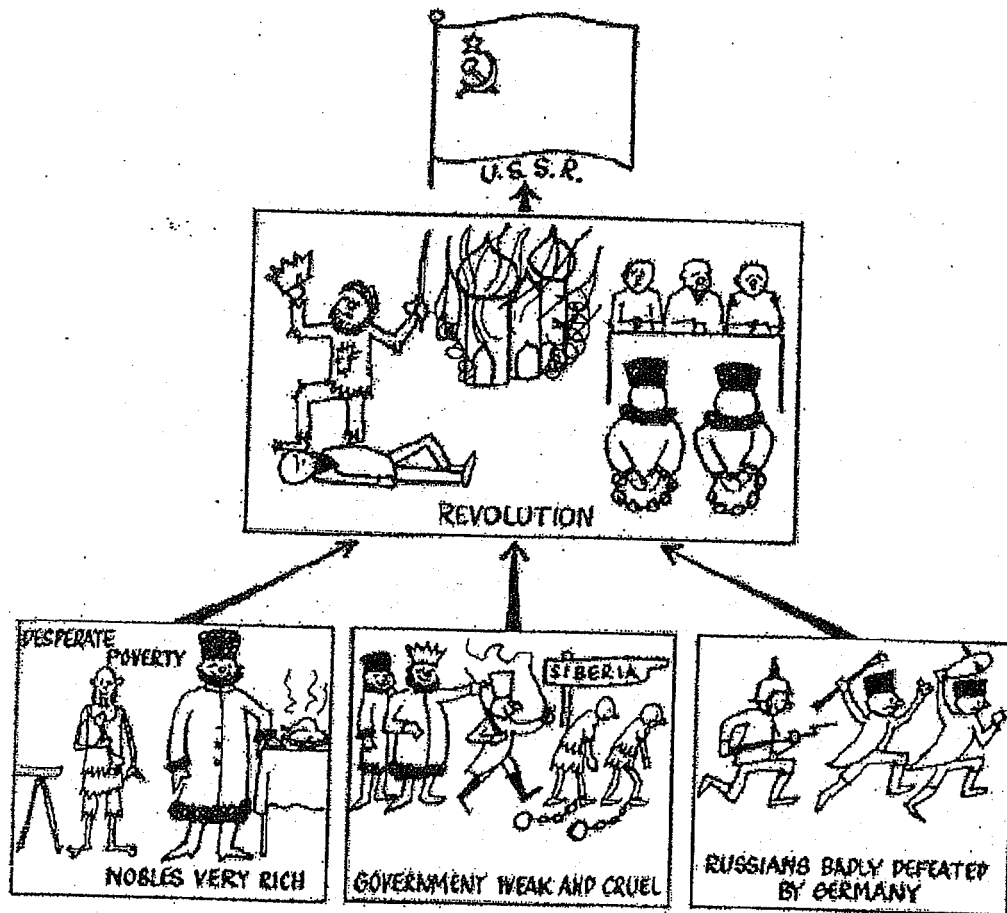


# RUSSIAN REVOLUTION



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

DUE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



CHAPTER  
**10**  
SECTION 5

**Section Summary**  
**RUSSIA: REFORM AND REACTION**

By 1815, Russia was the largest, most populous nation in Europe. The Russian colossus had immense natural resources. Reformers hoped to free Russia from autocratic rule, economic backwardness, and social injustice. One of the obstacles to progress was the rigid social structure. Another was that, for centuries, tsars had ruled with absolute power, while the majority of Russians were poor serfs.

Alexander II became tsar in 1855 during the Crimean War. Events in his reign represent the pattern of reform and repression of previous tsars. The war, which ended in a Russian defeat, revealed the country's backwardness and inefficient bureaucracy. People demanded changes, so Alexander II agreed to some reforms. He ordered the emancipation of the serfs. He also set up a system of local, elected assemblies called zemstvos. Then he introduced legal reforms, such as trial by jury. These reforms, however, failed to satisfy many Russians. Radicals pressed for even greater changes and more reforms. The tsar then backed away from reform and moved toward repression. This sparked anger among radicals and, in 1881, terrorists assassinated Alexander II. In response to his father's death, Alexander III revived harsh, repressive policies. He also suppressed the cultures of non-Russian peoples, which led to their persecution. Official persecution encouraged pogroms, or violent mob attacks on Jewish people. Many left Russia and became refugees.

Russia began to industrialize under Alexander III and his son Nicholas II. However, this just increased political and social problems because nobles and peasants feared the changes industrialization brought. News of military disasters added to the unrest. On Sunday, January 22, 1905, a peaceful protest calling for reforms turned deadly when the tsar's troops killed and wounded hundreds of people. In the months that followed this "Bloody Sunday," discontent exploded across Russia. Nicholas was forced to make sweeping reforms. He agreed to summon a Duma. He then appointed a new prime minister, Peter Stolypin. Stolypin soon realized Russia needed reform, not just repression. Unfortunately, the changes he introduced were too limited. By 1914, Russia was still an autocracy, but the nation was simmering with discontent.

**Review Questions**

1. What effect did the Crimean War have on Russia?

2. What happened on January 22, 1905?

**READING CHECK**

What were zemstvos?

**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word radicals mean in the underlined sentence? Think about why these people were dissatisfied with Alexander II's reforms. Circle the words in the underlined sentence that help you figure out what radical means.

**READING SKILL**

**Recognize Sequence** What happened between Alexander II's becoming tsar and his assassination in 1881?

## Bolsheviks, a Tsar, and a Revolution in Russia

### Global History and Geography II



Russian cartoon showing how Rasputin dominated the Royal Court (1916)

#### Questions:

- 1: Why were the Russian people discontented in 1905?
- 2: What happened outside the tsar's winter palace?
- 3: How did World War I increase the discontent of the Russian people?
- 4: Who was Rasputin and why did he have so much influence in the tsar's family?
- 5: What happened in March 1917?
- 6: Why did Alexander Kerensky's provisional government lose support?
- 7: What happened in November 1917?
- 8: What did Lenin promise the Russian people?
- 9: How did Lenin change Russia?

The Russian people were discontented. Russia had been defeated by Japan in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905 and Tsar Nicholas II was an autocratic ruler. When protesters led by a priest gathered before the tsar's winter palace, palace guards fired on the crowd killing hundreds. Afterwards, the tsar allowed his subjects to elect a duma or parliament but he gave it no power. With the advent of World War I, the Russian people experienced defeats, losses, and food shortages. To make matters worse, the tsar's German-born wife seemed to be under the spell of Rasputin, a self-proclaimed religious man who seemed to stop the deadly bleeding episodes of the tsar's son who suffered from hemophilia. Finally, by March 1917, moderate leaders like Prince George Lvov and Alexander Kerensky took control of a provisional government forcing the tsar to abdicate. However, these leaders stayed in the war. Finally, in November 1917, a second revolution occurred. It was led by Vladimir I. Lenin and promised peace, bread, and land. As a follower of Karl Marx, Lenin transformed Russia. He took Russia out of the war, fought a bloody civil war between the Reds and Whites, and established a Communist dictatorship. In 1918, the tsar and his family were executed. The Soviet Union had been born.



**Questions:**

**1: Who was Vladimir I. Lenin?**

**2: Explain the meaning of "A Call to Power".**

**3. According to Lenin, how can the Russian people's problems be solved?**

**4: Why can the Russian people not wait?**

**5: Who was Kerensky?**

**6: What revolutionaries will history not forgive according to Lenin?**

**7: What benefits will the revolution bring to the Russian people according to Lenin?**

**8: Why must the government receive "the death-blow at all costs" according to Lenin?**

**9: Why do you think the Bolshevik promise of peace, bread, and land appealed greatly to the Russian people?**

**10: Explain the meaning of Lenin's quote.**

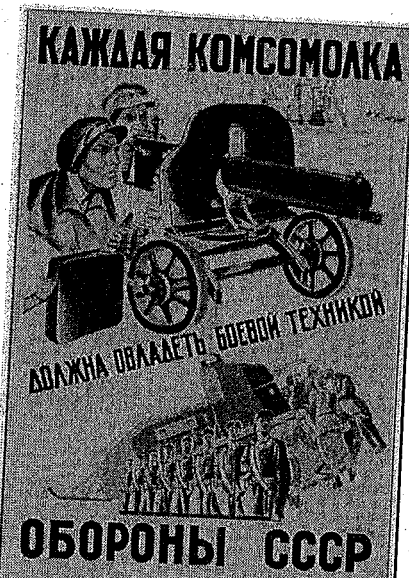
**Excerpt adapted from fordham.edu  
Lenin: Call to Power, Oct 24, 1917**

**"...With all my might I urge comrades to realize that everything now hangs by a thread; that we are confronted by problems which are not to be solved by conferences or congresses (even congresses of Soviets), but exclusively by peoples, by the masses, by the struggle of the armed people...**

**We must at all costs, this very evening, this very night, arrest the government...We must not wait! We may lose everything...All districts, all regiments, all forces must be mobilized at once...with the insistent demand that under no circumstances should power be left in the hands of Kerensky and Co....**

**History will not forgive revolutionaries for procrastinating ... If we seize power today; we seize it not in opposition to the Soviets but on their behalf. The seizure of power is the business of the uprising...It would be an infinite crime on the part of the revolutionaries were they to let the chance slip, knowing that the salvation of the revolution, the offer of peace, the salvation of Petrograd, salvation from famine, the transfer of the land to the peasants depend upon them. The government is tottering. It must be given the death-blow at all costs."**

**"A revolution is impossible without a revolutionary situation; furthermore, not every revolutionary situation leads to revolution." ~ Vladimir I. Lenin**



Excerpt adapted from [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)

"During the civil war thus unleashed by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk the Bolsheviks (Reds), who controlled Petrograd, Moscow and the central Russian heartland, soon found themselves surrounded by hostile forces (Whites) - made up of the more conservative elements in Russia - who launched a series of campaigns in 1919 that threatened to crush the revolution...

The Reds, however...survived, and by late 1920 had driven the Whites back into the Black Sea, the Baltic and the Pacific - causing hundreds of thousands of White soldiers and civilians to emigrate...

The Reds were able to take advantage of internal lines of communication and could utilize the railways, arsenals and the economy of the most populous provinces of the former empire. In this way they managed to arm, man and maneuver an army that by 1921 had grown to almost five million soldiers.

The Whites, in contrast, never commanded forces totaling more than 250,000 men at one time, were separated from each other by huge distances, and were based around the less developed peripheries of Russia. Also, crucially, the Whites underestimated the Bolsheviks' capacity to resist...

The White armies, in contrast, exhibited only brutality, venality, disorder and a lack of political and military direction. Even their most effective fighters, the Cossacks, were more interested in booty and in securing their own regional autonomy than in driving Lenin from the Kremlin."

"Attention, must be devoted *principally to raising* the workers to the level of revolutionaries; it is not at all our task *to descend* to the level of the 'working masses.'" ~ Vladimir I. Lenin

Question:

1: Why did a civil war begin in Russia?

2: Who were the Reds?

3: Who were the Whites?

4: What were the Reds' advantages?

5: What difficulties faced the Whites?

6: What critical mistake did the Whites make?

7: Who were the White armies' most effective fighters?

8: How did these fighters increase the likelihood of the White armies' defeat?

9: What lessons can be learned from Russia's civil war?



Excerpt adapted from  
eyewitnesstohistory.com

"We must shoot *them all*  
tonight."

*Pavel Medvedev was a member  
of the squad of soldiers  
guarding the royal family. He  
describes what happened:*

"...Yurovsky said to me, 'we  
must shoot them all tonight;  
so notify the guards not to be  
alarmed if they hear shots.' I  
understood, therefore, that  
Yurovsky had it in his mind to  
shoot the whole of the Tsar's  
family, as well as the doctor  
and the servants who lived  
with them, but I did not ask  
him where or by whom the  
decision had been made...  
About midnight Yurovsky  
woke up the Tsar's family...  
Shortly after one o'clock a.m.,  
the Tsar, the Tsaritsa, their  
four daughters, the maid, the  
doctor, the cook and the  
waiters left their rooms. The  
Tsar carried the heir in his  
arms...One chair was given to  
the Emperor, one to the  
Empress, and the third to the  
heir...It seemed as if all of  
them guessed their fate, but  
not one of them uttered a  
single sound...I saw that all  
the members of the Tsar's  
family were lying on the floor  
with many wounds in their  
bodies.

#### Questions:

1: Why do you think the Bolsheviks ordered  
the execution of the tsar and his family?

2: How were the tsar and his family  
executed?

Excerpt adapted from cnn.com

"...One of the most enduring mysteries of  
the 20th century has been put to rest: DNA  
analysis of bone fragments has proven that  
two of Czar Nicholas' children believed to  
have escaped were killed with their royal  
family during the Russian Revolution.  
The chemically damaged and burnt  
remains were found in the Romanov  
family's makeshift grave outside the city of  
Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2007. In 2008,  
scientists used bone and tooth fragments to  
identify the remains as those of the two  
missing children of Czar Nicholas II: 13-  
year-old Crown Prince Alexei, the  
emperor's only son and heir to the throne,  
and his sister Grand Duchess Maria, about  
19."

Sources on Tsar Nicholas II: Was he a good ruler for Russia? Skill: Interpretations

Source 1: "The daily work of a monarch he found intolerably boring. He could not stand listening long or seriously to ministers' reports, or reading them." Written by Kerensky, the leader of the government which took over from the Tsar in 1917, in his memoirs in 1934.	Source 2: "His ancestors did not pass on to him one quality which would have made him capable of governing an empire." Written by Trotsky, one of the leaders of the revolutionaries who opposed the Tsar, in 1932.
Source 3: "Nicholas II was not fit to run a village post office." Said by an unknown cabinet minister	Source 4: "He never had an opinion of his own ... always agreeing with the judgement of the last person he spoke to." By Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich
Source 5: Nicholas was "kind to those around him and deeply religious. ... He believed wholeheartedly in autocracy. ... He genuinely wanted to bring happiness and prosperity to his people". From a modern GCSE school textbook.	Source 6: "He has a quick mind and learns easily. In this respect he is far superior to his father." By Sergei Witte, chief minister under Nicholas, in his memoirs. Even though he disliked the Tsar, he said this of Nicholas.
Source 7: "There is no doubt that Nicholas was a kind, well-meaning person, with a deep affection for his family. He was devoted to his wife, Alexandra, his son, Alexis, and his four daughters. Family photographs were in every room of the palace, including the lavatory." From a modern GCSE school textbook.	Source 8: "Nicholas would sooner spend time with his family than deal with governmental affairs. [He] could be cruel and merciless. He would not stand for opposition. His answer was always the same - violence." From a modern GCSE school textbook.
Source 9: "He kept saying ... that he was wholly unfit to reign ... And yet Nicky's unfitness was by no means his fault. He had intelligence, he had faith and courage and he was wholly ignorant about governmental matters. Nicky had been trained as a soldier. He should have been taught statesmanship, and he was not." From the diary of the Tsar's sister, the Grand Duchess Olga.	Source 10: "Nicholas believed wholeheartedly in autocracy. He thought that democracy with elections and parliaments would lead to the collapse of Russia. Nicholas knew very little about the [Russian] people. He did not visit factories or villages, or go on tours. His information about what was going on came from a small number of people, who were quite happy to protect him from the realities of life in Russia." From a modern GCSE school textbook.
Source 11: Nicholas was "even more poorly prepared than his father for the burdens of kingship. Nicholas had no knowledge of the world of men, of politics or government to help him make the weighty decisions that in the Russian system the Tsar alone must make." From H. Rogger, <i>Russia in the Age of Modernisation and Revolution</i> , 1983	Source 12: "Nicholas was not a stupid man ... The problems Russia faced were very great ... Nicholas II loved his country and served it loyally and to the best of his ability. He had not sought power ... He was very kind, sensitive, generous. ... [The situation] would probably have destroyed any man who sat on the throne." From <i>Nicholas II, Emperor of All the Russians</i> , by Dominic Lieven, 1994.
Source 13: "Nicholas' problem was that he could understand many points of view and wavered between them ... his personality meant that he was not very good at exercising it." From <i>Nicholas II, Emperor of All the Russians</i> , by Dominic Lieven, 1994.	Source 14: Nicholas' wife, "Alexandra, was clearly very much in love with Nicholas. In the evenings, she demanded that he spend time with the family. She encouraged the Tsar to withdraw from public events to a private family world." From a modern GCSE school textbook.



Was he a good ruler for Russia?

Was he a good ruler for Russia?

Good Leader	Poor Leader

In your opinion, based on the chart, was Czar Nicholas II a good or bad ruler for Russia?

## Purges, Gulags, and Five-Year Plans Global History and Geography II



Translation: "The Spirit of Great Lenin and His Victorious Banner inspires us during this Great Patriotic War" (Joseph Stalin)"

Excerpt adapted from pbs.org

"Stalin (1879-1953) was born into a (poor) family in a...village in Georgia...Sent by his mother to the seminary in Tiflis (now Tbilisi), the capital of Georgia, to study to become a priest, the young Stalin never completed his education, and was instead soon completely drawn into the city's active revolutionary circles...In 1922, Stalin was appointed...as General Secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee. Stalin understood that "cadres are everything": if you control the personnel, you control the organization...He shrewdly used his new position to consolidate power in exactly this way--by controlling all appointments, setting agendas, and moving around Party staff in such a way that eventually everyone who counted for anything owed their position to him...After Lenin's death in 1924, Stalin methodically went about destroying all the old leaders of the Party...Stalin switched tactics, culminating in a vast reign of terror and spectacular show trials in the 1930s during which the founding fathers of the Soviet Union were one by one unmasked as "enemies of the people"...and summarily shot...The purges, or "repressions" as they are known in Russia, extended far beyond the Party elite, reaching down into every local Party cell and nearly all of the intellectual professions, since anyone with a higher education was suspected of being a potential counterrevolutionary. This depleted the Soviet Union of its brainpower, and left Stalin as the sole intellectual force in the country--an expert on virtually every human endeavor."

Question: How and why did Stalin succeed Lenin?



Excerpt adapted from gulaghistory.org

“Millions of innocent people were incarcerated in the GULAG, serving sentences of five to twenty years of hard labor. Prisoners in camps worked outdoors and in mines, in arid regions and the Arctic Circle, without adequate clothing, tools, shelter, food, or even clean water. We will never know how many prisoners suffered from starvation, illness, violence, and cold; an immense number of people died. More people passed through the GULAG, for a much longer period of time, than through Nazi concentration camps; yet, the GULAG is still not nearly as well known. The Nazi concentration camps and the GULAG differ in a very important way...The GULAG was used as a weapon of ongoing political control over one country...The GULAG system did not target any particular group of people: in fact all ethnic groups, nationalities and religions were imprisoned. Moreover, if a prisoner managed to somehow survive his or her sentence, he or she would be released at the end of it.”

Excerpt adapted from nps.gov

“‘Gulag’ was the acronym for the Soviet bureaucratic institution *Glavnoe Upravlenie ispravitel'no-trudovykh Lagerie* (Main Administration of Corrective Labor Camps). This branch of the secret police oversaw the Soviet forced labor camps and internal exile system. Between the Russian Revolution in 1917 and the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, some 25 million people were held in the Gulag System. The combination of endemic violence, extreme climate, hard labor, meager food rations, and unsanitary conditions led to extremely high death rates.”

“Death is the solution to all problems – no man, no problem.”  
~ Joseph Stalin

Question:

1. What was the GULAG?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many Soviets were held in the Gulag System?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was the death rate extremely high in the Gulag System?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did the Gulag System differ from the Concentration Camps?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



This Soviet worker appeared on the cover of Time Magazine. He extracted fourteen more times than his quota and represented the spirit of Stalin's Five-Year Plans: to industrialize the Soviet Union as quickly as possible!

**Questions:**

1. Why was this Soviet Worker on the cover of Time Magazine in 1935?
2. What was the purpose of Stalin's Five-Year Plans?
3. According to Stalin, what problem faced the Soviet Union?
4. How did Stalin's Five-Year Plans benefit the Soviet people? How did Stalin's Five-Year Plans harm the Soviet people?

Excerpt adapted from  
Fordham.edu

Between 1928 and 1933, Stalin inaugurated the First and Second Five-Year Plans to achieve his goal of rapid industrialization. In many respects he was successful - by 1939 the USSR was behind only the United States and Germany in industrial output. The human costs, however, were enormous.

"We have assumed power in a country whose technical equipment is terribly backward. Along with a few big industrial units more or less based upon modern technology, we have hundreds and thousands of mills and factories the technical equipment of which is beneath all criticism from the point of view of modern achievements. At the same time we have around us a number of capitalist countries whose industrial technique is far more developed and up-to-date than that of our country. Look at the capitalist countries and you will see that their technology is not only advancing, but advancing by leaps and bounds, outstripping the old forms of industrial technique. And so we find that, on the one hand, we in our country have the most advanced system, the Soviet system, and the most advanced type of state power in the world, Soviet power, while, on the other hand, our industry, which should be the basis of socialism and of Soviet power, is extremely backward technically. Do you think that we can achieve the final victory of socialism in our country so long as this contradiction exists?"



**Ekaterina Zernova:**  
*Collective Farm Workers Greeting the Tank*  
(1937)

**Questions:**

1. Who were the kulaks?
2. What was collectivization?
3. Why were the kulaks opposed to collectivization?
4. How did some peasants show their opposition to collectivization?
5. How did the Soviet government treat resisters?
6. What factors led to famine in the Soviet Union?
7. What had Lenin promised before the revolution (from previous lesson)?
8. Why did many peasants join the revolution?
9. Why did collectivization appear as a betrayal to many peasants?
10. Does the painting reveal peasants' true feelings towards the collectives?

Excerpt adapted from  
Britannica.com

"Collectivization was a policy adopted by the Soviet government, pursued most intensively between 1929 and 1933, to transform traditional agriculture in the Soviet Union and to reduce the economic power of the kulaks (prosperous peasants). Under collectivization, the peasantry was forced to give up their individual farms and join large collective farms (kolkhozy). The process was ultimately undertaken in conjunction with the campaign to industrialize the Soviet Union rapidly...Harsh measures—including land confiscations, arrests, and deportations to prison camps—were inflicted upon all peasants who resisted collectivization...But the peasants objected violently to abandoning their private farms. In many cases, before joining the kolkhozy they slaughtered their livestock and destroyed their equipment...By 1936 the government had collectivized almost all the peasantry. But in the process millions of those who had offered resistance had been deported to prison... Furthermore, the absence of heavy agricultural machinery and of the horses and cattle that the peasants had killed seriously handicapped the new collective farms. Output fell...this caused a major famine in the countryside (1932–33) and the deaths of millions of peasants."

# Russian Revolution

## Review Sheet

### Reasons for Revolution

- World War I created conditions in Russia that helped trigger the Russian Revolution.
- Another major cause of the revolution was the abuse of power by Czar Nicholas II
- Revolutionaries led by Vladimir Lenin offered peace (out of WWI), land (land for the peasants), break (food) for the masses
- The events of Bloody Sunday, the heavy casualties during World War I, and the ineffective leadership of the czar led to the revolution of 1917
- World War I led to the revolution in (Bolshevik) revolution in Russia, the signing of the Treaty of Versailles and the rise of fascism in Europe

### Effects of Revolution

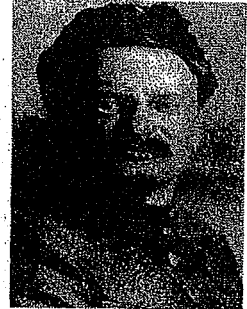
- Russia became the first country with a communist government
- Lenin based his rule on the ideas of Marx and Engels

## BACKGROUND JOSEPH STALIN

### READING ONE



Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin were among Lenin's revolutionary supporters. They both helped Lenin and the Bolsheviks bring an end to the Czar's rule. The Bolsheviks supported a worldwide communist revolution where the people would have control when the government organized the situation.



During his early days as a Bolshevik, he changed his name from Dzhugashvili to Stalin, which means "man of steel" in Russian.

The name fit well. Stalin was cold, hard and impersonal. Lenin, unsure of his successor, began to distrust Stalin. Lenin believed that Stalin was a dangerous man. Shortly before Lenin died, he wrote *"Comrade Stalin has concentrated enormous power in his hands, and I am not sure that he knows how to use that power with sufficient caution."*

When Lenin died, there was no one person chosen to be leader. The Soviet Union did not allow for elections. The Communist Party got to choose his successor. Trotsky and Stalin became bitter rivals for control of the Communist Party. The outcome of this struggle would determine the future course of the Soviet Union. In the course of the struggle, Stalin had Trotsky exiled to Mexico and later had him assassinated.

### STALIN BECOMES A DICTATOR



Stalin was faced with control of a nation that was possibly a hundred years behind the rest of the world in terms of industrial production and military strength. The people were facing poverty and starvation. The Russian Civil War had ended just a few years earlier. Stalin brought new economic plans to the Soviet Union with a communist economy. He controlled all aspects of business and agriculture and all aspects of people's lives.

Millions of people died under Stalin's rule. These people included fellow communist members who he perceived as enemies of the state and peasants who resisted the changes he brought to the Soviet Union.

## A TOTALITARIAN STATE READING TWO

Lenin and Trotsky wanted to unite Communists around the world. Stalin, however, focused on Russian development. He coined the phrase "socialism in one country" to describe his aims of perfecting a Communist state in Russia. The Soviet Union was behind the rest of the world in terms of both agricultural and industrial production. To realize his vision, Stalin would transform the Soviet Union into a **totalitarian state**.

The term totalitarianism describes a government that takes total, centralized state control over every aspect of a person's of public and private life. Totalitarian leaders, such as Stalin, take advantage of the insecurities of a nation and appear to provide a sense of security and give a direction for the future.

Totalitarianism is the opposite of what western democracies like the United States value the most. Western values such as human reason, freedom, human dignity, and the worth of the individual are not encouraged in a totalitarian government. Totalitarianism relies on absolute authority of the government by one political party. Often, one dynamic leader comes forward. He helps unite the people toward a common vision and insists on unconditional loyalty and uncritical support. Leaders often justify their violent actions in the name of progress and use radios, newsreels and loudspeakers to spread their words. In a totalitarian society, the government controls businesses, family life, housing, education and religion. Their goal is to build up military weapons and will use force and intimidation to shut up their critics.

Other totalitarian government besides the Soviet Union emerged in the twentieth century in the 1920's and 1930's, two other European dictators Hitler in Germany and Mussolini in Italy – were shaping their visions of a totalitarians state.

Under Stalin's totalitarian regime, the government controlled every aspect of the worker's life. Officials chose the workers, assigned the jobs and determined their working hours. Workers needed the police's permission to move. The secret police were ready to imprison or execute those who did not contribute to the Soviet economy; these forceful means of making the Soviet Union a modern industrial nation took a great toll on people's personal lives. Many families and marriages broke up.





## FIVE YEAR PLANS READING THREE

Stalin had very different plans for the economy than Lenin's plan. Under the New Economic Plan, Lenin decided to allow some capitalism and chances for the people to make money. Stalin, however, returned to total communism and total state control. His plans called for a command economy-a system in which the government made all economic decision.



UR071 Josef Stalin IS-3 1944 1/72

To modernize the Soviet state, Stalin tried dramatic changes in industry and agriculture.

In 1928, Stalin outlined the first of industrial plans for the development of Soviet Union's economy. In these plans, the government would take drastic steps to promote rapid industrial growth and to strengthen national defense. Stalin announced, "***We are fifty or a hundred years behind advanced***

***countries. We must make good this distance in ten years. Either we do it or we shall be crushed.***"

These plans to increase manufacturing were called **Five Year Plans**. They set high quotas or goals to increase the output of steel, coal, oil and electricity. These goods were considered necessary for the future of the Soviet Union but they were so high they were impossible to reach. The government had a strong desire to make military products such as weapons and bombs. Since there were only so many factories, the government limited production of consumer goods such as food and clothing. As a result, people faced several shortages of housing, food, clothing and other necessary goods.

Stalin's grim methods, however, also produced fantastic economic results. Although most of the targets of the First Five-Year plan fell short, the Soviets made impressive gains. A second plan, launched in 1933, proved equally successful. From 1928 to 1937, industrial production increased more than 25 percent but the people had very little to show for it.

## COLLECTIVE FARMS READING FOUR

As leader of the Soviet Union, Stalin found himself faced with the difficult problem of feeding millions of people in both the city and the countries. At the beginning of his leadership in the Communist Party, almost 80% of the farmers and peasants were not under the control of the government. They were used to selling their crops to the government for a profit as they did under Lenin's plan.



Stalin's agricultural revolution took a different approach and showed how brutal and mean he really was. He also showed how successful his tactics could be. In 1928, the government started taking over 25 million privately owned farms in the USSR. It combined them into large, government owned farms, called **collective farms**. Hundreds of families worked in these farms, producing food for the state. The government expected that the modern machinery on the collective farms would boost food production and reduce the number of workers.

The peasants, however, did not want to give up their lands to the government. They resisted Stalin's actions fiercely. Many killed livestock and destroyed crops in protest. Stalin used terror and violence to force peasants to work on collective farms. Soviet secret police herded them onto collective farms at the point of a bayonet. Between 5 million and 10 million peasants died as a direct result of Stalin's agricultural revolution. Millions more were shipped to Siberia. Resistance was especially strong among **kulaks**, a class of wealthy peasants. The Soviet government decided to eliminate them. Thousands were executed or sent to work camps.

By 1938, more than 90 percent of all peasants lived on collective farms. Agricultural production was on the upswing. That year the country produced almost twice the wheat than it had in 1928 before collective farming.

## THE GREAT PURGE READING FIVE

The problem with a communist or command economy is that there is little incentive for the individual to work harder. If the government is making all the economic decision, there is little motivation to work harder because wages are set and profit isn't allowed. Stalin solved that problem by using force and intimidation to make people work.

Stalin began building his totalitarian state by destroying his enemies-real and imagined. Stalin's secret police used tanks and armored cars to stop riots. They monitored telephone lines, read mail and planted informers everywhere. Even children told authorities about disloyal remarks they heard at home. The secret police arrested and executed millions of so-called traitors.

In 1934, Stalin turned against members of the Communist Party. He launched the Great Purge campaign of terror that was directed at eliminating anyone who threatened his power. Thousands of old Bolsheviks who helped stage the Revolution in 1917 stood trial. They were executed for "crimes against the Soviet state."



The state had the authority to punish even the most minor acts. The police arrested the director of the Moscow Zoo because his monkeys got tuberculosis. The police themselves were not above suspicion, especially if they did not meet their quotas of "crimes" arrested. Every family came to fear the knock on the door in the early hours of the morning. Such as surprise visit from the secret police usually meant the arrest of a family member.

When the Great Purge ended, Stalin had gained total control of both the Soviet government and the Communist Party. Historians estimate that Stalin was responsible for the deaths of 8 million to 13 million people

## CENSORSHIP AND PROPAGANDA

### READING SIX

In order to keep control, Stalin needed to educate the people of the Soviet Union to understand the goals of the communist party. They also stressed the importance of sacrifice and hard work to build the Communist state. State-supported youth groups served as training grounds for future party members.

Totalitarian states also spread **propaganda**. Propaganda is information given to the people that only shows one point of view or leaves out important facts. It was designed to sway people to accept certain beliefs or actions of the communist party. Soviet newspaper, posters and radio broadcasts made Communist ideas wonderful and wrote favorably about Stalin. They often exaggerated his economic progress.

Many towns, factories and streets in the Soviet Union were named for Stalin. A new metal was called Stalinite. An orchid was named Stalinchid. Children standing before their desks every morning said, "Thank Comrade Stalin for this happy life."

Stalin also relied on **censorship**. Since his government controlled the newspapers and radio stations, he would not let them print anything negative about his plans. Many Soviet writers, composer, and other artists also fell victim to official censorship. Stalin would not tolerate individual creativity. He demanded conformity and obedience of all his citizens.



Communists aimed to replace religious teachings with the ideals of communism. Under Stalin, the government officially sponsored groups of atheists, people who did not believe in God. "Museums of atheism" displayed exhibits to show that religious beliefs were mere superstitions. Yet many people in the Soviet Union still clung to their faiths.

The Russian Orthodox Church was the main target of persecution. Other religious groups, including Roman Catholics and Jews, also suffered greatly under Stalin's totalitarian rule. The police destroyed magnificent churches and synagogues. Many religious leaders of all faiths were killed or sent to labor camps.

## READING SEVEN

### LIFE UNDER JOSEPH STALIN

Stalin's totalitarian rule revolutionized Soviet society. He relied on total control and limited individual freedoms. Women's roles, however, were greatly expanded. With the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, women won equal rights. After Stalin became dictator, women helped the state-controlled economy prosper. Under his Five-Year Plans, they had no choice but to join the labor force in increasing number. Young women performed the same jobs as men. Millions of women worked in factories and built dams and roads.

Given new educational opportunities, women prepared for careers in engineering and science. Medicine, in particular attracted many women. By 1950, they made-up 75 percent of the Soviet doctors.



Soviet women paid a heavy price for their rising status in society. Beside their full time jobs, they were responsible for housework and child care. Motherhood was also considered a patriotic duty in totalitarian regimes. Soviet women were expected to provide the state with future generations of loyal, obedient citizens.

Under Stalin, the government controlled all education—from nursery schools through the universities. Schoolchildren learned the wonders of the Communist Party. College professors and students who questioned the Communist Party's interpretations of history or science risked losing their jobs or faced imprisonment.

People became better educated and mastered new technical skills. The dramatic changes in people's lives had a downside, though. As servants of a totalitarian state, they would make great sacrifices in exchange for progress.

Education was not merely indoctrination. Stalin's economic plans created a high demand for many skilled workers. Government paid university and technical training for the most able students became the key to a better life. As one young man explain, "If a person does not want to become a collective farmer or just a cleaning woman, the only means you have to get something is through education."

## READING ONE: BACKGROUND

1. Why did the Soviet Union elect somebody when Lenin died?
2. What kind of economy did Stalin want for the Soviet Union?
3. What problems were facing Stalin?



Joseph Stalin

## READING TWO: TOTALITARIANISM

4. What are the characteristics of a totalitarian leader?
5. Why did the western nations like the US not trust communism?
6. What is life like for a person living in a totalitarian country?

## READING FOUR: COLLECTIVE FARMS

10. What is a collective farm?
11. What happened to peasants and kulaks when they resisted collective farming?
12. How successful was the collective farming?

## READING THREE: FIVE YEAR PLANS

7. Why did Stalin want to increase industrial production in the Five Year Plans?
8. What DIDN'T get made while the government was busy making weapons?
9. How successful were the five year plans in increasing production?

## READING SIX: Censorship and Propaganda

13. How did Stalin use propaganda to control the people?
14. How did Stalin use censorship to control the people?
15. What role was religion and God allowed to play in the Soviet Union?

**DEFINITION RUSSIFICATION:** Stalin forced all the citizens of the Soviet Union to speak Russian...even though many were from different cultures such as Ukranian.

## READING FIVE: THE GREAT PURGE

10. What is the problem with a communist economy?
11. What was the goal of the Great Purge?
12. How many people are thought to have died under Stalin's rule?

## READING SEVEN: LIFE UNDER STALIN

16. How did woman's lives changed during Stalin's rules?
17. What happened to educational opportunities during Stalin's rule?
18. Why did Stalin need an educated workforce?