

Document 1**Source: Stalin in a speech, 1928**

To slow down would mean falling behind. And those who fall behind are beaten. But we do not want to be beaten! One feature of the old Russia was the continual beatings she suffered for falling behind, for her backwardness. . . . So you want our Socialist fatherland to be beaten? . . . If you don't want this, you must end our backwardness. You must develop a real Bolshevik tempo [speed] in building our Socialist economy. There is no other road. We lag behind the advanced countries by fifty to a hundred years. We must make good this distance in ten years. Either we do it, or we shall be crushed.

Source: Stalin in a speech, November 3, 1929

We are advancing full steam ahead along the path of industrialization -- to socialism, leaving behind the age-old "Russian" backwardness. We are becoming a country of metal, a country of automobiles, a country of tractors. And when we have put the U.S.S. R. on an automobile, and the muzhik (Russian peasant) on a tractor, let the worthy capitalists, who boast so much of their "civilization," try to overtake us! We shall yet see which countries may then be "classified" as backward and which as advanced.

What is the purpose of the two speeches given by Stalin's? Describe his overall goal for the Soviet Union?

Document 2

**Production Levels in the Soviet Union
(1932–1937)**

Industry	1932	1937
Electricity (billion kw)	13.5	36.2
Coal (million tons)	64.4	128.0
Crude Oil (million tons)	21.4	28.5
Rolled Steel (million tons)	4.4	13.0

Source: R.W. Davies, ed., et al., *The Economic Transformation of the Soviet Union, 1913–1945*, Cambridge University Press, 1994 (adapted)

What is an alternative title to this chart?

Did Stalin attain his goal for the Soviet Union? How do you know?

Document 3

In this excerpt from a 1929 speech delivered by Stalin, he explains the collectivization policy and the need to eliminate the kulaks (wealthy farmers).

The solution lies in enlarging the agricultural units . . . and in changing the agricultural base of our national economy. . . the Socialist way, which is to set up collective farms and state farms which leads to the joining together of the small peasant farms into large collective farms, technically and scientifically equipped, and to the squeezing out of the capitalist elements from agriculture. . . . Now we are able to carry on a determined offensive against the kulaks, to break their resistance, to eliminate them as a class and substitute for their output the output of the collective farms and state farms.

According to Stalin, why and how must agricultural production be increased? _____

Document 4A

Collective Farms of the
USSR (Soviet Union)
1929-1940

Year	No. of collective farms in 1,000s
1929	57.0
1930	85.9
1931	211.1
1932	211.1
1933	224.6
1934	233.3
1935	245.4
1936	242.2
1937	243.7
1938	242.4
1939	241.1
1940	236.3

— Paul Halsall, *Internet Modern History Sourcebook*,
(adapted)

Document 4B

Source: A letter to Sergo, a close and longtime friend of Stalin, who was latter thought to have been planning to denounce him and was found dead in 1937

I'm writing you from Novosibirsk. I have driven around several collective farms [kolkhozes] and consider it necessary to inform you about a few items. I was in various kolkhozes--not productive and relatively unproductive ones, but everywhere there was only one sight--that of a huge shortage of seed, famine, and extreme emaciation of livestock.

In the kolkhozes which I observed I attempted to learn how much the livestock had diminished in comparison with the years 1927-28. It turns out that kolkhoz Ziuzia has 507 milch cows at present while there were 2000 in '28; kolkhoz Ust'-Tandovskii collectively and individually has 203 head, earlier they had more than 600; kolkhoz Kruglo-Ozernyi at present has 418 head of beef cattle and 50 held by kolkhozniks, in 1928 there were 1800 head; kolkhoz Goldoba collectively and individually has 275 head, in 1929 there were 1000 plus head, this kolkhoz now has 350 sheep, in 1929 there were 1500. Approximately the same correlations were found also in the kolkhozes Ol'gino and Novo-Spasski.

According to documents 4A and 4B evaluate the effectiveness of Stalin's agricultural policy. _____

Document 5

This excerpt, from “Forced Famine in the Ukraine: A Holocaust the West Forgot” by Adrian Karatnycky, was printed in The Wall Street Journal, on July 7, 1983.

Today, reliable academic estimates place the number of Ukrainian victims of starvation at 4.5 million to 7 million. . . . The famine was in part the by-product of Stalin’s relentless drive to collectivize Soviet agriculture. The famine was a clear result of the fact that between 1931 and 1933, while harvests were precipitously declining, Stalin’s commissars continued to . . . confiscate grain. Peasants were shot and deported as rich, landowning “kulaks”. . . . While the drive to collectivize agriculture was a wide-ranging phenomenon common to the entire U.S.S.R., only in the Ukraine did it assume a genocidal character. Indeed there can be no question that Stalin used the forced famine as part of a political strategy whose aim was to crush all vestiges of Ukrainian national sentiments.

According to this author, what were two explanations for the elimination of between 4.5 and 7 million Ukrainians between 1932 and 1933?

Task: As a group, determine if Stalin was a hero or villain of the Soviet Union. Complete the T-chart below using the information provided in the documents above and your homework.

Stalin- Hero of the Soviet Union	Stalin-Villain of the Soviet Union

