

Event	Quotes
Economic policies (War communism/NEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The NEP was, in the space of a few months, already giving marvellous results." (Serge) • "The adoption of NEP showed that the Bolshevik government since 1917 had been unable to create a successful economy along purely ideological lines." (Lynch) • "Their irresponsibility was nowhere more evident than in their obstinate attempts to introduce a money-less economy." (Pipes) • "While war communism tightened the Bolshevik grip on industry it did not lead to economic growth." (Lynch)
Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The single party system became...an inescapable necessity. Their own survival, and no doubt the survival of the revolution depended on it." (Deutscher) • "Might have controlled the railways...and the armed forces, but not the hearts and minds of the people." (Thomas and McAndrew)
Internal dissent (Kronstadt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "If the Bolshevik dictatorship fell, it was only a short step to chaos." (Serge) • The state has no soul, no principles. It has but one aim -- to secure power and hold it, at any cost. That is the political lesson of Kronstadt." (Berkman)
Red Terror	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The revolution produced cruelties indeed; but the revolutionary process abolished a regime of despair and created a new world of hope." (Hill) • "He regarded it as normal to build his "happiness" on blood, coercion and the denial of freedom." (Volkogonov) • "The Bolsheviks were forced to turn increasingly to terror to...subjugate a society they could not control by any other means." (Figes)
Initial reforms (Peace and Land, Dismissal of Constituent Assembly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The decision to accept the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk showed Lenin to be a realist rather than driven by ideological considerations." (Steve Phillips) • "[Lenin's initial decrees] adversely affected the interests of the workers and peasants" (Pipes)
Lenin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Determined that the Bolsheviks should initiate the achievement of a world without exploitation and oppression." (Service) • "To impose such immense sacrifices in the name of so naïve and flawed a vision makes Lenin one of the greatest criminals of the 20th century." (Lieven)