixed problem
      - Germany stabilizes currency



### - England

- Firmly democratic
- Economic problems
  - Trade
  - Other nations were beginning to industrialize
  - More competition
    - United States
  - Tariff barriers
  - India developing textiles
    - In direct competition with England
  - Investment drying up
  - High degree of unemployment
- Coal strike
  - 1926
  - Led to a general strike
    - 6,000,000 workers not working
    - State of emergency
- **Trade Disputes Act**
  - 1927
  - General strikes illegal
  - Sympathy strikes illegal
- Labour Party
  - By mid 1920s had replaced liberal party
- Zinoviev Letter
  - From Russia to workers in England
  - Fraud
- National Government
  - Coalition of all parties

- **Ireland**
  - Wanted independence
    - Postponed during World War I
    - Helped Germans during the war
  - **Sinn Fein**
    - Irish nationalist party
    - Terrorist techniques
  - Independence
    - 1922
- Commonwealth of Nations
  - Voluntarily agreed to help each other economically
    - Canada, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa

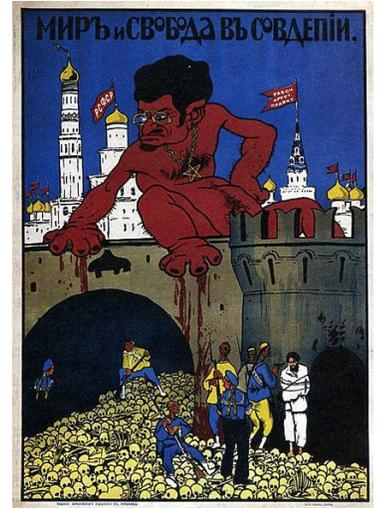


- **Russia**

- “Democratic” State
  - Constitution for socialists country with elected legislature
    - Citizens had the right to vote
      - Communist party was all powerful
        - Used secret police to keep people in check
  - United all Russian Republics under Union of the Soviet Socialists Republic
- Vladimir Lenin
  - Needing to rebuild after Civil War
  - **New Economic Plan** (NEP)
    - Small business could remain in private ownership
      - Allowed to keep profits
      - Semi-capitalistic
    - State controlled banks, trade, and large industries
    - Russian Economy slowly gained strength
  - Lenin’s health deteriorated
    - Power struggle brewed between Stalin and Trotsky
      - Lenin preferred Trotsky
        - Stalin too powerful and not tolerant enough
        - Lenin’s last will
          - 1923
          - “The comrades must find a way to remove Stalin”
    - Suffered three strokes
      - Died in January 1925
        - Age 53
  - Considered father of communist Russia
    - “Cult of Personality”
      - Given godlike status
- Power Struggle
  - Stalin
    - Georgian
      - Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili
    - General Secretary of the Communist Party
      - Appointed people to positions
      - Used position to amass power through building up loyal supporters



- Trotsky
    - Jewish
      - Lev Davidovich Bronstein
      - Later became atheist
    - War Commissar
      - Scholar and leader of the communist revolution
      - Handpicked successor of Lenin
  - Stalin fairly popular
    - From the peasant class
      - Support from majority of Russians
    - Support from top ranking officials
      - Had helped many of them get into positions
    - Prevented Lenin's will from getting publicized
    - Trotsky seen as arrogant
  - Stalin pressured Trotsky out of the Communist Party
    - Trotsky flees to Mexico in 1929
      - Murdered in 1940
- **The Five-Year Plan**
- Call for Soviet citizens to work for the overall good
  - Set goals for rapid economic growth through heavy industry
    - To develop core industries, spur military growth, and provide minimum consumer goods
    - Government decided the quantity
      - Set prices
  - All private industry comes under state control
    - GOSPLAN
  - Industrial development
    - Industrial centers for military buildup
  - Collectivization
    - Land comprised into state-owned farms
      - Opposed by Kulkaks
        - Burned farms, Killed livestock
          - Stalin had them purged
- Totalitarian Russia
- Cult of Personality built around Stalin
    - Developed through propaganda
  - Loss of freedoms
    - No social or economic mobility
    - Live in fear of government
- **The Great Purge**
- Stalin very paranoid
  - Assassination of Head of Communist Party
    - Stalin claims it is a Trotsky plot
      - Uses as an excuse to eliminate rivals
        - Zinoviev, Kamenev, Bukharin, and Rykov



- Targets all
  - Army Officer Corps
    - Almost all experienced officers
  - Political opponents
  - Anyone who opposed Stalin
  - Friends and Family
  - Average citizens
- Exile
  - Political prisoners sent to Gulags
    - Primarily in Siberia
    - Work camps
      - Used as a way to force modernization
    - Comparable to concentration camps
- Execution
  - On the spot or after short trials
- Effects
  - Stalin had to rebuild officer corps
    - Unprepared for World War II
  - Massive displacement
    - 3-12 million imprisoned
    - Death tolls 500,000 to 2 million

