Chapter 13
Section 4
Joseph Stalin
Joseph Stalin

"A single death is a tragedy, a million deaths is a statistic."

--Joseph Stalin
Stalin ("Man of Steel")

- Under Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Union grew into a totalitarian state.
- A **totalitarian state** controls all aspects of life, including agriculture, culture, art, and religion.
- The state also developed a **command economy**, in which the government made all economic decisions for the entire country in contrast to a market economy that is controlled by the forces of supply and demand.
Five Year Plans

- USSR’s economy was non-industrialized compared to USA and W. Europe
- 1928: Stalin proposed the first of many five-year plans
- Goal of **Five Year Plans** – develop heavy industry, improve transportation, and increase agricultural production
Effect of Five Year Plans

- Five year plans set high production goals
- Successful workers and factory managers who met the goals were rewarded
- Workers who failed to achieve the goals of the Five Year Plans were punished
- USSR improved mining, coal/steel output, huge factories were constructed, and new railroads
Effect of Five Year Plans

- Factory managers were only concerned with quotas and often produced inferior quality goods.
- Consumer goods were scarce (refrigerators, cars, clothing).
- Wages kept low and strikes were illegal.
- The five year plan really did not improve the standard of living for most Soviet citizens.
Collectivization

- Stalin believed that Lenin’s old New Economic Policy (where people could own small parcels of land) was 1) inefficient and 1) threat to state power
- Stalin wanted peasants to farm on either state-owned farms or **collectives**, large farms owned and operated by peasants as a group
- Forced **collectivization** was Stalin’s method to bring agriculture under his control
Collectivization

- State provided the farm equipment, seed, and fertilizer
- Farm animals were turned over to the state
- The state collected the harvest and set the prices
- Some peasants resisted forced **collectivization**
Stalin believed that a group of peasants called **kulaks** (wealthy Russian farmers) were behind the resistance.

Stalin took the kulaks’ land and sent them to labor camps where many died from excessive work.

Stalin intentionally murdered other kulaks.
Collectivization

- Surviving kulaks decided to grow enough food for themselves.
- In turn, Stalin seized their land and crops leaving the kulaks nothing to eat.
- In 1932, Stalin’s brutal anti-Kulak policies led to a famine that caused millions of people to starve to death.
Joseph Stalin

Critics say his collectivisation program is killing millions. He says of his detractors: "No man. No problem." Is he serious or just having fun?

BY JOHN CLAUSI

Starved For Attention
Kulaks
Terror as a Weapon

- Stalin brutally terrorized his people
- Stalin committed crimes against humanity
- Spies opened people’s mail and planted listening devices
- Newspapers were censored and material had to be approved by state officials before publishing
- The ruling Communist Party used secret police, torture, and bloody purges to force people to obey
- Those who opposed Stalin were rounded up and sent to the **Gulag**, a system of brutal labor camps
Fearing that rival party leaders were plotting against him, Stalin launched the **Great Purge** in 1934.

The **Great Purge** tried to eliminate anyone that Stalin perceived as a threat to his authority.

Stalin falsely accused people of crimes – for being alleged counterrevolutionaries and for failing to meet production quotas in the factories.

Among the victims of this and other purges were some of the brightest and most talented experts in industry, economics, and engineering.
Show Trials

- Stalin held public “show trials” where targeted citizens would confess to a crime after being tortured or having their family threatened.
- Many were executed; others were sent to the gulags.
Map of Gulags in Soviet Union
Gulag Guard Tower

An abandoned guard tower in one of hundreds of gulags (prison camps) across the Soviet Union, remains as a symbol of profound human suffering. First instituted by Lenin to imprison priests, political opponents, and common criminals, Stalin was then responsible for sending 12-15 million people to these camps. The prisoners were used as forced labor to work on massive industrial projects. As more laborers were needed for bigger projects and those falling behind schedule, Stalin justified the arrests of more people to be sent to the gulags. Millions were executed in these camps or perished as they labored on massive modernization schemes.
Scene from a Gulag

Hard labor defined the gulag experience.
Prisoners Digging
Gulag
Stalin is responsible for the murder of about 43,000,000 people, 1929-1953.
Gulag Work Camp
Here is shown a large pile of some of the 5,000,000 Ukrainians that Stalin murdered by starvation.
Powerpoint Questions – Part I

1. Explain **totalitarian state**.
2. What is a **command economy**?
3. How would you describe the Soviet economy compared to other western countries?
4. What did Stalin propose to stimulate the Soviet economy?
5. Define **collectivization**. What was Stalin’s goal behind **collectivization**?
6. Who were the **kulaks**?

7. What did Stalin do to many **kulaks**?

8. What did the Communist Party use to force people to obey?

9. What happened to Soviet citizens who refused to obey the orders of the Communist Party? To where were they sent?

10. Explain **The Great Purge**. What was Stalin’s goal behind the **Great Purge**?
End of Part I