

How and why did Stalin emerge as the leader of the Soviet Union?

Part One - The Contenders

1. From the list below, choose six of the most important qualities or characteristics that you think would have been advantageous for a leader in the USSR to have in 1924. Explain why you have chosen them. You can add one other of your own choice not on the list:





- Good Marxist theoretician, who could take over Lenin's mantle
- Good orator
- Capacity for organisation
- Decisiveness
- Capacity for action
- Able to melt into the background
- Boring and dull
- Good at carrying out routine tasks
- Good at doing the paperwork, a good bureaucrat
- Unwavering loyalty to the party
- Clear vision of the way to socialism and prepared to take on party members who did not share this vision
- An important player in the Revolution of 1917
- Somebody everybody could accept because he did not have strong views
- Good in discussion and debate
- Popular with the party
- Able to work with other leading party figures
- Able to be ruthless
- Good writer

2. Carry out some further research on the contenders for leadership of the Communist Party. Complete the chart below to organise your notes:

Contenders	Background/Positions held	Strengths as potential leader	Weaknesses as potential leader
Leon Trotsky			
Gregory Zinoviev			
Lev Kamenev			
Joseph Stalin			
Nikolai Bukharin			

3. Which of the contenders' best meets the criteria that you drew up in question 1? Do you now wish to change your mind about the key characteristics the new leader should have?

4. Which contender(s) poses the biggest threat to your choice for question three? Explain why.

Contenders	Background/Positions held	Strengths as potential leader	Weaknesses as potential leader
<p><u>Leon Trotsky</u></p> 			
<p><u>Gregory Zinoviev</u></p> 			
<p><u>Lev Kamenev</u></p> 			
<p><u>Joseph Stalin</u></p> 			
<p><u>Nikolai Bukharin</u></p> 