

- I. Rise to Power
 - A. Stalin's role in Lenin's Russia
 - i. Played organizational and administrative role during the Civil War
 - ii. General Secretary of the Cabinet- 1922. This enabled him to control promotions and ranks in the Soviet Union, making powerful people loyal to him.
 - iii. Revered as a great Administrator by Lenin, but would be a terrible leader
 - B. Stalin vs. Trotsky
 - i. Stalin joins with other prominent leaders Kamenev and Zeneveiv in an alliance against the powerful Trotsky
 - ii. Stalin betrays K. and Z. by joining Bakharin, another prominent member, K. and Z. join Trotsky to counter Stalin's move.
 - 1. Later, K. Z. and Trotsky would join in the "United Opposition" but did not pose as a faction
 - 2. Stalin removed the men from office, weakening their public images
 - iii. NEP – focus of much of the debate between Trotsky and Stalin
 - 1. Bakharin supported concessions to the peasantry, Kamenev and Zeneveiv favor mass industrialization
 - 2. K and Z, who were allied with Trotsky were looked upon (through propaganda) as declaring "war on the peasants."
 - 3. Stalin changes the NEP in 1927-8, when he defeats Trotsky and opponents (not complete until the Great purges), first of the 5 year plans is ushered in.
- II. Establishment of the State
 - A. Much of the political system is already in place when Stalin takes power
 - B. Stalin makes a few notable changes
 - i. Elimination of outer influences (educational, religious, and political) *See section IV.*
 - ii. April 1923, Reorganization plan- undermines the politburo and gives more power to the secretaries
 - iii. Launch of 5 year plans
 - iv. Stalin Constitution- 1936 offered the rights of men conditional only if they worked for the benefit of the state. (see Attachment for government setup)
- III. Forms of State or Regime
 - A. **Totalitarianism**
 - i. Single party state dominated by a single dictator,
 - ii. Exercise and control of all economic, political, social, and educational aspects of the country through the use of *state sponsored terrorism*

- B. Stalin's Socialism (Stalinism)
 - i. Instead of less government control, he uses full governmental control, unrestricted by laws or constitution.
 - ii. He was seen as the representation of the state.
 - iii. Police State- NKVD, soviet secret police detained and murdered hundreds of "suspected opposition"
 - iv. Fear used to control the people (see section IV)
- IV. Opposition and Methods to overcome
 - A. Purges- the removal of unwanted or potentially threatening elements from the country
 - i. Show Trials
 - 1. Trials of prominent Communists to make examples
 - 2. Forced confessions often ending in hangings or shootings.
 - 3. Fabricated charges to intimidate suspects to naming other remotely potential threats
 - ii. Assassination of Sergei Kirov (Popular secretary of Leningrad party)
 - 1. Stalin was not guilty of this, but used this event as an excuse to eliminate the remainder of the inner party (including the Old Bolsheviks)
 - 2. Replaced with new and loyal members.
 - iii. Members of the clergy (reduced from some 2000, to almost 200)
 - B. Chistka (great purges of 1936-8)
 - i. Mainly against Communist members
 - ii. Officers of the Red army were liquidated, lead to great loss in morale and ability to counter the German invasion
 - iii. Cultural figures and Scientists (not electricians or weapons designers however)

V. Domestic Policies

- A. **Economic:** Stalin develops two Five Year Plans to industrialize Russia. Meant to catch Russia up with the rest of Europe (Radzinsky, Rappaport).
 - 1. Russian industrialization became his primary goal, overriding everything.
 - a. "an economic war on Russia's backwardness"
 - b. Concentration on productivity at all costs was very non-Marxist (capitalist ideology).
 - c. Capitalist models used for nearly every project (Radzinsky).
 - 2. Gosplan: Organization that headed up the Russian growth planning (Rappaport 98).
 - a. Produced false figures to show exaggerated increases.
 - b. 1933: industrial production at 281% of 1913 levels
 - c. 1938: production at 658%
- B. **Social:** Greatly impacted by Stalin's economic policies.
 - 1. His goal of "Socialism in one country" put productivity before any social programs (Rappaport).

- a. Russia was exporting the majority of its food to support the massive industrialization projects.
 - b. Thousands starved to death during the Five Year Plans.
 - 2. Concentration on alliance of Proletariat and the peasants – Collectivization.
 - a. Needed progress *now*.
 - b. But this encouraged class distinctions.
 - i. Very un-Marxist; supposed to be encouraging equality, not alliances.
- C. **Education:** Another of Stalin’s primary goals (Rappaport 66, Radzinsky)
 - 1. Emphasized admission of women and literacy.
 - 2. Education of Russia fairly successful.
 - a. 1917: 60% illiteracy
 - b. 1939: 20% illiteracy
- D. **Religion:** None.
 - 1. Cheka and later organizations strictly enforced this.
- E. **Culture/Arts:** Stalin encouraged as much cultural progress as possible (Rappaport 54).
 - 1. Helped spread Communist ideals.
 - a. Stalin Prizes: rewarded ideological correctness in the arts.
- F. **Police:** Stalin kept Lenin’s Cheka and improved it, taking it through many different names.
 - 1. The purpose of the organization remained the same (Rappaport 166, Vartavarian Online).
 - a. Cheka: 1917-1923; OGPU: 1923-1934; NKVD (Narodniy Komissariat Vnutrennikn Del or People’s Commissariat for Internal Affairs – credited with the Terror) 1934-1943; NKGB 1943-1946; MGB 1946-1953; MVD 1953-1954; KGB 1954-Present.
 - 2. Purging of supposed counter-revolutionaries began with the OGPU, but was stepped up by the NKVD; millions of Russians (and later Germans) killed.
- G. **Youth:** Educated Russians to obey the party (Rappaport 66).
 - 1. Young Pioneers and Komsomol – junior thought police.
 - a. Many parents turned in as traitors by their own children.
- H. **Treatment of Women:** Stalin was very favorable towards women (Rappaport 67).
 - 1. Women let into universities and universal suffrage.
 - 2. Anti-“cradle to grave” mentality.
 - a. Unhappy workers are unproductive.
 - b. Wanted everyone to have a purpose.

VI. Foreign Policies- “A riddle wrapped inside a mystery in an enigma”
Churchill

- C. Stalin's initial policies
 - i. Socialism in **one** country. Removes hope of World revolution
 - ii. Propaganda campaign to condemn Capitalism
- D. 1920's
 - i. 1925 – send advisors to China in hopes of taking China during its brief leaderless time.
 - ii. 1928- First nation to sign and ratify Kellogg-Briand pact (agreed to disarmament on League of Nations' terms).
- E. Pre-World War II
 - i. In a tough spot- Germany dominating Europe, Japan becoming an Empire over China
 - ii. *The Programme of Communist Internationale*
 - 1. USSR = Fatherland of the Proletariate
 - 2. Working class is to destroy capitalism, and build socialism
 - 3. in short, it made Russia the model of Communism, and “forced” countries to aid the USSR if they were to achieve communism in their country.
 - iii. Relations with USA started (1933) due to Japan taking Manchuria
 - iv. Joining of USSR into League of nations(1934) and French Security system (1935)
 - v. Sends military equipment to Spain to aid republic against Franco (fear of Germany) but had to withdraw support in 1937
 - vi. Popular front in China
 - 1. Help anti-Japanese Chinese fight
 - 2. Bring the communist ideals and hope to China, would last long.
 - vii. After loss of checkoslovakia, USSR doesn't trust European allies, joins in Nazi-Soviet anti-aggression pact of 1939
- F. 1940's Foreign Policy
 - i. Mainly dominated by its capitalist alliance with the West to overcome Germany
 - ii. USSR gains concessions when Western powers delay the opening of the 2nd front
 - iii. Yalta and Potsdam, USSR uses military victories as leverage to gain territory and power
 - iv. Partial resurrection- the Communist answer to the Marshall Plan, to deter the Marshall plan at all opportunity
 - v. Convert Germany, Poland, and other territories into Soviet Sattelites

- VII. Propaganda
 - a. Served to condemn Capitalism (early on in Soviet Years)
 - b. Used to glorify working (peasant and industry)
 - c. Used to deter anti-communist though, and anti-Stalin thought
 - d. Extremely useful against Trotsky in the “War on Peasants” propaganda

- e. a. Stetsky, propaganda chief during 1930's, helped to make the constitution accepted by the public.

VIII. Success

- a. Stalin created a great deal of success, he strengthened the role of the Soviet union in World politics
- b. Helped to gain and industrialize land, regaining and surpassing the amount of land in Tsarist Russia
- c. United the country to overcome a great enemy (Nazis)

IX. Failures

- a. Failed to raise the living conditions of the average person
- b. Removed an entire class of people, Kulaks, in order to pursue his 5 year plans
- c. Many factories, fearful of repercussions, falsified reports to make the industrialization process see much better, when in fact they were not moving at the "break-neck" speeds Stalin had wanted.
- d. Failed to start his last purge of the Soviet medical world, which he feared was plotting against the North Korean conflict.
- e. Collectivization of Farms plummeted the agriculture of Russia

X. Impact on Region/ World

- a. Made Soviet Union into a Superpower in land and political status
- b. Holds a seat on the UN security council, after WW2
- c. Russian Agriculture is still struggling to overcome Stalinism
- d. "Cult of the Individual" idea made to downgrade Stalin and celebrate Lenin, as to have a collective Leadership in the USSR
- e. New leaders sought to celebrate, but involve themselves little with Stalin's ideas and method of rule, seeking to re-empower the Central committee in Soviet affairs

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