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| Topic Sentence: | *The aim of the revolution was to transfer power to the oppressed proletariat, and yet we see that as a result of War Communism many Russians died due to famine.‍* |
| Cause / Explain Sentence: | R*eplacing the short-lived economic policy of State Capitalism in 1918, War Communism was a direct response to the internal and external threats of the Civil War.* |
| Details (Historical Evidence): | *Faced with considerable threats, the Bolshevik Party, later renamed the Communist Party in March 1918, enforced strict economic policies in order to successfully fight off ‘white’ threats, such as those posed by Generals Yudenich, Denekin and Miller. Key characteristics of War Communism, an attempt at truly creating a socialist utopia, involved state control over every aspect of the economy, industry and production being limited.* |
| Consequences (in relation to essay question: | *B‍ut the negative aspects were clearly ignored by the Bolsheviks in their quest for control. The workplace was militarised, worker sundays enforced and pay decreased. ‍Food rations were instated, but worse off were the peasants, whose surplus grain was requisitioned heavily. As a result some 9,500,000 Russians died as a result of widespread famine that occurred, not only as a result of the famine, but also as agricultural output continued to plummet.* |
| Historian 1: | *Soviet historians clearly state that the War Communism was a necessity in maintaining control for the proletariat.* *‍Soviet Historian W.H Chamberlain argues that the Bolshevik Party was “forced to resort to War Communism by war and ruin.” Had the civil war not broken out the principles of State Capitalism could have been further followed.* |
| Link to next historian | *Though it was a reactionary policy, it still does not state why such extremity took place, nor did not successfully give power to the oppressed population of Russia. Liberal historians rightfully argue that War Communism was just a further step in gaining more power.* |
| Historian 2: | *Volkogonov argues that “Lenin apparently never asked himself why, before 1921, the Bolsheviks were incapable of giving the people anything but chaos, civil war, hunger and terror. The fact is, the Bolsheviks had achieved their goal: the Party had power.”‍* |
| Conclude (link back to contention) | *Therefore it can be seen that the Bolshevik Party truly did not have the interests of its people in mind, and that the Soviet view is flawed, as they were truly out to gain power, seen in the policies of War Communism.* |

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