

The Caucasus Under Soviet Rule

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During 1928 Stalin at the central level had successfully outmanoeuvred Bukharin, Rykov, Tomsky and other leaders of the so-called 'Right Opposition' – those within the party who remained opposed to finally ending the NEP or accelerating industrialization via higher-tempo collectivization.

Stalin's suspicion that local loyalties remained divided, and that local party-political work was blighted by short-sightedness and incompetence, then became further reflected in the fact that during 1929–30 a full 10.6 per cent of party workers in the North Caucasus *krai* were relieved of their posts. OGPU pressure also increased, with 370 'underground groups' in the North Caucasus, comprising 3,736 participants, uncovered during ten months in 1929 alone, whilst overall around 4,200 people were arrested in connection with such activities.