

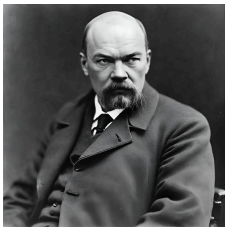



Life in Soviet Russia - Stalin



Chapter 22

3.9 EXAMINE life in one fascist country and one communist country in the twentieth century

Leaders in Communist/Soviet Russia		
Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924)	Russian revolutionary who led the Bolshevik party to power in the 1917 October Revolution and became the first head of the Soviet Union. He implemented policies such as war communism and the New Economic Policy, and is credited with developing the political theory of Leninism.	
Josef Stalin (1878-1953)	Soviet politician and dictator who led the Soviet Union from the mid-1920s until his death. He implemented policies such as rapid industrialization, collectivization of agriculture, and the Great Purge, which resulted in the deaths of millions of people. He is widely regarded as one of the most brutal and oppressive leaders in history.	



Summary		
The rise of communism in Russia under Stalin marked a significant period in the country's history, as the Soviet Union emerged as a world superpower. Stalin, who succeeded Lenin as the leader of the Communist Party, implemented a series of policies and reforms that transformed the country's political, social, and economic landscape. Stalin's policies included rapid industrialization, collectivization of agriculture, and the elimination of political opposition through the use of terror and propaganda. While these policies were intended to modernize the Soviet Union and strengthen the socialist system, they had significant human costs, including widespread famine, purges, and forced labour camps. Despite the challenges and criticisms that arose during Stalin's leadership, his legacy continues to shape Russia and the world today. The rise of communism under Stalin had far-reaching consequences, including the spread of Marxist ideology throughout the world and the emergence of the Soviet Union as a global superpower. In this chapter, we will explore the key events and figures that contributed to the rise of communism in Russia under Stalin, examining the economic, social, and political changes that took place during this period.		
Stalin's Rise to Power	Daily Life in Stalin's Russia	Economic Politics
Joseph Stalin's rise to power within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was marked by his ability to outmanoeuvre his rivals and consolidate his power base. He effectively used propaganda to promote himself as a loyal and capable leader, positioning himself as the natural successor to Vladimir Lenin. Stalin was also ruthless in eliminating his opponents, using his position as the General Secretary of the Communist Party to purge rivals from within the party and the government.	Stalin's economic policies aimed to rapidly industrialize and modernize the Soviet Union, which had significant effects on daily life. Collectivization and industrialization were often implemented through forced labour and mass relocations, which had a devastating impact on many Soviet citizens. The government also heavily controlled access to food, housing, and other necessities. Despite these challenges, Stalin's regime used propaganda to create a sense of unity and purpose among the Soviet people, emphasizing the importance of sacrifice and hard work for the greater good.	Stalin's economic policies were aimed at transforming the Soviet economy from an agricultural-based system to an industrialized one. The policies included the rapid development of heavy industry and the collectivization of agriculture, which aimed to increase productivity and efficiency. These policies had mixed results, with some sectors of the economy growing rapidly, while others lagged behind. The policies were often implemented through the use of forced labour, which had a devastating impact on many Soviet citizens.
Use of Terror and Propaganda		Show Trials
Stalin's regime relied heavily on terror and propaganda to maintain control over the Soviet people. The NKVD, the secret police, were responsible for the suppression of dissent and the implementation of Stalin's policies. Stalin also used propaganda to create a cult of personality around himself, which emphasized his role as a strong and decisive leader. The media, schools, and other public institutions were heavily controlled by the state, which promoted Stalin as a heroic figure and demonized his opponents.		<p>The Trial of the Sixteen was a show trial held in August 1936, which targeted high-ranking members of the Communist Party accused of plotting to overthrow Stalin. The accused included prominent figures such as Zinoviev, Kamenev, and Smirnov.</p> <p>The Trial of the Seventeen was a show trial held in January 1937, which targeted members of the rightist deviation accused of conspiring with fascist powers to overthrow Stalin. The accused included figures such as Rykov, Bukharin, and Tomsky.</p> <p>The Trial of the Twenty-One was a show trial held in March 1938, which targeted members of the so-called "Bloc of Rights and Trotskyites" accused of forming a terrorist organization to assassinate Soviet leaders and disrupt the Soviet economy. The accused included figures such as Pyatakov, Radek, and Sokolnikov.</p> <p>The Purge of the Red Army was a campaign of political repression and persecution within the Soviet military, which was conducted during the late 1930s. The campaign resulted in the execution or imprisonment of many high-ranking military officers accused of anti-Soviet activities and treason, including Marshal Tukhachevsky, General Yakir, and General Uborevich. The purge significantly weakened the Soviet military and left it ill-prepared for the German invasion in 1941.</p>
Education	Women's Lives	Soviets Prepare for War
In Stalin's Russia, education was heavily controlled by the state, with a focus on indoctrinating students with Communist ideology. Schools were used to promote Communist values and to create a new generation of loyal citizens. Higher education was also controlled by the state, with strict limits on academic freedom. Students who did not conform to Communist ideology were often punished or excluded from educational opportunities.	Stalin's policies had a significant impact on women's lives in the Soviet Union. While Lenin's government encouraged women to enter the workforce and granted them greater rights, Stalin took a more conservative approach. Stalin believed that women's primary role was to bear and raise children, and he desired a high birth rate to increase the population and bolster the Soviet Union's strength. Many women were encouraged or forced to leave the workforce and focus on traditional roles in the home. Despite the emphasis on motherhood, the Soviet state also promoted gender equality through policies such as the legalization of abortion and the promotion of women's education. However, the desire for a high birth rate sometimes conflicted with women's reproductive rights, leading to complex debates and policies in Stalin's Russia.	The lead-up to the Soviet Union's entry into World War II was marked by a series of political manoeuvres, negotiations, and tensions with Germany. After signing the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact in August 1939, which included secret protocols to divide Eastern Europe between the two countries, the Soviet Union faced increasing pressure from Germany to grant further concessions. The Soviet Union attempted to maintain neutrality, but after Germany invaded in June 1941, the Soviet Union declared war and joined the Allied Powers.

