

Stalin- Economic and Foreign Policy:

Key words: Stalin, forced collectivization, industrialization, centralized economy with Five-Year Plans, gulags, famine,



Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin: 1878 – 1953:

- 1924: Lenin
- 1929: Stalin

Agriculture:

- Agriculture in the USSR was developed/undeveloped (*choose the correct one*). In the 1920s only about of population was employed in the industry. The rest of the people worked in the agriculture.
- **Forced collectivization:**
1929: year when the collectivization –
.....= - started

The story of Kulaks:

1930: Stalin ordered forced collectivization of kulak farms. Stalin sent troops to attack the kulaks – people he called „.....“. An estimated million were shot or sent to the labor camps – many died from starvation or cold. Some villages were destroyed – many kulaks burned their own crops, and killed livestock rather than hand them over to the collective farms.

- All the farm production was sold to the state. There was **NO PRIVATE** trading in foodstuffs.
- **The Soviet famine of**: To avoid starvation in the towns, grain was seized from rural areas, causing a serious famine in parts of rural Russia in which millions died. Misuse of the new agricultural machinery, poor harvests and eventual food shortages became a commonplace. **More than million people died of hunger and disease during the dreadful famines of 1932-33, in the Ukraine million people died.** (!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)



Pic. on the left: A Soviet government poster, contrasting the modern methods used on collective farms with the old-fashioned methods of the past.

By 1931, over 50% of farms were collectivized and by 1937, the official number stated that 99% of farms were collectivized. The Kulaks were eliminated. The Communist Party held absolute authority throughout rural Russia as it did in the cities.

Industry:

Stalin in 1931: *“We are fifty to hundred years behind the advanced countries. We must make good this distance in ten years – either we do this or they will crush us.”*

The USSR still had a **poor economy**:

- The NEP made some progress, but more rapid growth was needed for the USSR to catch up with industrialized Western countries and their economies.
- Stalin adopted the program of fast modernization to speed up production. Lenin’s policy of NEP was dropped. The state took over planning for industry and agriculture with a commission called to set targets for achievement.
- **A Five Year Plan** set targets for **ALL** basic industrial factories and workers.

Five-Year Plans:	Concentrated on:
First Five-Year Plan: 1928-1932:	•
Second Five-Year Plan: 1932-1937:	•
Third Five-Year Plan: 1938-1942:	•

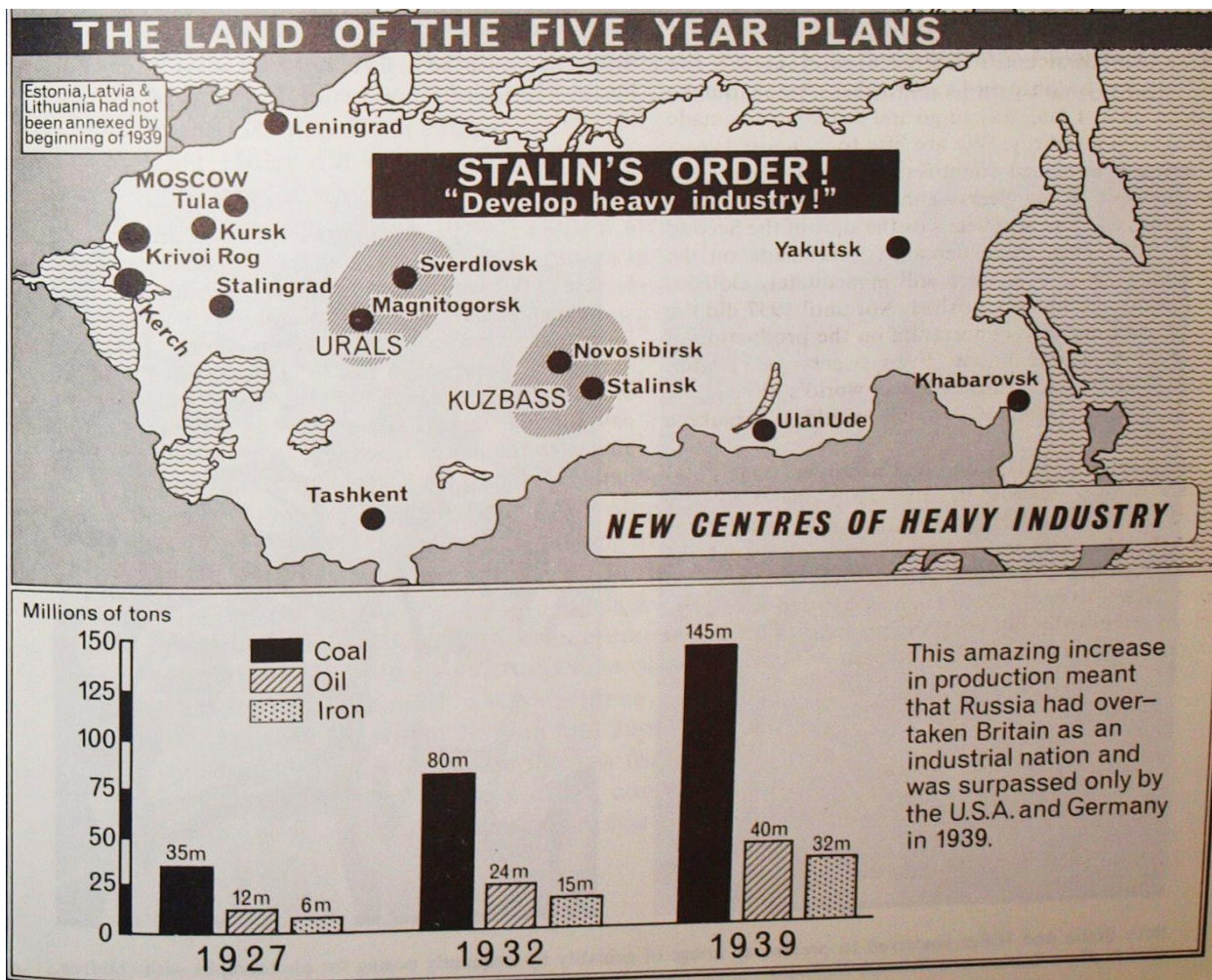
The price for industrialization:

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On the other side:

- Ended the unemployment
- Workers received free health care and education
- In under 10 years, the USSR had almost doubled its industrial output. **The Soviet Union was sufficiently industrialized to withstand and even eventually defeat Nazi Germany.**

Source D	Production in 1928	First Five-Year Plan		Second Five-Year Plan	
		Real	Planned	Real	Planned
Electricity (million Kwhs)	5.05	13.4	17.0	36.2	38.0
Coal (million tonnes)	35.4	64.3	75.0	128.0	152.5
Oil (million tonnes)	11.7	21.4	22.0	28.5	46.8
Pig iron (million tonnes)	3.3	6.2	8.0	14.5	16.0
Steel (million tonnes)	4.0	5.9	10.4	17.7	17.0



Stalin – carried out a „revolution from

International Affairs (1922-1939):

- When the **Nazis** came to power in Germany in 1933, Soviet fears increased as Hitler made clear that he wanted to destroy Communism, and to get “.....” for Germany in the east of Europe.
- The USSR was also alarmed by **Japanese military aggression** against China in 1931, which seemed to threaten its own Asian republics.
- The USA officially recognized the USSR in 1933.
- The USSR recognized de iure by **Czechoslovakia in 1934**.
- **The USSR joined the League of Nations in 1934** (as the only country expelled after the attack on Finland during WWII in 1939)
- **Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)**: the USSR helped the Republicans by supplying them with weapons in their fight against the Fascist troops of General Franco. The Fascists were helped by Hitler and Mussolini.

Franco, Hitler, Mussolini X Republicans, Communists

Nazi-Soviet Pact of August 1939: was a **Non-Agression Pact between Nazi Germany and the USSR**: signed by **Molotov (USSR)** and **Von Ribbentrop (Nazi Germany)**

1. The USSR and Germany promised

2. – the two countries decided to re-draw the map of eastern Europe: Western Poland would go to Germany, eastern parts of Poland and parts of Romania, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the USSR.

• **The USSR in WWII:**

- September 1939: the Red Army occupied eastern parts of Poland.
- **The Katyn massacre:** was a mass execution of **Polish** nationals carried out by the **Soviet** secret police NKVD in April–May 1940. The number of victims is estimated at about **22 000**.



*The casket of **Lech Kaczynski**, Polish President at the airport in Warsaw after he died in the crash of the airplane heading to **Katyn** in April 2010. Donald Dusk, Polish Prime Minister, on his knee.*

- 1940: annexation of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (= lands lost according to
- 1939 – 1940: **war between Finland and the USSR:** The USSR expelled from the *League of Nations* after they attacked Finland.



The Molotov (on the picture) – is improvised incendiary weapons. They are primarily intended to set targets ablaze rather than instantly destroy them. The name "**Molotov cocktail**" was coined by the Finns during Winter War to mock **Molotov, the People's Commissar for** of the USSR.

- **Operation Barbarossa** = Hitler's plan of attack on the USSR. The attack started on 22 June 1941 = breach of the
- **Stalingrad** (winter of 1942–43): the Red Army conclusively won the Battle of Stalingrad – **the biggest battle of the WWII**.
- Surrender of Germany on the 7 May 1945 in Reims. **Because of Stalin's insistence confirmed in Berlin during the night from 8 to 9 May 1945.**
- 2 September 1945: the end of WWII.

About 20 million Soviet soldiers died fighting the Germans during WWII

