**Soviet Union Unit Timeline 1917 to 1941**

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| **1917** | **March:** - Tsar Nicolas abdicates and provisional government assumes control  **April:** - Lenin arrives in Russia and announces the April Theses.  **July:** - Kerensky takes over leadership of the Provisional Government.  - July Days.  **September:** - Kornilov affair.  - Bolsheviks gain a majority in the Petrograd soviet.  **November:** - Bolsheviks storm the Winter Palace and overthrow the Provisional Gov.  **December:** - Lenin creates the Cheka. |
| **1918** | **March:** - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk  - Start of the Russian Civil War.  **June:** - Introduction of War Communism. |
| **1919** | **January to June:** - Paris Peace Conference.  **March:** - Creation of the Comintern.  **June:** - Treaty of Versailles. |
| **1920** | **August:** - Polish General Pilsudsky defeats a Russian Bolshevik army at the gates of Warsaw.  **October:** - Poland and Bolshevik Russia conclude a peace treaty end their war.  **November:** - White general, Wrangel is exiled to Turkey. |
| **1921** | - Gosplan created.  **February:** - Famine hits Russia and lasts to 1922; five million die.  - End of the Civil War.  **March:** - Kronstadt mutiny.  - End of War Communism.  - New Economic Policy (NEP) is launched. |
| **1922** | **January:** - Russia renamed Soviet Russia.  **February:** - The Cheka is dissolved and replaced with the OGPU.  **April:** - Stalin is named General Secretary of the Party.  - Treaty of Rapallo.  **May:** - The Allies demand that the Soviet government pay the Tsar’s debts from WW I.  **December:** - Soviet Russia renamed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. |
| **1923** | **January:** - Lenin amends his testament to condemn Stalin’s leadership qualities.  - Stalin introduces socialism in one country. |
| **1924** | **January:** - Lenin dies; Petrograd is renamed Leningrad.  - Rykov takes over as leader.  - Creation of the ‘troika’.  **May:** - The Politburo decides to keep Lenin’s testament secret after Stalin threatens to resign over its contents. |
| **1925** | **January:** - Trotsky removed as Commissar of War.  **December:** - Trotsky and Krupskaya reveal Lenin’s Testament at the 14th Party Congress.  - “Socialism in One Country” is adopted as official Soviet policy. |
| **1926** | **November:** - Trotsky, Kamenev, and Zinoviev are removed from the Central Committee. |
| **1927** | **October:** - Trotsky, Kamenev, and Zinoviev are removed from the Party. |
| **1928** | **January:** - Trotsky is banished to Kazakhstan along with Kamenev and Zinoviev.  **October:** - First of Stalin’s Five Year Plans begins. |
| **1929** | **January:** - Trotsky is expelled from the USSR and eventually exiles himself to Mexico.  **October:** - New York Stock Market crashes.  - Great Depression begins.  **November:** - Bukharin is expelled from the Party. |
| **1930** | **January:** - Collectivization begins.  - Stalin attacks the Kulaks.  **December:** - Rykov removed from the Politburo. |
| **1932** | **October:** - Ukrainian famine begins.  **November:** - FDR elected president of the USA.  - Stalin’s wife dies; suicide is suspected. |
| **1933** | **January:** - Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.  **May:** - Second Five Year Plan begins. |
| **1934** | **December:** - Kirov shot after the 23rd Party Congress. |
| **1935** | **January:** - Stalin begins the purge of the Party.  - Kamenev and Zinoviev imprisoned; sentence is set at 137 years.  **March:** - Khrushchev elected Party Secretary. |
| **1936** | - Military purges begin.  **August:** - Kamenev and Zinoviev executed. |
| **1937** | **April:** - Trotsky, now in Mexico, calls for the overthrow of Stalin.  **June:** - Stalin’s show trials reach their zenith with the trial and execution of eight Soviet generals. |
| **1938** | - Third Five Year Plan begins. |
| **1939** | **May:** - Molotov becomes foreign minister  **August:** - Nazi-Soviet Non Aggression Pact.  **September:** - Hitler invades Poland triggering WW II. |
| **1940** | **June:** - France falls.  **August:** - Trotsky assassinated in Mexico by the NKVD.  **August to October:** - the Battle of Britain.  - Third Five Year Plan cancelled. |
| **1941** | **June:** - Hitler launches Operation Barbarossa.  **December:** - Japanese attack Pearl Harbour/ the US enters the war. |

*“A single death is a tragedy, a million is a statistic.”*

**Josef Stalin**