

**SECTION 1**

# LIFE IN A TOTALITARIAN STATE

2 sides

**TEXT SUMMARY**

Joseph Stalin turned the Soviet Union into a **totalitarian state**. In this form of government, a one-party dictatorship attempts to regulate every aspect of the lives of its citizens.

Stalin used propaganda to make himself a hero. His pictures appeared everywhere. Stalin **censored**, or withheld, news from inside and outside the USSR. The news said only what he wanted people to know. It spoke of the evils of capitalism, never of problems at home. He controlled all art so it showed only the good side of communism.

Fear taught Russians to be obedient and loyal. The Communists used secret police to silence all critics. They closed churches and synagogues and tried to

replace religion with communism.

The totalitarian state changed soviet life. (See diagram below.) The classless society did not happen. Members of the Communist party made up a new upper class. The Communists offered free schooling and health care. New laws gave women training and jobs. Still, the standard of living stayed low for most people. Housing, meat, fresh foods, and clothes were scarce.

When Stalin died in 1953, the Soviet Union had become a modern military and industrial power. However, it had gained that power through a strict program of censorship, propaganda, and fear.

**THE BIG IDEA**  
Under Stalin, the Soviet government used propaganda, censorship, and terror to establish a totalitarian state.

**GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Life in a Totalitarian State**

Economics	Politics	Arts	Religion	Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth of industry</li> <li>• Growth of military</li> <li>• Low standard of living</li> <li>• Shortage of foods and consumer goods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-party dictatorship</li> <li>• Total government control of citizens</li> <li>• Total government control of industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Use of propaganda to win government support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Censorship of books, music, art</li> <li>• Purpose of all art to praise communism</li> <li>• Observation of artists, writers, and musicians by secret police</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government war on religion</li> <li>• Takeover of houses of worship</li> <li>• Secret police control religious worship</li> <li>• Communist ideals replace religious ideals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear of secret police</li> <li>• An upper class of Communist Party members</li> <li>• Free education and health care</li> <li>• Public transportation and recreation</li> <li>• Jobs for women</li> </ul>

From 1924 until 1953, Stalin controlled life in the Soviet Union.

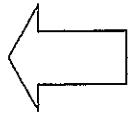
**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. What was one way Stalin made sure his people were loyal?
2. Chart Skills Describe one of the bad sides of life under Stalin. Describe one of the good sides.

Aim: What was life like in the Soviet Union under the rule of Joseph Stalin?

**Industrialization / Modernization**

1. Explain the role women played within Stalin's Five Year Plans.
2. What was the goal for Stalin's Five Year Plans?
3. What was the overall effect of Stalin's Five Year Plans on the USSR?



**Stalin's Purges**

1. Explain the goal of Stalin's purges?
2. Describe the lifestyle of a Gulag prisoner.
3. What happened to former Lenin and Trotsky supporters?



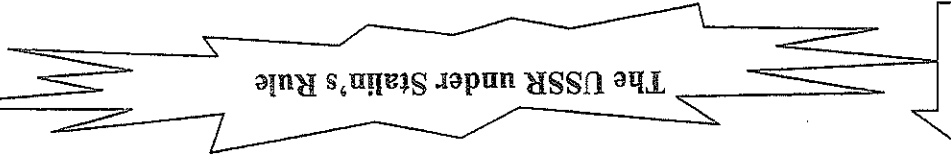
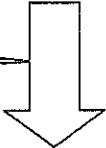
**Propaganda**

1. What does the Soviet newspaper Pravda feature?
2. Explain the effects of propaganda on the religious practice in the Soviet Union.
3. How does Stalin's propaganda focuses change during the 1930's?



**Collectivization / Forced Famine**

1. What was Stalin's goal for his collectivization policy?
2. Describe how the Ukrainian peasants were forced to survive.
3. What was the effect of the collectivization policy on the Ukraine?



The USSR under Stalin's Rule