

# Chapter 14-2 part b



Totalitarianism  
Stalinist Russia



# Agricultural Revolution

Stalin's agricultural revolution was also successful - & far more brutal- than his industrial revolution.

In 1928, the government began to seize over 25 million privately owned farms in the USSR. It combined them into large, government-owned farms called *Collective Farms*. Hundreds of families worked on these farms, producing food for the state.

Peasants resisted fiercely. Many killed livestock & destroyed crops in protest. Stalin used terror & violence to force peasants to work on collective farms. Soviet secret police herded them onto collective farms at the point of bayonet.

Between 5 million & 10 million died as a result of Stalin's agricultural revolution. Millions more were shipped to Siberia.

Resistance was especially strong among kulaks, a class of wealthy peasants. The Soviet government decided to eliminate them. Thousands were executed or sent to work camps.



The slogan reads: "We kolkhoz farmers are liquidating the kulaks as a class, on the basis of complete collectivisation."

By 1938, more than 90% of all peasants lived on collective farms. Agricultural production was on the upswing. That year the country produced almost twice the wheat than it had in 1928, before collective farming.

To dominate an entire nation, Stalin, like other totalitarian leaders, devised methods of control & persuasion.

- Stalin's secret police used tanks & armored cars to stop riots
- They monitored telephone lines, read mail, & planted informers everywhere
- Children told authorities about disloyal remarks they heard at home.
- The secret police arrested & executed millions of so-called traitors.

In 1934, Stalin turned against members of the Communist Party. He launched *The Great Purge* – a campaign of terror that was directed at eliminating anyone who threatened his power.



1000's of old Bolsheviks who helped stage the revolution in 1917 stood trial. They were executed for “crimes against the Soviet state.”

The state had the authority to punish even the most minor acts. The police arrested the director of the Moscow Zoo because his monkeys got tuberculosis



The police themselves were not above suspicion, especially if they did not meet their quotas of “criminals” arrested.

Every family came to fear the knock on the door in the early hours of the morning. Such a surprise visit from the secret police usually meant the arrest of a family member.

When the great purge ended in 1939, Stalin had gained total control of both the Soviet government & the Communist Party.

Historians estimate that Stalin was responsible for the deaths of 8 million to 13 million people.







**ВПЕРЕД, ЗА РАЗГРОМ НЕМЕЦКИХ  
ЗАХВАТЧИКОВ И ИЗГНАНИЕ ИХ ИЗ  
ПРЕДЕЛОВ НАШЕЙ РОДИНЫ!**

Totalitarian states rely on indoctrination & propaganda to mold people's minds.

Indoctrination is instruction in the governments set of beliefs. Party leaders lectured workers & peasants on the ideals of communism. State-supported youth groups served as training grounds for future party members.

Propaganda is biased or incomplete information used to sway people to accept certain beliefs or actions. Soviet newspapers & radio broadcasts glorified the achievements of communism, of Stalin & of Stalin's economic programs.

*Translation:*

*Forwards, let's crushingly defeat the German aggressors and expel them from the borders of our Motherland!*



Censorship: Many Soviet writers, composers & other artists also fell victim to official censorship. Stalin would not tolerate individual creativity that threatened the conformity & obedience required of citizens in a totalitarian state.

The government also controlled all newspapers, motion pictures, radio & other sources of information.

Religious Persecution: Communists aimed to replace religious teachings with the ideals of communism. Under Stalin, the government & the League of the Militant Godless, an officially sponsored group of atheists, spread propaganda attacking religion.

“Museums of atheism” displayed exhibits to show that religious beliefs were mere superstitions. Yet many people in the Soviet Union still clung to their beliefs.

The Russian Orthodox Church was the main target of persecution. The police destroyed churches & synagogues & many religious leader of all faiths were killed or sent to labor camps.

# Daily Life

## Positives:

Under Stalin's rule, women's roles greatly expanded, people became better educated & mastered new technical skills.

~~Negatives: All freedom of choice is sacrificed.~~

## Soviet Women

After Stalin became dictator, women helped the state-controlled economy prosper. Under his 5-year plans, they had no choice but to join the labor force. They performed the same jobs as men, such as building dams & roads & working in factories.

Women also prepared for careers in engineering & science. Medicine in particular, attracted many women. By 1950, they made up 75% of Soviet doctors.

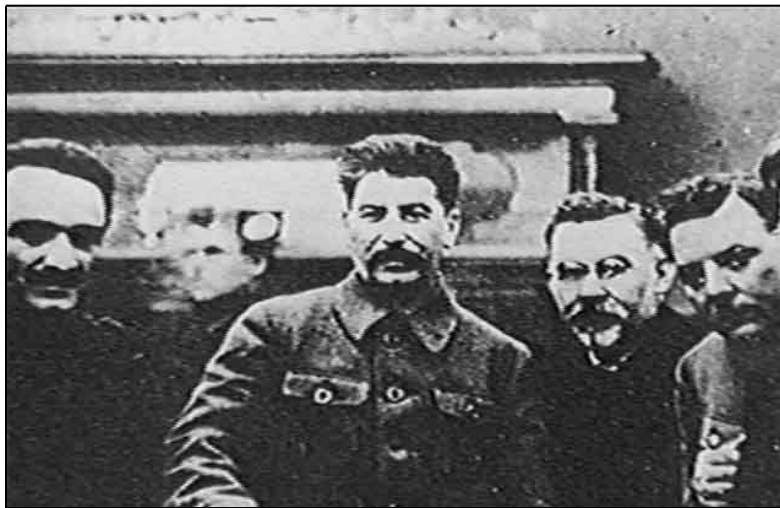
But besides their full-time jobs, they were responsible for housework & child care. Motherhood was also considered a patriotic duty. They were expected to provide the state with future generation of loyal, obedient citizens.

## Education

Under Stalin, the government controlled all education – from nursery schools through the universities. School children learned the virtues of the Communist Party. College professors & students who questioned the Communist Party's interpretations of history or science risked losing their jobs or faced imprisonment.

Stalin had forcibly transformed the Soviet Union into a totalitarian regime, as well as an industrial & political power. He stood unopposed as dictator & maintained his authority over the Communist Party.

Stalin also ushered in a period of total social control and rule by terror. His network of laws & regulations guided every aspect of individual behavior.



Stalin's economic plans created a high demand for many skilled workers. Universities & technical training became the key to a better life.