

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL

1917 - 1924

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, WORLD WAR 1, AND THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR



The Russian Revolution 1917

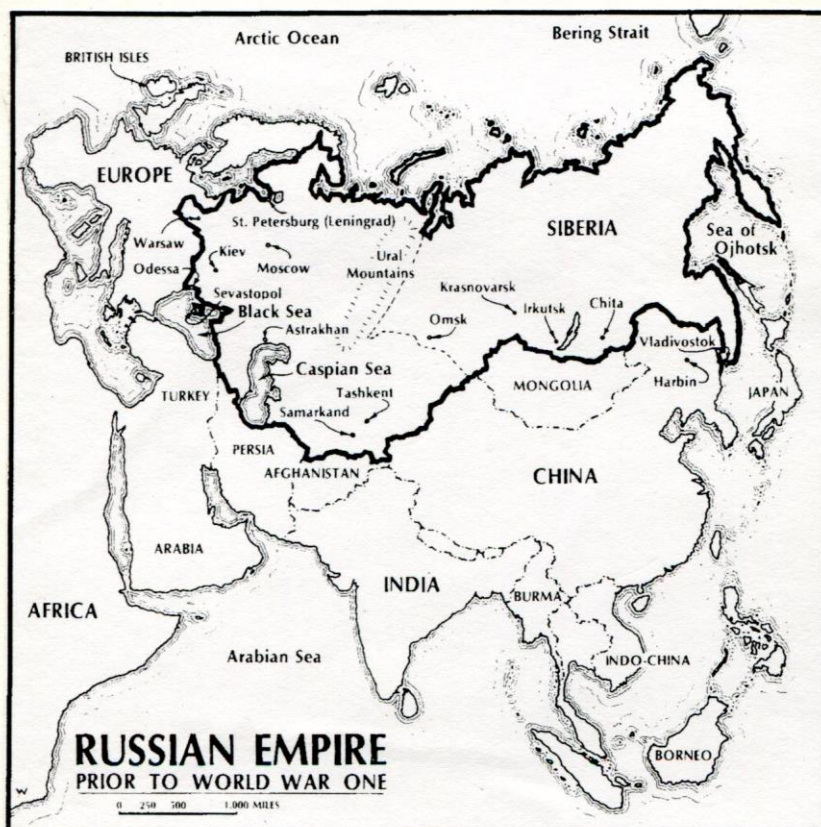
Actually, two revolutions are referred to as the 'Russian Revolution'. Following a revolt by the armed forces and workers in Petrograd in March 1917, sparked by the economic collapse of being involved in World War I, Tsar Nicholas II abdicated and a Provisional Government was formed. Then, in October 1917, the second revolution opened with an armed insurrection, organized by the Bolshevik Party against the provisional government. It effected a fundamental change in all economic, political and social relationships in Russian Society. The **Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (R.S.F.S.R.)** was declared, 7 November 1917 – 5 July 1923.

Russian Civil War 1918-20

The success of the Bolshevik Revolution of October 1917 led to a Civil War between the anti-Bolsheviks and the new central government. Many of the anti-Bolshevik groups issued stamps for the areas temporarily under their control.

Postal services were seriously disrupted between 1918 and 1922. The Soviet authorities had no stamps of their own until 1921 and they used stamps of the earlier regimes as well as fiscal and savings bank stamps in the interim. During the period of the civil war, many issues were prepared locally.

The name of the country was changed in 1923 to the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics** and the first U.S.S.R. stamps were issued on 19th August 1923.



This study looks at these various regions of the troubled country :

- 1 Russia
- 2 Armenia
- 3 Azerbaidjan
- 4 Ukraine
- 5 Western Army
- 6 Northern Army
- 7 Georgia
- 8 Far Eastern Republic
- 9 Siberia
- 10 South Russia
- 11 Transcaucasian Federation of Soviet Republics
- 12 Turkestan
- 13 Batum
- 14 Dagestan
- 15 White Russia

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

ARMENIA

ARMENIA was part of the Russian Empire prior to the 1917 Revolution. It subsequently achieved a brief independence, then federated in 1922-23 with neighboring provinces of Georgia and Azerbaijan as the Transcaucasian Federation. It then became a constituent republic of the USSR. Stamps were first issued in 1919 and continued until 1923.



NATIONAL REPUBLIC, 1919-1920

Russian 'Arms' type hand-overprinted with Armenian monogram and surcharged, at Erivan or Alexandropol.

Stamp printed in Paris on the order of the National Government 1920, but not issued in Armenia as the Communist regime had assumed power - 1921.



Mount Aragatz, Armenia



Post Office, Erivan



Fisherman,
Lake Sevan



Street in Erivan

ISSUES of SOVIET REPUBLIC 2 Dec 1920 - 12 March 1922



Area: 11,506 sq. miles
Pop: 2,493,000 (1970)
Capital: Erivan



Monastery, Lake Sevan



Mount Ararat



Village scene, Armenia
1922



Crane - 1923

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

AZERBAIDJAN

NATIONAL REPUBLIC - 27 May 1918 to 28 April 1920

By the 19th century, **Azerbaijan**, once independent, was divided between Russia and Persia. After the Russian October Revolution in 1917, the area which was in Russia declared its independence anew on 27th May 1918.

Russian troops invaded Azerbaijan on 27th April 1920 and next day a Soviet Republic was proclaimed.



Standard bearer



Reaper



ISSUES of NATIONAL REPUBLIC, 27 May 1918 – 28 April 1920 All imperforate



The Citadel, Baku, Azerbaidjan

Temple of Eternal Fires



Bibi Eibatt Oilfield



Hall of Judgement



Goukasoff House

ISSUES OF SOVIET REPUBLIC 28 April 1920

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

UKRAINE

Formerly a part of the Russian Empire, following the 1917 Russian Revolution, the UKRAINE enjoyed a brief period of independence before being made part of the USSR in 1923. Stamps were issued during the period of freedom in 1918-1923. At first, the trident overprint was applied to Russian stamps in a large variety of forms. Later, specially designed stamps were issued.



The TRIDENT stamps of the Ukraine, issued 1918 to 1921, overprinted "Russian Post" and new values, following the hyperinflation of the currency.



All issues are found imperforate as well as perforated. Some were handstamped with the Trident overprint in KIEV in violet, black, blue and red. Others were litho and typo printed in ODESSA in black and brown. Unoverprinted Russian stamps were not legal in the Ukraine after 10th October 1918. The Trident design was taken from the Arms of the Grand Duke Vladimir, and were adopted as the 'device' of the Ukrainian Republic.



Area: 171,000 sq. miles (approx.)
Pop: 47,136,000 (1970)
Capital: Kiev



The Independence of the Ukraine was proclaimed on 22 January 1918, and in July 1918, these 5 stamps were issued nationally, imperforate in thin paper, and perforated 11½ in thick paper.

RUSSIAN INVASION OF LATVIA AND LITHUANIA, 1919

WESTERN ARMY

A Western Army attacked the Latvian forces defending Riga. Overprinted Latvian stamps were issued in October 1919 and these were followed by Russian overprints in November.



The "Western Army", under Colonel Avalov-Bermondt, was a body of German, Balt, and Russian troops formed in Courland in 1919. Its commander refused to join the army of General Yudenich, but in October 1919, unsuccessfully attacked Latvian Government forces defending RIGA. The army evacuated Courland on 29th November 1919. The above stamps were prepared, in 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 50, 60, and 75 k values, for use by the force raised by Col. Avalov-Bermond



Pavel Bermond-Avalov



Overprint on 1920 LATVIA 50 kapeikas issue, surcharged to 2 rublis later in 1920.



Nikolai Yudenich

RUSSIAN INVASION OF LATVIA AND LITHUANIA, 1919

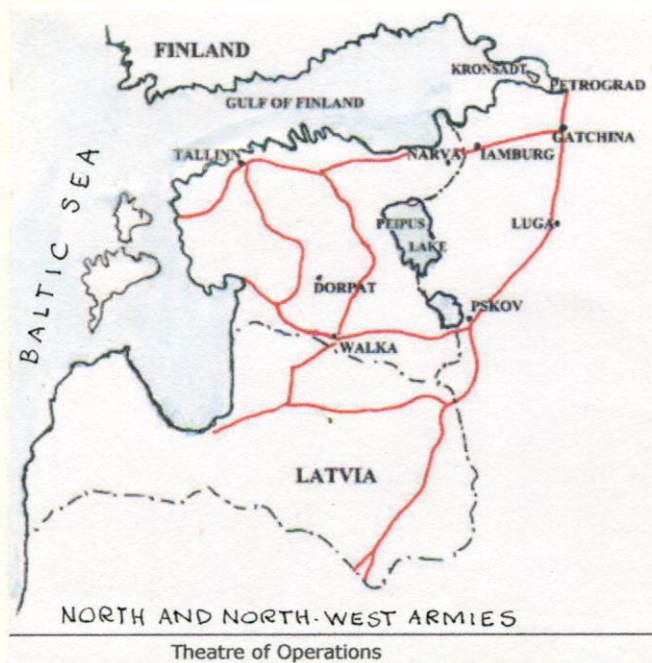
NORTHERN ARMY

The Northern Army under General Rodzianko captured Pskov, Gdov and Yamburg in May 1919. Stamps were issued in September 1919. These units were later incorporated in the North West Army, which comprised all the anti-Bolshevik forces in the Baltic area. On 1st August 1919, Russian stamps were overprinted for use in this area, but they were withdrawn in November 1919.



O.K.C.A. issues (Osobiyy Korpus Severnoy Armii) – the Special Corps, Northern Army
September 1919 - Five stamps issued– 5, 10, 15, 20, and 50 kopeks – complete SG 1 to 5.

General Yudenich was appointed commander-in-chief of the Anti-Bolshevist forces in the Baltic area on 15th June 1919. His North-Western Army operated south-west of Petrograd (renamed Leningrad 1924) from June 1919 until its collapse in November 1919.



Enlargement 200%



Nikolai Yudenich

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

GEORGIA

A part of the Russian Empire, GEORGIA proclaimed itself free following the 1917 Russian Revolution. After a period as part of the Transcaucasian Federation with neighboring Armenia and Azerbaijan, it joined the Transcaucasian SFSR and became part of the USSR. Stamps were issued from 1919 to 1923.



Issued August 1919 – 1920. All imperforate, grey paper with yellowish gum.



1919 – 1920, similar issues, but perforated 11½

ISSUES of GEORGIA NATIONAL REPUBLIC, 27 May 1918 – 25 February 1921



Queen Tamara (1184-1212 A.D.)
Issued 1920-1921

Area: 26,911 sq. miles
Pop: 2,372,403 (1920)
Capital: Tiflis (Tbilisi)

After the Russian Revolution, Georgia declared her independence on 26 May 1918.

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

FAR EASTERN REPUBLIC

This area of eastern Siberia was formed in 1920 based on the town of Chita. The FAR EASTERN REPUBLIC was a short-lived state and soon became part of the new Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Stamps were issued during 1920-1923.



Stamps of Russia overprinted , September 1920 – 1921, imperforate
The overprinted initials signify “Daini-Vostochnaya Respublika”,
or ‘Far Eastern Republic’

A buffer state between the Soviet authorities and the Japanese set up on 6 April 1920. It extended from Lake Baikal to Vladivostok until 26 May 1921 when the Priamur and Maritime Provinces broke away. On 19 November 1922, after the Japanese evacuation of Vladivostok, it was annexed to Soviet Russia.

December 1922



March-November 1922



From February-March 1922 through 1923, inflation affected the Russian and the Soviet Republics' economies, and the value of the rouble fluctuated wildly, owing to the internal turmoil.

While 750,000 roubles is one of the highest value overprints, stamps were sold at hundreds and then thousands of times the face value of the stamp, before currency reform on 24th October 1923 saw the “gold kopeck” introduced. ‘Normality’ returned under the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

SIBERIA

In November 1918, Admiral Kolchak assumed power as the ruler of **Siberia**, but he resigned on 4th January 1920 after the Bolsheviks captured Omsk. Stamps of Russia with surcharges of new values were issued during this period.

GOVERNMENT OF ADMIRAL KOLCHAK



1909-1912 'Arms of Russia', surcharged in Siberia, issued in 1919-1920
SG 5 to 10, perforated 14x14½, complete



1919 issues, complete, imperforate, SG 1 to 4.



After the fall of the Kolchak government, **Ataman Semyonov** proclaimed himself temporary ruler of Siberia on 20th January 1920. His regime lasted until 21st October 1920.



Alexander Kolchak

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

SOUTH RUSSIA

A Cossack Government had been set up at **Kuban** in October 1917 and issued overprinted stamps until 27th March 1920.

Another Cossack Government had been set up in the **Don Republic**, but the area fell to the Soviets in 1920.

The Provisional Government had issued its own stamps in January 1919, but these were followed in April by stamps issued by General Denikin, commander of the anti-Bolshevik force. General Denikin resigned his command to General Wrangel on 4th April 1920.



**COSSACK GOVERNMENT
KUBAN TERRITORY**
Stamps of Russia surcharged
First issue, 1918

SOUTH RUSSIA : GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL DENIKIN
Imperforate stamps issued May 1919, to March 1920



**CRIMEA
REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT**
January 1919
Complete

SOUTH RUSSIA : GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL DENIKIN
Imperforate issue May 1919, perforated 11½, October 1919



**COSSACK GOVERNMENT
DON TERRITORY**
Stamps of Russia surcharged
1918



Anton Denikin

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

Before 1923, each of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan issued its own postage stamps. The **Transcaucasian Federation** began issuing its own stamps on 15th September, 1923, and superseded the separate republics' issues on 1st October. The first issues consisted of some of the stamps of Russia and Armenia overprinted with a star containing the five-letter acronym of the federation inside the points.

On 24th October, the stamps were reissued with values from 1 to 18 gold kopecks. Starting in 1924, the Federation used stamps of the Soviet Union



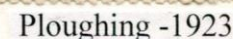
The unsurcharged stamps had been intended to form part of a previous issue, but as their values were too low they were later used as famine relief stamps.



Wall Sculptures showing Mythological Creatures, Ani – May 1922



Soviet emblems – 1923



These un-overprinted stamps were not officially issued.

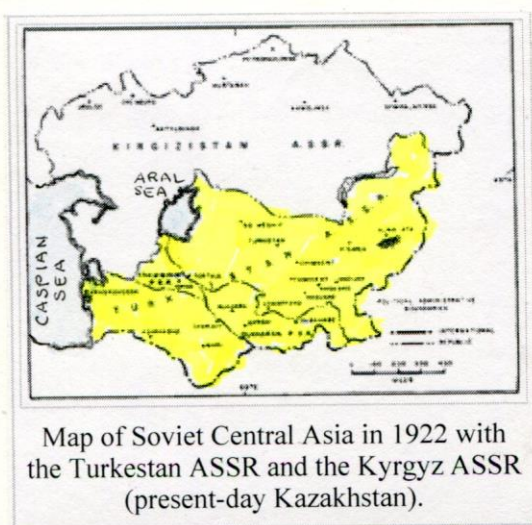
The Transcaucasian Federation was absorbed into the U.S.S.R. on 6th July 1923, and their stamps were superseded by those of the Soviet Union early in 1924.

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

TURKESTAN

The **Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic** - initially called the **Turkestan Socialist Federative Republic** - (April 30, 1918 - October 27, 1924) was created from the **Turkestan Krai** of Imperial Russia. Its capital was **Tashkent**, with a population about 5,000,000.

In 1924 it was split into **Turkmen SSR** (now Turkmenistan), **Uzbek SSR** (now Uzbekistan) with the **Tajik ASSR** (now Tajikistan), **Kara-Kirghiz Autonomous Oblast** (now Kyrgyzstan), and **Karakalpak Autonomous Oblast** (now Karakalpakstan).



Map of Soviet Central Asia in 1922 with the Turkmen ASSR and the Kyrgyz ASSR (present-day Kazakhstan).

A complete set except for the 1 kopek stamp. It depicts a camelier in the desert, laundering at a village well, a camelier in the mountains, a scene near Tashkent, and a sheep herder (on a horse). The two varieties of perforations are shown – 14.5 (2, 5, 15, and 20 kopek), and 11.5 (50 Kopek), but some stamps exist imperforate.

The stamps were printed in 1923 - 1924 in either Paris or Italy.

The name **TURKESTAN** was later dropped due to its similarity with **TURKEY**.

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

BATUM

BRITISH OCCUPATION OF BATUM 1918-1920.

BATUM is a port on the Eastern shore of the Black Sea. RUSSIAN since 1878, it had been taken by Turkish troops during the First World War.

In December 1918, following the Armistice, it was occupied by British troops, who withdrew in July 1920.

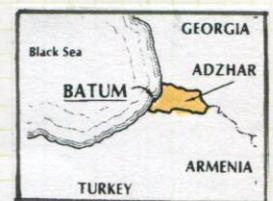


10th November 1919 issue
postally used, 2,5,3 roubles

BATUM issue of 4 April 1919,
hand surcharged 50 roubles,
issued 1st April 1920. SCARCE.



BATUM issue of 4 April 1919 in different new colours,
overprinted 'BRITISH OCCUPATION'
issued 22nd June 1920.



BATUM was handed over to the National Republic of GEORGIA on 7th July 1920.
It is now called BATUMI.

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

DAGESTAN

Dagestan, on the Caspian Sea north of Azerbaijan, declared its independence as the Mountain Republic on 11 May 1918. In April 1919 it was occupied by General Denikin's Volunteer Army. In 1920 it was occupied by the Red Army, and it became the Gorskaya Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic on 20 January 1921. These stamps were in use for a short time till they were superseded by those of the R.S.F.S.R.



1921 issue, Russia stamps of 1909-1912 overprinted with initials of "Mountain Soviet Socialist Republic" in Russian, and Arabic at bottom, around the star of the Caucasian Mountains region - three stamps, complete, perf 14x14½.

USED – Suspected forgery as date on cancellation does not coincide with the issue date of the stamp.



General Anton Denikin's Volunteer Army and regional Armed forces after Armistice of Mudros, 30 Oct. 1918.

RUSSIA IN TURMOIL 1917-1924

WHITE RUSSIA (BELARUS)

During the negotiations of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Belarus first declared independence on 25 March 1918, forming the Belarusian People's Republic. The Germans supported the BPR, which lasted for about ten months. Soon after the Germans were defeated, the BPR fell under the influence of the Bolsheviks and the Red Army and became the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1919. After Russian occupation of eastern and northern Lithuania, it was merged into the Lithuanian-Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. Byelorussian lands were then split between Poland and the Soviets after the Polish-Soviet War ended in 1921, and the recreated Byelorussian SSR became a founding member of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1922.



Prepared for use in 1920, but not issued, owing to the collapse of the local White Russian government. Belorussian man and woman – 1920, five values imperforate, SG 1 – 5, complete



1920 - Belorussian man and woman, 5 values perforated, SG 6 – 10, complete