

Stalinism

Stalin's Coming to Power



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- **Joseph Djougachvili** → **Stalin** (man of steel)
- Rise to power started after The Russian Revolution of 1917
- Bolsheviks created a communist state.
- **Lenin** is the Bolshevik leader and upon whom Stalin can build his career.
- 1922 (until 1953) Stalin is made Communist Party Secretary
- Lenin dies in 1924, **Trotsky** was the most obvious successor. However:
- Trotsky's brilliance worked against him:
 - ✓ condescending to the other Politburo members.
 - ✓ other Politburo members underestimated Stalin; saw him as no more than a competent administrator.
 - ✓ Stalin used his position effectively to shape the party leadership & supporters:
He had full powers of appointment and promotion to important jobs such as secretaries of local Communist Party organizations → He filled these positions with his own supporters.



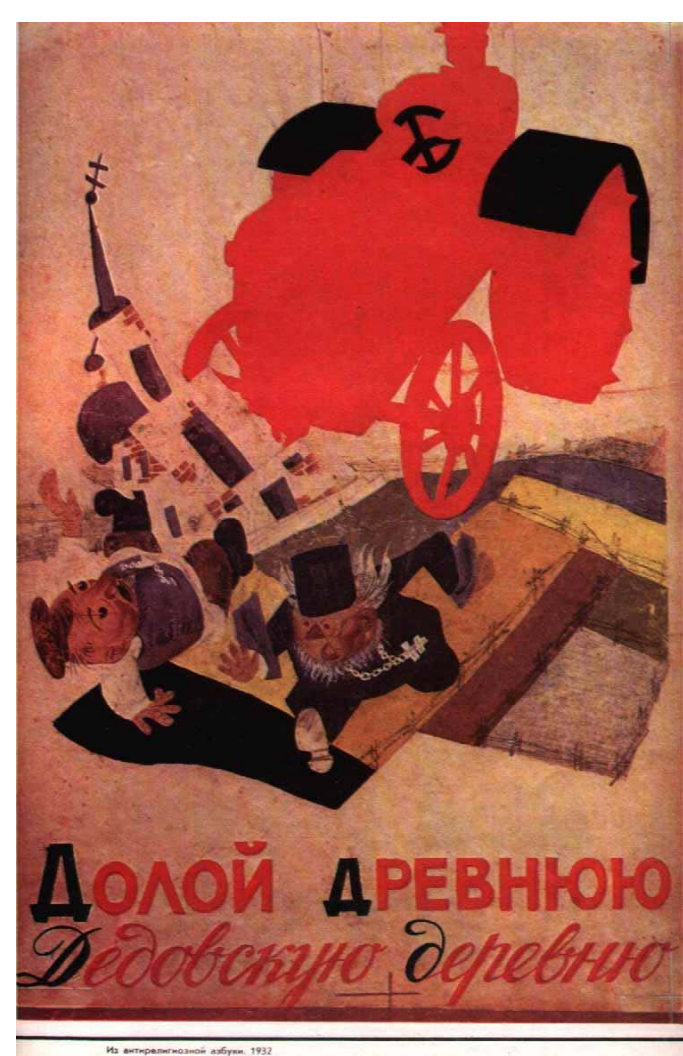
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- Stalin uses ideological disagreement and debate over the concept of **permanent revolution** to shape the political landscape to his advantage.
- Right Wing= Bukharin: Wanted to consolidate Soviet power in Russia: **socialism in one country**.
<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/industrialization-debate/industrialization-debate-texts/socialism-in-one-country-versus-permanent-revolution/>
- Left Wing = Trotsky : Wanted permanent revolution
- Kamenev and Zinoviev support Bukharin, as it was a good pretext for attacking Trotsky.
- Stalin supported Bukharin so that Trotsky was completely isolated.
- Bukharin wanted to continue the NEP even if it was causing an increase in **Kulaks**: Zinoviev and Kamenev opposed this as they wanted to focus on rapid industrialisation at the expense of peasants.

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- When the split occurred between Bukharin and Zinoviev+Kamenev, Stalin supported Bukharin.
- Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev were voted off the Politburo. Replaced by Stalin's own supporters.
- Trotsky was exiled from the USSR
- Stalin and Bukharin were now joint leaders → Stalin suddenly opposed the NEP: Kulaks were holding up agricultural progress
- Bukharin protested → He was voted off the Politburo → Stalin left supreme.

Economic Policies



NEP: New Economic Policy (1922-1928)

- Proposed by Lenin in **1922**.
- Progression towards a 'capitalist state' within communist USSR.
- **Market oriented** policy to **boost dying economy** after civil war.
- **Mixed economy system** → state controlled banks, foreign trade + large industries BUT private individuals could own little enterprises.
- Led to abolition of *prodrazvyorstka* and installment of *prodnalog*.
- Change Soviet currency because of **hyperinflation** → New Chervonets (backed by gold standards).
- **Abolished by Stalin in 1928**.

Five Year Plans (1928-1932)

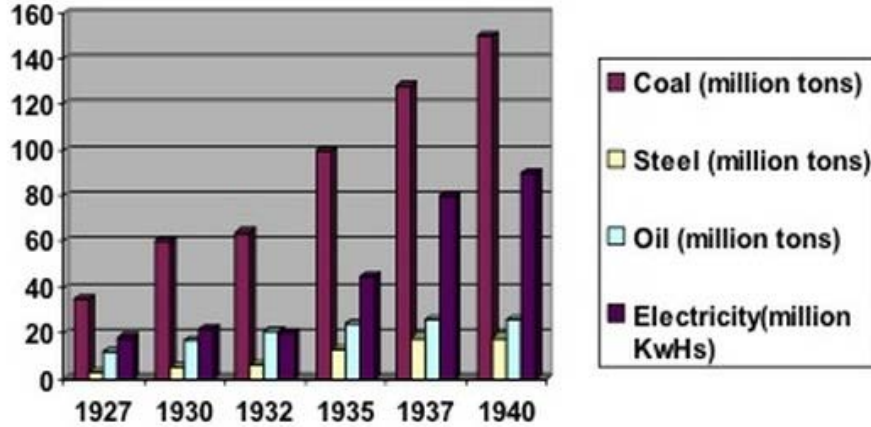
- List of **economic goals** set by Stalin (Gosplan)
- Based on “**Socialism in one country**”.

‘building up the industrial base and military might of the Soviet Union before exporting revolution abroad. To this end, Stalin rescinded the NEP, began the **collectivization** of Soviet agriculture, and embarked on a national program of rapid, forced **large-scale industrialization**, particularly in heavy industry



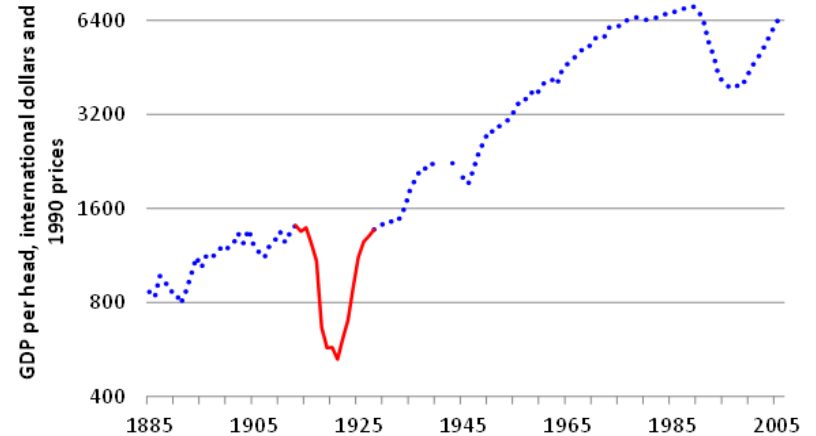
Note: Five year plans developed *all* industries, including the military) → contributes to rise of tensions before WW2.

Soviet Economy Under Stalin



Evolution of industries in the Soviet Union from 1927 to 1940

Russian GDP per capita from 1885 to 2005



Social and Political Consequences of Stalin's Policies

- Countryside in chaos - agricultural land organized fully into collectives by 1941
- Those who objected were sent to forced labour camps (gulags)
- Kulaks killed their livestock and burned their fields – no Kulaks left by 1934
- Education for the peasants was encouraged on the Kolkhoz by the government
- People left countryside to go work in cities
- Food production fell causing famine in 1932-33 – approximately 7 million deaths in Kazakhstan and Ukraine Ukrainian Famine, "Memorandum on the Grain Problem," 6 Dec. 1932, [U.S. Library of Congress](#).
- (Russia's richest agricultural region)

FOCUS OF RESEARCH AND COMPARISON WITH NAZI GERMANY

- ideology and its role
- methods of coercion/enforcement versus degree of popular support,
- use of violence
- cult of the personality
- state control of individuals and society
- use of modern technology (mass communication, propaganda),.

KEY TERMS

- Propaganda & Censorship
- Police State
- Single-Party State
- Communist Youth
- Collectivization
- Five-Year Plans
- Great Purge
- Kulak
- Cult of Personality
- Reign of Terror