Joseph Stalin: Early life

- Born Joseph Djugashvili in Georgia
- Family were freed serfs
- Went to a seminary to train to be a priest 1894, later expelled

STALIN link to wikipedia page
Involvement with revolutionary groups

- After leaving seminary he became involved in marxist revolutionary groups
- Imprisoned by authorities and exiled to Siberia
- Escaped and returned to Georgia to organise Bolshevik group
- Met Lenin in Finland 1905
- Appointed to Bolshevik Central Committee in 1912
- Changed name to Stalin (Man of Steel)
Регистрационная карточка петербургского охранного отделения с фотографическим снимком И. В. Сталина. (Фото)
Stalin ran Bolshevik newspaper 'Pravda'
Exiled to Siberia in 1914
Returned to St. Petersburg (Petrograd) after February Revolution 1917
Involved in Bolshevik October Revolution 1917
After Bolsheviks seize power in 1917 Stalin was made Commissar for Nationalities
Later became Commissar of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspectorate
Became General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1922
• Lenin made his concerns about Stalin clear in his 'Political Will'
• Stalin sided with Zinoviev and Kamenev against Trotsky
• Trotsky advocated 'permanent revolution' to spread communism around the world
• Stalin proposed 'Socialism in One Country' to secure revolution in Russia
• Trotsky gradually isolated and marginalised
• Expelled from Politburo ['26], Communist Party ['27], Russia ['29]
• Trotsky assassinated in Mexico 1940
• After Stalin won out against Zinoviev in conflict about economic policy (Stalin wanted more focus on industry than agriculture)

• Won conflict with Kamenev on leadership (Stalin favoured 1 strong leader rather than group)
ПОЛИТБЮРО ЦК ВКП(б)
Economic Policy: 5 Year Plans and Industrialisation

- Stalin felt Russia needed to industrialise to catch up with other world powers.
- First 5 Year Plan (1928) set targets for increased agricultural and industrial production.
• Workers who helped achieve targets were rewarded with bonuses, holidays, etc...

• Workers who failed to reach targets punished
Stakhanov: 'Hero of Socialist Labour'

- On 31 August 1935, it was reported that he had mined a record 102 tonnes of coal in 5 hours and 45 minutes (14 times his quota).
- On 19 September, Stakhanov was reported to have set a new record by mining 227 tonnes of coal in a single shift.
- His example was held up in newspapers and posters as a model for others to follow, and he even appeared on the cover of Time Magazine.
ИЗ ИЗВЕСТИЙ ЦК ВКП(б) 1930 г. №11 (53), с. 3.

Таблица

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<tr>
<th>Основные мероприятия плана</th>
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Но избранный.XVI съезд CP вел дальше борьбу против вредных элементов в отношении советской власти.

Развитие местной государственной и кооперативной промышленности.

График развития промышленности.
• Forced Labour sometimes used (e.g. To build Moscow Underground and the White Sea Canal)

• Working conditions sometimes harsh and dangerous

• But government provided education, housing, employment, healthcare
• Five Year Plans successful in that they led to big increases in factories, coal, oil and steel production

• Lots of infrastructure also built under the plans (roads, railways, canals)
Agriculture in Communist Russia

• After 1917 Revolution the Bolsheviks had introduced collective farms (Kolkhoz)
• Peasants had small plot and some livestock but most land held and farmed communally
• Collective farm had to produce a quota of produce for the state (set by the government)
• State farms (Sovkholz) also set up- workers got wage but had no land or livestock
• Under NEP peasants had got share of produce (to encourage productivity)
Kulaks

• Wealthier peasants (Kulaks) had done well under NEP and so were opposed to collective farms as they would get a fixed wage and could not build up property or livestock

• Stalin was determined to replace family farms with collective farms

• Many kulaks were killed or removed from land by the state army
Collectivisation

- Collective farms replaced family farms in many areas but led to reduced agricultural productivity
- Low agricultural productivity and bad harvests between 1923 and 1933 led to food shortages and famine
- Five year Plans also set target for agricultural production
Cult of Personality
CPSU: Organization of the Communist Party of the USSR

The governing body of the CPSU was the Party Congress which was held once in 1–5 years, depending on the historical period, with an exception of a long break from 1939 to 1952.

Party Congresses would elect a Central Committee which, in turn, would elect a Politburo. Under Stalin the most powerful position in the party became the General Secretary who was elected by the Politburo.

In 1952 the title of General Secretary became First Secretary and the Politburo became the Presidium before reverting to their former names under Leonid Brezhnev in 1966.

In theory, supreme power in the party was invested in the Party Congress. However, in practice, all executive power was in the hands of the General Secretary.
DECISION-MAKING ORGANS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Current legislation allows unrestricted access to materials more than 30 years old, unless they concern matters of security or personal matters. However, because most materials documenting the work of the Party after 1952 are held in TsKhSD, in practice access to anything after 1952 is limited. Still, the Communist Party was a conservative institution in its organization and bureaucracy, so even information about the Stalin era drawn from RTsKhIDNI collections helps clarify the later work of the Party also.19

The structure of decision-making at the top of the Communist Party underwent several changes during its history. At all times the formal structure was laid down by the Ustav or Regulations of the Party. According to the Ustav's original version (adopted at the IIInd Congress of the RSDRP in 1903), the Party's highest decision-making body [End Page 3] was the Central Committee. By 1919 the Central Committee had been subdivided into smaller organizational units, the Politburo, Orgburo, and Secretariat—a development recognized in the new Ustav adopted at the VIIIth Party Congress. Formally, this version of the Ustav remained in force throughout the Stalin years. Figure 1 represents the theoretical system of relationships between main Communist Party bodies as laid down by the Ustav. In actual fact the Politburo of the Central Committee soon came to be at the apex of all decision-making in the Soviet Party, more accurately represented by Figure 2. As Figure 2 shows, the actual system was far more complicated than the theoretical one, because while bodies technically subordinate to the Politburo (e.g., the Secretariat) were meant only to execute instructions from above, they often initiated actions on their own.
Stalin’s purges
(to purge= to clean/purify)

Stalin wanted to ‘purge’ or clean out Soviet institutions of anyone who was a threat or potential threat. This included people in the Communist Party, the army, the secret police, the civil service.

In order to justify this, people were accused of a variety of crimes (plotting to kill Stalin, working for foreign powers, treason, Trotskyism etc…)

54 were purged in the Show Trials but millions were exiled or killed during the purges of the 1930s.
Why did Stalin organise the purges?

To crush any opposition to his rule
To destroy any potential rivals
To use fear to strengthen his control and hold on power
To blame others for problems in Russia
To unite people against enemies (internal or external: USA, Germany, Japan)
Perhaps Stalin also motivated by paranoia and sadism?
How were the purges and Show Trials organised?

Suspicion/Accusation of a crime
(e.g. treason, plotting to kill Stalin, working for enemy powers, bourgeois tendencies etc…)

Interrogation/Torture/Confession

Sometimes a trial or show trial held

Sentence: labour camp (gulags), prison or execution
How the Show Trials were conducted

3 Judges
No jury
No rules of evidence
No defence lawyers
Bullying prosecutor (Vyshinky called the defendants ‘scum’, human garbage’, ‘reptiles’)
Defendants sat in chains guarded by armed soldiers
An audience of workers, international observers and diplomats invited to watch proceedings
The 1\textsuperscript{st} Show Trial: August 1936
(‘The Trial of the 16’)

In 1935 Kamenev and Zinoviev tried in secret
In 1936 a public or Show Trial of Kamenev and Zinoviev and 14 others organised
Defendants accused by the head of the NKVD, Yagoda, of various crimes (e.g. treason, working with Germany and Japan, plotting to kill Stalin, sabotage and ‘Trotskyism’)
Confessions obtained by torture, beatings, sleep deprivations, threats against family
The defendants were forced to memorise confessions and the answers to the prosecutor Vyshinsky’s questions
Kamenev and Zinoviev confessed to the crimes they were accused of and were shot the next day
Kamenev and Zinoviev
The 2nd Show Trial: January 1937 (‘The Trial of the 17’)

Prominent communists accused of belonging to Anti-Soviet Trotskyite Centre
Defendants included Karl Radek and Grigorii Pyatakov (ex Industry Minister)
Prosecutor Vyshinsky demanded death penalty
Defendants made confessions admitting guilt
13 executed, 4 sent to prison camps
In June 1937 Marshal Tukachevsky and 8 other army generals tried for treason in a secret trial
Karl Radek

- Close to Lenin
- Tried to organise a communist revolution in Germany
- Returned to Russia in 1920
- In 1936 helped write the Russian Constitution
- Sentenced to 10 years hard labour
- He was reportedly killed in a labour camp in a fight with another inmate. However, during the investigations during the Khrushchev Thaw it was established that he was killed by an NKVD operative under direct orders from Lavrentiy Beria
Vyjinshky reads the indictment
1937
The 3rd Show Trial: March 1938
(‘The Trial of the 21’
or The Great Show Trial)

International observers invited to attend trial of 21 prominent communists including Rykov, Bukharin and Yagoda (head of secret police)

Defendants accused of being members of ‘Anti-Soviet Bloc of Rightists and Trotskyites’

Also accused of crimes like sabotage of economy, attempting to kill Stalin

Defendants confessed to crimes and plotting with ‘Fascist circles’ (i.e. Germany)

Initially Kretinsky refused to admit guilt

Kretinsky returned on following day and admitted guilt

18 of 21 defendants executed
Rykov: head of the Soviet government from 1924 to 1930
Bukharin

- 1888 – 1938 was a member of the Politburo (1924–1929) and Central Committee (1917–1937)
Yagoda: head of NKVD 1934-1935 (1895–1938)
This poster illustrates the trial of the so-called Industrial Party in 1930, one of the first show trials of Stalin’s reign. Placed on trial were various members of the Soviet technical intelligentsia who were falsely accused of plotting a coup d’état with the help of foreign governments, including the British and French. The group was also charged with committing large-scale acts of economic sabotage. The charges were entirely baseless, yet the accused were coerced into confessing at their trials. These show trials served multiple purposes for Stalin. They created a sense that the nation was under perpetual siege from enemies both inside and outside the Soviet borders. This siege mentality was intended to intimidate dissenters, inspire self-sacrifice among the masses, and excuse the hardships and failings of Stalin’s industrialization policies.
clip to introduce purges show trials and terror

clip on show trials and gulags

Russia today short clip 4 mins on show trials
6 minutes on bukharin and show trials
Lubyanka (headquarters of GPU/NKVD)

Central Committee of the Communist Party in 1917

A. Rykov 1881-1938
Soviet Premier
Shot

N. Bukharin 1888-1938
Politburo
Shot

V. Sverdlov 1885-1919
President CC
Typhoid

J. Stalin 1879-1953
General Secretary
Cerebral Hemorrhage

G. Zinoviev 1883-1936
Politburo
Shot

M. Uritsky 1873-1918
NKVD
Civil War

L. Trotsky 1879-1940
Commissar Red Army
Assassinated

L. Kamenev 1883-1936
Chairman CC
Shot

V. Lenin 1870-1924
Soviet Premier
Stroke

A. Kollontai 1872-1952
Ambassador Norway
Heart Attack

I. Smilga 1892-1938
Military Rev. Comm.
Shot

A. Joffe 1883 - 1927
Commissar Foreign Affairs
Suicide

V. Nogin 1894-1926
CPC
Natural causes

A. Bukharin 1883-1940
Directorate Red Army
Died in prison

F. Dzerzhinsky 1877-1926
Comm. NKVD
Heart Attack

M.K. Muramov 1873-1959
CC
Natural Causes

G. Leonov 1888-1938
VSNKh
Shot

S. Shaumyan 1878-1918
Baku CPC
Civil War

J. Berzin 1890-1935
NKVD
Strangled

V. Milyutin 1864-1937
VSNKh
Shot

S. Artem 1883-1921
Comm. NKVD
Train Crash

E. Stassova 1872-1966
Secretary CC
Natural Causes

N. Krestinsky 1883-1938
Comm. Intl. Affairs
Shot

P. Dzhaparidze 1880-1918
Baku CPC
Civil War

G. Sokolnikov 1866-1939
Commissar for Finances
Died in prison

A.S. Kiselev (1879-1937)
VSNKh
Shot
Partial view of a plaque with photos of victims of the Great Terror which were shot in the NKVD firing range in Butovo, Moscow. The photos were made after the arrest of each victim.
Impact of the purges

Death, suffering, fear
No opposition to Stalin
New set of leaders put in place in Soviet institutions
By 1938 all of Lenin’s Politburo dead except for Stalin and Trotsky
90 of 139 members of 1934 Central Committee were shot
Red Army damaged as 35,000 officers (about half of total number) killed/jailed (including many generals & commanders)
Many skilled people (scientists etc…) killed or imprisoned
This had negative impact on industrial development and scientific research in Russia
Number of people executed

According to the declassified Soviet archives, during 1937 and 1938, the NKVD detained 1,548,366 victims, of whom 681,692 were shot - an average of 1,000 executions a day (in comparison, the Tsarists executed 3,932 persons for political crimes from 1825 to 1910 - an average of less than 1 execution per week).[65]

Some experts believe the evidence released from the Soviet archives is understated, incomplete, or unreliable.[65][66][67][68] For example, Robert Conquest suggests that the probable figure for executions during the years of the Great Purge is not 681,692, but some two and a half times as high. He believes that the KGB was covering its tracks by falsifying the dates and causes of death of rehabilitated victims.[69]

Historian Michael Ellman claims the best estimate of deaths brought about by Soviet repression during these two years is the range 950,000 to 1.2 million, which includes deaths in detention and those who died shortly after being released from the Gulag as a result of their treatment in it. He also states that this is the estimate which should be used by historians and teachers of Russian history.[70]
According to Memorial,[49] on the cases investigated by the State Security Department of NKVD (GUGB NKVD):

* At least 1,710,000 people were arrested
* At least 1,440,000 people were sentenced
* At least 724,000 were executed. Among them:
  o At least 436,000 people were sentenced to death by NKVD troikas as part of the Kulak operation (see also figure of 376,202[38])
  o At least 247,000 people were sentenced to death by NKVD Dvoikas' and the Local Special Troykas as part of the Ethnic Operation
  o At least 41,000 people were sentenced to death by Military Courts
* Among other cases in October 1936-November 1938:
  o At least 400,000 were sentenced to labor camps by Police Troikas as Socially Harmful Elements (социально-вредный элемент, СВЭ)
  o At least 200,000 were exiled or deported by Administrative procedures
  o At least 2 million were sentenced by courts for common crimes; among them 800,000 were sentenced to Gulag camps.
Stalin and his daughter
Stalin: Key words/topics