

## *Life in Communist Russia*

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



- 22.1 Timeline
- 22.2 Cornell Notes
- 22.3 Keywords
- 22.4 Knowledge Organiser
- 22.5 Questions

In this chapter, you'll explore the history and impact of communism in Russia, including the rule of Lenin and Stalin and the impact of Soviet policies on society.

# Life in Communist Russia (Lenin)



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



The **Bolsheviks** take control of Petrograd and Moscow, overthrowing the Provisional Government.



Feb 1917

Oct 1917

Mar 1918

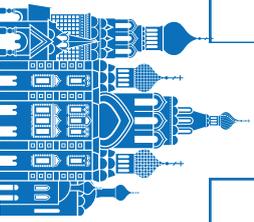
Jan 1918

Nov 1918

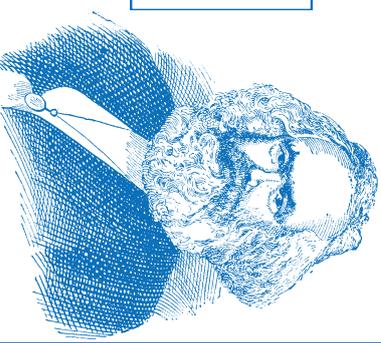
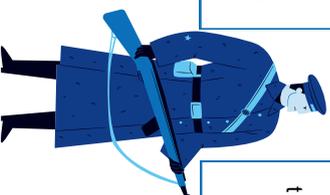
Mar 1921

Jan 1924

**War Communism** aimed to abolish private trade, control labour and nationalise all large scale industry



The **New Economic Policy** intended to introduce a temporary taste of capitalism in order to improve the economy.

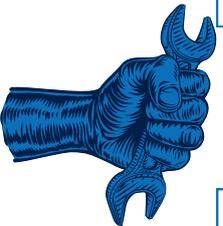


The **Romanov Family** are ousted from power and a **Provisional Government** is put in place

Lenin's government sign the **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk**, removing Russia from the war.

**Civil War** took place between the **Red Army** and **White Army**.

**Vladimir Lenin** dies without a named successor.



# Life in Communist Russia

Headings	Notes
<p><b>COMMUNISM AND THE BOLSHEVIKS</b></p> <p><b>COMMUNISM TAKES ROOT IN RUSSIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In <b>February 1917</b>, <b>Tsar (Emperor) Nicholas II (Romanov Dynasty)</b> was forced to step down.</li> <li>• The provisional government that replaced the Tsar was overthrown in the <b>October Revolution of 1917</b> by <b>Vladimir Lenin</b> and his followers, the <b>Bolsheviks</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>Bolshevik Party</b> believed in the communist ideas of <b>Karl Marx</b>; that the working class should stage revolutions to end private ownership &amp; distribute wealth, making society 'classless'.</li> <li>• <b>Communism</b> is a system of government where the state controls all aspects of the economy (property, business and jobs) and of society, with limited rights for individuals. Religion was discouraged. Russia was the <b>first communist state</b>.</li> <li>• Lenin's government banned all other political parties, took control of the banks and factories and negotiated a peace treaty with Germany to end Russia's involvement in World War I.</li> </ul>
<p><b>THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1917, civil war broke out between the Bolshevik <b>Red Army</b> (led by <b>Leon Trotsky</b>), and the <b>White Army</b> (an alliance of anti-communist groups).</li> <li>• In July <b>1918</b>, Tsar Nicholas II, his wife and their five children were <b>executed</b> by the Bolsheviks.</li> <li>• In <b>1922</b>, the White Army was fully defeated and Russia was officially renamed the <b>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)</b>, commonly known as the <b>Soviet Union</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STALIN'S RISE TO POWER</b></p> <p><b>LENIN'S DEATH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In <b>1922</b>, Lenin suffered two strokes and wrote his <b>Testament</b>, a document outlining his vision for the future of communism. He was very critical of <b>Josef Stalin</b>, who was General Secretary of the Party from 1922.</li> <li>• On the <b>21<sup>st</sup> January 1924</b>, Lenin died. A <b>power struggle</b> immediately began between the senior members of the Party: <b>Lev Kamenev</b>, <b>Grigory Zinoviev</b>, <b>Nikolai Bukharin</b>, <b>Leon Trotsky</b> and <b>Josef Stalin</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Leon Trotsky</b> was <b>well liked</b> by the <b>ordinary Party</b> members and had successfully led the Red Army during the Civil War. Lenin had thought him the '<b>most capable</b>'; other leaders worried that he would have <b>too much power</b>.</li> </ul>
Keywords	Summary
<p>Tsar Nicholas II Karl Marx</p> <p>Romanov Dynasty</p> <p>October Revolution</p> <p>Vladimir Lenin USSR</p> <p>Bolsheviks Soviet Union</p> <p>Communism Testament</p> <p>Red Army Leon Trotsky</p> <p>White Army Josef Stalin</p>	



# Life in Communist Russia (Lenin)



## Chapter 22

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

#### Summary

The rise of communism in Russia under Lenin was a significant event in 20th-century history, transforming Russia from an absolute monarchy into the world's first socialist state. In the aftermath of World War I and the Russian Revolution, Lenin and his Bolshevik Party established a new government that aimed to create a society that was more equitable and just for all citizens. The Bolsheviks implemented a series of policies and reforms, including the nationalization of industry and land, the establishment of a planned economy, and the promotion of gender equality and universal education.

While the Bolsheviks faced numerous challenges, including political instability, a devastated economy, and opposition from anti-communist forces, they were able to maintain their grip on power and establish a new state that would significantly impact the world. The rise of communism in Russia had far-reaching consequences, leading to the formation of the Soviet Union and the spread of Marxist ideology throughout the world.

Communism is a political ideology that advocates for a classless society in which resources are shared equally among all members. The Bolsheviks were a Marxist political party that came to power in Russia after the October Revolution of 1917. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, believed in the establishment of a socialist state that would eventually transition to communism. They also believed in the seizure of private property and the nationalization of industry, agriculture, and natural resources.

#### Russia in the 1900s

Russia was ruled by Tsar Nicholas II and was still largely an agrarian society. Despite some efforts at industrialization, the country lagged behind other European powers in economic and military development. The majority of Russians were peasants who lived in extreme poverty and were heavily oppressed, with little hope for social or economic mobility. Russias participation in World War I was a disastrous failure, with the country suffering numerous military defeats, supply shortages, and a mounting death toll. The war further exacerbated social tensions and economic hardships, ultimately leading to the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and the downfall of the Tsarist regime.

#### The Romanov Dynasty

The Romanov dynasty, led by Tsar Nicholas II, presided over a tumultuous period in Russian history marked by social, economic, and political strife. Nicholas II's autocratic rule was characterized by a lack of political freedoms, widespread corruption, and a disregard for the suffering of the Russian people. The country's involvement in World War I was a catastrophic failure, which further exacerbated these problems and led to widespread unrest. In 1917, the Bolsheviks seized power in a revolution, and the Romanov family was subsequently arrested and imprisoned. In July 1918, they were executed by the Bolsheviks, bringing an end to over 300 years of Romanov rule in Russia.

#### Daily Life in Lenin's Russia

Daily life in Lenin's Russia was characterized by the aftermath of the Russian Revolution and the establishment of the world's first socialist state. The Soviet government faced numerous challenges in its early years, including a devastated economy, widespread famine, and political instability. Economic policies such as War Communism, which aimed to nationalize industry and eliminate the market economy, were implemented but had negative consequences such as widespread famine. The government also relied on propaganda and terror to maintain control, with the creation of the Cheka secret police and the use of show trials and public executions.

#### The Russian Civil War

The Russian Civil War was a multi-faceted conflict that occurred in Russia from 1918 to 1922. The war was fought between the Bolshevik Red Army and a collection of anti-Bolshevik forces, known as the White Army. The war was characterized by a high level of violence and brutality, with both sides committing atrocities against civilians. The Bolsheviks ultimately emerged victorious, solidifying their grip on power in Russia.

#### Economic Policies

Lenin's Economic Policies aimed to create a socialist economy that would benefit workers and peasants. War Communism, implemented during the Russian Civil War, nationalized industries and abolished private trade, but resulted in famine and economic collapse. Lenin replaced it with the New Economic Policy (NEP), allowing small-scale private enterprise and foreign trade, stabilizing the economy and increasing food production. State-owned industries were created, and collectivization in agriculture promoted to create a planned economy. However, rapid industrialization came at a high cost, with forced labor, poor working conditions, and low wages being common. Overall, Lenin's policies aimed to benefit the working class, with the NEP stabilizing the economy and laying the groundwork for future industrialization efforts.

#### Education

Education was a priority for the Soviet government, with a focus on providing free and universal education to all citizens. The government also aimed to create a new system of education that would be more egalitarian and accessible to all, including women and minorities. However, education was heavily politicized; schools were used to promote Communist ideology and Soviet loyalty.

#### Women's Lives

Women's lives in Lenin's Russia were impacted by the government's policies aimed at promoting gender equality. The Soviet government passed laws granting women greater rights and opportunities, such as the legalization of abortion and the introduction of equal pay for equal work. The government also aimed to eliminate traditional gender roles and promote the participation of women in the workforce, politics, and education.

#### Use of Terror and Propaganda

The Soviet government under Lenin relied on propaganda and terror to maintain its grip on power. The government controlled the media, which was used to promote Communist ideology and to present the Soviet Union as a progressive and egalitarian society. However, dissent was not tolerated, and the Cheka secret police were given broad powers to suppress opposition and dissent through violent means. This led to a climate of fear and repression, with many individuals being arrested, executed, or sent to labour camps.

Term	Definition
Bolshevik Party	Russian communists who seized power in October 1917. The leader of the Bolsheviks was Vladimir Lenin.
Cheka	Lenin's secret police.
Collective	A farm worked as a unit by a community or village under the supervision of the state as in Soviet Russia.
Collectivisation	Taking agricultural land into state ownership and dividing it into collective or group farms.
Communism	The belief that all property is owned by the community. People work for the benefit of the community and benefits are received as needed.
Cult of personality	When propaganda is used to glorify a political leader, to create a god-like image of a political leader.
Communist Party	The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Communist Party after Lenin came to power.
Dictator	A ruler with full power over a country.
Dictatorship	A country being ruled or governed by a dictator.
Five-Year Plans	Stalin's plans aimed at rapidly increasing industrial output.
Gulag	Forced labour prison camp.
Komsomol	Communist youth group.
Modernising	Changing to modern ideas and ways.
Kulak	Wealthier class of peasant farmers.
New Economic Policy	The NEP replaced War Communism and allowed small businesses to remain in private ownership and peasant farmers to sell spare crops for profit.
NKVD	Stalin's secret police.
Red Army	Lenin's government army during the Russian Civil War. It was commanded by Leon Trotsky.
Purges	To remove people by lawful or unlawful means from society in order to eliminate opposition.
Rationing	Use of coupons and ration books to control the amount of food, clothes, footwear and petrol given to each person.
War Communism	A policy of directing the means of the state towards the army and factory workers. This policy was employed during the Russian Civil War and involved forcibly taking food from peasant farmers.
White Army	Anti-Communist army during the Russian Civil War. It was commanded by Alexander Kolchak.
Show Trials	A staged trial of opposition figures in Soviet Russia, organised by Stalin, held in public to influence popular opinion.
Socialism	A political and economic theory of social organisation which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.

# Life in Communist Russia (Stalin)



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



**First Five Year Plan**  
focused on heavy industry and the production of coal, oil, steel and electricity.

**War Communism** aimed to abolish private trade, control labour and nationalise all large scale industry

The first of the **Concentration Camps** are liberated by the Red Army.

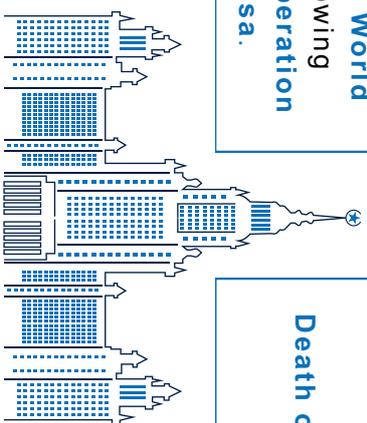
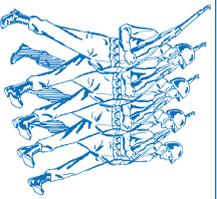


**Stalin replaces Lenin as Leader of Soviet Russia.**

**Second Five Year Plan** focused on transport and the production of consumer goods.

**Russia joins World War II** following Germany's Operation Barbarossa.

**Death of Josef Stalin**



# Life in Communist Russia

Headings	Notes
<p><b>STALIN'S RISE TO POWER</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin <b>seized control</b> of Lenin's funeral arrangements and gave the main speech there. He had Kamanev and Zinoview <b>expel Trotsky</b> from the Party and from the Soviet Union. Then he forced them out of their government positions and replaced them with his supporters.</li> <li><b>Socialism in One Country</b> was Stalin's plan to first strengthen communism in the Soviet Union before spreading it further afield.</li> <li>By <b>1928</b>, Stalin had become the <b>absolute ruler</b> of the Soviet Union, creating a dictatorship.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DAILY LIFE IN STALIN'S RUSSIA</b></p> <p><b>ECONOMIC POLICIES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <b>1927</b>, Stalin introduced <b>collectivisation</b>: the joining of small, unproductive farms together to create large, state-owned farms.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many farmers <b>refused to surrender</b> their farms. Over 2.5 million <b>kulaks</b> (wealthy independent farmers) were <b>removed</b> and sent to <b>gulags</b> (forced labour camps) or <b>executed</b>.</li> <li>By <b>1936</b>, <b>90% of farmland</b> had been collectivised.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Stalin launched three <b>Five-Year Plans</b> to <b>boost industrialisation</b>. Each was a set of targets ( and policies designed to meet them over a period of five years.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>First Five-Year Plans (1928-1932)</b> focused on heavy industry and the production of coal, oil, steel and electricity. Its targets were unrealistic, but improvements were made.</li> <li>The <b>Second Five-Year Plan (1933-1937)</b> focused on industry, transport and the production of consumer goods. The <b>Moscow Underground</b> was built, as were canal and rail links.</li> <li>The <b>Third Five-Year Plan (1938-1941)</b> was cut short due to World War II. Production of arms and ammunition became the focus.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Shortages</b> of everyday goods were common and food was <b>rationed</b>. <b>Severe famines</b> followed.</li> <li>Many works received an <b>apartment</b>, <b>free schooling</b> and <b>free basic healthcare</b>. The most productive workers received <b>rewards</b> or were used as <b>poster figures in propaganda</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TERROR</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stalin was a <b>dictator</b> – someone who has gained almost <b>complete control</b> over their country and uses a variety of means (particularly terror and propaganda) to hold onto power.</li> <li>In 1934, the <b>Cheka (secret police)</b> were reorganised and renamed the <b>NKVD</b>. They arrested (and sometimes tortured/executed) '<b>enemies of the state</b>'.</li> </ul>
Keywords	Summary
<p>Socialism in One Country</p> <p>Absolute Ruler Dictator</p> <p>Collectivisation Cheka</p> <p>Kulaks NKVD</p> <p>Gulags</p> <p>Five Year Plans</p> <p>Shortages Enemies of the state</p> <p>Famine</p>	

# Life in Communist Russia

Headings	Notes
<b>TERROR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NKVD ran the gulags. Around <b>30,000 gulags</b> existed throughout the Soviet Union.</li> <li>• The violence, extreme weather, hard labour, poor food rations and unsanitary conditions led to <b>high death rates</b>. Over <b>1 million people died</b> in the gulags between 1934 to 1953.</li> <li>• In 1934, Stalin began a <b>purge</b> of his party, removing all those who he believed were challenging his authority. He used show trials (a staged trial held in public to influence popular opinion; it was also a method of propaganda) in order to remove his enemies. Defendants in the show trials had been tortured for their confessions while their families were threatened with arrest/torture.</li> <li>• <b>The Trial of the Sixteen</b> (August <b>1936</b>): Sixteen Communist Party leaders (including <b>Zinoviev</b> and <b>Kamenev</b>) were tried for the assassination of a man called Sergei Kirov and for attempting to overthrow the government.</li> <li>• <b>The Trial of the Seventeen</b> (January <b>1937</b>): Seventeen current and former leading Bolsheviks were tried. Thirteen were executed and the rest were sent to the gulags.</li> <li>• <b>The Trial of the Twenty-One</b> (March <b>1938</b>): Stalin used it to get rid of his last potential rivals who were accused of plotting to assassinate both Lenin and Stalin. Eighteen were executed.</li> <li>• <b>1937</b> also saw Stalin <b>purge the Red Army</b> as he mistrusted anyone who had served under Trotsky. Almost 30,000 Red Army officers were either fired or executed.</li> </ul>
<b>PROPAGANDA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Communist Party published its own <b>newspaper</b> called <b>Pravda</b> (<i>Truth</i>).</li> <li>• <b>Posters</b> and <b>works of art</b> all presented the idea of the greatness of the Soviet Union, a happy workforce and the success of communism.</li> <li>• Stalin was a <b>godlike figure</b> and was referred to as '<i>the Brilliant Genius of Humanity</i>' and '<i>the Father of Nations</i>'.</li> <li>• <b>Cities and streets</b> were named after Stalin, for example <b>Stalingrad (Volgograd)</b> and <b>Stalinsk (Novokuznetsk)</b>. <b>Statues</b> and <b>posters</b> of him were displayed everywhere.</li> <li>• Enemies of the state of those killed in purges were sometimes <b>airbrushed out of photographs</b> or <b>removed from records</b>, as if they had never existed.</li> </ul>
<b>Keywords</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Purge Show Trials The Trial of the Sixteen The Trial of the Seventeen The Trial of the Twenty-One Purge of the Red Army Propaganda Pravda	

# Life in Communist Russia

Headings	Notes
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School was made compulsory and exams were brought back, which <b>improved literacy rates</b>.</li><li>• Propaganda played an important part in spreading communist and Stalinist doctrine. <b>Textbooks were rewritten</b> to make Stalin's role in the October Revolution and the Civil War look more impressive while others' roles were downplayed or erased.</li><li>• Children learned how to be of the greatest possible service to their country while youth groups such as the <b>Young Communists</b> and the <b>Komsomol</b> were founded.</li></ul>
WOMEN'S LIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under Lenin, the status of Russian women had improved. They got the <b>vote</b> and an <b>education</b>; they could access <b>contraception</b> and <b>divorce</b>; legally, they could be head of the household; <b>all jobs</b> were open to women (in theory).<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cheap dining halls, laundries and childcare had been provided by the state in workplaces.</li></ul></li><li>• Under Stalin, some of these <b>rights were removed</b>, particularly to do with <b>reproductive choice</b>. <b>Contraception</b> and <b>abortion</b> were both made illegal by 1936 and <b>divorce</b> was also strongly discouraged as Stalin wanted a <b>high birth rate</b> to provide the Soviet Union with many children for its <b>workforce</b> and <b>army</b>. Married parents received a <b>child allowance</b> from the state while women were rewarded for having six or more children.</li><li>• By 1937, women made up 50% of the workforce.</li></ul>
Keywords	Summary
Education Textbooks Young Communists Komsomol Contraception Divorce Child allowance	

# Life in Communist Russia

Headings	Notes
<p>A LEADER IN COMMUNIST RUSSIA: JOSEF STALIN (1878 – 1953)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Josef Stalin</b> was born near Tiflis in <b>Georgia</b>. His father was a cobbler and his mother was a housemaid. At 16, he was training to be a priest but was expelled for his <b>radical Marxist ideas</b>.</li> <li>• Stalin was arrested for joining the <b>Bolsheviks</b> and was <b>sent to Siberia</b> in <b>1904</b>. He played a minor role in the October Revolution of 1917.</li> <li>• During the Russian Civil War, he organised the '<b>Red Terror</b>' and gained a reputation for brutality</li> <li>• In 1922, Stalin became the <b>general secretary of the Communist Party</b>. In <b>1924</b>, following the death of Lenin, Stalin was <b>ready to seize power</b>. In 1928, he had <b>Trotsky expelled</b> from the party and exiled.</li> <li>• Stalin believed that the Soviet Union was <b>50-100 years behind other industrialised countries</b>. He organised the combination of small farms into larger '<b>collective farms</b>' (<b>collectivisation</b>). Better-off farmers (<b>kulaks</b>) resisted and were persecuted or eliminated.</li> <li>• In the <b>purges of the 1930s</b>, Stalin targeted anyone he felt to be a threat. <b>Show trials</b> were <b>propaganda</b> intended to frighten his opponents. He later also purged the Red Army.</li> <li>• In August 1939, Stalin signed a '<b>non-aggression pact</b>' with Hitler's Nazi Germany. However, in 1941, Germany broke this pact and invaded the Soviet Union. Stalin appealed to the patriotism of Soviet Citizens to defend '<b>Mother Russia</b>' during the '<b>Great Patriotic War</b>'. He <b>joined the Allies</b> to defeat the Germans. While the Soviet Union suffered significant losses due to the war, its entry helped to defeat the Germans and its emergence as a <b>post-war superpower</b>.</li> <li>• After the war, Stalin and the Soviet Union retained control in the <b>Soviet zone of Berlin</b> and also imposed communist governments on the <b>satellite states</b> of <b>East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania</b> and <b>Bulgaria</b>.</li> <li>• Stalin had hoped to keep post-war Germany weak while the Western Allies wanted an economically revived Germany to serve as an obstacle to communism. Tensions over this led to Stalin cutting off all road, rail and canal links to West Berlin in June 1948. This event became known as the <b>Berlin Blockade</b>, often seen as the beginning of the <b>Cold War Era</b>.</li> <li>• Stalin's health had begun deteriorating from as early as 1945. By the time of his death in <b>1953</b>, the Soviet Union was investing heavily in its <b>nuclear weapons programme</b> and had created its own <b>atomic bomb</b>. The <b>Cold War arms race</b> had begun.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keywords</b></p> <p>Josef Stalin      Non-Aggression Pact</p> <p>Bolshevik        Great Patriotic War</p> <p>Red Terror        Collectivisation</p> <p>Kulaks            Allies</p> <p>Purges            Berlin Blockade</p> <p>Show Trials      Cold War</p> <p>Propaganda</p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p>

# Life in Communist Russia

<i>Keywords</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<b>Bolshevik Party</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russian communists who seized power in October 1917. The leader of the Bolsheviks was Vladimir Lenin.</li> </ul>
<b>Cheka</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lenin's secret police.</li> </ul>
<b>Collective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A farm worked as a unit by a community or village under the supervision of the state as in Soviet Russia.</li> </ul>
<b>Collectivisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking agricultural land into state ownership and dividing it into collective or group farms.</li> </ul>
<b>Communism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The belief that all property is owned by the community. People work for the benefit of the community and benefits are received as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Cult of personality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When propaganda is used to glorify a political leader, to create a god-like image of a political leader.</li> </ul>
<b>Communist Party</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Communist Party after Lenin came to power.</li> </ul>
<b>Dictator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A ruler with full power over a country.</li> </ul>
<b>Dictatorship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A country being ruled or governed by a dictator.</li> </ul>
<b>Five-Year Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stalin's plans aimed at rapidly increasing industrial output.</li> </ul>
<b>Gulag</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forced labour prison camp.</li> </ul>
<b>Komsomol</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communist youth group.</li> </ul>
<b>Modernising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing to modern ideas and ways.</li> </ul>
<b>Kulak</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wealthier class of peasant farmers.</li> </ul>
<b>New Economic Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NEP replaced War Communism and allowed small business to remain in private ownership and peasant farmers to sell spare crops for profit.</li> </ul>
<b>NKVD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stalin's secret police.</li> </ul>
<b>Red Army</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lenin's government army during the Russian Civil War. It was commanded by Leon Trotsky.</li> </ul>
<b>Purges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To remove people by lawful or unlawful means from society in order to eliminate opposition.</li> </ul>
<b>Rationing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of coupons and ration books to control the amount of food, clothes, footwear and petrol given to each person.</li> </ul>
<b>War Communism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A policy of directing the means of the state towards the army and factory workers. This policy was employed during the Russian Civil War and involved forcibly taking food from peasant farmers.</li> </ul>
<b>White Army</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Communist army during the Russian Civil War. It was commanded by Alexander Kolchak.</li> </ul>
<b>Show Trials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A staged trial of opposition figures in Soviet Russia, organised by Stalin, held in public to influence popular opinion.</li> </ul>
<b>Socialism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A political and economic theory of social organisation which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.</li> </ul>

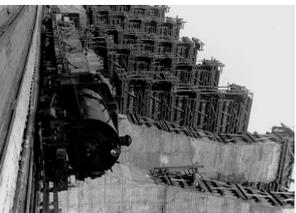
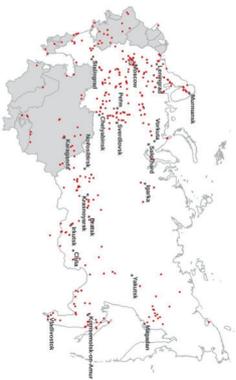


# Life in Communist Russia (Stalin)

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

### Leaders in Communist/Soviet Russia

<p><b>Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p><b>Josef Stalin (1878-1953)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	



### 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

Joseph Stalin's rise to power within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was marked by his ability to outmaneuver 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.

#### Daily Life in Stalin's Russia

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.

#### Economic Policies

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

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.

#### Show Trials

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. 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. 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. The Purge of the Red Army was a campaign of political repression 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.

#### Education

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.

#### Women's Lives

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.

#### Soviets Prepare for War

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.



# *Life in Communist Russia*

**Doodle Revision Page or Sketch Notes**  
Include heading(s), short notes, keywords, timelines,  
images (maps, drawings, diagrams) as needed

## LENIN AND THE BOLSHEVIKS

- **February Revolution (1917):** Tsar **Nicholas II** abdicated after Russia's poor performance in **World War I** led to strikes and protests. A **Provisional Government** was set up.
- **October Revolution (1917):** **Vladimir Lenin** and the **Bolsheviks** overthrew the Provisional Government, establishing the first **communist state** based on the ideas of **Karl Marx**.
  - **Communism:** A system where the **state controls** all property and businesses, aiming for a **classless society**.
  - **Civil War (1917-1922):** The **Red Army**, led by **Leon Trotsky**, fought against the anti-communist **White Army**. The Bolsheviks won, and **Russia became the USSR** in 1922.

## LENIN'S POLICIES

- **War Communism:** Lenin took control of all industries and forced farmers to hand over surplus food, leading to rebellions and **famine**.
- **New Economic Policy (NEP):** To improve the economy, Lenin allowed some private business and paid farmers for surplus food. This was a temporary reintroduction of **capitalism**.
- **Women's Rights:** Lenin improved women's status by giving them the right to **vote, education, divorce**, and equal access to jobs.

## STALIN'S RISE TO POWER

- **Lenin's Death (1924):** Lenin died without naming a successor. **Josef Stalin** eventually seized power by playing rivals like **Leon Trotsky** and **Kamenev** against each other.
- **Socialism in One Country:** Stalin focused on strengthening communism within the **USSR** before spreading it globally.

## STALIN'S ECONOMIC POLICIES

- **Collectivisation:** Stalin forced small farms to merge into large, **state-owned farms**. This led to the persecution of wealthier farmers (**kulaks**) and mass **famine**.
- **Five-Year Plans:** Stalin introduced **three Five-Year Plans** to rapidly industrialise the USSR:
  - **First (1928-1932):** Focused on **heavy industry** (coal, steel, oil).
  - **Second (1933-1937):** Expanded **transport** and **consumer goods**.
  - **Third (1938-1941):** Shifted to **arms production** due to WWII.
  - **Results:** The USSR became the world's **second-largest industrial power**, but millions died due to **famine** and **gulags** (forced labour camps).

## STALIN'S USE OF TERROR

- **NKVD:** Stalin's secret police arrested, tortured, and executed **enemies of the state**, sending millions to **gulags**.
- **Show Trials (1936-1938):** Public trials where Stalin's political rivals were forced to confess to crimes under torture. Most were executed.
- **The Great Purge (1937):** Stalin purged the **Red Army** and the Communist Party, executing thousands, including former allies like **Kamenev** and **Zinoviev**.

## PROPAGANDA AND EDUCATION

- **Propaganda:** Stalin used newspapers (**Pravda**), posters, and statues to glorify himself and communism. **Enemies** of the state were erased from records.
- **Education:** Stalin made **school compulsory** to combat illiteracy and strengthen the workforce. Textbooks were rewritten to emphasise Stalin's role in the **Russian Revolution** and **Civil War**.

## WOMEN'S LIVES UNDER STALIN

- Stalin encouraged **large families** to build the workforce, offering **rewards** to women with six or more children. **Divorce** and **contraception** were discouraged.

# Ch. 22 - Communist Russia

Source A is a propaganda poster showing representatives of the various Soviet nations presenting Stalin with flowers. The caption reads: 'Great Stalin - Flag of friendship of Soviet Nations!'. Source B is a photograph of the monument to Stalin that stood in a city park in Prague, the Czech Republic, from 1955 to 1962. It was the world's largest representation of Stalin. Study the two sources and answer the questions that follow.



- (a) What image of Stalin and Russia is being presented in source A?
- (b) What image of Stalin and Russia is being presented in source B?
- (c) Propaganda was common in communist states. Explain what propaganda is and why it was used in Russia or in another communist state that you have studied.
- (d) Explain how source A and source B are examples of propaganda.
- (e) Apart from posters and statues, give an example of a method of propaganda used by a communist government and explain how it was used.
- (f) From your study of life in a communist country, explain how the communist government used terror and why this was done.
- (g) From your study of life in a communist country, explain what life was like for women.



### Question 7

In 1929, the communist dictator of Soviet Russia, Josef Stalin, abolished Individual farms. All land, crops and animals were collectivised into large state farms. Look at the sources below and answer the questions which follow.

**Source 1:** a Soviet poster from 1930 showing life on a collective farm.



**Source 2:** an eye-witness account of the Ukrainian famine, 1932-1933, which was caused by Stalin's policy of collectivisation.

Many villagers roamed the city streets in Kharkiv. You met them everywhere. They were of various ages – old, young, children and infants. They were hungry, exhausted, ragged, filthy and cold.

Some of them dared to knock on people's doors or maybe on someone's window, and some could barely stretch out their begging hands. Others were sitting against the walls, motionless and speechless.

(a) What change did Stalin introduce in farming in 1929?


(b) What was life like on a collective farm, according to **Source 1**? Support your points with evidence from the source.


(c) How did the eye-witness in **Source 2** describe the villagers who came into Kharkiv?


(d) What is meant by the term 'propaganda'?


(e) In your opinion, is the poster in **Source 1** an example of propaganda? Explain your answer.




## Question 7

Answer the following questions which deal with life in a fascist country and a communist country in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Source 1:** Map showing the concentration camps in Germany by the end of 1938.



Note: the location of each camp is shown by a yellow dot.

- Dachau, Esterwegen, Oranienburg, and Lichtenburg opened in 1933.
- Sachsenhausen opened in 1936, Buchenwald in 1937, and the four other camps opened in 1938.

**Source 2:** An account by Varlam Shalamov, who spent 15 years as a prisoner in the Soviet Union gulag prison camps.

"Each time they brought in the soup... it made us all want to cry. We were ready to cry for fear that the soup would be thin. And when a miracle occurred and the soup was thick, we couldn't believe it and ate it as slowly as possible. But even with thick soup in a warm stomach there remained a sucking pain; we'd been hungry for too long."



(a) According to **Source 1**, how many concentration camps had opened by 1938?

--

(b) In **Source 1**, how many camps were located in East Prussia by 1938?

--

(c) Using **Source 1**, name **two** camps that opened in 1938.

1.
2.

(d) What is the advantage of using a map in your study of history to show information?


(e) According to **Source 2**, why were the prisoners ready to cry?


(f) According to **Source 2**, why was a prisoner in pain even after having soup?





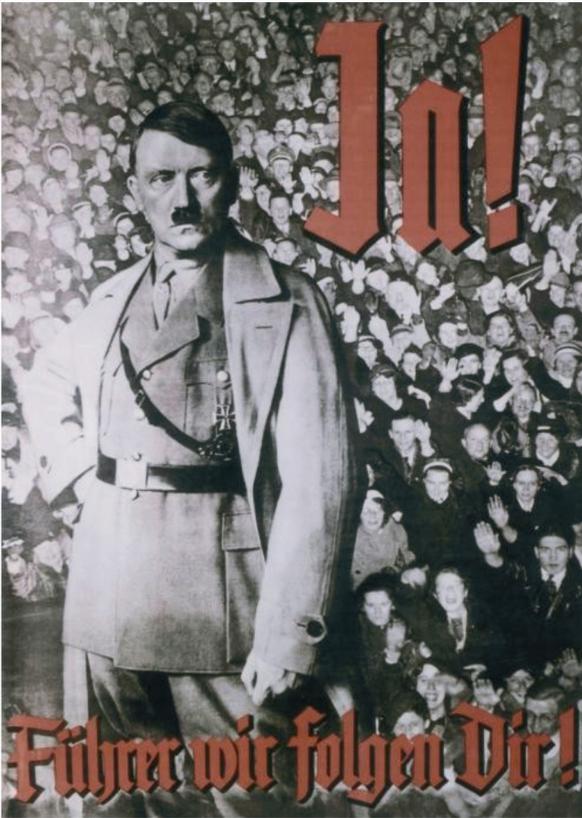





Question 6

Source 1: Nazi Propaganda Poster (1934)  
"Yes, Leader, we follow you".

Source 2: Nazi Propaganda Poster (1943)  
"Officers of tomorrow".



- (a) The posters above refer to Hitler and Nazi Germany. Name another 20<sup>th</sup> century dictator that you have studied and the country that he ruled.

Name of dictator:
Country ruled by named dictator:

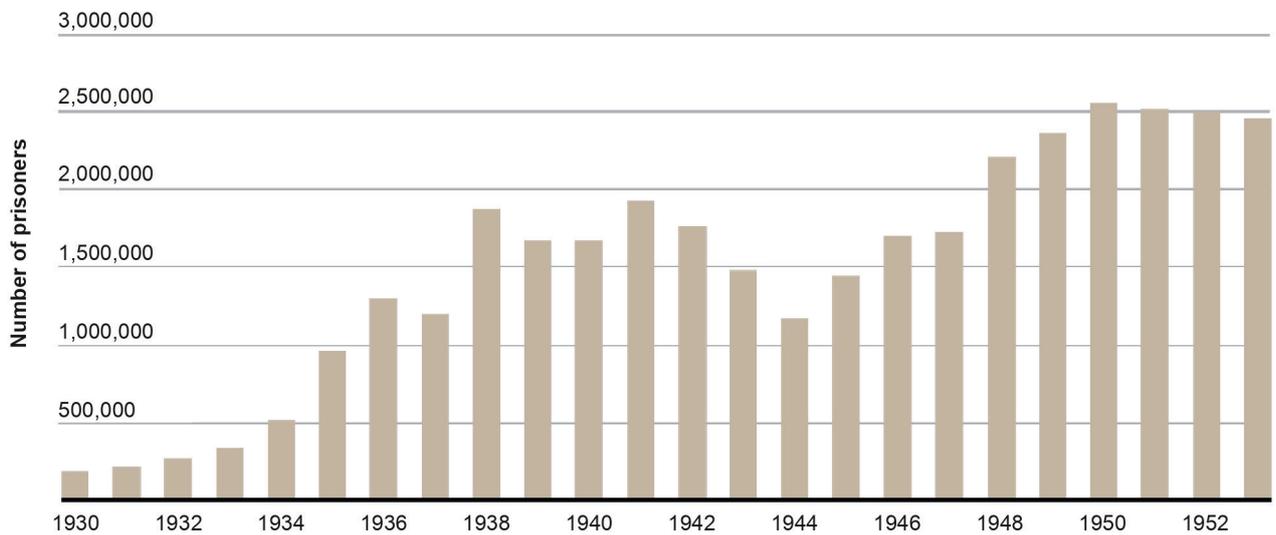
- (b) Explain what is meant by the word **propaganda**. Support your answer with reference to Source 1.




(c) How does Source 2 show that Nazi propaganda prepared German boys to fight in war?


(d) Apart from posters, name **three** other ways by which Fascist and Communist dictatorships spread their propaganda.


**Source 3:** Graph showing the number of prisoners that were in the Gulag prison camps in the USSR (Soviet Union) between the years 1930-1953.



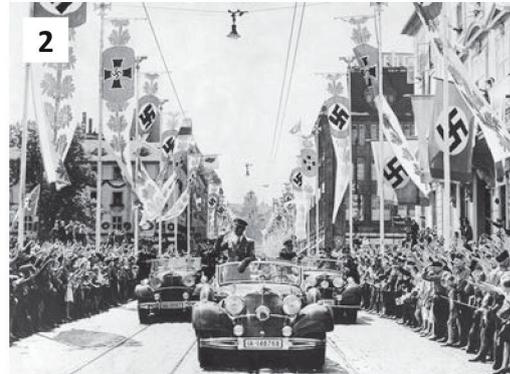
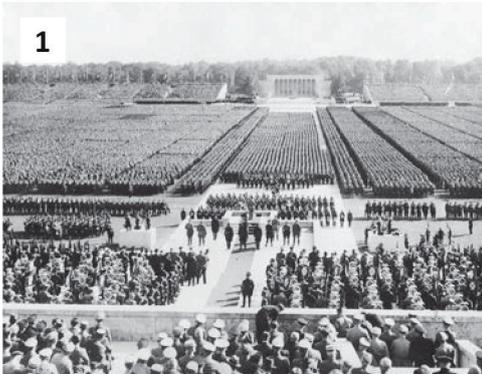
(e) From your reading of Source 3, state the year which had the lowest number of prisoners and the year which had the highest number of prisoners.

Year with lowest number of prisoners:
Year with highest number of prisoners:



## Question 6

The following photographs were taken in Germany during the fascist era. Examine them and answer the questions which follow.



(a) Look at the photographs and match each one to the correct caption.

Caption	Photograph
Anti-Semitic boycott Berlin, Germany, 1 <sup>st</sup> April, 1933. A Nazi storm trooper stands beside a placard reading, 'Germans, defend yourselves, do not buy from Jews'.	
Adolf Hitler waving to crowds from his car at the head of a parade. The streets are decorated with various swastika banners. Ca. 1934-38. Location is unidentified.	
Ranks of the Nazi German army fill Zeppelin Field in Nuremberg. They are addressed by Hitler from a podium during the Nazi Party Congress, 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 1938.	
Thousands of books smoulder in a Nazi bonfire, 1933. The burnings were conducted by the German Student Association of Nazi Germany.	



The following is an edited extract from an article titled *The Infernal Twins*, written by Winston Churchill and published in an American Publication, *Collier's Weekly* magazine, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1937.

*Since the Great War, two new religions have been born into the world. They are the Nazi Creed (belief) and the Communist Creed (belief). Do not let us blind our eyes to the power which these new religions exert. They have been adopted by most powerful and most heavily armed nations... ..There are two strange facts about these non-God religions. The first is their extraordinary resemblance to one another. Nazism and Communism imagine themselves as exact opposites. They are at each other's throats wherever they exist all over the world. They actually breed each other; for the reaction of Communism is Nazism and beneath Nazism or Fascism, Communism stirs convulsively (is there). Yet they are similar in all essentials.*

**(b)** What is Churchill comparing Nazism and Communism to?


**(c)** According to the article, who has adopted these new creeds?


**(d)** Churchill states that Communism and Fascism are similar in all essentials. From your study of the course, identify **three** similarities which exist between the two.

Similarity 1:
Similarity 2:
Similarity 3:







## Question 7

Examine the images below and answer the questions which follow.



Nazi party members post signs on a Jewish storefront encouraging Germans to boycott the shop in Berlin on 1 April 1933.

Jewish citizens queue at a travel company in Berlin hoping to flee Germany in January 1939.



Students salute their teacher in Berlin, January 1934. Teachers in Nazi Germany were required to join the National Socialist Teachers League. They took an oath of loyalty to the Führer and ensured their lessons were in accordance with Nazi policy.



**(a)** What anti-Jewish laws were introduced by the Nazi Party in Germany?


**(b)** Explain one reason why Jewish people were persecuted in Nazi Germany.


**(c)** Apart from school, describe two ways in which young people in Germany were indoctrinated in Nazi life and policies.
