

History Exam Revision Document

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SL Topic 1: Stalin

Stalin's Rise to Power, Ideology and Aims

What methods did Stalin employ to overcome his rivals in the leadership struggle?

- Stalin portrayed himself as Lenin's follower in Soviet propaganda in an effort to justify his efforts to take power - Lenin was widely revered by the Russian working class and class-conscious workers worldwide, particularly those in the communist parties of Europe.
- His theory of Socialism in One Country rather than Permanent Revolution was in stark contrast to the principled socialist stand of Lenin and his internationalist outlook.
- Stalin played one side against the other to take power: First, he allied with Zinoviev and Kamenev to cover up Lenin's Will and to get Trotsky dismissed (1925). Trotsky went into exile (1928). Then, he advocated 'Socialism in one country' (he said that the USSR should first become strong, then try to bring world revolution) and allied with the Rightists to get Zinoviev and Kamenev dismissed (1927). Stalin put his supporters into the Politburo. Finally, he argued that the NEP was un-communist, and got Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsky dismissed (1929).

Conditions in Rise to Power

- Decree on Party Unity 1921
 - Banned formal factions
 - Banned members from putting forward ideas that disagreed from official party policy
 - Allowed Stalin to promote friends and eliminate foes
- Member of the Politburo and held a powerful position in the Party Apparatus
 - 1922 Stalin was appointed Gen. Sec.
 - Trotsky had no significant power in the party apparatus (was War Commissar)
- Centralised party machine
 - Traditionally communists did not believe in bureaucracy but due to complexities of government it forced the party to become more centralised
 - Party decided to have Gen/ Sec. to organise matters – Stalin
 - Allowed Stalin to influence Hob appointments

Factors in Rise to Power

- Reparations
 - Major powers agreed without consulting Germany that Germany had to pay reparations to the allies for damages caused by the war
 - Exact figure was agreed in 1921 – 6.6 billion pounds sterling (big amount)
 - If terms of payment had not been changed under the Young Plan in 1929, Germany would not have been done paying until 1984
- Overseas territories and colonies
 - Overseas empires taken away
 - Was one cause of bad relations between Britain & Germany pre-war
 - Former colonies became mandates controlled by the LoN (essentially France and Britain controlled them)
 - Lost land in the treaty on its European Borders, losing agricultural/industrial land
 - Alsace Lorraine given to France
 - **Rhineland demilitarised**
 - Eupen and Malmedy given to Belgium
 - North Schleswig given to Denmark
 - **Danzig now run as a free city by LoN**
 - **Poland given corridor to Baltic sea (western Prussia)- cutting off East Prussia from Germany**
 - **Posen - rich farmland given to Poland**
 - Germany forbidden to join alliances with Austria
- Weaknesses
 - Treated Bolshevik Russia as an outsider - reinforced Bunker mentality and extremism of the regime – left western Europe with no allies against German aggression in 1930s
 - Wilson's frustration with terms – short term ⇒ congress refused to ratify treaty, long term ⇒ isolationism

Treaty of Versailles - Effect

- Increased the amount of marriages and births - Divorce was made easier for childless couples
 - Aryan women offered interest free marriage loan; amount to be repaid fell by a quarter with each child loan - only granted to women who agreed to stay out of work
- Generous welfare payments for mothers
- Motherhood skills were taught by the "Women's Enterprise" (DFW)
- Medals ("Honour Cross of the German Mother") - any women who had more than 8 children received a gold medal from Hitler personally
- Abortion was restricted and the use of birth control for Aryans was condemned.
- Increased the quality of births - 1933 Sterilisation law was passed against all those with a hereditary disease/mental health problems (inc. alcoholism/feeble-mindedness)
- 320,000 people sterilised by the Nazi 1933 - 1945

Racial Policies

- The Nazis believed:
 - Blonde-haired, blue-eyed Nordic Germans (or Aryans) were a Volk, or a race.
 - Were the master race – other inferior races arranged in hierarchy beneath them.
 - Near the bottom of this hierarchy came black peoples, and beneath them 'non-people' such as gypsies and Jews.
 - It was their duty to keep the German race 'pure' by having children only with fellow Aryans and restricting what other races could do, especially with Jews.
 - It was their destiny to conquer the lands of inferior races, such as the Slavs to the east, and use them to provide resources and living space for the master race.
- Persecution of minority groups – Nazis persecuted undesirable minority groups:
 - Homosexuals - sent to concentration camps
 - Gypsies - sent to concentration camps, shot or gassed
 - The mentally ill - sent to concentration camps
- The Euthanasia Programme in 1939

- Afghanistan had been under Soviet influence since 1947, even though the US gave it aid. The USSR had essentially installed a puppet government in Afghanistan previously.
- Through the Afghani Revolution, many extremist groups came into power. The Soviet Union wanted to avert a power struggle, so they intervened.
- The Rebellion/Revolution had been stopped, and another Soviet puppet leader (Babrak Karmal) was installed. He was flown in from the USSR. This angered the the USA
- USA responded by funding the Mujahideen, and sent US navy to protect oil routes out of the Middle East
- This triggered the War in Afghanistan, which Americans eventually won through guerilla warfare, and anti-aircraft rocket launchers

Gorbachev

- One of his grandfathers rejected Collectivization, was given no grain
- The other grandfather was arrested as part of Stalin's Great Purges (despite being a strong follower of Communism, and having posters of Lenin in his home)
 - Gorbachev from a young age rejected physical violence as a way of ruling, believed in dignity and hard work, and respected private life. He believed in socialism (as preached but never practiced by the USSR)
- Gorbachev handed power over to President Yeltsin, effectively ending the USSR and beginning Russia. Nobody truly understands why he did this, other than speculation that he already knew that the USSR's time was up.

End of the Cold War Summary

USSR Internal Problems: Political tension due to Peaceful Coexistence, heavy spending on Nuclear weapons research, death of Stalin (and consequent disputes over his legacy), quality of life decreased (due to unsteady economy following WWII), political instability in Eastern Europe (numerous anti-USSR uprisings ex Hungary), Gorbachev, "Gerontocracy" (essentially all Soviet leaders were old and ill), Chernobyl,

External Problems: Success of USA Containment policy (this includes Marshall Plan, Massive Retaliation, prevention of 'Domino Theory' in Korea) and Afghanistan.

- **Key Societies: Triad Society, Kolao Brotherhood Association, White Lotus Sect and Heavenly Reason Sect**

- Triad Society/Kolao Brotherhood Association never conducted anything major, they acted more as precursors to the White Lotus Sect (and it's evolved, more dangerous child the Heavenly Reason Sect).
- Traid/Kolao mainly held discussions, spread some anti-Manchu propaganda, protested etc.

- **White Lotus Sect (Secret Society)**

- Grassroots in Northern China, connection to the White Lotus Revolution of the 1300s through which Ming Dynasty was founded.
- White Lotus Sect fought for restoration of Ming, strip Manchus of any power.
 - They were particularly aggravated by the 70% taxation they faced
- Started the White Lotus Rebellion (cited famine, poor living conditions, corruption and harassment from government officials as reasons to go war). Promised Buddhist followers the return of Buddha (to end all suffering)
- Used Guerilla Warfare - mobs, hit/runs, robberies. Very unsuccessful campaign, quickly dismantled by the Imperial Army between 1796 and 1804
 - Government granted amnesty to those who abandoned WLS
- However, WLS showed that China's military was no longer "invincible"
 - Began to highlight Qing Decadence and corruption
 - Highlighted Qing Dynasty = incompetent - 60% of annual budget during the period was spent fighting Guerilla fighters!
- WLS promoted a revolutionary spirit in China, showed that revolution was possible and prompted numerous smaller scale uprisings (as seen with Heavenly Reason Sect)

- **Heavenly Reason Sect**

- Li Wen Cheng declared himself the "True Lord of the Ming" in 1812, declared 1813 was the year.
- Li devised an uprising, was leaked, and he was arrested. Followers tried to save Li from the palace, but were all captured and executed. Heavenly Reason Sect was far more radical in its ideology, just a very poorly organised rebellion. They managed to increase anti-Manchu sentiment in the region, many people sympathised with the sect but took little action to support them due to lingering fear of Chinese military (was not entirely obvious at the time that the Imperial Army was weak)

(paradoxical)

Meiji Restoration 1868 & Era (1868 -1912)

For this question focus on:

Meiji Restoration (1868-1894)

1889 Constitution

Social, cultural and economic developments

Rise of Meiji

- Tokugawa Shogunate was officially ended on Nov 9 1867 – imperial rule restored (fully restored on January 3 1868)
 - Meiji – means enlightened rule
- Arrive of American admiral Perry
 - Exposing the weakness of the Tokugawa Shogunate
- 200 years → ruled by 100s of feudal lords
 - Isolated from the rest of the world
 - No match to Western powers
- Shishi started movement – Sonno Joi
 - Used this phrase “Japanese spirit, Western technology” to defeat Shogun
 - Other Daimyos too felt they didn’t need to listen to Shogunate anymore
 - Yoshinobu (shogun) wanted help to reform, but eventually resigns to serve as counsellor
 - 15 year old Meiji decided we needed full imperial restoration
 - Wanted to restore emperor who was a puppet
 - All Daimyos convinced to return lands to the Emperor. First time in Japan’s history to do this – never a centrally controlled country

- Sent inspectors to keep corruption in check.
- Promoted bipartisan cooperation, less corrupt justice system.
- But, Jeongjo needed support for these reforms, and brought in the powerful Kim Clan.

Korea: From Hermit Kingdom to Colony

- Korea began entering a decline in 1800s after powerful clans began marrying each other
 - Uprisings in 1811-1812, Rice Riot in Seoul in 1833
- Yet, politically/economically it was still ok. Population was on the rise, agricultural progress kept pace
- VERY ISOLATIONIST. Koreans were forbidden to travel except on diplomatic missions to Japan or China.
 - Koreans didn't like Chinese because of barbarian Manchus in charge
 - Japan was viewed as less than fully civilized
 - Western people = clever barbarians
- Koreans were proud of their orthodox Confucian teachings
- But, white people tore apart Japan and China Korean people started getting worried
 - Some Koreans decided to go Christian and didn't accept traditional Korean teachings. Koreans executed a few hundred of them.
- To combat this Taewongun carried out vigorous tax plan and removed Sowon (private academics for rich people basically)
- French and American ships came to Korea to try and force it out of isolationist state. But Koreans fought back pretty well, sent French/Americans back
 - Taewongun said "to urge appeasement is to betray the nation"
- But, it wasn't able to cope with Japanese, Chinese, Russian and British pressure later
 - After Meiji Restoration the Japanese showed up in Korea all westernised and disregarded diplomatic order of the East Asian world
 - Koreans were like ?? da fuq and refused to receive the Japs
- Japanese got mad, in 1876 sent gunboats. Forced Korea to sign Treaty of Kanghwa

Confucian, feudal system. Japan was one of the most urban countries in the world.

Heavy taxes, corruption, wealth inequality.

Isolationists, but in 1600 Christians invaded and converted people. Bugged the Shoguns.

1630s Samurai began murdering foreigners, especially Christians

Japan was closed again. Foreigners not allowed to come in except for Dutch traders. Japanese people cannot leave. Shoguns had monopoly over economy.

Daimyo were not taxed

Why'd they fail

Trading with white people

Decline of Bakufu (military authority)

Natural disasters

Economic issues (financial stringency/inflation)

Daimyo in debt to merchants, feudal system

Commodore Perry's arrival showed weakness of Japanese system.

Meiji Restoration

Tokugawa ended 1867. Meiji then came in.

Sonno Joi "Western technology, Japanese Spirit"

Actions:

Powerful military. Conscript army.

Iwakura and Hirobumi Missions to learn from West.