

CHAPTER 30 Section 2 (pages 874–879)

Case Study: Stalinist Russia

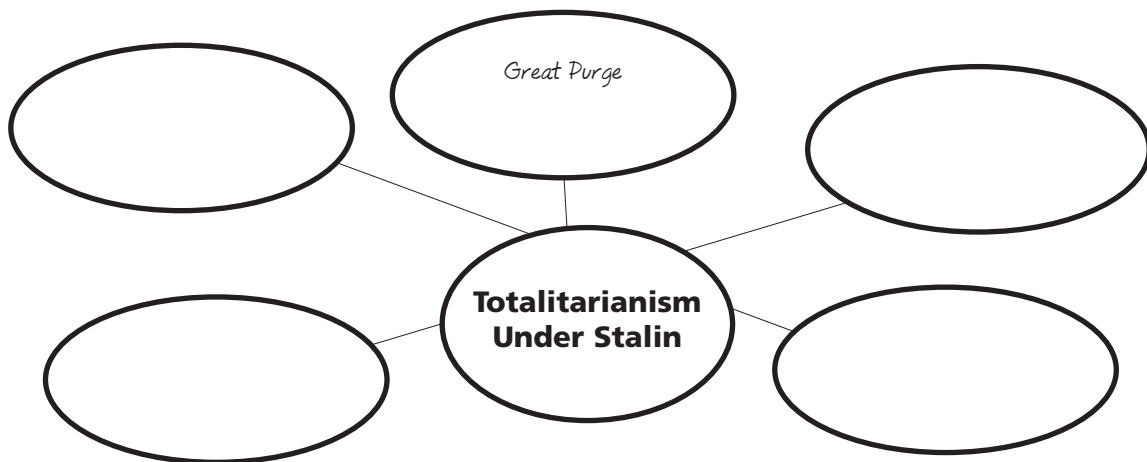
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned about the factors leading to revolution in Russia.

In this section, you will read about the totalitarian government that resulted.

AS YOU READ

Use the web below to show what Stalin's totalitarian state was like.



TERMS AND NAMES

totalitarianism Government that has total control over people's lives

Great Purge Arrest, exile, or killing of thousands of suspected enemies of the Communist Party

command economy Economy in which the government makes all the economic decisions

Five-Year Plans Plans to develop the Soviet Union's economy

collective farm Large, government-owned farm

A Government of Total Control

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What is totalitarianism?

The term **totalitarianism** describes a government that takes control of almost all parts of people's lives. A very powerful leader leads this type of government. Usually the leader brings security to the nation. The government stays in power by using different ways to keep control.

The weapons of totalitarianism include using police terror. Police may spy on people, use brutal force, or even murder them. The government might also control schools and use them to mold students' minds. Another weapon is *propaganda*.

This is false information that is spread by the government to make people believe the government is working for their best interests. At other times the government will censor, that is block, certain information from becoming public.

Totalitarian rulers might also choose some people to persecute. The group may be blamed for things that go wrong in the country. Often these are people from a certain ethnic group or religion. They may be forced to live in certain areas or have rules that apply only to them.

1. What are two weapons of totalitarianism?

Stalin Builds a Totalitarian State

(pages 877–878)

How did Stalin control the country?

Stalin kept tight control on the Soviet Union. He did this by creating a powerful secret police. In the mid-1930s, he turned against enemies—both real and imagined—within the Communist Party. Thousands were arrested. Many were sent to exile or killed. This was known as the **Great Purge**.

Stalin also used propaganda to keep control. He controlled newspapers, radio, and other sources of information. He also used the arts to promote his ideas. Stalin's government also moved against religion. Churches were destroyed. Church leaders were killed or sent into exile.

2. Who died in the Great Purge?

Stalin Seizes Control of the Economy

(pages 877–878)

How did Stalin change the economy?

Stalin built a **command economy**. This is an economy in which the government makes all the decisions about economic life. He tried to make the economy fully industrial. All resources went to this effort. As a result, there were shortages of food, housing, and clothing for many years.

Stalin also began a farming revolution. The government took control of people's farms. It put them together into large, government-owned farms called **collective farms**. Wealthy peasants called kulaks resisted. Millions were killed, and millions more were exiled to Siberia. Stalin got farm output to rise by using these brutal methods.

3. How did Stalin's economic changes result in suffering?

Daily Life under Stalin; Total Control Achieved

(pages 878–879)

How did Stalin change Soviet society?

Stalin completely changed Soviet society. Women enjoyed equal rights. They filled all kinds of jobs on farms and in factories. They studied for careers that before had been closed to them. People in general were more educated.

By the mid-1930s Stalin was in complete control of all economic and political affairs in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union had been transformed into a major political and economic world power.

4. What benefits did Stalin's rule bring to women?
