

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 defense, 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: jüdisch
part: Teil
banish: verbannen
escape: entweichen
to resign: zurücktreten
to join: beitreten

main: Haupt...
to seize: ergreifen
in charge: beauftragt
foreign affairs: Aussenpolitik
defence: Verteidigung
civil war: Bürgerkrieg

impatience: Ungeduld
enemy: Feind
drive, drove, driven: treiben
pick: Pickel
order: Befehl

Translate:

Er wurde 1879 in Russland geboren.*

Er wurde 1940 in Mexiko ermordet.*

Die Ukraine war ein Teil des Russischen Reiches.

1917 verließ er London.*

Die Rote Armee gewann den Bürgerkrieg.

Stalin wurde der starke Mann.

Stalins Agenten (agents) ermordeten Trotzky mit einem Eispickel.

* Im Englischen – anders als im Deutschen - kommt zuerst das Adverbiale des Ortes und dann das Adverbiale der Zeit: "Er wurde ermordet in Mexiko 1940". Das Adverbiale der Zeit kann aber auch – wie im Deutschen - an der Satzspitze erscheinen.