

***The Liquidation of
Denikin and
Yudenich
October 1919 –
March 1920***

“... Победить Деникина, уничтожить его, сделать невозможным повторение подобного нашествия – таков коренной интерес и Великорусских, и Украинских рабочих и крестьян.”

“... To defeat Denikin, to annihilate him, to have made impossible for a similar invasion to recur – this is the main interest of the Great Russians, and the Ukrainian workers and peasants.”

Map 7

The Liquidation of Denikin and Yudenich // October 1919 – March 1920

Colored lithographic print, 99 x 64 cm. Compilers: A. N. de-Lazari and N. N. Lesevitskii

Artist: N. D. Kazantsev

Historical Background and Thematic Design

The seventh map in the series depicts the Red Army's defeat of the White counterrevolutionary forces of Generals Denikin and Yudenich in the fall and winter of 1919-20.

The map's dominant visual image is the surge of Red Army soldiers, including soldiers with rifles and bayonets or cavalry with lances, who pursue White opposition forces into southern Russia and Ukraine, northern Russia, the Trans-Caspian, Crimea, Caucasus, Estonia, and Galicia, where they are illustrated as either holding defensive positions, in flight, wounded, or killed. Bold red spearheads depict the movements of Red Army forces, while green arrows indicate the defensive movement and retreat of White forces.

Red is the dominant color and identifies the territory under control of the Red Army and the Soviet government. Green identifies territory remaining under White control, whereas gray indicates the area still being contested.

Defeat of White Forces

Overextended, outnumbered, and without local or international support, the White forces in southern Russia fell into a general retreat approximately 240 miles short of Moscow. Prior to being rebuffed by the Reds, the White offensive had reached the town of Orël, roughly 700 miles north of their base of operations, which exposed large gaps in their lines.

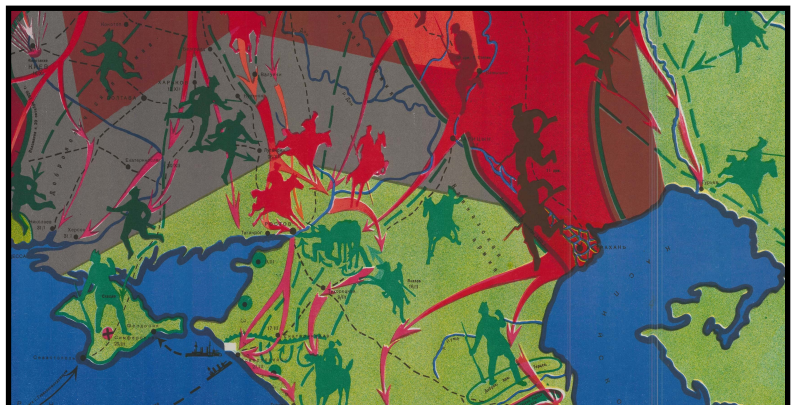
The Politburo reacted to the situation by prioritizing the defense of the Moscow-Tula area and counterattacked with Red Cossacks, a Red cavalry corps, and the Latvian Rifle Division. The Red assault that started just after mid-October, 1919, is represented by the figures of four Red Army soldiers, one on horseback, charging on the left flank of the White defenders. They are illustrated as trampling the green figure of White counterrevolutionary soldier between Orël and Kursk.

That group was reinforced by First Red Cavalry Army seen descending upon Voronezh. The cities of Khar'kov, Kupiansk, Lugansk, Taganrog, and Rostov fell in quick succession, and the retreat fell into a rout, with White morale being further undermined by Admiral Kolchaks' abandonment of Omsk in the east and the withdrawal of British support in the west. The remnants of the White forces came together near the mouth of the Don, where they took up defensive positions on the west bank.

In the Kuban, the survivors of Denikin's White army are depicted as dismounted or rushing towards the Black Sea coast. His defensive zones are indicated in the vicinity of Rostov and Ekatarinodar. Nearby, Red cavalry was hunting down and destroying White formations.

Figure 16

As the survivors retreated they were joined by deserters and refugees. The desperate masses converged on the port of Novorossiisk, hoping to be evacuated by Allied ships. Some 34,000 people, enduring a Typhus epidemic, were evacuated



by March 27, but roughly 22,000 White soldiers and officers were captured in the port. The remainder fled further south, where they surrendered in early May.

The symbol of the ship departing Novorossiisk for Feodosia carries General Denikin, who resigned his post in early April. His ship's path is accompanied by text "Gen. Denikin's detour for Constantinople with part of his forces after bestowing himself with the title of commander-in-chief." Denikin was replaced immediately by his subordinate, General Peter Wrangel, shown departing Constantinople and approaching the port of Sebastopol on a British ship. His path of conveyance is accompanied by the "The arrival of Gen. Wrangel in the Crimea and his appointment as commander-in-chief."

Dense and complex, the iconography in this sector includes red, green, orange, and pink spearheads that suggest feelings of desperation and confusion enveloping Denikin's troops as they retreated in late 1919 and early 1920. The background consists of a series of contrasting colors that include orange, red, vermilion, blue, grey, and light green, in which the large star centered on Moscow expands to include what appear to be sequential regions of engagement, which begin with the initial shock of the counterattack and conclude with chaos of abandonment and evacuation.

Other Sectors

The Red Army launched its counteroffensive against General Yudenich's Northwestern Army in the second week of October 1919, pushing it back to Estonia, where it was disarmed and disbanded. A group of three Red Army soldiers is depicted as charging behind red spearheads around Lake Peipus, while a Red Army soldier in bright red represents the successful defense of Petrograd.

Over Estonia and Latvia, three green figures of counterrevolutionary forces guard their frontiers in an attempt to retain their recent independence. Having agreed not to invade Estonia, the Bolsheviks reached a settlement in Tartu, which resulted in a peace treaty signed between Estonia and Russia on February 2, 1920. The flag, a descending diagonal of red and black, flies above the town of town of Yurev (present-day Tartu) and is noted by the date and text "5 December peace treaty," which together refer to the armistice between Estonia and Russia.

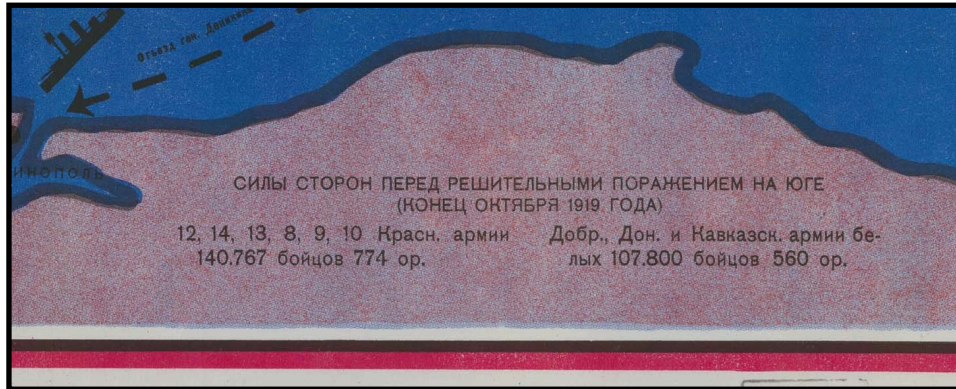
Russia also entered a war with Poland during this same period. Polish armies are represented by the green figures of soldiers that stand behind eleven yellow and green diamonds. Poland had seized large amounts of territory in Belarus and Ukraine. As a result, Polish forces were ideally situated for an eventual invasion of Ukraine in late April 1920, following a year of armed conflict over the disputed territory of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Western Ukraine slid further into chaos at the time of the Red Army's counteroffensive. Figures of Red Army soldiers are depicted as advancing on Kiev, which fell on December 16, its capitulation indicated by a large explosion.

Semyon Petliura's Ukrainian National Republican forces were surrounded, as indicated by the blue figure of a soldier in yellow boots and shako. Their defenses to the east are represented by a series of eight yellow and blue rectangles; to the west their backs face a cordon of yellow and green diamonds, in addition to three green figures of soldiers who represent three Polish armies; and from the northeast they are attacked by two red figures of the Twelfth and Fourteenth Red armies, whose spearheads are penetrating their position. In desperation, Petliura allied himself with Poland, which recognized him as head of an independent Ukraine in exchange for eastern Galicia, and which further bound him to assist Poland in fighting the Reds. **Figure 17** The departure of British troops from the Caucasus in August 1919 enabled the Bolsheviks to advance at will throughout the southern regions, including into Georgia.



Transcription of Text



Statistics

Disposition of forces before the decisive defeat of the south
(At the end of October 1919)

12, 14, 13, 8, 9, 10 Red Armies
140,767 fighters 774 guns

Volunteer, Don, and Caucasus White Armies.
107,800 fighters 560 guns