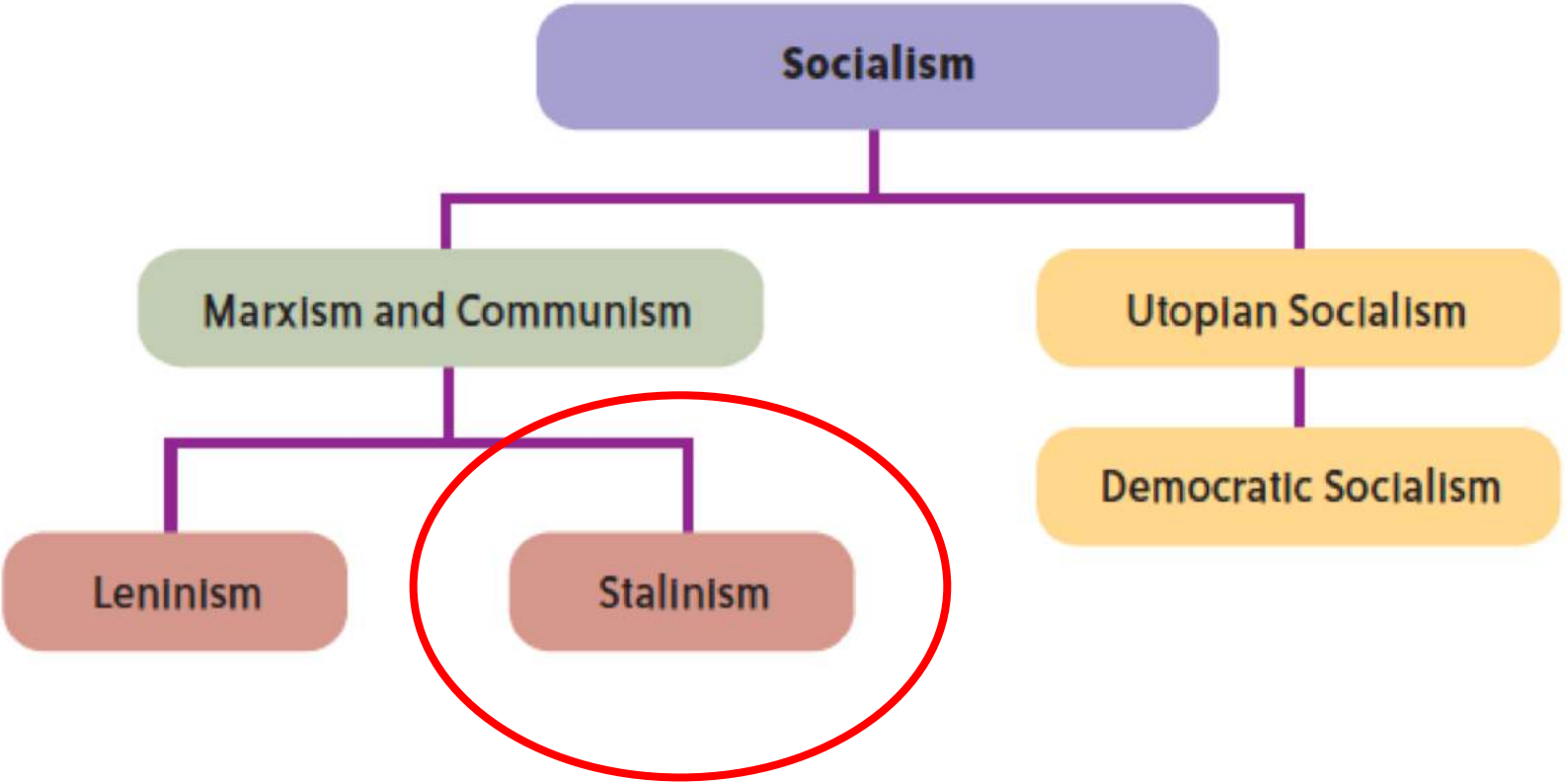
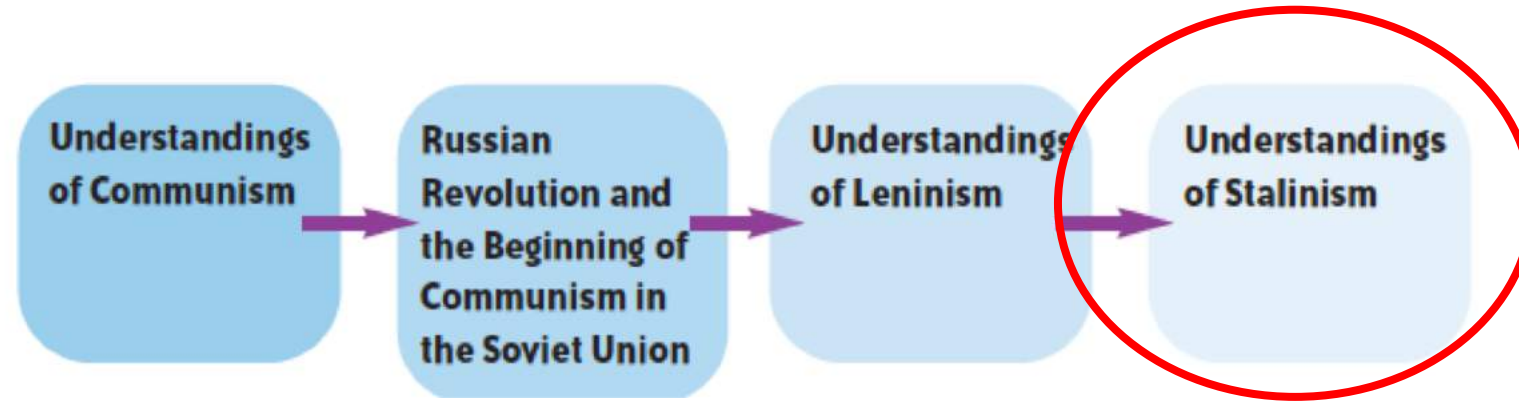


Stalinism

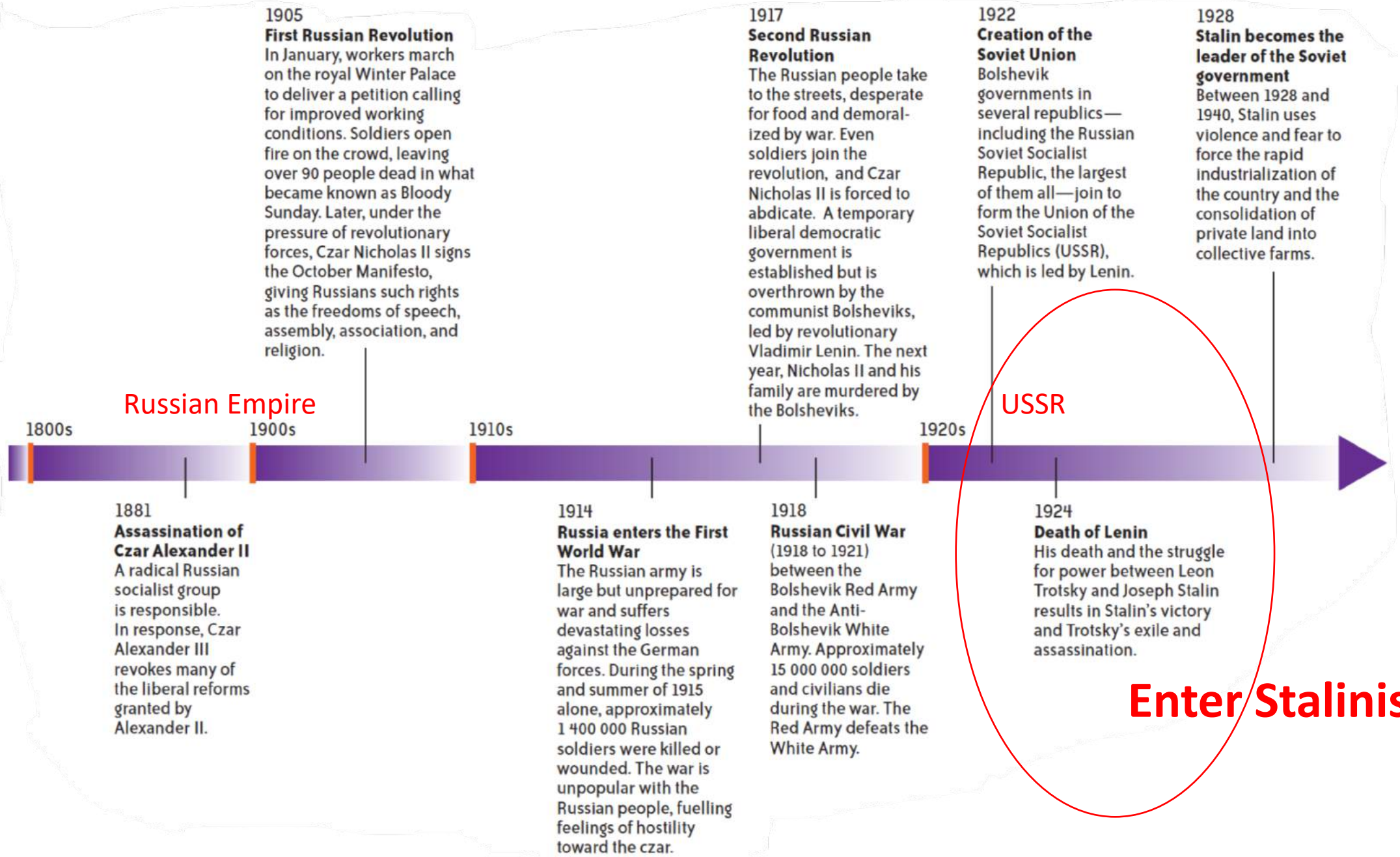
Social Studies 30-1





Consider This...

How was communism in the Soviet Union a rejection of liberalism?



Russian Empire

USSR

Enter Stalinism

In 1924, Lenin dies.

His body was embalmed and placed in a mausoleum near the Moscow Kremlin. Petrograd was renamed Leningrad in his honor. Fellow revolutionary Joseph Stalin succeeded him as leader of the Soviet Union



Joseph Stalin

- A Georgian revolutionary and Soviet politician.
- A communist ideologically committed to the Leninist interpretation of Marxism, Stalin formalized these ideas as Marxism–Leninism, while his own policies are known as Stalinism.
- During the quarter of a century preceding his death, the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin probably exercised greater political power than any other figure in history. Stalin industrialized the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, forcibly collectivized its agriculture, consolidated his position by intensive police terror, helped to defeat Germany in 1941–45, and extended Soviet controls to include a belt of eastern European states. Chief architect of Soviet totalitarianism and a skilled but phenomenally ruthless organizer, he destroyed the remnants of individual freedom and failed to promote individual prosperity, yet he created a mighty military-industrial complex and led the Soviet Union into the nuclear age.





He was originally named Iosif (Joseph) Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili.

Eventually, he adopted the name Stalin, deriving from Russian *stal*, meaning steel.

Stalin's name would come to be known as the "man of steel" and he lived up to it. He would oversee the war machine that helped defeat Nazism and would go on to be the supreme ruler of the Soviet Union for a quarter of a century.



Lenin speaks at the First All-Russian Congress of Soviets with Stalin at his side

Rise to Power

With Lenin's death, the Soviet Union experienced a transition into a new form of communism under Joseph Stalin known as **Stalinism**. Stalin's rise to power was not without controversy.

Lenin had been highly suspicious of Stalin and did not want him to be the next ruler of the Soviet Union. Following Lenin's death, there was a struggle for power between Trotsky and Stalin. Trotsky had been an ally of Lenin and shared Lenin's interpretation of Marxist ideas and opposed Stalin's leadership.

By 1928, Stalin became the supreme leader of the country. Stalin and his supporters arranged for Trotsky's removal from the Communist Party and for his exile and eventual assassination in Mexico.



What do you notice as the primary difference between the two images?



Yup, Trotsky! He was labelled an “enemy of the people” after he criticized Stalin’s style of leadership. Stalin had all images of and references to Trotsky removed from the Soviet archives, media, and educational materials.

What does this say about Stalin’s leadership and his beliefs and values?

In 1928 Stalin abandoned Lenin's quasi-capitalist **New Economic Policy** in favour of headlong state-organized industrialization under a succession of **Five-Year Plans**.

This was, in effect, a new Russian revolution more devastating in its effects than those of 1917. The dictator's blows fell most heavily on the peasantry, some 25 million rustic households being compelled to amalgamate in collective or state farms within a few years.

Uncooperative peasants, termed kulaks, were arrested in the masses and shot, exiled, or absorbed into the rapidly expanding network of Stalinist concentration camps and worked to death under atrocious conditions. Collectivization caused a great famine in Ukraine, and Stalin's policies, some of which targeted Ukraine specifically, compounded the death and misery

Although Stalin claimed to be a Marxist-Leninist, his own interpretation of communism was influenced by his desire to maintain **absolute power and control**. This desire for control caused many of his policies and the development of Soviet communism to be a means of oppression and fear rather than of revolution and freedom. Stalin also completely rejected almost all liberal values, believing that they could not help the USSR achieve its goals.

Stalin's Policies

Some examples of his policies include the following:

- the creation of the Gulag (prison camp) system to contain those who opposed his views
- the use of secret police (the NKVD) to control people through terror and force
- the purges of 1936 and 1939 during which he eliminated his opponents within the Communist Party and the Soviet armed forces
- the rewriting of history by altering the Soviet archives and prescribing a state view of the history of the country
- the rapid, forced industrialization of the country
- the collectivization of all farms, through which private farms were taken by force and used to create a collective farming system

Economic Planning

Stalin believed industrialization was vital to protect against capitalist invaders, in essence, the more industrially developed nations.

The Five Year Plans focused on heavy industrialization and were successful in industrializing nation rapidly, however consumer goods were largely ignored.

Altogether, GOSPLAN launched thirteen five-year plans:

- The initial five-year plans aimed to achieve rapid industrialization of the Soviet Union and thus placed a major focus on heavy industry.
- The first one, accepted in 1928 for the period from 1929 to 1933, finished one year early.
- The last five-year plan, for the period from 1991 to 1995, was not completed, since the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991.

5 Year Plans

Each five-year plan dealt with all aspects of development:

- ✓ capital goods (those used to produce other goods, like factories and machinery)
- ✓ consumer goods (e.g. chairs, carpets, and irons)
- ✓ agriculture
- ✓ transportation
- ✓ communications
- ✓ health
- ✓ education
- ✓ welfare

However, the emphasis varied from plan to plan, although generally the emphasis was on power (electricity), capital goods, and agriculture.

The plans assigned base target (minimum target) and optimum (ideal) targets.

Not all plans lasted 5 years - some were pronounced successfully completed earlier than expected, while others failed and were abandoned.

The “Five” Year Plans

- First Plan = 1928–1932
- Second Plan = 1933–1937
- Third plan = 1938–1941
- Fourth & Fifth Plans = 1945–1955
- Sixth Plan = 1956–1960
- Seventh Plan = 1959–1965
- Eighth Plan = 1966–1970
- Ninth Plan = 1971–1975
- Tenth Plan = 1976–1981
- Eleventh Plan = 1981–1985
- Twelfth Plan = 1986–1990
- Thirteenth Plan = 1991

Collective Farms: large scale farms where peasants could pool resources under state control to increase output. Yearly income was to be divided among the farmers who kept their own homes and animals



Human Cost of Industrialization

- X laborers overworked
- X peasants forced off the land
- X spies and threat of force used to encourage meeting quotas
- X millions killed or imprisoned



State Farms: tended to be larger than collective farms and were run like agricultural factories

Peasant Resistance = they did not support collectivization and the Kulaks often burned crops and killed livestock in protest. Stalin used force against this rebellion

Impacts of this...

- Industrial goods made at expense of consumer goods (less economic growth)
- Bureaucracy led to inefficiencies, shortages (Black market)
- State farms often less productive; Kulak rebellions, Ukrainian famine.



Through these measures, Stalin transformed the Soviet Union into a dictatorship and, at the same time, into one of the most industrialized and powerful forces in the world.

In implementing his vision of communism for the Soviet Union, Stalin clearly rejected liberal values and the practices of capitalism, individual freedoms, and multi-party democracy.

Soviet citizens paid a tremendous price for this transformation, and Stalin would become known as one of the most ruthless leaders of the 20th century.



Use this website to explore propaganda related to Stalin's Cult of Personality

<https://stalinandpropaganda.weebly.com/stalins-cult-of-personality.html>



Industrialization in Defence

Stalin had become a ruler of a country that was considered by many to be one of the least industrialized countries in Europe. In a 1931 speech to industrial managers, Stalin said,

“(We) must put an end to its backwardness in the shortest possible time... There is no other way. That is why Lenin said on the eve of the October Revolution: ‘Either perish, or overtake and outstrip the advanced capitalist countries.’

We are fifty or a hundred years behind the advanced countries. We must make good this distance in ten years. Either we do it, or we shall be crushed.”

—**Joseph Stalin, speech to industrial managers, February, 1931.**
Documents in Russian History, Seton Hall University,
<http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/Stalin--industrialization.htm>.

- 1 What reasons does Stalin give for the necessity of the rapid industrialization of the Soviet Union?
- 2 Thinking back to the Russian Civil War, why might Stalin have feared capitalist countries?

After Stalin's rule came to an end in 1953, he was succeeded by various communist party leaders. Over the next 30 years, most of the world was split in two: those countries allied with the Soviets and those allied with the Americans.

The political, economic, and military tensions between the two powerful countries were referred to as the Cold War, which we will examine later on.

Disadvantages of Communism

- X bureaucratic and inflexible
- X little incentive for efficient management
- X stifles individual effort
- X freedom of choice is restricted
- X quality, quantity, and variety of goods are limited

Other Examples

- China: Great Leap Forward (Cultural Revolution)
- North Korea: massive famine while building up military complex
- Cuba: dependence on other Communist nations – led to serious decline after end of Cold War, lack of human rights
- Venezuela: use of the economy to gain political support