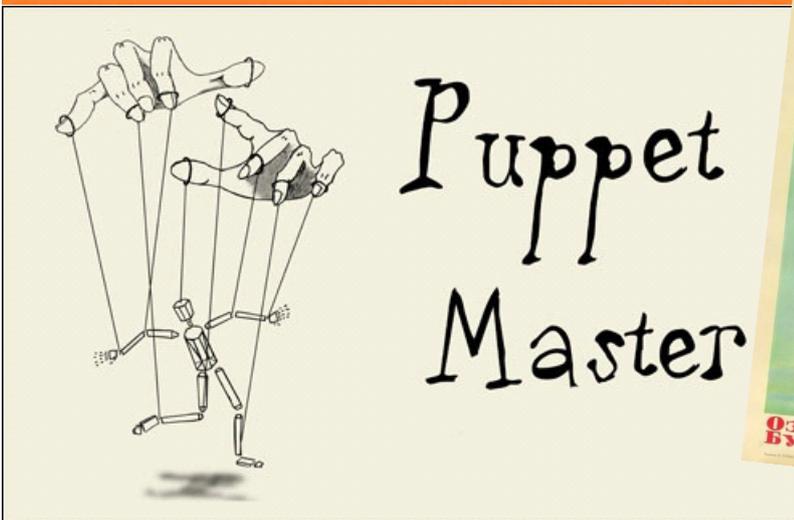
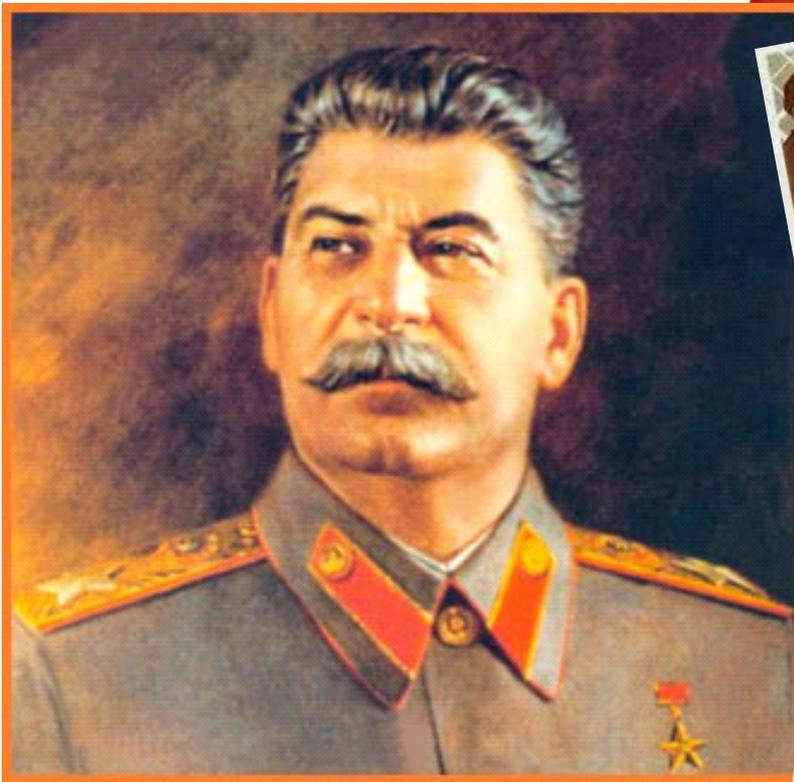


Part 4: How did Stalin control Russia (USSR/Soviet Union) after 1928?



10. Why did Stalin and not Trotsky emerge as Lenin's successor?

Key people:

Lenin
Stalin
Trotsky
Zinoviev and Kamenev
Bukharin

Lenin died in the January of 1923. This led to a power struggle between Trotsky and Stalin over who should lead the party.

Event

How did this help Stalin to win?

Lenin's Funeral

He told Trotsky the wrong day. This helped Stalin look like the chief mourner and best friend of Lenin because he was the one who was there delivering powerful speeches.

Did not release Lenin's testament

Lenin's testament suggested that Trotsky should be the new leader. By not releasing it Stalin was able to reinforce the idea that he should lead.

Joined with Zinoviev and Kamenev (left of party)

By making an alliance with these two who hated the NEP he was able to take control of the Politburo and demoted Trotsky from his job as War Commissar within the Communist party (1926-27).

Stalin allied with Bukharin (Right of party)

After switching sides to ally with Bukharin (who liked the NEP) he used this alliance to remove Zinoviev and Kamenev from their influential positions in the Communist party.

Stalin then turns against Bukharin

Stalin had little opposition by this point, so was able to use his power in the Politburo to remove Bukharin. He eliminated the more powerful people earlier by using subterfuge (deception). All apart from Trotsky were put on 'show trials' during the mid 1930s.

Stalin's Strengths:

Had been in the Bolsheviks for many years
Came from a working class background that others could relate to
Good at organisation and had got a broad range of experience in different jobs within the Communist party
He had more connections than Trotsky

Stalin's Weaknesses:

He had no outstanding achievements
He wasn't well known outside of Russia

Trotsky's Strengths:

Best known person after Lenin.
Had organised the Bolshevik revolution.
Had experience running the Red Army.
Had a reputation out of the Soviet Union due to his previous job as minister for foreign affairs.

Trotsky's Weaknesses:

Other communists thought he was arrogant.
They mistrusted him because he didn't join the Bolsheviks until 1917.

11. Why did Stalin launch the purges?

The purges began in 1934 and were a systematic and far reaching removal of all potential opposition to Stalin from within Russia and the USSR. The Great Terror took place from 1936-38 and millions were either killed or sent to Gulags. The gulags were the labour camps and were usually located in the far reaches of Siberia where the temperatures could drop as low as -50 degrees. Millions were kept in appalling conditions and usually died from either starvation or literally being worked to death

Date Event

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1934 | He suspected that Kirov (from Moscow) was going to try and replace him as party leader, so Stalin's secret police (NKVD) assassinated him. |
| 1935 | Zinoviev and Kamenev were put on trial accused of being foreign spies. They were told they would get their freedom if they confessed. They confessed and were executed for their crime (Show trial) |
| 1936 | Stalin sacks the head of the NKVD (Yagoda) for not being ruthless enough and puts Yezhov in his place—the GREAT TERROR begins |
| 1937 | Purged the Communist party of all suspected opposition using show trials, those who refused to admit their 'crimes' had their families tortured. |
| 1937 | Purged the Red Army of anyone who could be a threat to him. The army lost a LOT of experienced generals through this |
| 1938 | Stalin signs hundreds of death lists which the NKVD prepared of people who could be a threat; officials, managers, scientists, academics, engineers, teachers. The NKVD put these people in gulags or kill them. |
| 1938 | Stalin sacks the head of the NKVD, Yezhov and the Purges/Great Terror end |
| 1940 | Yezhov Shot! |

So, why did Stalin launch the Purges?

He wanted to remove any rivals to his leadership

Stalin wanted revenge on anyone who had competed/challenged him

He wanted TOTAL control, particularly in Moscow where he wasn't based

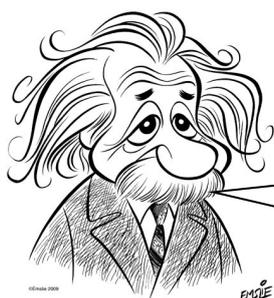
Slave labour (gulags)

Create fear amongst the people to make sure they didn't challenge him

Paranoia?

12. What methods did Stalin use to control the Soviet Union?

Method	How did this help him control people?
Propaganda	He used various types of propaganda to influence different groups of people into believing and doing what he wanted (think of propaganda lesson!)
Fear (NKVD)	Through using the NKVD people knew they were not safe from Stalin, regardless of who they were! Many lived in fear of crossing him, some even had nightmares!
Labour Camps (Gulags)	Added to the fear of the public, removed opposition from society and provided some free workers to support Stalin's 5 year plans!
Media censorship	Through deciding what people saw, heard and read Stalin was able to influence the population into doing what he wanted and brainwash people
Cult of personality	Through the many methods of control Stalin was able to promote his image into a godlike figure who was a father to children, friend of the workers and protector of Russia. His image was very different to the reality behind the scenes
Education	Through controlling the content which schools taught Stalin was able to prepare the youth for a life in his Russia and indoctrinate them with his ideals
Public facilities	As the Russian economy and industry grew, more public parks, swimming pools, cinemas and other facilities were made for people to use. Many were pleased as they could see things Stalin was acting in their interest.
Rising living standards	Under Stalin Russia had more jobs, healthcare and free education for all children. In addition to this, Stalin eventually solved the problem of hunger for his people.



You must be able to describe the methods he used and explain how this helped Stalin control people. For the higher levels you must evaluate which were the most effective methods of control and be able to explain how some of them link together

13. How complete was Stalin's control over the Soviet Union by 1941?

Control

Destroyed political opponents: Zinoviev, Kamenev, Trotsky, Bukharin, Kirov (and many more).

He acquired complete control of the Politburo (who make government policies) and was the leader of it.

Purged party, NKVD, the army and all other aspects of society of any possible opposition.

Destroyed the Kulaks, so called 'rich peasants' who he blamed for continuing capitalism and a class system during the NEP

Used various methods to control the people. These can be categorised into fear and encouragement.

Limitations

Stalin had difficulties controlling some far rural areas and some places caused him minor troubles. However, these areas were no real threat to his power.

Crime was not eliminated and people in Russia largely behaved as in other countries around the world.

Due to these purges it is easy to imagine that a number of people eventually grew to dislike Stalin, although no one would publicly say! For obvious reasons



Summary: Stalin was a **totalitarian** leader who had as much control as he could possibly get, and it was very far reaching. People at the top of society did as he said or faced the terrible consequences of the Gulags and/or death. The masses were controlled through encouragement and fear and reaped the benefits of an industrialising Russia with an increasing living standard. As with any country, many people were not happy with the way they were ruled, but any effective opposition was crushed.

PART 4: TOP 10 QUIZ

1. Give 2 reasons that Stalin was seen as contender for the leadership of the communist party when Lenin died in 1924
2. Give 2 reasons that Trotsky was seen as a contender
3. Give 3 actions that Stalin took to make sure he defeated Trotsky by 1928.
4. Who was murdered in 1934, starting off the purges?
5. What was the name of Stalin's secret police who carried out the purges?
6. What were the 'show trials'?
7. Give 2 reasons why some people were more scared of the gulags than being shot
8. Give 3 groups of people who Stalin purged
9. Who was the head of the NKVD who was also purged in 1936?
10. Give 3 methods (other than gulags, purges and NKVD) that Stalin used to control the people of the Russia

EXAM QUESTIONS: STALIN'S CONTROL OF THE USSR

DESCRIBE:

- What strengths did Trotsky have which enabled him to be considered as Lenin's successor? **(4 Marks)**
- Describe Stalin's cult of personality **(4 Marks)**

EXPLAIN:

- Explain why Stalin won the struggle for power after the death of Lenin **(6 Marks)**
- Explain why Stalin used Labour camps in the 1930s **(6 Marks)**

EVALUATE:

- 'The following brought misery to the Soviet people during the 1930s
 1. The secret police
 2. The Purges
 3. Collectivisation'Which do you think brought the greatest misery? **(10 Marks)**
- 'Propaganda was more effective than terror in Stalin's control over the Soviet people'
How far do you agree with this statement? **(10 Marks)**
- How far was Stalin a disaster for the Soviet Union? **(10 Marks)**