The Whites were made up of different groups who had entirely different aims and beliefs e.g. they could not agree on whether they were fighting for monachism, republicanism or for the Constituent Assembly. This made it hard for them to cooperate and impossible to develop a coherent political strategy. They were united only in their desire to get rid of the Bolsheviks.

The Whites were scattered around the edges of central Russia and their armies were separated by large distances. This made communication difficult, especially moving men and weapons and coordinating the attacks of the different White armies. They had no telephone links, and had to use officers on horseback to convey messages.

The Bolsheviks held the central area, including Moscow and Petrograd. The areas contained the main armament factories in Russia, so the Bolsheviks could manufacture munitions supplies.

They moved their capital to Moscow, centre of the railway network, making it easier to move men and munitions to the battle fronts. The central area was heavily populated so the Bolsheviks were able to conscript large numbers to fight. Red armies vastly outnumbered their White opponents.

Lack of unity and leadership meant they were incapable of developing an effective military strategy. Often White generals would not work together because they did not like or trust each other e.g. other generals were suspicious of Kolchak's military strategy. Often White generals would not work together because they did not like or trust each other e.g. other generals were suspicious of Kolchak's motives and intentions.

White leaders were generally second rate. Several were cruel and treated their men with contempt. Desertions rates were high.

Indiscipline and corruption was rife e.g. at Kolchak's base in Omsk uniforms and munitions were sold on the black market, and some of the officers lived in brothels.

White officers on horseback to convey messages

White disadvantages

Red advantages

White disadvantages

Red advantages

White disadvantages

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