

Historiography

In *The Soviet Century* (2005), **Moshe Lewin** explains that Lenin wanted a federation of fairly autonomous states but Stalin, influenced by his own experience as a Georgian and also by his experiences during the civil war, was convinced that the republics had to be ruled from a strong centre and with strict discipline.

Stalin was the most **violent** of leading Bolsheviks. His terror campaigns in the civil war were gruesome. He adopted a military style tunic and knee-length black boots, and his soup-strainer moustache indicated a pugnacious man. At tactics and conspiracy he was masterful. He had reached dominance in the party before Trotsky, Zinoviev, Kamenev and Bukharin knew what had happened. There was no keeping a bad man down in the politics of the Soviet Union.

From **Robert Service, *Comrades: Communism: A World History*, Pan, 2008**

M McCauley (Intentionalist school) - Stalin rose to power because of his “ability to exploit weaknesses of his rivals.”

James Harris, Raymond Birt (luck) - Mistakes of Stalin’s rivals were most important in his rise.

Chris Ward (Structuralist school) - The party structure allowed Stalin to succeed as his role as Party General Secretary was very important.