

**SOURCE 4** From V. Serge's *Memoirs of a Revolutionary*

*“Inside Petrograd's grand apartments people were crowded in one room, living around a little stove of brick or cast iron . . . Fuel for it would come from the floor boards nearby, from the last stick of furniture available, or else from books. Entire libraries disappeared in this way.”*

**SOURCE 5** From Arthur Ransome, *Six Weeks in Russia in 1919*. The wealthy were forced to share their houses with ordinary people, as Ransome describes

*“Rooms are distributed on much the same plan as clothes. In every district there are housing committees to whom people wanting rooms apply. They work on the rough and ready theory that until every man has one room no-one has a right to two . . . This plan has, of course, proved very hard on house-owners, and in some cases the new tenants have made a horrible mess of the houses.”*



**SOURCE 6** Grain requisitioning

**SOURCE 8** P.D. Ouspensky, a writer, fled to southern Russia, where the situation was not much better, in 1919

*“The price of all products and necessities has risen by 20, 50, 100 or 600 times. Workmen's wages have risen 20, 50 or even 100 times. But the salary of an ordinary ‘brain-worker’ – teacher, journalist or doctor – has risen in the best cases no more than three times . . .*

*I personally am still alive because my boots and trousers and other articles of clothing are still holding together. When they end their existence, I shall evidently end mine . . .*

*The prices are different in every place. To carry something from one town to another is to make money . . . ‘the masses’ rush to take part in the general looting . . . For a bag of flour or of bread, a basket of eggs or a jar of butter may bring them a fortune as reckoned in old values. So the trains and stations are crowded with people with bags and baskets; they carry typhus and cholera . . .”*

**SOURCE 7** From V. Serge's *Memoirs of a Revolutionary*

*“Parties which were sent into the countryside to obtain grain by requisition might be driven away by the peasants with pitchforks. Savage peasants would slit open a Commissar's belly, pack it with grain, and leave him by the roadside as a lesson to all.”*



**SOURCE 1** A unit of the Cheka marching in Rostov-on-Don on May Day 1920

**SOURCE 2** An eye-witness account of the Black Market

*“The Black Market sells everything. There the former rich are selling their last items. The best grand piano sells for half the price of an ordinary record player . . . The formerly richest and most spoiled are now satisfied if they get some black bread and potatoes each day. An acquaintance of mine, formerly owner of a palace in Moscow, was given, as his place of residence, the bathroom of his former home.”*



**SOURCE 3** Many middle-class people, unable to get jobs or rations, sold their belongings to survive. Many nobles and middle-class Russians fled abroad to cities like Paris and New York, some ending up in menial jobs as waiters or doormen in hotels