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13th Congress of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks)

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The 13th Congress of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) was held during 23–31 May 1924 in Moscow. Of the delegates attending, 748 had voting rights, and 416 had consultative rights.^[1] The congress elected the 13th Central Committee.

This congress was the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks)' first to take place after the death of Vladimir Lenin, and represents a transition between the Lenin and Joseph Stalin regimes. It was also the first confrontation between the Left Opposition (led by Leon Trotsky) and the "troika" (led by Stalin, Grigory Zinoviev, and Lev Kamenev).

Background [edit]

Article Talk

By the time of Lenin's death on 21 January 1924, the New Economic Policy (NEP) had produced some economic stability after the famines and crises that had plagued the post-Civil War Soviet economy, such as the "sales crisis" of 1922. The posthumous cult of Lenin became a strategic tool for various Party leaders vying for the leadership. Party membership expanded by more than half during the February "Lenin Enrollment," while Stalin gave a series of lectures later titled *Foundations of Leninism*. Even though Stalin had been condemned as "too rude and... intolerable" and recommended for dismissal by the late Lenin in his "Last Testament," Stalin nonetheless successfully retained his position as General Secretary and crafted a powerful public association with Lenin's personality cult. Stalin's supporters used Trotsky's former disputes with Lenin to condemn him, and his theory of "permanent revolution" would become the main object of attack in the great theoretical debates following the 13th Party Congress. [5]

Discussions [edit]

Among the many issues that dominated the 13th Party Congress, the factional split between the Left Opposition and the "troika" was a major divider. Trotsky and the Left Opposition argued that world revolution was required for the success of socialism, since the Soviet Union could not survive on its own without any aid from Western economies. On the other hand, Stalin, Zinoviev, and Kamenev of the "troika" argued that the Politburo should proceed to organize socialism on a national scale, a policy known as "socialism in one country." On 27 May, Stalin declared Trotsky's line a "petty-bourgeois deviation."

Lenin's "Letter to the Congress" was also read out loud to the 13th Party Congress, and among its criticisms of the different leading personalities of the Politburo, the most condemning was of Stalin. Nonetheless, the Congress chose to not to publish this letter, and Stalin retained his post as General-Secretary until his death in 1953.^[8]

Aftermath [edit]

The 13th Party Congress marked the beginning of the Stalinist era, and the factionalism that emerged set the stage for the next five years, during which further struggles would emerge between factions over Soviet and international policy.^[9]

See also [edit]

Lenin's Testament

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V•T•E			Coi	mmunis	t Party of the Soviet Union [hide]	
	Leaders			Vladimir Lenin (1912–24) · Joseph Stalin (1929–53) · Nikita Khrushchev (1953–64) · Leonid Brezhnev (1964–82) · Yuri Andropov (1982–84) · Konstantin Chernenko (1984–85) · Mikhail Gorbachev (1985–91)		
Central Committee	General Secretaries		Elena Stasova (1917–18) · Yakov Sverdlov (1918–19) · Elena Stasova (Mar.–Dec. 1919) · Nikolay Krestinsky (1919–21) · Vyacheslav Molotov (1921–22) · Joseph Stalin (1922–52) · Nikita Khrushchev (1953–64) · Leonid Brezhnev (1964–82) · Yuri Andropov (1982–84) · Konstantin Chernenko (1984–85) · Mikhail Gorbachev (1985–91) · Vladimir Ivashko (acting, Aug. 1991)			
	Decision-making bodies		Politburo / Presidium · Secretariat · Orgburo · Control Commission			
	Departments		Administrative Organs · Agriculture · Chemical Industry · Construction · Culture · Defence Industry · Foreign Cadres · General · Heavy Industry · Information · International · Light- and Food Industry · Machine Industry · Organisational-party Work · Planning and Financial Organs · Political Administration of the Ministry of Defence · Propaganda · Science and Education · Trade and Consumers' Services · Transportation-Communications · Women			
	Publications		Pravda · Bolshevik / Kommunist			
National meetings	Congress • 12th (1923)		2nd (1903) · 3rd (1905) · 4th (1906) · 5th (1907) · 6th (1917) · 7th (1918) · 8th (1919) · 9th (1920) · 10th (1921) · 11th (1922) · 13th (1924) · 14th (1925) · 15th (1927) · 16th (1930) · 17th (1934) · 18th (1939) · 19th (1952) · 20th (1956) · 21st (1959) 1) · 23rd (1966) · 24th (1971) · 25th (1976) · 26th (1981) · 27th (1986) · 28th (1990)			
	Conference	•	2nd (1906) · 3rd (Aug. 1907) · 4th (Nov. 1907) · 5th (1908) · 6th (1912) · 7th (1917) · 8th (1919) · 9th (1920) · 921) · 11th (Dec. 1921) · 12th (1922) · 13th (1924) · 14th (1925) · 15th (1926) · 16th (1929) · 17th (1932) · 18th (1941) ·			
Leadership sittings	Elected by the Central Committee		Politburo 2		AugOct. 1917 · OctDec. 1917 · 6th (1917–18) · 7th (1918–19) · 8th (1919–20) · 9th (1920–21) · 10th (1921–22) · 11th (1922–23) · 12th (1923–24) · 13th (1924–25) · 14th (1925–27) · 15th (1927–30) · 16th (1930–34) · 17th (1934–39) · 18th (1939–52) · 19th (1952–56) · 20th (1956–61) · 22nd (1961–66) · 23rd (1966–71) · 24th (1971–76) · 25th (1976–81) · 26th (1981–86) · 27th (1986–90) · 28th (1990–91)	
			Secretariat 2		6th (1917–18) · 7th (1918–19) · 8th (1919–20) · 9th (1920–21) · 10th (1921–22) · 11th (1922–23) · 12th (1923–24) · 13th (1924–25) · 14th (1925–27) · 15th (1927–30) · 16th (1930–34) · 17th (1934–39) · 18th (1939–52) · 19th (1952–56) · 20th (1956–61) · 22nd (1961–66) · 23rd (1966–71) · 24th (1971–76) · 25th (1976–81) · 26th (1981–86) · 27th (1986–90) · 28th (1990–91)	
			Orgburo 1		7th (JanMar. 1919) · 8th (1919-20) · 9th (1920-21) · 10th (1921-22) · 11th (1922-23) · 12th (1923-24) · 13th (1924-25) · 14th (1925-27) · 15th (1927-30) · 16th (1930-34) · 17th (1934-39) · 18th (1939-52)	
			Control Com	Control Committee 17th (1934–39) · 18th (1939–52) · 19th (1952–56) · 20th (1956–61) · 22nd (1961–66) · 23rd (1966–71) · 24th (1971–76) · 25th (1976–81) · 26th (1981–86) · 27th (1986–90)		
	Elected by the Central Control Commission		Presidium	Presidium 12th (1923–24) · 13th (1924–25) · 14th (1925–27) · 15th (1927–30) · 16th (1930–34) · 28th (1990–91)		
			Secretariat			
			Collegium	12th (19	923–24) · 13th (1924–25) · 14th (1925–27) · 15th (1927–30) · 16th (1930–34)	
	Elected by Congress		Central Committee		1st (1898–1903) · 2nd (1903–05) · 3rd (Apr.–Dec. 1905) · CC of the 1st Conf. (1905–06) · 4th (1906–07) · 5th (1907–12) · CC of the 6th Conf. (1912–17) · CC of the 7th Conf. (Apr.–Aug. 1917) · 6th (1917–18) · 7th (1918–19) · 8th (1919–20) · 9th (1920–21) · 10th (1921–22) · 11th (1922–23) · 12th (1923–24) · 13th (1924–25) · 14th (1925–27) · 15th (1927–30) · 16th (1930–34) · 17th (1934–39) · 18th (1939–52) · 19th (1952–56) · 20th (1956–61) · 22nd (1961–66) · 23rd (1966–71) · 24th (1971–76) · 25th (1976–81) · 26th (1981–86) · 27th (1986–90) · 28th (1990–91)	
			Auditing Commission		8th (1919–21) · 10th (1921–24) · 13th (1924–25) · 14th (1925–27) · 15th (1927–30) · 16th (1930–34) · 17th (1934–39) · 18th (1939–52) · 19th (1952–56) · 20th (1956–61) · 22nd (1961–66) · 23rd (1966–71) · 24th (1971–76) · 25th (1976–81) · 26th (1981–86) · 27th (1986–90)	
			Control Commission		9th (1920–21) · 10th (1921–22) · 11th (1922–23) · 12th (1923–24) · 13th (1924–25) · 14th (1925–27) · 15th (1927–30) · 16th (1930–34) · 28th (1990–91)	
Wider organisation	Armenian · Azerbaijani · Byelorussian · Bukharan · Estonian · Georgian · Karelo-Finnish · Kazakh · Khorezmi · Kirghiz · Latvian · Lithuanian · Moldavian · Russian SFSR · Tajik · Transcaucasian · Turkestani · Turkmen · Ukrainian · Uzbek					
	Obkom · Okrugkom · Gorkom · Raikom · Partkom Other organs Statute · All-Union Leninist Young Communist League (Komsomol) · Vladimir Lenin All-Union Pioneer Organization · Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Soviet Navy					
Groupings	Ban on factions · Group of Democratic Centralism (1919–1921) · Workers' Opposition (1920–1921) · Workers' Truth (1921–1923) · Left Opposition (1923–1927) · Workers' Group (1923–1930) · Right Opposition (1924–1933) · United Opposition (1926–1927) · Left-Right Bloc (1930) · Union of Marxist-Leninists (1932) · Bloc of Soviet Oppositions (1932–1933) · Anti-Party Group (1957) · Soyuz (1990–1991) · State Committee on the State of Emergency (1991)					
See also	Bloc of Communists and Non-Partisans · General Jewish Labour Bund in Lithuania, Poland and Russia · League of Russian Revolutionary Social Democracy Abroad · League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class · Siberian Social-Democratic Union · Social Democracy of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania · Union of Russian Social Democrats Abroad					

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