

17.7

The Soviet Union Under Stalin

As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Explain how Stalin built a command economy in the Soviet Union.
- Describe how Stalin used terror to build a totalitarian state.
- Analyze Stalin's use of propaganda to control thought and the arts.
- Summarize the characteristics of Soviet society under Stalin.
- Understand the goals of Soviet foreign policy.

Stalin Builds Command Economy

Lenin dies & Stalin preserves his body to put on permanent display in Red Square

Stalin begins to turn the Soviet Union into a totalitarian state moving away from Marx ideas

He begins a 5 year plan to build heavy industry, improve transportation & increase farm input

Command Economy- Government officials made all basic economic decisions

Mixed Results

The Soviet Union was mostly protected from the global depression, but at a staggering human cost

Some workers did move up in command, but wages were very low, workers couldn't strike & consumer goods were scarce

Collectives- large farms owned & operated by peasants as a group

Farmers try to revolt & Stalin attacks the **Kulaks- wealthy farmers, sending them to slave labor**

Control Through Terror

Peasants keep trying to revolt, but the government stakes the grain & starves them- **The Terror Famine**

Gulag- system of brutal labor camps

Stalin staged many fake trials to purge old party leaders & have them sent to gulags or killed

This kept Stalin in power, but weakened the country as it purged its greatest minds

Stalin Totalitarianism

Stalin used relentless propaganda to brainwash the masses into what he believed

Socialist realism- Required art style to portray the Soviet Union in a very positive light

Russification- Imposing Russian culture over the Soviet Empire

Religion was outlawed & **atheism** became the state policy for the Soviet Union

Soviet Society

The communist party took control & ironically set up an elite class for the wealthy

Soviet Union did have free school, medical care, & housing, but lacked vital necessities

Women gained equality in the Soviet Union & worked in many positions

Comintern- Group whose purpose was to encourage worldwide revolution in communism