

## 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
  - 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
  - Bolshevik victory
    - Gained greater support from the majority of the population
    - Better organization
    - Leon Trotsky as new commissar of 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
- War communism
  - Government control of industry
  - Government requisitioned grain from the peasantry
  - Outlawed private trade in consumer goods
  - Militarized production facilities and abolished money
  - 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
- 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
  - 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
  - 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
  - Failure
    - Peasants refused to participate in markets to benefit urban areas
    - Kept excess grain for themselves
    - Cities experienced grain shortages
- 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)
- 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
  - Abandoned NEP
  - Increased tempo of industrialization
- Collectivization
  - Forced industrialization and the total collectivization of agriculture
  - 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Structural problems
  - The command economy: production levels planned from Moscow in advance
  - Heavy industry favored over light industry
  - Emphasis on quantity over quality
- 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
- 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
  - Industrial managers, intellectuals, and the military
  - Targeted ethnic groups (Poles, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Latvians, and Koreans)

- Stalin and total control
- Social advances
  - Illiteracy reduced
  - Higher education made available to more people
  - Government assistance for working mothers
  - Free hospitalization