



The Soviet Union Under Lenin and Stalin

Introduction

- The legacy of the Great War
- Near-collapse of democracy
- The rise of authoritarian dictatorships

The Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin

- The Russian Civil War
 - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk polarized Russian society
 - The Whites
 - Loose group united by the desire to remove the Reds from power
 - Supporters of the old regime

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- The Russian Civil War
 - Reds (Bolsheviks) faced strong nationalist movements
 - Ukraine, Georgia, and north Caucasus
 - United States, Britain, and Japan intervene on the periphery of the old empire
 - Solidified Bolshevik mistrust of capitalist world powers

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- The Russian Civil War
 - Bolshevik victory
 - Gained greater support from the majority of the population
 - Better organization
 - Leon Trotsky as new commissar of war

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- The Russian Civil War
 - Consequences
 - One million combat casualties
 - Several million dead from hunger and disease
 - Total of one hundred thousand to three hundred thousand executed (on both sides)
 - Created permanent hatreds

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- War communism
 - Government control of industry
 - Government requisitioned grain from the peasantry
 - Outlawed private trade in consumer goods
 - Militarized production facilities and abolished money

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- War communism
 - Consequences
 - Devastated Russian industry and emptied major cities
 - Industrial output in 1920 fell to only 20 percent of prewar levels
 - Large-scale famine (1921)
 - Large-scale strikes

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- The NEP period (New Economic Policy)
 - Abandoning war communism
 - Reversion to state capitalism
 - State owned all major industry
 - Individuals could own private property
 - Trading freely within limits
 - Farming land for the benefit of the peasants

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- The NEP period (New Economic Policy)
 - Grain requisitioning replaced by fixed taxes on the peasantry
 - Nikolai Bukharin (1888–1938)
 - Peasants should “enrich” themselves
 - Taxes would support urban industrialization and working classes

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- The NEP period (New Economic Policy)
 - The “golden age of the Russian peasantry”
 - Divided up noble lands to level wealth disparities
 - Reintroduced traditional social structure (peasant communes)
 - Produced enough grain to feed the country

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- The NEP period (New Economic Policy)
 - Failure
 - Peasants refused to participate in markets to benefit urban areas
 - Kept excess grain for themselves
 - Cities experienced grain shortages

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- Stalin and the “Revolution from Above”
 - Stalin the man
 - Born in Georgia as Iosip Jughashvili (1879–1953)
 - Exiled to Siberia for revolutionary activity
 - Lenin’s death (1924: Stalin or Trotsky)

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- Stalin and the “Revolution from Above”
 - Stalin the strategist
 - Isolated all opposition
 - Used the left to isolate the right, used the right to isolate the left
 - By 1929, Trotsky and Bukharin were removed from positions of power



Lenin and Stalin

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- Stalin and the “Revolution from Above”
 - Abandoned NEP
 - Increased tempo of industrialization
- Forced industrialization and the total collectivization of agriculture

Collectivization

- Local party and police officials forced peasants to join collective farms
- Peasant resistance: sixteen hundred large-scale rebellions between 1929 and 1933
- Peasants slaughtered livestock rather than turn it over to farms



Collectivization

- The “liquidation of the kulaks as a class”
- The famine (1932–1933)
 - The human cost was 3–5 million lives
 - The Bolsheviks retained grain reserves in other parts of the country
 - Grain reserves sold overseas for currency and stockpiled in the event of war

Collectivization

- The Five-Year Plans
 - Campaign of forced industrialization
 - First Five-Year Plan (1928–1932)
 - Most stunning period of economic growth
 - Industrial output increased 50 percent in five years
 - Built new industries in new cities
 - Magnitogorsk
 - Urban population more than doubled (26 to 56 million) between 1924 and 1939



“Imperialists cannot Stop the Success of the Five year Plan!”

Collectivization

- The Five-Year Plans
 - The human cost
 - Large-scale projects carried out with prison labor
 - The Gulag system
 - By 1940, 3.6 million people were incarcerated by the regime

Collectivization

- The Five-Year Plans
 - Structural problems
 - The command economy: production levels planned from Moscow in advance
 - Heavy industry favored over light industry
 - Emphasis on quantity over quality

Collectivization

- The Five-Year Plans
 - Cultural and economic changes
 - Soviet cities
 - Women entered the workforce
 - The conservative shift
 - Divorce was difficult to obtain
 - Abortion made illegal except in emergency situations
 - Homosexuality declared a criminal offense

Collectivization

- The Great Terror (1937–1938)
 - One million dead—1.5 million to the Gulag
 - The elimination of Stalin's enemies, real or imagined
 - Mass repression of internal enemies from the top to the very bottom
 - Purged the old Bolsheviks
 - Staged show trials

Collectivization

- The Great Terror (1937–1938)
 - Industrial managers, intellectuals, and the military
 - Targeted ethnic groups (Poles, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Latvians, and Koreans)
 - Stalin and total control

Collectivization

- The Great Terror (1937–1938)
 - Social advances
 - Illiteracy reduced
 - Higher education made available to more people
 - Government assistance for working mothers
 - Free hospitalization