



GalCon 2026 Crisis – Additional Information

Social and Economic Conditions:

Before the outbreak of WW1, Russia was amongst the largest economies in the world due to its large swaths of territories across Europe and Asia and due to its connections to other technological and industrial revolutions that had transformed the face of Europe in the 19th century. However, internal contrasts were stark as modern industry was focused on certain major urban regions such as Petrograd and Moscow while most of the population worked in agriculture, relying on traditional farming methods with low productivity. The contrast between rich and poor was strong as well, with the Russian aristocracy living in luxury and with legal protections that were long abolished in the rest of Europe.

When the war began in 1914, the national economy (which included all resources, labor, transportation systems, and industrial production) was directed towards the war effort. Military needs took priority over civilian consumption, which eventually led to shortages of food, fuel, and essential goods in urban areas. Inflation increased significantly, transport systems became overwhelmed, and agricultural production declined as millions of farmers and horses were mobilized from the countryside. In addition, the losses of territories in the Western regions as the Germans advanced further damaged production capacity and food supplies. The economic situation in Russia worsened even more due to political instability and civil war in late 1917 and into 1918. By November 1918, the markets collapsed, reducing output across major sectors, spreading suffering among the people.¹

Social conditions were deeply affected by the worsening economic situation. A large decline in the urban population occurred due to acute food shortages that left people starving and forced many residents to leave the cities for the countryside in hope of surviving. At the same time, diseases such as cholera and typhus spread rapidly, especially because of poor living conditions, and weakened health care caused by hunger. In addition, Soviet controlled government plans further worsened social conditions. The Cheka was established to suppress counterrevolutions and carried out the Red Terror, executing thousands, including Tsar Nicholas II and his family in July 1918. Meanwhile, the policy of War Communism was introduced to supply the Red Army and the cities. This policy included forced grain requisitioning from peasants, widespread nationalization of industry and a ban on private trade, which led to uprisings and growth of a massive black market. Although the Bolsheviks aimed to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat and strip former elites of their property and rights, the working class also suffered greatly from economic collapse and rapid inflation.

¹ https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/mharrison/public/rgwr_postprint.pdf



Military matters in the Russian Civil War

The Military system in Russia

WW1 found the Russian Imperial regime making use of conscripts from the common folk to fill up their ranks. While officers and technical troops mainly arrived from the middle classes who could afford to enroll in military schools in Petrograd and Moscow. The leading field marshals and generals were all from the upper classes. As the stresses of that war raged on, these tensions within the army became starker and resentment grew amongst the common soldiers and their middle-class officers. This led to mutinies in the armies that evolved into the soldiers organizing into Soviets and cooperative Unions, inspiring the opposition at home that brought down the Tsar in 1917. The Provisional Government after February of that year attempted to keep running the army in its current formulation, in the hopes of keeping it orderly in its fight against the Germans. Tensions, however, only intensified as upper-class officers and generals were suspicious of the liberal government and common soldiers demanded more radical change to the conditions of the army at the front and supported Bolshevik policies at home. Once the October Revolution replaced the provisional government, the Russian army disintegrated, with many units and their upper-class generals rebelling and supporting the White cause, while other units and their officers supporting the Red government. Many, however, decided to support the side they considered to be more likely to hold onto power and who was able to pay their salaries.

The urgent need to defend the country and their regime from internal and external enemies pushed the Bolshevik government to take serious actions and policies to build a professional Red Army under the guidance of Leon Trotsky and other important leaders in power. Army discipline was to be maintained based on shared revolutionary awareness and a sense of socialist duty rather than standard obedience to a nation or to a hierarchy of power. All generals and officers were to maintain their ideological commitment as leaders of the revolutionary workers and peasants in their struggle against the ruling classes and the capitalist system, both in Russia and worldwide. Bolshevik commissars were assigned to each unit to maintain discipline and ideological loyalty to the Bolshevik Party and to the communist cause. The Red Army also worked to establish a system requiring every peasant and worker to spend a set number of hours each day learning military skills. Experienced former soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and members of the old command system became enticed to rejoin the army as instructors and officers. The Army was to be formed of volunteer fighting units who were to be transformed in the future into a much larger and professionalized army. In addition, the technical and strategic former officers, doctors, engineers and other specialists who were sympathetic to the revolution were given the technical and high-experience tasks while the overall control and organization of the army would remain in the hands of the soviets of workers' and soldiers' deputies represented by the party.² While this Red Army was developing into a mighty force, it faced a number of

² <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1918/military/ch09.htm>



challenges. Peasants were often conscripted into the army by force and their lack of military experience led to poor performance on the front. Their officer class was also weak as they included loyal ideologues with little military experience or by experienced military commanders who were pressured into joining the Red Army despite their ideological differences, with some supporting liberal or even conservative positions.

The White Army was the mirror image of the Red Army, both in its positives and in its negatives. The White Army had volunteers and had some forced conscription campaigns but was mainly made up of former Imperial Army soldiers. This was especially true in its officer and commanding class as they were made up of former Imperial officers and generals who either supported the provisional government or who supported the Monarchy and the counter-revolution. They also received significant military and financial supplies from Allied forces abroad which served as a significant boost to their military logistical equipment, especially as they did not control the major cities and their factories. The White Army, however, was not as centralized as the Red Army was, with units and armies serving military figures who did not all see eye to eye. This created a fragmented front against the Bolsheviks.

Other armies were also active around the map. Allied forces, representing the British Empire, the USA, France, Japan and others, had landed on Russian territories with their professional expeditionary armies. They were highly trained troops with much military experience due to their involvement in battles of WW1, and they were supplied with the latest technological military gear. Their distance from their home nations caused logistical issues that made their commanders more hesitant in taking risky decisions regarding their deployment. There were also armies formed by Nationalist forces, who aimed for or had just declared independence. They were manned by some professional officers and soldiers but were also mainly made up of conscripted common people. Their military and technological abilities highly depended on their connections to outside actors and to their logistical abilities to create or import military gear.

In our simulation, a standard army in its full strength is made up of 50 thousand men. 40 thousand of whom are infantry, armed with rifles, 10 thousand cavalymen, capable of rapid operations and a few units of artillery. Some army units have special features, all depending on their unique background and their connections to key actors in our simulation. The Bolshevik Government also had a few naval ships around Petrograd.

Here is the list of Armies that are active at the start of our simulation:

Bolsheviks

Bolshevik forces are concentrated around the central and northern regions, particularly Moscow and Petrograd, forming the core of the Red Army. They maintain organized control over key cities and supply lines, while actively operating on the eastern front to secure



strategic regions such as Vologda and Samara. In the south, forces are positioned in Tsaritsyn to protect vital routes and resources. Additionally, a Red Army force is gathering near Narva on the Estonian border, preparing for a potential advance once German forces fully withdraw.

Whites

White forces are fragmented and spread across multiple regions, lacking central coordination but controlling significant territory. In the south, The South Russian Volunteer Army and the Don Army operate around Rostov and the North Caucasus. In the North and Northwest, The North Russian Army is organized from Finland and nearby regions with the aim of advancing toward Petrograd. In the Baltics, The West Russia Volunteer Army is active in Latvia. Meanwhile, the All-Russia Provisional Government holds two armies in the East controlling parts of Siberia and the Trans-Siberian Railway and aiming to hold the front and lead a counterattack against the Bolsheviks towards Moscow. The Czechoslovak Legion, which is nominally pro-White, is active in Omsk.



Allied

Allied forces are limited in number and primarily focused on supporting Anti-Bolshevik efforts rather than direct large-scale combat. In the north, British, French and American troops are stationed in Arkhangelsk. In the South, French forces based in Odessa contribute to organizing support and maintenance in the region. Japanese Expeditionary Forces have also landed in Manchuria and Eastern Siberia.

Nationalist

Nationalist and independent forces operate in key contested areas, pursuing their own political and territorial goals. Polish forces are concentrated around Warsaw and Krakow, engaging in conflicts over disputed eastern territories. Ukrainian forces are active in regions such as Odessa and Lviv, seeking to establish control and independence. In southern Ukraine, Anarchist forces operate through mobile guerrilla warfare, maintaining influence across areas like Kharkov and Poltava. Additional nationalist elements are present in Siberia, representing foreign and regional interests within the broader conflict.






Full List:

Flag	Faction	Name	Commanded by:
	Bolsheviks	1st Soviet Army	Mikhail Tukhachevsky
	Bolsheviks	2nd Soviet Army	Mikhail Tukhachevsky



	Bolsheviks	3rd Soviet Army	Mikhail Tukhachevsky
	Bolsheviks	4th Soviet Army	Joseph Stalin
	Bolsheviks	5th Soviet Army	Jukums Vacietis
	Bolsheviks	6th Soviet Army	Jukums Vacietis
	Bolsheviks	7th Soviet Army	Jukums Vacietis
	Bolsheviks	Central Asian Soviet Army	Self-command
	Whites	1st All-Russian Army	Alexander Kolchak
	Whites	2nd All-Russian Army	Alexander Kolchak
	Whites	North Russian Army	Nikolai Yudenich
	Whites	South Russian Volunteer Army	Anton Denikin
	White	West Russian Volunteer Army	Pavel Bermond
	White	Russian Far Eastern Army	Grigory Semyonov
	White	Don Army	Pyotr Krasnov
	White	Czechoslovak Legion	Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk
	Black	1st Black Army	Nestor Makhno
	Black	2nd Black Army	Nestor Makhno
	Allied	British Expeditionary Forces	Edmund Ironside
	Allied	American Expeditionary Forces	George Evans Stewart
	Allied	North Russia French Expeditionary Forces	Maurice Janin
	Allied	South Russia French Expeditionary Forces	Henri Berthelot



	Allied	Japanese Expeditionary Forces	self-commanded
	Nationalist	1st Ukrainian People's Army	Symon Petliura
	Nationalist	2nd Ukrainian People's Army	Symon Petliura
	Nationalist	1st Polish Army	Jozef Pilsudski
	Nationalist	2nd Polish Army	Jozef Pilsudski

Military Technology:

WW1 saw the intense development of military technology, as each of the belligerent nations attempted to have the edge on the battlefield. Planes, tanks and even chemical weapons were developed for this use and led to the slaughter of millions. Russia, who was a key player in that war, saw some of these technological developments but on a more limited scale as it lacked the industrial base to develop and build high-grade equipment such as tanks and the latest advancements in aviation technology. This was further solidified as the country found itself torn in a civil war which had damaged its industrial capabilities severely. Some factions in our simulation were able to import unique military equipment from abroad due to their strong relations with allied countries and others. You can find a list of technologies which were available during the time, some that could be produced in Russian factories and some that could be purchased from foreign allies.

1. Standard Weapons:

- Army Rifles: All soldiers made use of rifles that were able to hold a small magazine of bullets.
- Hand grenades: Explosive bombs. Many soldiers also had a couple of hand grenades which they used when attacking enemy positions.
- Swords: sharp metal weapons. While they were used less by the common soldier, horsemen made use of swords as it allowed them to attack retreating enemy soldiers while charging.
- Artillery: Cannons and short-range mortars. These were the dreads of enemy soldiers, as the bombs that were fired could penetrate trenches and bunkers.

2. Aircraft:

Imperial Russia had a highly developed air force. Following WW1 and the breakout of the Russian Civil War, this air force was highly depleted, as many fighter planes and aerial infrastructure were damaged and neglected. However, both sides of the civil war made use of the remaining few fighting units, as some officers joined the Reds while a few others joined the Whites. In our simulation, there is a limited number of airfields available. Characters who



have access to aircraft technology can make use of these airfields within a range of 300 km radius around the airfields it controls.

- **Aeroplanes:** are powered flying machines used in warfare for aerial reconnaissance, combat, and bombing missions. They allow armies to observe enemy positions from the air, attack targets, and intercept opposing aircraft. Their speed, mobility, and ability to operate above the battlefield make them valuable for gathering intelligence, supporting ground forces, and controlling airspace.
- **Anti-aircraft weapons:** artillery and firearm systems designed to detect, track, and destroy enemy aircraft. These systems fire at high angles and often use specialized munitions, such as timed fuses that detonate in the air or incendiary shells. They help protect troops, cities, and strategic sites from aerial reconnaissance and bombing.
- **Airships and Balloons:**
Airships and balloons are aerial platforms used for surveillance and intelligence gathering. They are typically anchored behind front lines or operated at high altitudes, carrying observers who monitor enemy movements and direct artillery fire from the air. Filled with gas to remain airborne, they provide a wide field of view over the battlefield and are often protected by ground defenses due to their strategic importance.

3. **Armored cars:**

- Armored vehicles were particularly useful for reconnaissance, as they allowed soldiers to move quickly while being protected by armor. Both factions had some industrial capacity that allowed them to build some for their battles.

4. **Gas and Anti-Gas measures:**

- **Gas masks:** were protective equipment used to protect soldiers from poisonous gases on the battlefield. Early versions used cotton bandages saturated with chemicals, while later models used filters containing charcoal or other materials to neutralize harmful gases and allow safe breathing.
- **Gas canisters and shells** were used as a weapon to weaken enemy forces, and were initially released from cylinders, then from artillery shells to reach farther distances more effectively. The chemical usually used in these types of weapons was known as “Mustard Gas” due to its yellow hue which led to the death of thousands in WW1.
- **Gas Alarm Gong:** was a warning device used to alert soldiers of an incoming gas attack.(soldiers would strike the gas alarm gong to create that warning sound)
- **Ayrton fan:** This was a foldable device, used to clear poisonous gas from trenches, shell holes, and craters; this helped make the area safer to occupy again.

5. **Communication**



- **Portable Morse and fuller phone:**
The first one allowed communication between the front and headquarters. The second one combined Morse code and voice transmission. Required secure Morse code lines to communicate messages.
- **Wireless and direction finding:**
Wireless radio was used by the end of WW1 by all sides. Some wireless remains available, allowing units to communicate in a local area.

6. **Inventions and Innovation**

- **Artillery:**
most destructive weapons on the battlefield. Techniques to locate enemy batteries included sound ranging, acoustic location (a precursor to radar), and flash spotting (observing the flash of guns firing).

7. **Tanks and land vehicles**

- tanks are armored, all-terrain vehicles used to cross trenches, crush barbed wire, and protect crews from small arms fire while supporting infantry attacks. Note that the only countries that were able to produce weapons at the time of our simulation were Great Britain, France and the USA. However, importing these killing machines into the Russian theater of war requires much time and resources.
- Anti-tank weapons: tools and tactics developed to stop tanks, including direct fire artillery, anti-tank rifles, obstacles like ditches or traps.

The Simulation Map and Geography:

Our Simulation mainly takes place in the regions of the now disintegrating Russian Empire as it is engrossed in civil conflict. Some regions are under the control of the central Bolshevik government in Moscow, others under disparate White governments and other regions declared their own independence. You can find the map highlighting areas of control using this link:

The map also shows the railroad system that connects the different regions of Russia along with other regions outside of it. This is indicated using brown lines. The map specifically highlights the railroads connecting West of Russia with the far east. This railroad is known as the Trans-Siberian Railway and is highlighted in Gold. The simulation does include other types of roads and canals that connect the cities. You may also move characters and armies across areas without proper roads at all. However, the fastest and safest way to move armies is using railroads, other means might lead to delays, risks to their supply lines and harsher weather conditions.



The geography of the areas of the former Russian Empire and Eastern Europe are as varied as the current dynamic battle of political control raging on since the abdication of the Tsar. The Areas in Siberia, North and Northeastern Russia are barely inhabited and include either massive forests or large expanses of flat tundras as far as the eye can see, all experiencing freezing temperatures in the Winter and even during the spring. Once you go south to the areas North of Russia and heading West towards Ukraine, one finds the flat steppes which had allowed the Mongolians and other nomadic tribes to rule across Eurasia. The weather is gentler and the soil is rich in minerals allowing for Ukraine, that sits at the Western edge of the steppes, to become the breadbasket of Russia. The Northwest of Russia is heavily forested and extremely cold, with its seas becoming frozen every winter season. The same is true with the sea around Petrograd. West of Russia (like the areas in Eastern Europe) have a gentler climate and are made up of a variety of forests and fields that surround heavy industrial towns and small villages. These geographic and meteorological elements will affect your directives as each area's unique features can help determine the success or failure of your plans.

Transportation:

Russia's transportation system relied mainly on railways and waterways to move troops, goods and supplies across its vast territory. Among these, the railway network played the central role, carrying most of the military and economic traffic throughout the country. Russia had started WW1 with about 71,000 kilometers of track, but limited capacity, coverage, and a shortage of rolling stock became major problems. Large parts of the western railways were under military control, even though in 1916 they were carrying more passengers and goods than before, without adding new tracks or enough locomotives. Domestic production could not keep up, and foreign orders for wagons and engines were only partly delivered, leaving the system under-equipped.

By 1916-1917, about 40 percent of railway equipment was used for military purposes, creating serious delays for civilian transport. With fuel shortages and poor coordination between military and civilian authorities, delivery backlogs worsened, leaving cities and the army suffering from delays. Railway workers became a powerful political force in 1917. Much of the network stopped due to the strikes, especially in September, and helped spread revolutionary news. And by late 1918, the railways were damaged, overstretched, and undersupplied, making transportation one of Russia's main structural weaknesses and a serious problem for both the economy and state authority³. In our simulation, Railroads hold massive importance as they are the best means of transporting armies around the map.

³ <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/railways-russian-empire/>



Characters who control railway lines have the means to reduce the transportation options of their opponents thus disrupting their logistics.

Meanwhile, waterways played an important but secondary role, as they were vital for major cities such as Moscow and Petrograd, which depend on the Volga River and canal systems for food and fuel. In 1918, waterways were a secure alternative route for transporting cargo and troops. However, their effectiveness was limited by underdevelopment and by winter conditions. Once the rivers started freezing, transport shifted back almost entirely to the railways.⁴

Countries situations:

The end of the First World War has created a sudden power vacuum across eastern Europe. With the collapse of the German Empire and the Russian Empire already gone, new states are emerging while others struggle to survive. National movements, civil wars, and foreign interventions are reshaping the region. As of November 11, 1918, the following states face immediate political and military challenges that will determine their future. Here is a general overview of the states outside of Russia.

Finland has recently emerged from a civil war in which the Whites defeated the Reds with significant German support. Following their victory, they elected the German prince Frederick Charles of Hesse as king of Finland last month. However, Germany has now lost the war, making the choice of a German monarch politically dangerous, as the United States and the United Kingdom may refuse to recognize a state viewed as a German puppet. Prince Frederick has not yet entered Finland, meaning he has never actually ruled. With German troops packing up, the Finnish government must now decide the future political direction of the state.

Estonia is experiencing the collapse of German occupation following Germany's defeat in the war. The Estonian provisional government, known as the Maapäev, is attempting to reestablish authority over the territory, but it possesses very limited military capacity. At the same time, the Red Army is gathering near Narva and is expected to invade once German forces fully withdraw. Estonia therefore urgently seeks foreign assistance, particularly from the British navy, to help defend its newly emerging independence.

Latvia has not yet fully established itself as a sovereign state. Although Germany has surrendered, German troops remain stationed across Latvian territory and no stable government has yet taken full control in Riga. However, a major diplomatic breakthrough has just occurred: Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics, representing the Latvian Provisional National

⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Volga-River/Study-and-exploration>
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Volga-River/Study-and-exploration>



Council as a de facto independent authority. This recognition provides Latvia with important political legitimacy, but the threat of a Red Army advance remains immediate.

Poland officially declared independence on November 11, 1918, ending more than a century of partition. Józef Piłsudski has arrived in Warsaw and is assuming leadership of the newly re-established Polish state. Despite this achievement, Poland's borders remain uncertain and contested. Polish forces are currently fighting Ukrainian troops for control of the city of Lvov in the east, while in Warsaw they have begun disarming remaining German soldiers.

Ukraine has become the main battleground of the region, as the country is fractured by an ongoing internal civil war between several competing factions. The hetmanate, led by Pavlo Skoropadskyi in Kiev, had relied heavily on German support, but with Germany's defeat his regime has lost its primary backing and faces growing opposition from civilians and political rivals. The Directorate, a nationalist and socialist but anti-bolshevik movement led by Symon Petliura, is currently gathering forces to overthrow Skoropadskyi's government. Meanwhile, Bolshevik forces remain positioned in eastern cities such as Kharkov, waiting to launch an uprising and to allow the Red Army to enter Ukrainian territory and establish control. Ukraine's primary objective is simply survival, as multiple powers and factions compete for influence and territory while the country attempts to secure a stable and independent state.

Germany has collapsed following its defeat in World War I. The Kaiser has fled, a fragile republic is forming in Berlin, and communist groups threaten to transform the country into a soviet style state. The German army in the East, the Ober Ost, remains an undefeated military but has lost political authority. Soldiers' discipline is breaking down: councils are forming, orders are ignored, and some troops sell weapons to local armies such as the Whites or Reds for food or passage home. Article 12 of the armistice treaty instructs German troops in the East to remain until the allies decide otherwise, aiming to prevent a Red advance into Ukraine and the Baltics. Soldiers ignore it so much, prioritizing return to Germany over acting as security forces for former enemies.

Germany's foreign and domestic policies were driven by strategic interests rather than ideology. It supported the Finnish whites in 1918 to establish a pro-German buffer state, and it allowed Vladimir Lenin to travel through Germany in 1917 to weaken Russia and end its participation in the war. Domestically, the new liberal government of Germany opposed communist groups like the Spartacists who attempted to seize power in Berlin and facing other uprisings including the short-lived Bavarian Soviet Republic.

The Factions that are directly represented in the Crisis simulation map are presented below. Note that not all factions have delegates on the committee but will still be relevant for the simulation and will be managed by the backroom.



Color	Name
Red	Russia - Bolsheviks
White	Russia - Whites
Yellow	Poland
Blue	Ukrainian People's Republic
Black	Black Army
Grey	Skoropadsky's Ukrainian State
Light Blue	Finland
Dark Green	United Republics of the North Caucasus
Light Green	Azerbaijan
Pink	Georgia
Brown	Lithuania
Purple	Latvia
Reddish Brown	Estonia
Orange	Basmachi Republic
Dark Grey	Germany