

 #19 Analyze the ways in which the policies of Joseph Stalin transformed the policies of Vladimir Lenin

Background

Vladimir Lenin

- He was a Russian Marxist Revolutionary and a communist politician
- Lenin was an early enemy of imperial Russia when his brother was killed for conspiracy of killing the tsar
- He was a prominent figure in the Russian revolution
- Became the leader of the 'Bolshevik' section of the Russian Social Democratic Worker's Party
- Fought against the provisional government and the Whites

Joseph Stalin

- He was born into a peasant lifestyle, his father being a shoemaker
- He followed the same ideas as Lenin, Marxian Socialism beliefs
- Became the successor of Lenin against Trotsky after becoming associated with the Bolsheviks
- Drastically changed and implemented new ideas into Russia during his power: economic, social, and political
- Led Russia through World War 2



Policies of Lenin

- War Communism- the usage of a planned economy such as seizing grain from the peasants or dictating how and where people would work
- The Cheka- a re-established secret police for the Bolsheviks
- The Bolsheviks ruled Russia with the authority of a one-party government and dictatorial leader- Lenin
- NEP (New Economic Policy) The Bolsheviks victory left themselves with a devastation of a country. Lenin's economic plan was the NEP which reestablished some economic freedom
- Peasant producers were to sell their surpluses and the ability for private traders and handicraft workers to reappear were efforts put forth by Lenin
- Used the NEP as a deal with the peasants

Rise to Power

- Joseph Stalin was intrigued with the Bolsheviks and joined in 1903
- He played a role in many activities which caught the eye of Lenin
- He was a good organizer and supporter of the party
- He went against Trotsky to become Lenin's successor after he died
- Stalin was able to get majority of the support from the Bolsheviks over Trotsky which was most important
- Became secretary of committee
- Stalin was able to relate Marxian ideas to the people better

- "socialism in one country" vs. "permanent revolution"
- Trotsky's views were risky in bringing revolution and conflict with and capitalist countries
- Stalin believed the country could grow socialism on its own
- Stalin wanted to break the NEP and build socialism
- Stalin achieved supreme power through 3 final triumphs:
 - Crushed Trotsky
 - Defeated radicals with moderates help
 - Turned and defeated moderates

The Five-Years Plans

- In 1926, Stalin outlined the first of several Five-Year Plans for the development of the Soviet economy
- He wanted to improve industrial output, rapidly grow the heavy industry, and boost the agricultural production, all by a great percentage
- In the 1920's, his government seized over 1/5 of all peasant land and transformed it into socialist collective farms
- Stalin used terror and violence to convince the peasants to give up the land because the government feared if they were owning land, they'd soon want capitalism and its entitlements
- They started the war of collectivization against the peasants
- **Kulaks,** peasants in opposition, were even more feared and separated from their land, not allowed to join collective farms, and either deported or starved
- Stalin's policies were ineffective and possibly detrimental, causing rebellion and small production increase; over 10 million people died in his collectivization plan

The Five-Years Plan (cont.)

- The industrial side of the Five-Years Plan was more effective; Russia produced 4 times what it used to 10 years prior
- Over 25 million people moved to the cities due the most successful industrial revolution in history
- Due to so much industry so fast, they had to make larger investments than other countries would: 1/3 compared to the usual 1/6
- Firm labor discipline and foreign engineers contributed to the industrial success
- The foreign engineers were used to create the new factories and firm labor discipline was the government's control over the workers and how production and workers' lives would be run
- The aim of his entire plan was to create a new socialist society and economy



Soviet Society

- The masses of people in Stalin's society were barely surviving off black bread, and in stores, supplies were limited (except vodka which was always available)
- Housing became an issue as well because everyone moved to the city, 4 people to a room, or the even less fortunate built shacks
- On the positive side, workers did receive benefits and unemployment was rare
- The key to success was becoming specially trained because with industrialization booming, there was a high incentive for special workers
- A new upper class was forming of the rich who had the special talents, pushing everyone towards an education because that was there only way for success



The New Life of Soviets

- Once Stalin came to power, The lives of women were played down to work and education
- Women were to be treated as equals and in doing so, became workers of Stalin's plans in the factories and other manual labor
- They were also given the education males did, rising in society and ranking
- Many women became doctors, and by 1950, women made up 75% of all Soviet Union doctors
- Women were actually forced to be a part of the work force because economy was too bad not to work
- Life became fully publicized through propaganda which glorified Stalin as the greatest Russian leader of all time



Stalin's Reign of Terror

- In hopes to build his form of socialism,
 Stalin used his police for terror and
 massive purging of the Communist party
- Terror was being revived as a state policy to keep control
- Although these initiatives of Stalin were supported, there were thoughts against Stalin's motives
- Stalin's own wife complained to him about his cruelty to the people, and that night she died
- Shortly after, in an unknown murder,
 Sergei Kirov, Stalin's #2 man, was killed

- After confessions of plotting against Stalin, masses were arrested and tortured to uncover more confessions
- Stalin made actions against these citizens and over 8 million people were arrested, and a great portion of those were killed
- More Communists on Stalin's side were recruited after the Great Purge
- The new Stalin formed communist leadership would remain in control with Stalin until his death in 1953, ruling up until the early 1980's
- Stalin had officially rearranged Russia's policies since Lenin's rule due to Stalin's leadership

