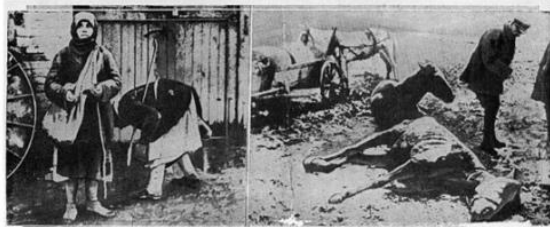
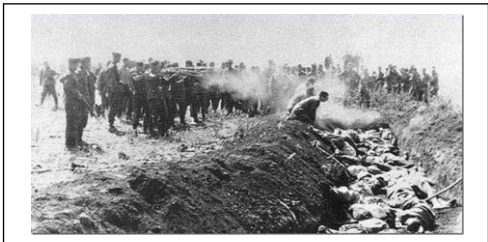


Aim #3: How did Stalin rule the Soviet Union?



Command



Mini Lecture

- By the time of his death in 1924, Lenin had already set the USSR on a path toward authoritarian government. The next leader Joseph Stalin remained in control until his death in 1953. Stalin abolished the NEP and replaced it with a highly centralized command economy.
- A **command economy** is one in which the state makes all basic economic decisions. For example, the state determines what & how much is to be produced, and it sets prices for everything.
- Stalin believed that Communism would result in more equality and prosperity for Soviet citizens.
- In addition, he wanted the Soviet Union to avoid being destroyed economically (& militarily) by the more industrialized nations. He put forth two **Five Year Plans** for socializing and industrializing the USSR:
 - First Five-Year Plan; In 1929, the plan called for the total industrial output to increase by 250 percent in just over 5 years. Soviet laborers were compelled to work long hours for very low wages in factories & mines. After only 3 years, Stalin declared the plan successful. In reality, the economy had not grown as fast as Stalin hope it would.
 - Second Five Year Plan; Took effect in 1933, this plan encouraged heavy industry, such as steel production. By 1938, the Soviet Union was among the major industrial powers of the world, a dramatic improvement from where it had been when the Communists seized power just two decades earlier.
- Stalin also ordered **collectivization** of farms, in which peasants' land was taken from them and incorporate into large government owned farms. He thought government-controlled farms will be more efficient & produce more crop output than individually-owned farms.
- Many peasants resisted collectivization, sabotaging farm produce, and among those who went to work on collective farms, many worked half-heartedly.
- Consequently, grain production did not increase, causing a famine. Between 1932-1933, millions died of starvation & disease related to malnutrition.
- Peasant resistance against collectivization occurred most in Ukraine- a Soviet republic. It was known as the **"breadbasket of Europe"**, for its extraordinary production of wheat. The region had a long history of struggle against Russian domination, and its farmers were successful & fiercely independent.
- Stalin's plan to collectivize the farms of Ukraine at any cost had disastrous consequences. He began by charging high taxes & grain confiscations, then added deportations.
- As collectivization continued & intensified, the Ukraine's peasants fought back by destroying produce & equipment and starting small scale revolts. Stalin responded with brutality & more deportation. He intended to crush the independent spirit of Ukrainian nationalism.
- These conflicts set the stage for the massive famine of 1932-33. The yield from the harvest of 1932 was less than expected, but large enough to feed Ukraine's people. However, the government confiscated the majority of it to send to cities or to export.
- By the spring & summer of 1933, the famine had reached devastating proportions, with mass starvation. As many as 30,000 people a day were dying, totaling to an estimated 5 million deaths- depopulating the Ukraine.
- Stalin took this opportunity to settle ethnic Russians in Ukraine, another step in the process of trying to break Ukrainian resistance to Soviet control. This atrocity and genocide is known as the **Holodomor**.
- Stalin kept an iron grip on the country bet means of his terror. His secret police tracked down dissidents, and people were encouraged to inform on coworkers, friends, and even family members.
- Stalin also institute purges, accusing officials throughout the government of disloyalty & treason. To be accused at any level was as good as a conviction, and the condemned were either killed, imprisoned, or exiled to labor camps (**gulags**) in Siberia. The worst of these persecutions occurred in the mid-1930s- the **Great Purges** of the era where millions were arrested, imprisoned, & killed. This hurt the country because it lost many of its intellectual & military leaders.
- As evil as Stalin was, he was a beloved figure in Russia because he portrayed himself as a father-figure. Through his **cult of personality**, he carefully planned propaganda tactics to brainwash Russians to glorify himself.

Review Questions:

1. How did Stalin rule- economically? Politically? Culturally?
2. What were the causes and effects of the Ukrainian Holodomor?

Enduring Issue: Genocide

Who was Joseph Stalin?

Directions: Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_2of8pmHYU and answer questions below.

1. What was Stalin's early life like?
2. What effects did Stalin's rule have on the Soviet Union?
3. Why was Stalin feared in the Soviet Union?

How did Stalin gain, consolidate, and maintain power in the Soviet Union?

Document Analysis Activity

Directions: As you read the information below, annotate it by placing a "G" next to examples of methods that Stalin used to gain power in Russia, a "C" next to examples of methods he used to consolidate his power, and an "M" next to examples of methods used to maintain power. Then, complete the questions accompanying the documents. At the end of the activity, fill in the graphic organizer below.

<p>GAIN Gaining power is the process of getting it and expanding it.</p>	<p>CONSOLIDATE Consolidating power is the process of taking control from other people who also have power.</p>	<p>MAINTAIN Maintaining power is the process of keeping one's power.</p>
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Method of Control	Gain, Consolidate, and/or Maintain Power? Circle all that apply.	Explanation Explain why the method of control described made it possible for Stalin to gain, consolidate, and/or maintain power in Russia.
Shifting Political Alliances	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Propaganda	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Command Economy Five Year Plans	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Command Economy Collectivization	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Secret Police and Great Purge	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Cultural and Ideological Control	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	

Shifting Political Alliances To Gain Power

When Vladimir Lenin died in 1924, there were two members of the Bolshevik party popular enough to replace him: Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin. Trotsky was a well known and respected leader who was in charge of the Red Army during the Russian Civil War. Stalin was a lesser known figure who had a reputation for getting whatever job he was assigned done thoroughly no matter what steps he had to take. Lenin had his doubts about both men, but was most concerned about the Stalin. In a statement before his death, he called for Stalin's removal and referred to him as "rude," "disloyal," and "capricious [unpredictable]."

After Lenin's death, Stalin allied himself with two other members of the party who were opposed to Trotsky. He tried to make Trotsky look disloyal to Lenin by misleading him about the date of the funeral, which Stalin organized, and Trotsky missed. Stalin, also publicized disagreements that Trotsky and Lenin had before Lenin's death. Eventually, Stalin and his allies expelled Trotsky from the Communist Party and exiled him.

After dealing with Trotsky, Stalin changed sides again, allying himself with party members against the two who helped him eliminate Trotsky. They were also expelled from the party. Stalin's ability to maneuver in the Soviet government gave him a great deal of control and prevented others from challenging him.

Source: "Josef Stalin," New World Encyclopedia.

1. Who were the leading candidates for replacing Lenin as the head of the Soviet government?
2. How did Stalin eliminate the competition and gain power after Lenin's Death?



Stalin and Lenin, 1919.



Trotsky and Lenin, 1919

Propaganda

Propaganda is the spreading of ideas to promote a cause or damage an opposing cause. It is a specific type of message aimed at trying to influence people's opinions or behaviors actively.

Watch this excerpt from a History Channel documentary on Stalin's use of propaganda (12:55-end)

Like Lenin, Joseph Stalin used propaganda to influence the beliefs and actions of the Russian people. In addition to putting forth their own ideas through propaganda, the Soviets censored ideas that they did not agree with, especially those that they viewed as anti-Marxists or anti-Communist. The government used radio, posters, movies, lectures, art, education, newspapers, books, and theatre to influence the opinions of Soviet citizens and to put a positive spin on the government's actions.



"Thank you beloved Stalin for our happy childhood."



"To the new achievements of Soviet aviation!"



"Glory to Stalin, the great architect of communism!"

3. What is propaganda? What is the purpose of propaganda?
4. What forms of propaganda did Stalin's government use?
5. Each of the posters to the right show Stalin in different contexts. Taken together, how do these posters depict Stalin?
6. What were the effects of the propaganda used during Stalin's reign?

Command Economy: Five Year Plans

The Russian Civil War and wartime communism had a devastating effect on the country's economy. Industrial output in 1922 was 13 percent of the output in 1914. A recovery followed under Lenin's New Economic Policy, which allowed a degree of market flexibility within the context of socialism, but Stalin stopped the NEP after Lenin's death.

Under Stalin's direction, the NEP was replaced by a system called a Command Economy. In a command economy, all of the economic decisions are made by the central government. This is another example of Stalin taking total control of the Soviet Union.

Stalin thought that the Soviet Union needed to catch up with the rest of the world's industrial output and transportation technology. To do so, he created a series of "Five-Year Plans" starting in the late 1920s. These plans set high production goals for industries like mining, railroads, electric plants and manufacturers.

7. What was the difference between Lenin's NEP and Stalin's Command economy?
8. What were the goals of the Stalin's Five Year Plans?
9. Were the Five Year Plans successful?

Command Economy: Collectivization

Stalin's government also controlled the agricultural economy. The Five Year Plans used a policy called forced collectivization which was intended to increase agricultural output from large government-owned farms created through the integration of smaller private farms. Farm owners and peasants did not have a choice. They had to give up their land and work on the new collectivized farms. Peasants were required to give up their farming equipment, livestock, produce, and even their homes to the government. It was meant to bring the peasantry under more direct political control, to facilitate the collection of taxes and provide more food for people living in Soviet cities, but collectivization also led to a drastic drop in living standards for many peasants, and caused violent reactions by the peasantry that was heavily suppressed by the Red Army.

In the first years of collectivization, it was estimated that agricultural production would rise 50 percent, however, agricultural production actually dropped. Stalin blamed this unanticipated failure on kulaks (rich peasants) who resisted collectivization. (However, kulaks only made up 4 percent of the peasant population). Therefore those defined as "kulaks," "kulak helpers," and later "ex-kulaks" were ordered by Stalin to be shot, placed into Gulag labor camps, or deported to remote areas of the country, depending on the charge.

Production Levels in the Soviet Union (1932-1937)

Industry	1932	1937
Electricity (billion kw)	13.5	36.2
Coal (million tons)	64.4	128.0
Crude Oil (million tons)	21.4	28.5
Rolled Steel (million tons)	4.4	13.0

Source: R.W. Davies, ed., et al., *The Economic Transformation of the Soviet Union, 1913-1945*, Cambridge University Press, 1994 (adapted)



Children digging up frozen potatoes on a collective farm, 1933.

10. What was collectivization?
11. How did collectivization effect peasants?
12. Was collectivization successful?

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/14811170@N00/10000000000/> courtesy of wikimedia commons and is public domain

Command Economy: Collectivization-Holodomor: Forced Famine in Ukraine, 1932-1933

Many historians assert that the disruption caused by collectivization was largely responsible for major famines. One such famine occurred during 1932–1933 in Ukraine and the Kuban region. It is now known as the Holodomor (meaning, “hunger-extirmination” in Ukrainian). Stéphane Courtois' Black Book of Communism and other sources document that during the Holodomor all grain was taken from areas that did not meet production targets set by Stalin's Five Year Plans. This event included the next year's seed grain, leaving the peasants with nothing to eat. They were forced to remain in these starving areas. Sales of train tickets were halted and the Soviet government created barriers and obstacles to prevent people from fleeing the starving areas. According to a BBC article in 2013, entire villages were wiped out as a result of Stalin's punishment of Ukraine and in some regions the death rate reached one-third. Yale University historian Timothy Snyder estimates that 3.3 million people died as a result of the Holodomor. (some estimates are as much as 10 million deaths)



Government workers seizing grain from peasants who hid it in a graveyard to prevent it from being taken in Ukraine, 1930.



Starved peasants on a street in Kharkiv, Ukraine during the Holodomor, 1933.

13. What was the Holodomor?
14. Why did so many people die during the Holodomor?

Secret Police and Great Purges

Watch [this excerpt from a History Channel documentary on Stalin's Purges and Use of Terror \(start- 12:54\)](#)

No reference to Joseph Stalin can be made without referring to his unmatched ability to use his intelligence services and the secret police. Though the Soviet secret police, the NKVD had already evolved into an arm of state-sanctioned murder under Lenin, Stalin took the use of such forces to a new level in order to solidify his hold on power and eliminate all enemies, real or perceived.

Stalin also vastly increased the foreign espionage [the practice of spying] activities of Soviet secret police and foreign intelligence. Under his guiding hand, Soviet intelligence forces began to set up intelligence networks in most of the major nations of the world, including Germany, Great Britain, France, Japan, and the United States. One of the best early examples of Stalin's ability to integrate secret police and foreign espionage came in 1940, when he gave approval to the secret police to have Leon Trotsky assassinated in Mexico.

Stalin consolidated near-absolute power in the 1930s with a Great Purge of the party, justified as an attempt to expel ‘opportunists’ and ‘counter-revolutionary infiltrators.’ Those targeted by the purge were often expelled from the party, however more severe measures ranged from banishment to the Gulag labor camps to execution after trials. No segment of society was left untouched during the purges. Article 58 of the legal code, listing prohibited “anti-Soviet activities,” was interpreted and applied in the broadest manner. People would inform on others arbitrarily [randomly and without reason], to attempt to redeem themselves, out of envy and plain dislike, or to gain some revenge or benefits. A worker would report on his boss, son on his father, and a young man on his brother. The flimsiest reasons were often enough to brand someone an “Enemy of the People,” starting the cycle of public persecution and abuse, often proceeding to interrogation, torture and deportation, if not death.

In parallel with the purges, efforts were made to rewrite the history in Soviet textbooks and other propaganda materials. Notable people that were executed were removed from the texts and photographs as though they never existed. Gradually, the history of revolution was transformed to a story about just two key characters: Lenin and Stalin.

15. What is espionage? How did Stalin use it?
16. What was the purpose of Stalin's Great Purges?
17. What effects did Stalin's purges have on Soviet society?
18. What was a gulag? What was the purpose of gulags?
19. If you were accused of being “anti-Soviet” what could happen?

Cultural and Ideological Control

In Stalin's Soviet Union, the government attempted to control the ideas and culture that its citizens were exposed to.

Science

In science, only ideas that did not contradict Marxism, Leninism, or Stalin's beliefs were explored. The study of evolution, for example, was prohibited because it did not support Marx's ideas of human development. Other sciences that could benefit the state were well funded and flourished. For instance, the Soviets made great leaps in computer, weapons, and rocket technology. They were the first country in space, launching a rocket called Sputnik in 1957.

Art and Literature

Art and literature that glorified Stalin and the state was encouraged, but those writers and artists whose creations were critical of the government were punished, often arrested, fined, sent to a gulag, or executed. During Stalin's reign the official and lasting style of Socialist Realism was established for painting, sculpture, music, drama and literature.

Stalin took a personal interest in shaping Soviet culture, sometimes in surprising ways. For example, Mikhail Bulgakov was driven to poverty and despair; yet, after a personal appeal to Stalin, he was allowed to continue working. His play, *The Days of the Turbins*, with its sympathetic treatment of an anti-Bolshevik family caught up in the Civil War, was finally staged, apparently also on Stalin's intervention, and began a decades-long uninterrupted run at the Moscow Arts Theater.

Religion

Stalin's role in the fortunes of the Russian Orthodox Church is complex. Continuous persecution in the 1930s resulted in its near-extinction: by 1939, active parishes numbered in the low hundreds (down from 54,000 in 1917), many churches had been leveled or used as clubs, offices, storage space, or as museums. Ceremonial artifacts and vessels were confiscated. Religious icons were burned. Tens of thousands of priests and other religious leaders were persecuted. Many nuns were said to have been raped. During World War II, however, the Church was allowed a revival (winter 1941-1942) as a patriotic organization. Thousands of parishes were reactivated, until a further round of suppression took place during Khrushchev's rule.

Many religions popular in the ethnic regions of the Soviet Union including the Roman Catholic Church, Uniats, Baptists, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, etc. underwent ordeals similar to the Orthodox churches. Thousands of clergy were persecuted, and hundreds of churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, sacred monuments, monasteries and other religious buildings were razed.



Example of a Socialist Realism statue depicting the strength of the worker and peasant.



Soviet anti-religious poster, reading “Ban Religious Holidays!” from 1924.

20. What impact did Stalin and the Soviet government have on science and the arts?
21. Why might the Soviet government have persecuted the Russian Orthodox Church?