

Stalin's Rise to power

1. 1922 **General Secretary**-

No one else thought this post was important.

Stalin was good at staying in the shadows.

Stalin used his position to fill the Party with his supporters. It also enabled him to know about posts as they came available and set agendas for meetings.

2. Stalin posed as Lenin's closest follower

Stalin was not a great speaker/writer so he created a new criterion for leadership-closeness to Lenin, exploiting the fact that the others had disagreed with Lenin:-

- ❖ Kamenev and Zinoviev over seizing power in October
- ❖ Trotsky – Scissors Crisis.
- Stalin was chief mourner at **Lenin's Funeral** (misinformed Trotsky?)
- Stalin wrote a book on Leninism emphasising obedience
- Created the **Lenin Cult**

3. **Lenin's Testament** was suppressed –

Lenin's Testament had found fault in all leaders- hoping for collective government, but it praised Trotsky the most. After Stalin was rude to Lenin's wife, Lenin added a codicil urging the removal of Stalin.

K&Z were jealous of Trotsky so they persuaded the Central Committee not to publish it.

4. Stalin allied with one faction to isolate & remove his rivals in stages:-

❖ 1923-5 Defeated **Trotsky** in alliance with **K&Z**

Stalin advocated **Socialism in One Country**

K&Z mocked Trotsky's theory of **World Revolution** and accused him of forming a faction while Lenin was ill.

The Party Congress voted against him

- 1925 Trotsky was removed as Commissar for War (lost command of the Red Army)
- 1926 removed from the Politburo;
- 1927 removed from the Party

❖ 1927 Defeated **Kamenev & Zinoviev** in alliance with Bukharin

K&Z grouped with Trotsky in the **United Opposition** - wanted to industrialise/end NEP; Bukharin criticised them for forming a faction

When they were shouted down in the Party Congress by Stalin's **Yes-men**- they campaigned in the streets. They were then removed from the Politburo/Party

❖ 1928-9 Stalin adopted rapid industrialisation as his policy and **Bukharin** was outvoted. He was removed from the Politburo and Party in 1929.

All except Trotsky were readmitted when they confessed to being wrong.

1929 Trotsky was exiled and in 1940, he was murdered.

Reasons for Economic Changes

Stalin suspected the West would invade (they intervened in the Civil War) especially after rise of Hitler “*we are 50-100 years behind*” so need to catch up in 10.

So the USSR must industrialise quickly in order to defend itself.

NEP was failing – 1927-8 **grain procurement crisis**; peasants were only growing enough for themselves as the price the state paid was too low.

NEP was unpopular with some in the Party as it encouraged capitalism- e.g. **Nepmen & Kulaks**

Abandoning NEP would isolate his remaining rival **Bukharin**

Stalin believed in a **Command Economy**.

This would give him control over all people & present him as the leader of the 2nd Revolution.

Reasons for Collectivisation

- ❖ 1927-8 **grain procurement crisis** (above) led to food shortages in towns & rationing.
- ❖ Stalin believed larger farms would be more efficient – could use tractors and make economies of scale. This would release workers for industry.
- ❖ He needed more grain to feed industrial workers & to **export to finance industrialisation**
- ❖ Collectivisation would be more communist- end private ownership of land and destroy Kulaks. Everyone would be equal and work together, not driven by profit.
- ❖ Collectivisation would increase the state’s control over peasants.
- ❖ It would oust Bukharin.

The Features of Collectivisation “**Kolkhozy**”

25 million peasant holdings would be amalgamated into larger units of 50-100 households so that large-scale production methods could be used.

Peasants would not own land privately but collectively.

The collectives would be run by Party officials

The state would provide seeds & **Gosplan** would tell the farms what to grow & how much (quota)

The State paid a low price for the quota; the Kolkhozy kept any surplus.

MTS were set up to hire out machinery to c.40 Kolkhozy.

Collectivisation was launched in 1928 as part of the 1st Five Year Plan

Peasants were unwilling to give up their plots and tools so brigades were sent to enforce collectivisation & seize grain from “hoarding” peasants.

100's of brigade members were assassinated.

Peasants killed their livestock to eat rather than hand over. e.g. 50% cows.

1929 Dekulakisation – Stalin blamed Kulaks for opposition & declared all-out-war to *eliminate them as a class*.

Hoped poor peasants would join “class struggle”

c10 million were branded Kulak - lost all property and sent to gulags or Siberia or shot.

Famine 1932

1935 Peasants were allowed a small private plot and a few livestock. Peasants worked harder on their plots which became very productive.

By 1941 collectivisation was complete.

Effects of Collectivisation

Why was there a Famine in 1932? 10 million died.

- ❖ Initial chaos – rushed, no surveys,
- ❖ inexperienced managers from towns;
- ❖ peasants couldn't operate machinery. Not enough tractors & they were unreliable/expensive. Peasants continued old ways
- ❖ MTS were unpopular as they collected quota and = base for NKVD.
- ❖ Loss of best peasants – Kulaks.
- ❖ Peasant resistance e.g. killing livestock

Stalin still exported grain

The famine was worst in **Ukraine**- Stalin saw their opposition as Nationalist. 5 million died

1913 output levels were not reached until 1950's.

However food was procured for workers and 19 million peasants were moved to the cities to work in factories.

Stalin gained more control:-

- Class enemies “Kulaks” were eliminated
- Peasants were controlled eg through MTS & internal passports introduced 1932
- Stalin's opponents were suppressed:-

- Bukharin defeated
- Nationalists in Ukraine suppressed
- Churches (accused of helping peasants) were closed.

Features of Industrialisation

All industry was nationalised and centrally planned - a “**Command Economy**”

Gosplan set targets in a series of **5 Year Plans**

1st Five Year Plan 1928-32 – **heavy** industry

aimed to vastly increase output of coal, iron, steel, chemicals, electricity, tractors.

- Mass-production methods were introduced
- Foreign experts were hired
- Existing industry in Moscow & Leningrad was expanded
- New cities eg **Magnitogorsk** were built to create new industrial centres in the **Urals**.
- Vast projects eg **Dnieper Dam**
- Rail & canal links (use of slave labour)
- Shock brigades (eg **Komsomol**) to show how hard you could work
- Private trade was illegal

Problems

- Peasant workers were illiterate, not used to routine- late/drunk/absent.
- Targets unrealistic – Party officials were ignorant of local conditions; produced targets to please Stalin.
- Stalin brought forward end date by a year
- No criticism was allowed – failures were blamed on “saboteurs” given show trials.
- The purged experts were replaced by inexperienced people; mistakes worsened.
- Quotas led to neglect of quality. ½ tractors broke down
- Managers cheated to meet targets
- Poor living/working conditions

Nevertheless production grew by **14% each year** with output of coal & iron doubling.

2nd 5 Year Plan 1933-7

- more realistic targets. Quality improved.
- Chemical industry developed e.g. fertiliser
- More transport links e.g. White Sea Canal
- Steel & electricity met or nearly met targets this time
- although some consumer goods were made, not enough investment in this sector

3rd Plan 1938-41

- originally put more emphasis on consumer goods but abandoned due to threat of war
- By 1940 33% govt expenditure was on defence; 9 new aircraft factories were established
- Purge of managers and Gosplan officials undermined the plan

- Plan cut short by German invasion 1941

Industrial production rose by 400% USSR = 2nd industrial nation.

How did Stalin encourage more production?

Women were encouraged to work- crèches/canteens /laundries were provided to facilitate this.

- 80% new workers were women
- By 1937, 40% workforce = female; many went to university to train as doctors & engineers.

But

- Creches were over-crowded
- Pay was not equal; women were paid 60-65% of men's wage for same job.
- Top jobs went to men
- Women were still expected to be main carer and do housework.

Propaganda

Stakhanovite movement 1935

- **Stakhanov**- 102 tons of coal in one shift = 14x norm (given team & best tools)
- Rewarded with a month's pay, apartment & holiday
- Movement to encourage others- he toured USSR, propaganda, statues, rewards
- Other industries produced their "Stakhanovs";
- Within a year 25% workers were classed as Stakhanovites
- **Record mania**- disrupted normal working
- Their production level used to set higher targets- other workers attacked Stakhanovites.

Incentives –

- pay linked to productivity or skills
- Medals and subsidised holidays.

Controls

- 1931 targets for each worker; pay docked if didn't meet target.
- record book logging output and misdemeanours
- internal passport to prevent movement
- wages docked or sacked for lateness/absenteeism
- slackers sent to Gulags
- death penalty for stealing /sabotage
- NKVD surveillance

Working conditions

- 7 day weeks and long hours common. Sunday no longer a day of rest.
- Safety ignored
- Value of wage fell by 50%

- Rigid discipline
- Slave labour in worst conditions e.g. White Sea Canal 12,000 died.
- Magnitogorsk- workers in shifts, sharing bunks in tents- no heating.
- Trade Unions restricted; not involved in decisions re wages or dismissal

Social Impact

Benefits:-

- no unemployment even when the West was in depression
- work places provided work clothes, childcare, canteens.
- free education – more schools and colleges were built to develop skills and expertise.
- free health care- more hospitals and doctors
- Sports facilities, libraries, parks with swimming pools and dance areas, cinemas
- Paid holidays & accident and sickness insurance
- More housing was built with electrification & drainage so eventually living standards improved

But:-

- New housing couldn't keep pace with demand so flats were over-crowded; shared bathroom/kitchen. Sanitation initially basic.
- Real wages halved – pay didn't keep pace with prices
- Shortages of food & consumer goods meant long queues. Bread was rationed until 1935.
- Black market thrived
- youth crime and alcoholism developed

Top party members enjoyed privileges – private estates, shops with luxury items, holidays.

The Great Retreat.

High divorce rates and working single-parent mothers led to high rates of juvenile crime and fall in birth rate.

1936 Family Code

- divorce was made more difficult; married couples received family allowance
- divorced fathers had to help maintain their children
- the police were given more powers to deal with youth crime including the death sentence
- parents were fined if their children caused trouble
- Abortion was no longer allowed
- Being gay was illegal
- Stalin encouraged women to have more children by offering medals and taxing unmarried people more

The Purges

Expulsions of opponents from all areas of society:- government, industry, agriculture, army, arts

1928 **Shakhty Trials** – 55 specialists accused of sabotage- scapegoats for economic failures

1929 **Dekulakisation**

1930 **trials of specialists** “wreckers”

1932 **Ryutin trial**- he criticised Stalin’s economic policy & called Stalin “*Evil genius*” but the Politburo refused to execute him – this suggested that Stalin was not in control.

1934 Kirov received more support at **17th Party Congress**.

Murder of Kirov – Stalin claimed this was part of a Trotskyite plot to kill the Party leaders.

He used it as pretext to arrest 1000’s of Party members

1935 **Zinoviev & Kamenev** accused plotting murder- 10 year sentence

OGPU → “**NKVD**” - given greater powers to arrest /execute without trial

1936-8 **Yezhovschina or Terror** (Yezhov = Head NKVD)
Moscow Show Trials of *Old Bolsheviks*

1936 Trial of the 16 K & Z -shot

1938 Trial of the 21 **Bukharin**– shot

Millions were denounced & sent to gulags

Arrest of religious and nationalities’ leaders.

1937-8 **Purge of Army**

- Marshal **Tukhachevsky** & 13 of the other 15 Generals were shot.
- All admirals shot
- ½ junior officers (35,000) arrested.

1938 Purge of NKVD. Yezhov shot.

The Reasons for the Purges

Murder of Kirov 1934 = pretext for main purges. The accused were accused of plotting with Trotsky to kill Kirov and Stalin.

Terror economics:-

- Specialists, managers etc were accused of wrecking and sabotage- made **scapegoats** for economic mistakes.
- Prisoners used as slave labour on harshest projects.
- Kulak- opponents of Collectivisation – destroyed.

Get rid of all opponents and get total control:-

Stalin felt his control was not absolute:-

- The Politburo had refused to execute Ryutin
- Kirov had disagreed with Stalin's use of force; more popular than Stalin at 17th Party Congress 1934
- Some Party officials had disobeyed orders e.g. re Dekulakisation
- There was discontent due to the economic changes which could cause trouble
- The rearmament of Germany under Hitler threatened war; Stalin would have to drive his people even harder to produce more weapons. He had to be sure he could trust the army officers many of whom had been appointed under Trotsky.(the Germans had planted rumours that some were spies)

The purges gave him the opportunity to destroy the reputation of the “Old Bolsheviks” who didn't owe loyalty to Stalin or knew about Lenin's Testament.

Stalin's paranoia – he saw plots everywhere and held grudges. He was more isolated after his wife committed suicide in 1932 blaming him for the famine.

Once started, purges gathered their own momentum as people denounced each other.

The Moscow Show Trials 1936-8

To discredit economic specialists and Communist Party leaders who confessed to the crimes thereby justifying the purges and uniting the people against them.

NKVD concocted elaborate confessions – **Trotskyite conspiracy to overthrow Stalin/USSR, “Wreckers” and spies- causing train collisions, poisoning workers....**

These confessions implicated more people.

The NKVD forced the accused to confess – the **conveyer belt**- sleep deprivation/threats to family, recording of “wife” crying, promise of leniency;

Accused often didn't know charge until their trial. They had no defence lawyer.

The prosecutor – **Vyshinsky** whipped the audience (including NKVD plants) into hysteria – **“shoot the mad dogs”**

The press condemned the accused- bayed for death sentence

The Purges of the people.

People were encouraged to inform on each other- they did this to

- get their flat or job
- settle old scores
- be seen to support regime, to avoid being denounced

Atmosphere of fear- **ravens** came at night. Prisoners were interrogated into confession then given brief trial by NKVD. If they didn't co-operate their family might be arrested. They were forced to implicate others. The NKVD had quotas to fulfil. 28% prisoners were executed

Victims included workers, managers, foreign experts, teachers, artists, writers, ethnic or religious leaders.

The Gulags

- Remote places like Siberia – extremely cold e.g. -45 degrees C
- Inmates were made to do hard labour
- Food rations were based on amount of work; a full ration was just enough to survive. If you didn't do your quota your ration would be cut. Some slowly starved to death.
- They lived in unheated barracks surrounded by barbed wire & watch towers
- Guards (NKVD) would use random violence- beatings.
- Common criminals were treated better than political prisoners.

The impact of the Purges

The Number of Victims

- 7-8 million sent to Gulags; 2 million died there.
- 1-1.5 million executed
- By 1939, only 4 of 163 bishops were not in prison.
- 25% Leningrad in Gulags
- 1 million Party members
- 1108/1996 of 17th Party congress
- 98 out of 139 (70%) 1934 Central Committee arrested
- Of Lenin's Politburo, only Stalin remained

No one was immune.

- Climate of fear and distrust.
- Children of those arrested might be on streets.
- Those expelled from the Party might find it difficult to get work.

The USSR was weakened-

- lack of experienced army officers contributed to loss of 200,000 soviet soldiers to Finland 1939-40; also early defeats when Germans invaded 1941.
- Removal of experienced managers & experts weakened the economy e.g. 25% mine mangers in **Donbass** arrested –production stagnated.
- Mistakes grew worse as no one dared question or innovate.

But

- Continuous supply of slave labour
- Stalin's leadership was uncontested; the army, Party and people were cowed into obedience.

Other aspects of Stalin's rule:-

Stalin Cult

Reasons:-

- To make people love him- placed him ahead of other leaders - no challenges.
- The myths about his abilities legitimised his succession
- It reassured people in a time of great upheaval that they were in safe hands.
- Gave a sense of unity to the USSR, like the Tsars.
- Protected him from criticism of things that went wrong.

Features

- Pictures, statues, road names; Stalingrad
- Rallies, poetry, films
- Message e.g. Stalin = wisest man in history, political genius, man of the people, economic planner and Generalissimo.

Art & culture

Stalin ended the freedom of the earlier period;

All culture was to serve the communist state - no criticism allowed.

- Monitored by NKVD e.g. **Mandelstam** arrested
- Had to be **Socialist Realism** – optimistic, representational, intelligible, showing heroic workers, happy peasants, praise Stalin, USSR achievements etc
- Music should be happy- folk songs, major key.

Writers had to belong to the **Writers Union**

Creativity was stifled

Indoctrination of young people:-

a) through school:-

The educational experiments were ended.

Stalin needed schools that would produce disciplined, hard-working and technically skilled students. He also wanted to use schools to indoctrinate.

So rote-learning, exams, uniforms and homework were re-introduced.

A national curriculum was brought in with government-written textbooks. Pupils were taught communist ideology and to obey & worship Stalin but there also a strong emphasis on science to create engineers to reduce dependence on foreign experts.

Teachers were arrested if they disobeyed. Children were encouraged to denounce teachers.

The Soviet Interpretation of History

- Official version of History approved by Stalin
- Tales of inspiring Russian leaders of the past- Stalin was the climax
- History textbooks rewritten to remove references to Trotsky. Pupil stuck paper over leaders as they were disgraced.

By 1939, 94% of urban dwellers & 86% peasants were able to read/ write. (c/p 55% in 1928)

- The number of students attending university rose from 170,000 in 1927 to 812,000 in 1939
- The USSR was able to produce many engineers, doctors and scientists.

b) Youth organisations:- **Pioneers & Komsomol**

National Minorities

Earlier encouragement of cultural diversity was stopped in 1932.

- Stalin was angry that e.g. Ukrainians opposed collectivisation
- He feared autonomy weakened the unity of the USSR
- He distrusted ethnic groups on the border - might allow invaders in.
- He wanted everyone to be a loyal soviet citizen, not divided by cultural identity.

From 1932, Stalin renewed Russification.

- People were discouraged from speaking their own languages and practising their own traditions. It would be seen as disloyalty to the USSR.
- Russian was made a compulsory 2nd language in schools
- Top jobs were given to Russians
- Army recruits were sent away from their homelands
- During the purges, Nationalist leaders, teachers, writers and artists were arrested

- Whole ethnic groups e.g. Poles and Estonians were **deported** to Kazakhstan and Siberia. 171,000 Koreans were deported.

Persecution of Religion

- Stalin continued to ridicule religion eg **Godless League**
- Religious propaganda was banned
- 159/163 bishops arrested in purges
- Churches, synagogues & mosques, and religious schools were closed. Only 4,000 churches out of 54,000 were still open.
- Religious leaders were put on show trials
- Pilgrimages to Mecca were banned
- But religious belief survived. 1937 50 million claimed to still hold religious beliefs.

1936 The new Constitution

- to impress the democratic West in the hope of an alliance vs Hitler
- to convince his people that he was a good leader.

All citizens elected **Soviet of the Union** but it only met a few times; only one party- which had to obey the Party leader (Stalin). The Politburo still held real power

Guaranteed freedom of speech & religion and freedom from arrest without trial – but this was only a façade.

persuasion

**How did Stalin
control the USSR?**

coercion

The Great Patriotic War 1941-45

Nazi-Soviet Pact 1939 (Ribbentrop Molotov)

A **non-aggression pact**- i.e. they would not attack each other

- Allowed Hitler to invade Poland
- Bought Stalin time to rebuild army. Britain & France had not agreed a deal.
- Divided Poland between them

Reasons why Germany invaded USSR

- Hitler promised to wipe out Communism
- Hitler wanted **Lebensraum** (fertile land- Ukraine) from the *inferior* slavs
- Hitler needed oil (Caucasus)

Operation Barbarossa (the German invasion of the USSR) 1941

Hitler had conquered most of Western Europe and Britain was alone. He judged it was the right moment to break the Nazi Soviet Pact.

He planned to attack the USSR in April but had to delay 2 months so that Rommel could help Mussolini who was being defeated in north Africa & Greece.

In June, the Germans launched their 3 pronged assault using **Blitzkrieg** tactics (planes & tanks)

- Stalin was not expecting the pact to be broken so soon; ignored spies & British intel
- many experienced officers were in prison
- soviet planes were destroyed on the ground
- 80% tanks were obsolete
- The Soviet people had been told that the Germans were their allies.

Stalin was silent for 11 days then made a **patriotic** speech calling for **partisans** (blew up bridges) and **scorched earth tactics**. He emphasised soviet "brotherhood" and the Germans' cruelty.

Blitzkrieg was hampered by poor roads, October rains and sheer size of the USSR.

Sept- Germans laid siege to **Leningrad**.

Snows began in Nov; Germans weren't prepared- ¼ million Germans got frostbite; fuel froze.

When Germans reached outskirts of Moscow, Hitler delayed attack until December to focus on southern target (oil) which gave **Zhukov** time to organise a counter-attack; soviet troops were released from Far East due to intel that Japan would attack US not USSR.

- ❖ Ukrainians & Lithuanians welcomed Germans as liberators.
- ❖ **Vlasov** formed an Anti-Soviet Army.
- ❖ 20,000 Tartars fought on the side of the Germans.

Germans treated those in occupied territory cruelly:-

- starved PoWs- 3.4 million died
- Jews were shot into pits
- Partisans were hanged
- 3 million soviets were taken to Germany as slaves

Why did the Soviets win?

Stalin's leadership

- ❖ Speech- evoked patriotism & brotherhood; urged scorched earth and partisan tactics
- ❖ Set up **Stavka** to make quick decisions and **State Defence Committee** to run the economy
- ❖ After initial defeats, he listened to advice; let experts like **Zhukov** run military operations, unlike Hitler.

War economy

- ❖ Much of USSR's industry was out of range of German planes thanks to 5yrs.
- ❖ Stalin ordered 1500 factories be moved east of Urals. USSR could continue making weapons e.g. T34.
- ❖ USSR devoted 50% of its national income to the war effort which was higher than Britain.
- ❖ Workers were made to work 77 hours a week; holidays abolished. 12-18 hour shifts.
- ❖ Women mobilised to work; slave labourers performed essential war work
- ❖ US supplied Red Army with 10% of its tanks 95% of its trains and tinned meat.

Heroism of the Soviet people

Siege of Leningrad

- Lasted 900 days
- Put up with constant shelling, food and fuel shortages
- Rations fell to 32% of workers' needs (25% for children)
- Some supplies were transported over frozen lake **Ladoga** but dangerous
- 1 million died out of 3 million.

The soviets were determined not to surrender:-

- ❖ German brutality to those who did surrender
- ❖ Influence of church- Stalin relaxed pressure on churches who backed war effort
- ❖ Writers and artists praised courage
- ❖ Collaborators were brutally punished e.g. Vlasov.

- ❖ Workers who “slacked” e.g. were late, or soldiers who refused to fight were punished.

Turning Points

1. Battle of Stalingrad 1942-3

Hitler wanted the oil regions in the south and saw Stalingrad as the centre of Soviet communications in the region. Moreover the city bore Stalin’s name.

300,000 troops of the German Sixth Army led by Von Paulus surrounded the city but their bombardment made it difficult for tanks to enter.

Soviets resisted fiercely, fighting for every room & street using sub-machine guns and snipers.

Zhukov got reinforcements to Stalingrad and encircled the Germans.

Hitler refused to allow retreat. 2 months later Von Paulus surrendered; only had 90,000 left.

Significance of Stalingrad:-

The Russians lost more (½ million soldiers) in this one battle than the Americans (or Britain) lost in the entire war.

Civilian casualties were very high- 40,000 civilians were killed in the 1st week

Most civilians were evacuated during the battle but the city was a wreck. 10,000 civilians were trapped- they hid in cellars or sewers.

The Germans lost 147,000 men and 91 000 were taken prisoner. Hitler’s most successful army had been destroyed.

The armies of Hungary, Romania and Italy were also shattered.

This victory helped Soviet morale as it showed that the Germans could be beaten. “**You cannot stop an army which has done Stalingrad**”. In Germany the mood became depressed.

Boosted prestige of Stalin and USSR around the world- Britain celebrated Red Army Day 22nd Feb 1943

Stalin made himself Marshal of the Soviet Union -white uniform

Zhukov was promoted to Marshal.

Stalingrad was given the title hero city.

2. **Battle of Kursk 1943** Soviet T34 defeated German tanks

The Germans retreated back to Germany.

Why did the USSR win the war?

Mistakes of enemies	Strengths of USSR
<p>Hitler delayed invasion (rescue Mussolini)</p> <p>Blitzkrieg failed- Men were caught in the cold; didn't take winter supplies</p> <p>Cruelty to people in occupied area meant that soviets fought with greater determination</p> <p>Didn't need to attack Stalingrad?</p> <p>Wouldn't allow Von Paulus to retreat</p> <p>Japan attacked US enabling Zhukov could rescue Moscow.</p>	<p>Sheer size of Russia</p> <p>Stalin's speech- aroused patriotism; inspired people to use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scorched earth tactics (Germans could not live off the land) • be partisans <p>Moved factories east of Urals- safely produced e.g T34</p> <p>T34 = better tank- XKursk</p> <p>Set up Stavka to make quick decisions and State Defence Committee to run the economy</p> <p>Stalin relaxed persecution of Church- got their support for war effort</p> <p>Writers/artists produced inspiring works</p> <p>Soviet people's determination eg at Stalingrad – wouldn't give up until Zhukov's reinforcements arrived.</p> <p>War economy- 77 hour week, no holiday etc.</p> <p>Stalin left military decisions to Zhukov. He saved Moscow and Stalingrad.</p>

USSR 1945-53

Impact of War

- 28 million died
- Cities, 1,200 towns and **100,000 collective farms** destroyed
- 25 million homeless
- Women had to pull ploughs
- Much of the economic advance of 1930's was destroyed e.g. Dnieper dam.

4th 5 Year Plan 1946-50

- 88% investment = heavy industry and armaments
- Military expenditure in 1946 > 1940.
- Mines, factories etc quickly rebuilt
- heavy industry soon surpassed pre-war levels

But

- consumer goods & housing still in short supply
- Workers set high targets & punished
- 2 million slave labourers used
- Agricultural recovery was slow due to
 - labour shortages,
 - lack of machinery and draft animals
 - low wages (1/6th average factory wage)
 - lack of state investment.

5th 5yp was less successful- concentrated on prestige projects rather than practical or necessary buildings.

Stalin's cult reached new heights- hero of war.

But he resumed dictatorship

- broke up war time institutions such as the State Defence Committee
- Churches were closed again
- Potential rivals like Zhukov were demoted; not mentioned in new History.
- Writers and artists who questioned were purged; foreign influence was scorned. This campaign was led by **Zhdanov**.
- When Zhdanov died in 1948, Stalin purged the Leningrad Party which became popular in the siege; he accused them of trying to set up a rival party as well as spying & corruption and arrested 1000s any with connections to Zhdanov.
- Stalin distrusted the 1.5 million returning ex-PoWs – seen as traitors- sent to Labour camps
- 3 million **Crimean Tartars** deported east- 500,000 died en route.
- 400,000 Lithuanians Latvian and Estonians deported and 300,000 Ukrainians.

Anti-Semitism and The Doctors Plot 1952-3

Stalin didn't trust Jews due to the creation of Israel and its links with the US (Cold War); he thought they were not loyal to the USSR.

Jews were persecuted:-

- sacked from posts in govt /industry
- expelled from uni
- Jewish schools, papers and libraries were closed
- Leading Jews were arrested; Molotov's wife was imprisoned.

When his Jewish doctor suggested he should reduce his workload, Stalin became convinced there was a plot to kill him. Many Jewish doctors were arrested and interrogated; this was accompanied by show trials, propaganda etc.

The Cold War

Stalin was suspicious of the West-

- He thought West had directed Hitler's aggression east at the Munich Conference
- They didn't sign an alliance in 1939
- He thought they delayed opening a 2nd front

Stalin wanted a **buffer zone**- so he ensured communists won elections in Eastern European countries - Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania.

Their economies were modelled on the Soviet system and served the needs of USSR.

International position of the USSR was strong in 1953

- Took direct control of Baltic States again
- Poland and Eastern Europe were under USSR influence
- Permanent member of UN Security Council
- 26 soviet divisions- ½ million men- were deployed in Eastern Europe
- 1949 they developed their own atom bomb; 1953 they developed an H bomb
- 2nd largest army (after China)
- The **Cominform** co-ordinated communist groups around the world
- 1949 China became communist- potentially a powerful ally
- 2nd industrial power after US
-

1953 Stalin died.