

## 4.2 The Struggle to Succeed Lenin

1922

- Stalin was appointed General Secretary of the Party
- Lenin suffered two strokes
- Triumvirate of Stalin, Zinoviev, and Kamenev formed collective leadership for the Party
- Lenin wrote his *Political Testament*

1923

- Lenin added a postscript to *Political Testament*, calling for Stalin's removal as General Secretary
- 'Scissors Crisis' led Trotsky and others on the Left to question NEP

1924

- Lenin's death
- Central Committee suppressed Lenin's *Political Testament*

1925

- Trotsky resigned as War Commissar
- Party Congress endorsed NEP and *Socialism in One Country*
- Zinoviev and Kamenev began to oppose Stalin

1926

- *United Opposition* of Trotsky, Zinoviev, and Kamenev
- *United Opposition* was removed from the *Politburo*
- Voroshilov and other allies of Stalin joined the *Politburo*

1927

- Zinoviev, Kamenev, and Trotsky were expelled from the Party
- Grain procurement crisis began as peasants withheld grain

1928

- Grain procurement crisis continued
- Stalin responded by requisitioning grain in the so-called '*Urals-Siberia method*'
- Bread rationing was introduced in Moscow and Leningrad
- First **Five Year Plan** was introduced; NEP was abandoned

1929 -  
1930

- Party Congress set ambitious targets for the First Five Year Plan
- *Right Opposition* (Tomsky, Rykov, and Bukharin) was removed from the *Politburo*
- Trotsky was expelled from the USSR
- Collectivisation was introduced; the 'liquidation of the *kulaks*'

**Key Term**

**Five Year Plan:** starting in 1928, Stalin introduced a series of economic plans under which the Soviet authorities set targets for every industry for a period of five years.