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| The Reds held the central, **industrialised** **area** of western Russia, so were able to produce munitions and war supplies. | The Reds had **control of the railway lines**, so could send soldiers and munitions quickly to battle zones. | The Whites were **scattered geographically**: it was hard to communicate and to gather armies in large numbers. |
| The Reds had one **coherent aim**: to build a new Socialist society. | The Whites had **different aims**: some wanted the Tsar back, some wanted dictatorship or democracy. | The Reds had a great leader in **Trotsky**: he was courageous, and travelled in his personal train to where the fighting was hardest. |
| Trotsky built a powerful **Red Army**, introducing conscription and bringing in experienced officers to give strong leadership to each unit. | The Whites **lacked good leadership**: commanders were often cruel. There was often fighting within the White armies. | The White **generals did not trust each other** and would not co-ordinate their attacks. This allowed Reds to tackle White armies one by one. |
| The Whites had support from **Britain, France, Japan and the USA, but it was half-hearted**: the foreign troops were tired of war, and some sympathised with the Bolshevik cause. | The Bolsheviks used foreign intervention against the Whites, telling the people that they were defending ordinary Russians from **foreign capitalist invaders**. | The **role of the peasants** was crucial: in the end, larger numbers of them supported the Bolsheviks, who promised them land. The Whites said they would restore land to the landlords. |
| The Whites were successful in 1918, but **Trotsky** worked tirelessly to organise the Red Army against the Whites’ disunited forces. | Both sides in the war committed atrocities, but the Bolsheviks used **propaganda** effectively to publicise the **cruelty** of the Whites to the peasants and workers. | During the Civil War, the Bolsheviks produced more than 3,000 **propaganda** posters. |