

Joseph Stalin was a leader of the Soviet Union from the mid-1920's to 1953. I can identify and analyze many economic, social and political changes that occurred in the Soviet Union during this period.

Name _____

Date _____

DOCUMENT 1

Stalin has concentrated enormous power in his hands, and I am not sure he always knows how to use that power with sufficient caution . . . Stalin is too rude and this fault becomes unbearable in the office of General Secretary. Therefore I propose to find a way to remove Stalin from that position and appoint to it a man who is . . . more patient, more loyal, more polite, and more attentive to comrades . . .

- Lenin's directive to the Communist Party Leadership in 1922

1. According to the document, what were Lenin's feelings about Stalin?

2. Use your knowledge of history and information from the History Channel Documentary, *Stalin: Man of Steel*, how was Stalin able to come to power.

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DOCUMENT 2

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FIRST FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The key figures of plan fulfilment were as follows:

	1927-8 (actual)	1932-3 (plan)	1932 (actual)
National income (1926-7 roubles in 100 m.)	24.4	49.7	45.5
Gross industrial production (1926-7 roubles in 100 m.)	18.3	43.2	43.3
Gross agricultural production (1926-7 roubles in milliards)	13.1	25.8	16.6
Electricity (100 m. Kwhs)	5.05	22.0	13.4
Hard coal (million tons)	35.4	75	64.3
Oil (million tons)	11.7	22	21.4
Iron ore (million tons)	5.7	19	12.1
Pig iron (million tons)	3.3	10	6.2
Steel (million tons)	4.0	10.4	5.9
Machinery (million 1926-7 roubles)	1822	4688	7362
Superphosphates (million tons)	0.15	3.4	0.61
Wool cloth (million metres)	97	270	93.3
Total employed labour force (millions)	11.3	15.8	22.8

(SOURCES: 1932 figures from *Sotsialisticheskoe stroitel'stvo* (1934) and the fulfilment report of first five-year plan. For sources of other figures see table on page 146.)

From Alec Nove, "Economic History of the USSR" (1969, 3rd edn 1993);

1. What was the actual output of Hard Coal in 1932? _____ What was Stalin's goal? _____
2. What was the actual output of Oil in 1932? _____ What was Stalin's goal? _____
3. What was the actual output of Steel in 1932? _____ What was Stalin's goal? _____
4. What was the actual output of Electricity in 1932? _____ What was Stalin's goal? _____
5. What conclusion can be drawn from looking at the data from the 1st of Stalin's 5 year plans?

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DOCUMENT 3

Complete Famine Testimony of Tatiana Pawlichka

Congressional Testimony presented before the United States Ukraine Famine Commission in Washington D. C., October 8, 1986

In 1932, I was 10 years old, and I remember well what happened in my native village in the Kiev region. . . .

. . . After the harvest, the villagers tried to go out in the field to look for gleanings, and the Communists would arrest them and shoot at them, and send them to Siberia. My aunt, Tatiana Rudenko, was taken away. They said she had stolen the property of the collective farm.

That summer, the vegetables couldn't even ripen - people pulled them out of the ground - still green - and ate them. People ate leaves, nettles, milkweed, sedges. By autumn, no one had any chickens or cattle. Here and there, someone had a few potatoes or beets. People coming in from other villages told the very same story. They would travel all over trying to get food. They would fall by the roadside, and none of us could do anything to help. When the ground froze, they were just left lying there dead, in the snow; or, if they died in the house, they were dragged out to the cattle-shed, and they would lie there frozen until spring. There was no one to dig graves. . . .

. . . . In February of 1933, there were so few children left that the schools were closed. By this time, there wasn't a cat, dog or sparrow in the village. In that month, my cousin Mykhailo Rudenko died; a month later my aunt Nastia Klymenko and her son, my cousin Ivan, died, as well as my classmate, Dokia Klymenko.

There was cannibalism in our village. On my farmstead, an 18-year-old boy, Danylo Hukhlib, died, and his mother and younger sisters and brothers cut him up and ate him. The Communists came and took them away, and we never saw them again. People said they took them a little ways off and shot them right away - the little ones and the older ones together. . . .

. . . The ground thawed, and they began to take the dead to the ravine in ox carts. The air was filled with the ubiquitous odor of decomposing bodies. The wind carried this odor far and wide. It was thus over all of Ukraine.

From <http://www.ukrainiangenocide.org/survivors.html> ; <http://faminegenocide.com/resources/testimony-pawlichka.html>

1. Where was the famine described in the document above taking place? _____

2. Cite evidence to show how dire the circumstances were for the people during the famine.

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DOCUMENT 4

In the official Communist Chicago newspaper "Workers Voice" of Mar. 1, 1933, was an article by Joseph Stalin, dictator of Russia, entitled "Communists and Religion", in which he says: "The Party cannot be neutral towards religion and does conduct anti-religious propaganda against all and every religious prejudice. . . . The Party cannot be neutral toward the bearers of religious prejudices, toward the reactionary clergy who poison the minds of the toiling masses. Have we suppressed the reactionary clergy? Yes, we have. The unfortunate thing is that it has not been completely liquidated. Anti-religious propaganda is a means by which the complete liquidation of the reactionary clergy must be brought about. Cases occur when certain members of the Party hamper the complete development of anti-religious propaganda. If such members are expelled it is a good thing because there is no room for such 'Communists' in the ranks of our Party." Great placards with the words of Marx, "Religion is the opium of the people," are widely displayed in Russia.

1. According to the above document, what were Stalin's beliefs on religion?

2. What replaced religious iconography throughout Russia and the Soviet Union?

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DOCUMENT 5

Table 1. Number of literates aged 9 to 49 in prerevolutionary Russia to the Soviet Union era (percent of population, by census year)					
	1897	1926	1939	1959	1970
Urban					
Men.....	66.1	88.0	97.1	99.5	99.9
Women.....	45.7	73.9	90.7	98.1	99.8
Total.....	57.0	80.9	93.8	98.7	99.8
Rural					
Men.....	35.5	67.3	91.6	99.1	99.6
Women.....	12.5	35.4	76.8	97.5	99.4
Total.....	23.8	50.6	84.0	98.2	99.5
Urban and rural					
Men.....	40.3	71.5	93.5	99.3	99.8
Women.....	16.6	42.7	81.6	97.8	99.7
Total.....	28.4	56.6	87.4	98.5	99.7

The Great Soviet Encyclopedia, 3rd Edition (1970-1979). © 2010 The Gale Group, Inc. All rights reserved.

1. According to the chart from the Great Soviet Encyclopedia, what is the subject of the chart?

2. What is happening to these rates from 1897 to 1939?

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DOCUMENT 6

To the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik)

We appeal to you, asking you to pay a minimum of attention to our request.

We are prisoners who are returning from the Solovetsky [prison] camp because of our poor health. We went there full of energy and good health, and now we are returning as invalids, broken and crippled emotionally and physically. We are asking you to draw your attention to the arbitrary use of power and violence that reign at the Solovetsky [prison] camp in Kemi and in all sections of the [prison] camp. It is difficult for a human being to even imagine such terror, tyranny, violence and lawlessness due process sends workers and peasants there who are by and large innocent

People die like flies, i.e., they die a slow and painful death; we repeat that all this torment and suffering is placed only on the shoulders of the proletariat without money, i.e., on workers who, we repeat, were unfortunate to find themselves in the period of hunger and destruction accompanying the events of the October Revolution, and who committed crimes only to save themselves and their families from death by starvation; they have already borne the punishment for these crimes, and the vast majority of them subsequently chose the path of honest labor. . . .

. . . . If you complain or write anything ("Heaven forbid"), they will frame you for an attempted escape or for something else, and they will shoot you like a dog. They line us up naked and barefoot at 22 degrees below zero and keep us outside for up to an hour. It is difficult to describe all the chaos and terror that is going on in Kemi, Solovky, and the other sections of the . . . camp. All annual inspections uncover a lot of abuses. But what they discover in comparison to what actually exists is only a part of the horror and abuse of power, which the inspection accidently uncovers. . . .

To this we subscribe: G. Zheleznov, Vinogradov, F. Belinskii.

Dec. 14, 1926

Source: Written on December 14, 1926 by prisoners in reference to the conditions in the forced labor camps.

Found on <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/d2presid.html>

1. Who are G. Zheleznov, Vinogradov, F. Belinskii? _____

2. What have they witnessed at the prison camps? _____

3. What happens if people spoke out against the treatment? _____

4. Is this account credible? Explain. _____

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DOCUMENT 7

Fear became a nutrient of the medium, part of the atmosphere you breathed. Everyone and everything was feared. The neighbors in your building, the caretaker in the building, your own children. People lived in fear of their coworkers, those above them, those beneath them, and those on the same level. They feared oversights or mistakes on the job, but even more, they feared being too successful, standing out.

Source: Excerpt written by Anton Antonov-Ovseyenko a Soviet historian and dissident [rebel], "The Time of Stalin: Portrait of a Tyranny," published illegally in 1981.

1. What is something that was feared during the time that Stalin was in power?

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DOCUMENT 8

“In the period of the Purge, the mass arrests came in waves of varying intensity. Sometimes there must have been no more room in the jails. After each show trial, people sighed, ‘Well, it's all over at last.’ What they meant was: ‘Thank God, it looks as though I've escaped.’ But then there would be a new wave, and the same people would rush to heap abuse on the ‘enemies of the people.’ Wild accusations had become an end in themselves. The only purpose of such terror is intimidation. In order to plunge the whole country into a state of constant fear, the number of victims must be raised to astronomical (*super high*) levels. On every floor of every building there must always be several apartments where the residents have suddenly been taken away. The remaining inhabitants will be model citizens for the rest of their lives. This was true for every street and every city through which the broom of the Purge has swept.

Source: In the late 1930s, Stalin carried out what historians now call the Great Purge, where 1.5 million “enemies of the people” were rounded up and killed. The following is an account from a memoir written by Nadezhda Khazina in 1971. Khazina’s husband was a university professor executed during the Great Purge, but she survived.

1. What is a purge?

2. In order to increase fear, what was done?

3. One of the examples given shows that only some residents of apartments were taken. Why weren't all people taken from the building?
