

ИФСЭРН СТДЛИИ: МДИ ФФ СТЭЭЛ

Directions: Joseph Stalin is one of the most controversial leaders in world history. Between 1928 and 1941 he transformed the Soviet Union into a modern superpower. His rule is characterized by collectivized agriculture, rapid industrialization, great purges, and the extermination of opposition. Read the documents and answer the questions in order to **evaluate the rule of Stalin in the Soviet Union, taking into consideration the changes made and the methods used.**



Document 1: Stalin launched his first Five-Year Plan in 1928 by setting up a planned, or command, economy. In this speech, Stalin arouses Russian pride to motivate the people.

To slow down would mean falling behind. And those who fall behind are beaten. But we do not want to be beaten! One feature of the old Russia was the continual beatings she suffered for falling behind, for her backwardness. . . . So you want our Socialist fatherland to be beaten? . . . If you don't want this, you must end our backwardness. You must develop a real Bolshevik tempo [speed] in building our Socialist economy. There is no other road. We lag behind the advanced countries by fifty to a hundred years. We must make good this distance in ten years. Either we do it, or we shall be crushed.

1. What is Stalin's goal in making this speech? What method is he using to accomplish his goal?

Document 2: Five Year Plan Data

Industry	1927 – 1928	Target for 1933
Electricity (million kWh)	5.05	17.0
Coal (million tons)	35.4	68.0
Oil (million tons)	11.7	19.0
Pig-iron (million tons)	3.3	8.0
Steel (million tons)	4.0	8.3

2. What is the goal of this Five-Year Plan? For what specific areas were goals set?

Document 3: In this excerpt from a 1929 speech delivered by Stalin, he explains the collectivization policy and the need to eliminate the kulaks (wealthy farmers).



The solution lies in enlarging the agricultural units . . . and in changing the agricultural base of our national economy. . . .the Socialist way, which is to set up collective farms and state farms which leads to the joining together of the small peasant farms into large collective farms, technically and scientifically equipped, and to the squeezing out of the capitalist elements from agriculture. . . . Now we are able to carry on a determined offensive against the kulaks, to break their resistance, to eliminate them as a class and substitute for their output the output of the collective farms and state farms.

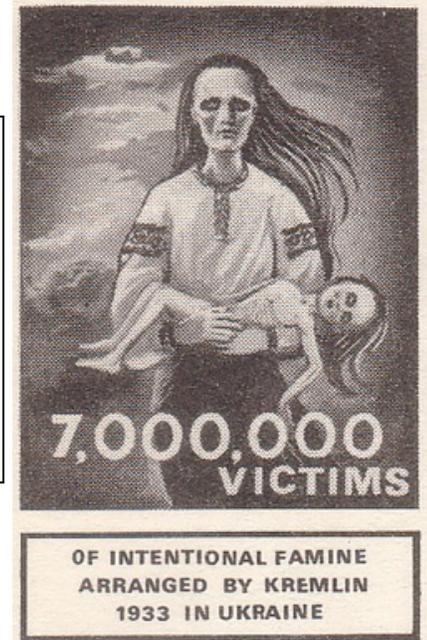
3. According to Stalin, why and how must agricultural production be increased?

4. Why must the kulaks be eliminated?

Document 4: This excerpt, from “Forced Famine in the Ukraine: A Holocaust the West Forgot” by Adrian Karatnycky, was printed in The Wall Street Journal, on July 7, 1983.

Today, reliable academic estimates place the number of Ukrainian victims of starvation at 4.5 million to 7 million. . . . The famine was in part the by-product of Stalin’s relentless drive to collectivize Soviet agriculture. The famine was a clear result of the fact that between 1931 and 1933, while harvests were precipitously declining, Stalin’s commissars continued to . . . confiscate grain. Peasants were shot and deported as rich, landowning “kulaks”. . . . While the drive to collectivize agriculture was a wide-ranging phenomenon common to the entire U.S.S.R., only in the Ukraine did it assume a genocidal character. Indeed there can be no question that Stalin used the forced famine as part of a political strategy whose aim was to crush all vestiges of Ukrainian national sentiments.

5. According to this author, what were *two* explanations for the elimination of between 4.5 and 7 million Ukrainians between 1932 and 1933?



Document 5: This excerpt, from The Land of the Soviets, published in the U.S.S.R, describes the results of the Five-Year Plans.

The fulfillment of the first and second Five-Year Plans strengthened the Soviet Union’s economic position and turned it into a powerful industrial state. . . . In 1937 the industrial output of the USSR was 5.8 times larger than in 1913. The rate of industrial growth in the USSR considerably exceeded that of the capitalist countries. By 1937 the Soviet Union was the first country in Europe and the second in the world in the volume of industrial production. . . . Socialist industrialization was accompanied by the rapid growth of the working class, and made it possible to liquidate unemployment. In 1940 there were 9,971,000 industrial workers, which was nearly three times more than in 1928. The working class was also changing: its efficiency, technical and cultural levels were growing rapidly.

6. According to the Soviet author, what were the results of the Five-Year Plans?



Document 6: In this excerpt, the French ambassador to the Soviet Union described the public trials that were part of the “great purges” of Stalin.

I personally attended the second and third Moscow trials, those of 1937 and 1938. . . . Pyatakov [another defendant] arose . . . confessed . . . to a number of crimes. Did these “confessions” carry any share of truth? It is possible that the accused were hostile to Stalin’s regime. . . . But the lessons they recited must have been forced from them . . . it is more likely that the GPU [secret police] touched each at his weak point. It is also probable that the accused gave in to some form of pressure. . . . Some would give in to save their families, others in the hope of saving their own lives.

7. According to the French ambassador, what happened at the trials?

Assess your understanding of the documents by using them to evaluate the rule of Stalin in the Soviet Union, taking into consideration the changes made and the methods used. In other words, pretend you are starting an essay and you need describe his rule. Write a fully developed introduction below.