

Leon Trotsky was one of the leaders of the Russian Revolution in 1917.

Lev Davidovich Bronstein was born of Jewish parents on a farm in the Ukraine, part of the Russian empire. He was thrown out of university for political activities and was then banished to Siberia. He escaped from there and left the country under his new name, Trotsky. He lived in London.



When in 1917 the tsar had resigned after the February Revolution, Trotsky returned to Russia. He joined Lenin’s Communist Party. Trotsky was one of the main organizers of the October Revolution when the Communists seized power. Then he was in charge of foreign affairs and defence, and built a new army, the Red Army, which won the bitter Russian civil war of 1918-1921.

Trotsky was a brilliant writer and speaker, but his impatience made him enemies in the Communist Party. After Lenin’s death, it was Stalin who became the strong man. Trotsky was driven out of the USSR. He was murdered with an ice-pick in Mexico on Stalin’s order.

Jewish: juif
 part: partie
 banish: bannir
 escape: s’échapper
 to resign: démissionner

to join: rejoindre
 main: principal
 to seize: saisir
 in charge: responsable
 foreign affairs: affaires étrangères

defence: défense
 civil war: guerre civile
 drive, drove, driven: conduire
 ice-pick: pic à glace
 order: ordre

Translate:

- Il naquit en Russie en 1879.
- Il fut assassiné au Mexique en 1940.....
- L’Ukraine était une partie de l’Empire Russe.
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- En 1917 il quitta Londres.
- L’Armée Rouge gagna la guerre civile.
- Staline devint l’homme fort.
- Les agents de Staline assassinèrent Trotsky avec un pic à glace.
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