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## Totalitarianism: Stalinist Russia

Essential Question:

How would your life change if you lived in a totalitarian state?

# Stalin Becomes Dictator

- Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin were among Lenin's revolutionary supporters
- During his early days as a Bolshevik, Stalin changes his name from Dzhugashvili to Stalin, which means "man of steel"
- Stalin wants to succeed Lenin
- Stalin ruthlessly climbs to the head of Soviet government

# Stalin Builds a Totalitarian State

- Stalin transforms the Soviet Union into a totalitarian state.
- The government takes total control of every aspect of public and private life.
  - ▣ Gives a sense of security and direction
- Stalin relies on mass communication to spread propaganda
- Stalin builds up Soviet military strength
- Several other totalitarian states emerge during the 20th century, in Germany, Italy, China, and North Korea

# Weapons of Totalitarianism

- Stalin used police terror to eliminate his enemies, including the Great Purge against members of the communist party. Thousands were executed for crimes against the Soviet state.
- Stalin's totalitarian regime relies on indoctrination and propaganda to mold people's minds. Stalin used art for propaganda, socialist realism was a style that praised Soviet life and communist values.
- Soviet art and the mass media are subject to censorship.
- The Russian Orthodox Church and other faiths are persecuted, the police destroyed magnificent churches and synagogues.

# Stalin Seizes Control of the Economy

- Stalin's economic policies call for a command economy in which the government makes all economic decisions
- Stalin outlines the 1st of several 5-year plans for development of the economy, to promote rapid industrial growth and strengthen national defense
- The government controlled every aspect of a worker's life, assigning them jobs and determining working hours. Secret police enforced the policies
- While the methods took a toll on workers, they also produced fantastic results.

# Stalin Seizes Control of the Economy

- Stalin's agricultural revolution was also successful, and far more brutal
- In 1928 the government seized over 25 million privately owned farms and combined them into large government owned farms called collective farms.
- Peasants resisted fiercely, especially among the kulaks or wealthy peasants.
- Secret police used terror and violence to herd them into the collectives, between 5 and 10 million peasants died, millions more were shipped to Siberia.

# Daily Life Under Stalin

- Stalin's totalitarian rule revolutionized society, women's roles greatly expanded and people became better educated.
- People made great sacrifices in exchange for progress
- Soviet women won equal rights and performed the same jobs as men. Millions of women worked in factories, built dams and roads. By 1950, 75% of Soviet doctors were women.
- The Soviet state-controlled education indoctrinates citizens and offers them technical training and opportunities for a better life.
- School children learned the virtues of the Communist Party, teachers or students who questioned the party risking losing their job and imprisonment.