


THE ALLEGORY OF *ANIMAL FARM*





Allegory

- Characters, setting, and events make sense on the literal level, but are designed to represent OTHER characters, setting, and events.
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Utopia

- The perfect place





Russian Society

- At the beginning of the 20th century, Europe and America were evolving into capitalistic, industrial states; Russia remained “backward” in an agrarian economy under the absolute authority of the Czar.
 - Russia was in an appalling state of poverty while the Czar lived in luxury. There was tremendous dissatisfaction.
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Communism

- The nation's workers and peasants rebelled against the wealthy and powerful capitalists and aristocrats
- Hoped to establish a socialist utopia based on the principles of political philosopher Karl Marx

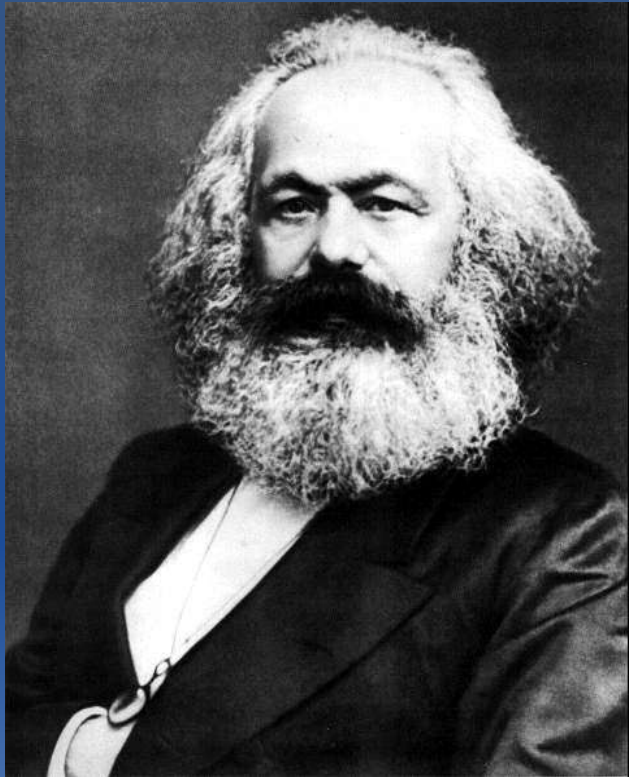


Communism

- All people are equal
- Government owns everything; people own government



Karl Marx: Father of Communism



- Marx believed that the private ownership of land must be abolished; opposed to capitalism
- Invented Communism
- *Communist Manifesto*
- Died before the Russian Revolution

Czar Nicholas II



- Monarch of Russia, a poor leader at best
- Believed he was the unquestionable leader of Russia appointed by God


The Revolution of 1917

- Revolutionaries overthrew the Czar
- “Bolsheviks” took control of the Russian government
- Nicholas II forced to abdicate the throne that his family had held for three centuries

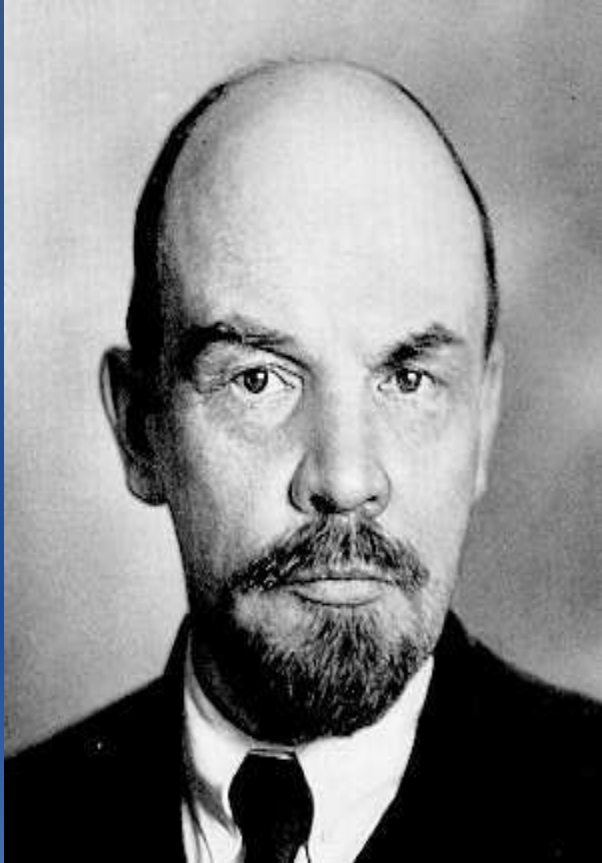




Vladimir Lenin

- Immediately seized power in the name of the Communist Party (1917)
 - Lenin adopted Marx's ideas; took land and industry from private control and put them under government supervision.
 - Understood the emotional impact of simple, powerful slogans like "Workers of the world unite."
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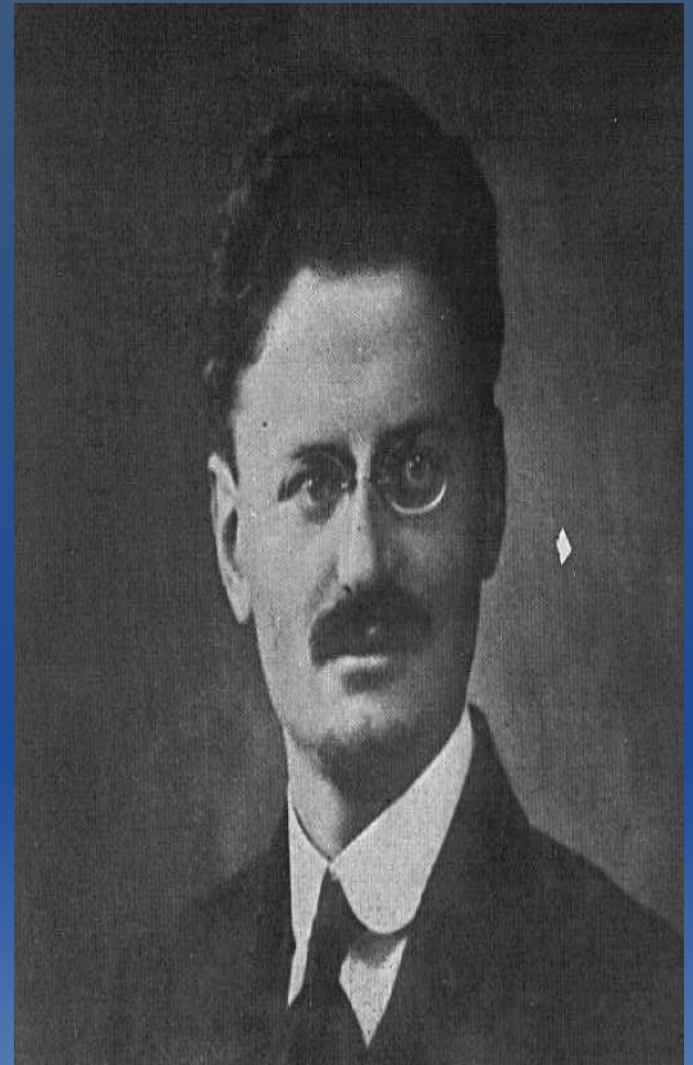
Lenin



- Changed Russia's name to the USSR
- Lenin was the leader and Trotsky was his top military man

Leon Trotsky

- One of the leaders of the revolution along with Lenin and Stalin
- Believed in “pure” communism; followed the philosophy of Marx
- Brilliant speaker, popular, charismatic leader; famous for impassioned speeches



Joseph Stalin



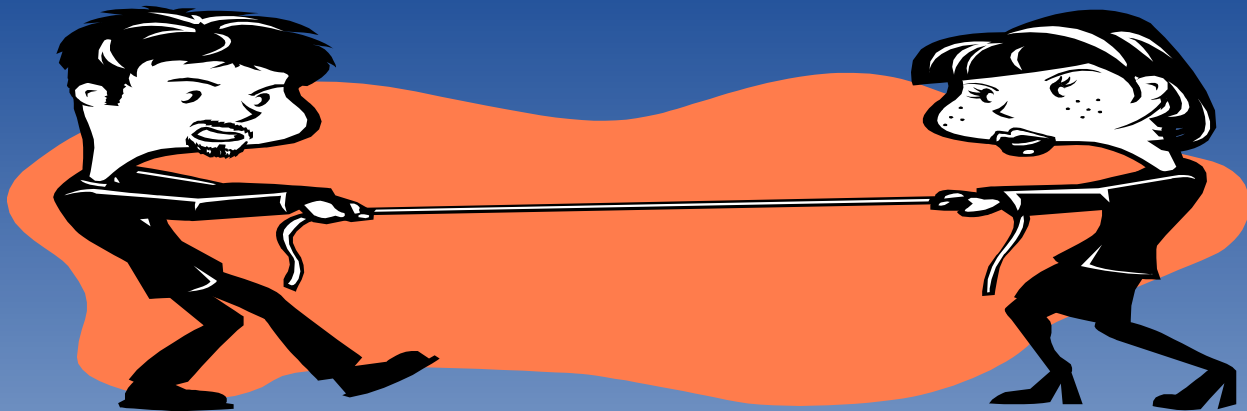
- Average speaker, not educated like Trotsky
- Gruff, lower-class
- Preferred to consolidate power behind the scenes
- Excellent at organization
- Didn't exactly follow Marx's ideas
- Craved power, willing to kill for it

Civil War

- From 1918-1921, there was Civil War
 - Reds (Communists) vs. Whites (foreign countries sympathetic to the Czar, tried to expel the Reds)
 - Foreign countries (Britain, France, Poland, and USA) were alarmed at the spread of communism but the Red Army led by Trotsky proved successful.
 - Reds won.


Power Struggle

- While Lenin and Trotsky concentrated on the War, Stalin began to take over the machinery of the Communist Party.
- Stalin used Trotsky's enemies to form alliance that would serve him in the future
- Lenin became fatally ill and died





Stalin

- Took power when Lenin died in 1924
 - Ridiculed Trotsky's ideas
 - Secured his power base and engineered the permanent exile of Trotsky in 1929
 - The exiled Trotsky was still very useful to Stalin as he now had Trotsky to blame for all the problems and difficulties that Russia suffered
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Scapegoat

- Trotsky became a national enemy
- Used to conjure horrifying images
- Current misery was not bad in comparison to “life with Trotsky”





Stalin

- After exiling Trotsky, Stalin began to consolidate his power with intensity
 - Assumed a complete, totalitarian control
 - Killed or imprisoned perceived political enemies
 - Oversaw the purge of approximately 20 million Soviet Citizens (Stalin's Purge)
 - Held "show trials"; outcomes had already been decided
 - Had his opponents denounced as Trotskyists or anti-Stalinist; immediately executed
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Propaganda Department of Stalin's Government



- *Pravda*—Soviet propaganda newspaper
- Worked for Stalin to support his image
- Lied to convince the people to follow Stalin
 - Began to voice economic ideas similar to those of Trotsky, but no one had the courage to say so


KGB

- Secret police during Stalin's dictatorship
- Not really police, but forced all to support Stalin
- Often killed entire families for disobedience
- Totally loyal, part of Stalin's power





Politburo

- Policy-making body of the Communist party's Central Committee
 - In reality it was merely a force to carry out Stalin's orders and secure his positions as dictator
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Religion



- Marx said religion was the “opiate of the people” and a lie
- Used to make people not complain and do their work
- Stalin knew religion would stop violent revolutions




Supporters

- People believed Stalin because he was “Communist”
 - Many stayed loyal after it was obvious Stalin was a tyrant
 - Many of these people were betrayed by Stalin who ignored and killed them
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5 Year Plans

- From 1927-1932, new economic plans, called the five year plans, were introduced.
 - The purpose was to improve industry.
 - Soviet farmers were to join “collective” farms
 - Much of the food had to be sent to the government
 - Any who opposed to his plan were executed
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Germany and Great Britain

- Stalin negotiated with both Germany and Great Britain
- The Russo-German pact of August 1939 allowed Russia to occupy eastern Poland while Germany occupied the rest.





Germany and Great Britain

- On June 22, 1941, Germany (Hitler) attacked her ally Russia without warning.
 - The alliance between Nazism and Communism fell apart and Russia formed an alliance with Britain and the USA.
 - Because of all the purges order by Stalin, the Nazis almost conquered the USSR.
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Cold War



- Tehran Conference in 1943 presented the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and America as allies.
- By the end of WWII, the Soviet Union became an enemy of its allies as the Cold War intensified.