“... It is criminal to forget, that the reign of Kolchak commenced with little carelessness from the Czechoslovaks, from the small insubordination of an individual regiment.”

“... Преступно забывать, что Колчаковщина началась с маленькой неосторожності по отношению к Чехо-Словакам, с маленького неповинновения отдельных полков.”
Map 3

Plan of the Entente to Suffocate the Soviet Regime // May – October 1918

Colored lithographic print, 64 x 102 cm. Compilers: A. N. de-Lazari and N. N. Lesëvitskii.

Artist: A. A. Baranov

Historical Background

The third map focuses on events during the period from May until October 1918 associated with the alleged Allied plan to coordinate the pro-Czarist, White forces with the Czechoslovak Legion in an attempt to overthrow the Bolshevik regime. The legion consisted largely of Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war recruited to fight on behalf of pro-Czarist faction.

It also conveys the communists’ fear of internal threats to the new Bolshevik government, as it documents three assassinations, including that of the German ambassador to Russia, and an attempted assassination on Lenin, which resulted in the Red Terror to consolidate the revolutionary regime. Finally, a small marker identifies the execution of the deposed Czar and his family in Ekaterinburg on the night of July 16-17, 1918 by the local Cheka, acting under the auspices of Moscow.

Overall Plan, Thematic Scheme, and Design

Red denotes the area under control of the new government of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, while the area under intervention and opposition forces, mostly Siberia, is colored in varying shades of white and green dramatically emphasizing two of its most prominent natural features: its snow and forests. Bold red lines indicate defensive positions of the Red Army. Flags denote centers of power and rule, in addition to significant events. A large red flag with the letters “RSFSR” over Moscow identifies the newly established Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, while smaller red flags denote satellite centers of communist rule. Bold arrows symbolize the plan of the Entente to support the Czech Corps and supply opponents of the revolution. Symbols denote significant events of the period, including actual and attempted assassinations. Statistics identify numbers of Red and opposition forces on the eastern, Siberian, Caucasian, and southern fronts for the period of May to October 1918.

Alleged Plan of the Entente and the Czech Legion

The map’s most dramatic visual element is that of twenty black figures of soldiers extending across the trans-Siberian Railway from the Volga to Krasnyansk. These represent roughly 45,000 Czech troops that became stranded in Siberia. Blockades of Russia’s northern and southern ports forced their evacuation by way of Vladivostok, which was frustrated by delays and attempts by the Bolsheviks to disarm them. Forced to stay and fight in Russia, they gave their support to the counterrevolutionary White forces; by September, they had captured the main stretch of the Trans-Siberian Railway between Saratov and Irkutsk. Figure 6

The Bolsheviks suspected the legion of coordinating operations with the Allied forces landing in Murmansk and Archangel. The Allies are represented by a battleship in the North Sea flying the standards of the United States, Great Britain, France, and Canada.

The Bolsheviks’ fears were confirmed. The legion assisted in liberating anti-Bolshevik centers in the Volga Valley and in western Siberia, in the process lending to the formation of opposition governments. The black figure of a soldier (Czech) and a yellow flag with the Cyrillic letters Ком. Уч. (Kom. Uch.), with the date 8/VI (8 June), indicate the capture of Samara. Availing themselves of the situation, Social Revolutionary refugees from the All-Russian Constituent Assembly proclaimed themselves “The Committee of Members of the Constituent Assembly,” known by its abbreviation, “Komuch.” With their People’s Army of volunteers and con-
scripts under the legion’s command, Komuch and the legion captured the Volga towns of Simbirsk, Kazan, and the Volga-Kama region. The Komuch forces later merged with the Siberian Army to become the Western Army of the White Movement.

Over the Siberian city of Omsk are three large flags and text. The top flag, the national flag of France, is superimposed by text that reads “Establishment of French control over Siberia 3 September.” The second flag, consisting of two horizontal bands of equal width, white and green, was the flag of the Provisional Government of Siberia, and is superimposed by text reading “transfer of power in western Siberia from the legitimate Siberian Commissariat 30 June.” The bottom flag is the national flag of the former Czechoslovakia, and it represents the Czechoslovak Legion. Figure 7

The legion captured Omsk on June 8. Strengthened by the legion’s occupation, regionalists abolished the Siberian Commissariat on June 30 and created a new Provisional Siberian Government, which annulled Soviet laws and restored confiscated lands. Its conservative members adopted as their emblem the large white and green flag symbolic of Siberia’s snows and forests.

Internal Threats: Rebellion, Assassination, and the Red Terror

The Bolsheviks faced strong opposition from rival political groups, who did not refrain from violence to overthrow them. The black letter M within a yellow square near Moscow represents the closest the Bolsheviks came to being ousted from power. The group behind the plot was the Left Social Revolutionary Party, which opposed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, and attempted to reignite the war with the Central Powers. The plotters arrested state security head Felix Dzerzhinsky and his Cheka deputies; they assassinated Count Wilhelm von Mirbach, the German ambassador to Russia. Almost simultaneously, the entire Social Revolutionary party rose in rebellion. Figure 8 The uprising was suppressed by a regiment of Latvian Riflemen, whose leader, Jukums Vatsetis, may have been received money from the Germans and assisted the Bolsheviks in retaining power.

Near Moscow is the red symbol ^ within a yellow square that represents the second serious assassination attempt on Lenin. On August 30, 1918, he was shot and critically wounded by a Social Revolutionary, possibly Fanny Kaplan, who was an anarchist and likely insane. Under interrogation by the Cheka, she claimed to have acted alone and to have been motivated by hatred over the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly and the Brest-Litovsk peace. She was later executed in the Kremlin. Two other politically motivated killings in Petrograd are symbolized by the letters B (V) and Ч (Ch) within red squares. On June 20, 1918, the Bolshevik militant, V. Volodarskii (Moisei Markovich Goldstein), Commissar for the Press, Propaganda, and Agitation, was shot, likely by a disgruntled factory worker. Later, the chairman of the Petrograd Cheka, Mosei Uritskii, was gunned down on the same day as Lenin, which occurred only a few days after the night of the Petrograd Cheka’s first executions. The two events coinciding on August 30 are credited with having launched the wave of arbitrary arrests, interrogations, political imprisonment, and executions known as the Red Terror.
The Russian public followed the course of Lenin’s recuperation in the major newspapers, which published daily accounts of his condition, while also reporting resolutions issued by various organizations demanding vengeance, updates on the Cheka investigations, and essays extolling his significance to the communist labor movement.
Transcription of Text

Eastern Front
1) Appearance of the Czechs (early June 1918)

1, 2, 3 and special Red Army 30,000 soldiers  
Czech forces 31,000 soldiers

2) After the re-taking of Kazan by the Reds (31 October 1918)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Turkestan. Red. Army 70,254 soldiers – 220 guns. 
Urlask, Orenburg, Povoljhsk, and Ekaterinburg armies – 62,500 soldiers, 220 guns.

Southern Front

8, 9, and 10 Red armies 59,285 soldiers, 278 guns. 
Donsk Army 49,300 soldiers, 88 guns.

Caucasus Front

11 and 12 Red armies 52,000 soldiers, 200 guns 
Czech Army 45,000 soldiers, 86 guns.

Northern Front

6 Red Army in July 1918 4,000 soldiers. 
Intervention force 8,000 soldiers

6 Red Army in August 1918 16,743 soldiers 
Intervention force 23,516 soldiers
Conventional Symbols

1. Plan of the Entente to crush the revolution (intervention).

2. 4/V-18 Meeting at which it was decided to raise an armed opposition against the Soviets and order the Czech troops to capture the Siberian Railway.

Four flags are raised over the western Siberian city of Chelyabinsk, where Czechoslovak troops staged a rebellion on May 14, 1918. The top flag, comprising a white field with a red cross, as well as a Union Jack in the canton, signifies the British Naval Service. The second flag with three vertical stripes of equal width, in blue, white, and red, is the national flag of France. The third flag of two horizontal bands of white and red, with a blue triangle on the hoist, is the national flag of the former Czechoslovakia. Finally, the bottom flag consisting of three horizontal stripes of equal width, of white, blue, and red, is the state flag of Imperial Russia. The combination of flags reinforces the Soviet notion that the uprising of the Czechoslovak forces was engineered by the Allied governments with a view to destroying the revolution.

3. Announcement of socialist revolutionaries.

The numerous yellow circles in the Volga Region indicate pockets of Socialist Revolutionary resistance to Bolshevik rule.

4. Betrayal of commander Muraviev and his assassination, 11 July.

5. Assassination of German minister his Highness Count Mirbach, 1 July.

6. Self-announcement of the All-Russian Government by 5 members of the former Constituent Assembly.


8. Assassination of Comrade Uritskii, 29 August.


10. Execution of Czar Nicholas and his family, 16 July.