

Stalin's USSR

Background

Lenin's last will and testament chose Leon Trotsky as the next leader of the Soviet Union. Trotsky was the conventional pick. His record was well established among the top brass in the Communist Party, and he was the leader of the Red Army during the Civil War.

But, totalitarian regimes do not have the smooth transition of power that democracies enjoy. Trotsky would not lead the Soviet Union. That job was taken by Stalin.

Until his death in 1953, the history of the Soviet Union is the history of Stalin.

Stalin ruled with an iron fist. His leadership brought the Soviet Union into the modern age, but the costs were almost beyond comprehension. From the story of Stalin, students of history can see the awful nature of totalitarianism.

Assignment

Your mission is to gather information about the rule of Stalin.

At the end of this task, you should be an expert on the following . . .

- A) Heavy Industry vs. Consumer Goods (Pg. 37)
- B) Power Struggle . . . Trotsky vs. Stalin (Pg. 37 - 38)
- C) Five Year Plans (Pg. 38 - 39 / 40)
- D) Purges (Pg. 39)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Details</i>

