

Political Systems Thematic Essay

Task: Choose **two** different political systems and for **each**

- Describe the characteristics of the political system
- Discuss how the political system has affected the history **or** culture of a specific nation or society

Totalitarian Government

Characteristics of the System:

- Dynamic Leader
 - Militarism
 - Elimination of all DISSIDENTS
 - Police Terror
 - Indoctrination (Education) of the Youth
 - Propaganda/Censorship
 - Religious/Ethnic Persecution
 - No Personal Freedom
- **Glorifies the STATE over the individual**

Totalitarian Government

Impact of the Political System on SOVIET UNION:

- Stalin becomes leader of Communist Party and Soviet Union
- 5 Year Plans: Improve Heavy Industry, Collectivize Agriculture, Improve Transportation
 - Increases industrial production
- Great Forced Famine (Ukraine) – Eliminate Kulaks
- Gov't Control of Economy (Command) – Shortages and Surpluses
- Churches/Syngogues destroyed by police, clergy killed
- SOVIET UNION BECOMES A SUPER POWER (Cold War)
- Government controls all media outlets (Radio, TV, etc)
- POLICE STATE
 - The Great Purge – Violent elimination of all political opponents.
 - Pogroms: Waves of violence against the Jews