

CH 2.0 Stalin's Soviet Union

Timeline:

1917

Feb Revolution: Tsar abdicated in March, Provisional Government set up

Oct Revolution: Provisional Government overthrown, Bolsheviks established government.

1918

- Stalin became Commissar for Nationalities and a member of the Communist Party Central Committee (Politburo portion)
- Russian Civil War started

1922

- End of Russian Civil War
- Soviet Union formed through merger with Transcaucasian, Byelorussian and Ukrainian Soviet republics
- Stalin became Secretary-General of the Communist Party

1924

- Death of Lenin
- Power struggle within Communist Party ensued
- Non-disclosure of testament

1925

- Trotsky removed from the Red Army

1927

- Trotsky expelled from the Communist Party

1928

- First Five-Year Plan started: Focus on expanding industry, transport and power supply
- a. Lasted until 1932

1929

- Trotsky exiled
- Stalin became supreme leader of the Soviet Union

1933

- Second Five-Year Plan started: manufactured goods, farming machinery

1934

- Kirov Affair Start of the Great Terror purges

1938

- End of the Great Terror purges

1939

- Third Five Year Plans: First to allow luxuries such as bicycles and radios
- a. Disrupted by World War 2, whereby focus was shifted to arms production

1940

- Trotsky assassinated while living in exile in Mexico
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2.1 Stalin's rise to power

Character or Circumstance?

Character	Circumstance
Role as Secretary General and Leader of Cheka <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploitation to remove opponents' supporters and appoint own supporters	Secretary-General Role <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chosen by Lenin
	Interception of Lenin's Letter to Trotsky <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Realised Lenin's dislike for self
Manipulation of ideological divisions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Troika:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attacked Trotsky during party meetings, bringing up his past as a Menshevik and exploiting his opposition to Lenin's New Economic Policy, criticised Trotsky, claiming that he was disloyal to Lenin and the party- Possible reason for the non-disclosure of Lenin's Testament• Breaking of Troika<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sided with rightists Rykov and Bukharin and claimed that Kamenev and Zinoviev were plotting with Trotsky to overthrow government- Isolated them from the CP and expelled them with show trials	Non-disclosure of Lenin's Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read out to the central committee yet no one took notes• Made it clear that Stalin should be removed from position- Stalin often quarreled with Lenin and his wife and made an abusive phone call to her when Lenin wrote a letter to Trotsky for future collaboration• Zinoviev who was chairing Lenin's Funeral decided to suppress Lenin's Testament- Felt that all it did was criticise party members and was thus brought more harm than good

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Switch to Leftists (Radicals) - Opposed Bukharin and Rykov, who wanted the NEP in contrast with Stalin's plan for rapid industrialisation and central economic control - Rest of Politburo sided with Stalin and removed Bukharin from Politburo, and Rykov from the position of Premier 	
<p>Impression of Closeness to Lenin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cut off Lenin's access to outside world ● Chief mourner and First Pallbearer at Funeral - Suggestive of him being the future heir ● Had body embalmed ● Doctored photographs of Lenin and him ● Named streets and towns after Lenin 	<p>Trotsky's absence at Funeral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fell sick and did not want to take part in politicking ● Public sentiment that Trotsky was disloyal to Lenin
	<p>Trotsky's political failure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unpopularity in the Party - Was the head of the Red Army and was thus seen as a great threat - Believed in unpopular idea of a permanent revolution (world revolution) ● Arrogance - Disinterest in politicking - Did not put in effort to rally supporters - Challenged Lenin's policies (e.g New Economic Policy) ● Result: Resigned as the head of the Red Army in 1925, expelled from party in 1927, assassinated in 1940

2.1: Stalin’s dictatorship

Economic Impact

Economic			
Name of Impact	Description	Result	+/-
Collectivisation	Combination of the small individual farms in the Soviet Union into large, mechanised, collective farms.	Negative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rich peasants, Kulaks, burnt, killed and buried their produce, crops and animals ● Great Famine of 1932-1933: due to bad 	-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims: Efficiency through unity in Farming - Promised secure food supply for workers - Raise funds through crop export • Measures: High control by state - Land owned by state - Crops distributed by state - Quantities, working hours and wages fixed by state, with possibility of punishment - Shock workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • harvest, loss of millions of lives • Drop in grain harvest • Loss of animal population <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected enough grain for feeding of industrial towns and purchase of industrial equipment • Sufficient manpower for factories 	
Rapid Industrialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce equipment via factories for the mechanisation of farming (e.g tractors) • Emphasis: Coal, iron, steel and electricity • Economic slowdown in third five-year plans 	<p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer farmers necessary, allowed more to be industrial workers and more food • Quotas set on workers (i.e. wages, working hours) and production • 1st FYP - Construction of factories for capital goods (machinery, tools and tractors) - Construction of huge dam which increased energy supply by 6x • 2nd FYP - Focus on defence and production of armaments <p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little growth in consumer industries: house-building, fertilisers and woollen textile • Underproduction in some industries due to the lack of materials; parts needed to repair often delayed or unavailable • Overproduction in some sectors which resulted in wastage • Goods were sub-standard and potentially hazardous 	
Political	<p>Context (1933)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced collectivisation, low wages and harsh treatment 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Growing opposition to Stalin amongst people and Politburo- Ryutin, former Moscow Party Secretary criticised Stalin, but could not be removed due to opposition from the politburo		
The Great Terror	<p>Trigger: The murder of Sergei Kirov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Suggested to take over Stalin as Secretary-General- Stalin claimed a conspiracy which targeted the lives of Communist Party members <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Eliminate all political opponents and the disloyal <p>Measures: show trials, arrests and interrogation, police surveillance and executions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Show Trials (1936-1938): Forced political rivals to admit to crimes they did not commit / being supporters of Trotsky in a conspiracy to overthrow the government- Victims tortured / had families threatened● Purges: Mass shooting of the Red Army officials- Suspicious due to Trotsky's past influence- Used younger and inexperienced leaders● Arrests and Interrogation- Public informants and secret police rooted out opposition to Stalin- 39 million killed, 3 million imprisoned	<p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Loss of generals: weakened army- Lost more than half of experienced generals- No strong leadership- Preparation for WW2 affected● Arrests and Interrogation: 39 million killed, 3 million imprisoned, fear-stricken society● Loss of intellectuals, skilled workers and officers- Shrinking of workforce: Poor quality of factory output- Loss of administrators: inefficient management within the government	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atmosphere of fear left Stalin unchallenged • Loss of intellectuals, skilled workers and 		
Propaganda: Cult of Perosnality	<p>Aims: Build up own profile</p> <p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soviet Realism: Praise in films, books posters and musicals • Airbrushed photographs to remove opposition - Trotsky with Lenin during Communist Revolution • Re-writing of Short Course history book - Emphasised Stalin's role in the October Revolution - 34 million copies sold in USSR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idol-worshipped - Huge portraits at special occasions - Impossibility of opposition - Portrayed to have superior wisdom 	
Social			
State Control of Society	<p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banning of private enterprise; state is the only legal distributor • Housing, education, healthcare under state control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall in the standard of living - Housing Shortage: Overpopulation in cities due to mass industrialisation, due to state control houses could not be built and conditions (such as sanitation) were poor - Long working hours: High quotas set due to 5 year plans • Famine - State controlled agricultural produce, none for farmers own keeping - State did not distribute during Great Famine of 1932 - Death of 7 million peasants • Lack of consumer goods - Chairs, textiles - Did not keep promises in third FYPs for "luxuries" 	-

Constant Fear	Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People under constant watch for anti-Stalin sentiments - Police informants everywhere - Death or labour camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loss of 39 million killed, with 3 million sent to labour camps 	
Various Social Groups	Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Removed autonomy of minority republics ● Creation of the “New Soviet Man” - Focus on contribution to the USSR’s industry - Stakhanovites (“Shock workers”): Over-performers publicly praised to encourage production ● Encouraged the entry of women into the workforce - State-run childcare centres - Abortion made illegal ● Compulsory schooling and increased literacy rates - 40% literate to 94% literate for males - Education for 9 years made compulsory; loaded with propaganda supporting communism and atheism - Indoctrination with Komsomol, teenage camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Removal of autonomy: Nationalist groups targeted during the Great Terror ● New Soviet Man: Discouraged the Soviet Public ● Working Women: women stressed to fulfill the role of mother and worker simultaneously - Services to aid women were poorly maintained ● Education: 	