



Communism

Class Conflict, Propaganda, Repression

Communist Ideology

- Communism is a system of government in which the means of production* are the property of the entire society rather than individuals.
 - In a communist society, labor is shared equally and the benefits of labor are distributed according to need.
 - Under such a system, all people are equal without class stratification.

*Raw materials, tools, equipment, production facilities

Origins of Communism

- Although the basic idea of communism has existed since the time of Plato, modern communism is identified with the system of government described by Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels in *The Communist Manifesto*.



A Classless Society

- They believed that capitalistic systems* were bound to destroy themselves because the poor would rebel against their former oppressors and form a classless society.

*Systems based upon the exploitation of the powerless lower class by the rich upper class, which prospered

Utopian Dream

- This prophecy has never come true and countries that have attempted to base their governments on communism ultimately have failed to achieve the utopia described by Marx and Engels

The Russian Revolution of 1917

- The series of events that took place in imperial Russia and culminated in 1917 with the establishment of the Soviet state that became known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is called the Russian Revolution.



The First Revolution

- The first revolution overthrew the autocratic imperial monarchy.



The Second Revolution

- The second revolution, organized by the Bolshevik Party against the Provisional Government, effected a change in all economic, political, and social relationships in Russian society; it is often designated the Bolshevik or October Revolution.



Causes of the Revolution

- For centuries, autocratic and repressive czarist regimes ruled the country and most of the population lived under severe economic and social conditions.



Uprisings

- During the 19th and early 20th centuries, various movements aimed at overthrowing the oppressive government were staged at different times by students, workers, peasants, and members of the nobility.



Government Corruption

- Russia's badly organized and unsuccessful involvement in World War I added to popular discontent with the government's corruption and inefficiency.



The Russian Civil War

- Since the Soviet government was incapable of maintaining their power, war erupted between the "Red" Russians supporting the revolution and the "White" Russians, who opposed it.
- Under the leadership of Leon Trotsky, however, the Red Army overcame domestic opposition and by 1921 Lenin and his supporters were in firm control.



Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924)

- In 1918, Lenin moved the Soviet government and the Party Central Committee to Moscow, which then became the capital of the Soviet state.
- There, he worked out a plan for the construction of socialism and put forward principles for a new economic policy.



One of Lenin's Speeches

- "Today, the workers who have remained loyal to the cause of throwing off the yoke of capital call themselves Communists. All over the world the association of Communists is growing. In a number of countries Soviet power has already triumphed. Soon we shall see the victory of communism throughout the world; we shall see the foundation of the World Federative Republic of Soviets. "

Propaganda Focusing on Lenin



Lenin lived, Lenin lives, Lenin will live.

Joseph Stalin (1879-1953)

- Joseph Stalin was the undisputed leader of the USSR from 1929 until his death in 1953.



Stalin's Contributions

- Stalin helped to convert communism in the USSR from an egalitarian, revolutionary movement into an authoritarian, bureaucratic governmental system.
- He helped to turn Russia into a great industrial nation, to defeat Hitler in World War II, and, after the war, to establish Communist regimes throughout eastern Europe.

Stalin's Terrorist Tactics

- At the same time, however, he institutionalized terror and was responsible for the death and deprivation of millions of people.



A mass grave for "Enemies of the State"

Stalin's Economic Policies

- At the end of 1928, Stalin initiated a set of policies designed to turn backward Russia into a modern state.
- He launched forced industrialization and collectivization.

Economic & Social Measures

- Measures included:
 - The establishment of five-year national economic plans
 - The deportation and execution of hundreds of thousands of more prosperous peasants (kulaks)
 - The forced entrance of the rest into state-controlled collective farms
 - Nationalization of all industry and commerce
 - The regulation of all financial institutions for capital gain by the government regardless of the people's poverty
 - The centralization of all social activity

Propaganda Focusing on Work



The work on the fields won't wait!

Propaganda Equating War & Work

With weapons we beat the enemy and with work we will struggle for bread.



Stalin's Forms of Repression

- Despite the death of millions from famine and goods shortages that these measures caused, Stalin pursued the program relentlessly, meeting resistance and criticism with mass deportations, executions, and show trials of alleged saboteurs.

Stalin's Death Sentences



Stalin signs death sentences (it is sad that he did this for over 5 hours a day)

Social Tensions

- The enormous tensions engendered by this extraordinary drive produced considerable dissatisfaction that may have led to a secret movement within the party to replace Stalin with Sergei Kirov, a secretary of the central committee and party leader in Leningrad.

Stalin's Personal Dictatorship

- The murder of Kirov, in December 1934, began a period of purging and terror that lasted until 1939 and was marked by the execution of virtually the entire political and military elite and the incarceration in forced labor camps of millions of Soviet citizens. In this way Stalin, with the help of the secret police, established his personal dictatorship over the party and the country.

Political Propaganda



We endorse the politics of the Party!

Retrenchment

- The establishment of totalitarian political control was coupled with retrenchment in the social and economic realm. Stalin instituted:
 - Better methods of industrial management
 - A system of incentives and differential wages and prices
 - The reestablishment of traditional procedures in the armed forces
 - More moderate general guidelines in the arts and sciences
 - A revival of the family as the basic social unit.

Propaganda Focusing on Women



Liberated woman - build socialism!

Nonaggression Pact with Hitler

- In the face of the growing threats from Nazi Germany and Japan, Stalin reverted increasingly to traditional forms of foreign policy, seeking diplomatic alliances with the European powers. Finally, in August 1939, he concluded a bilateral nonaggression treaty with Hitler.

Stalin and World War II

- When the German armies attacked the USSR in June 1941, Stalin, after suffering a brief nervous collapse, personally took command of the Soviet armed forces.
- With the help of a small defense committee (war cabinet), he made all major military, political, and diplomatic decisions throughout the war.

Stalin's Call to Arms

- "To the defeat of the fascist intruders! Death to the German occupiers! Long live our glorious Motherland - its freedom, its independence. Under the banner of Lenin, go forth to victory."
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War Propaganda



Mercilessly, we humiliate and destroy the enemy!

Propaganda Focusing on Hitler



We defeated Napoleon, now it's Hitler's turn

Stalin's War Efforts

- Stalin pursued victory with increasing skill, determination, and courage, by:
 - Staying on in the Kremlin when Hitler's armies stood at the gates of Moscow
 - Ordering a shifting of industrial plants from European Russia to the east
 - Arranging for lend-lease from the Western powers
 - Selecting first-rate military commanders
 - Developing increasingly effective military strategy

The Big Three



This famous picture "The Big Three" was taken at Yalta

Post War Policies

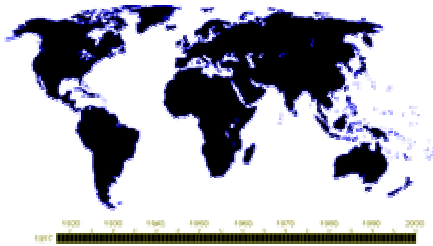
- In 1945, at the end of the war, there was a general expectation that in the USSR, which had shown itself to be one of the world's truly great powers, the despotic system of rule and institutional rigidities would disappear or at the least be tempered.
- Instead, Stalin and his men:
 - Restored almost completely the pre-war system
 - Molded the occupied countries of eastern Europe in the Stalinist image and placed them under Moscow's control
 - Entirely isolated the whole bloc of Communist nations from the West.

Communist Internationale Anthem

Arise ye prisoners of starvation.
Arise ye wretched of the earth.
For justice thunders condemnation.
A better world's in birth.
No more tradition's chains shall bind us.
Arise ye slaves no more in thrall.
The earth shall rise on new foundations.
We have been naught we shall be all.

(Refrain):
'Tis the final conflict.
Let each stand in his place.
The International Union
shall be the human race.
'Tis the final conflict.
Let each stand in his place.
The International Working Class
shall be the human race.

The Spread of Communism



Communism's Carnage

- Recent studies indicate that 20th century Communism caused 85-100 million deaths worldwide, dwarfing the numbers of 25 million deaths attributed to Fascism. The toll defies imagining:
 - 1.7 million dead in Cambodia
 - 25 million in the Soviet Union
 - 65 million in China

You Be the Judge

- Were these excesses in pursuit of some greater good?
- Is class genocide essentially different from race genocide?