

Joseph Stalin: Man of Steel

Since the opening of the Soviet Union we have learned more than we want to know about the terrible _____.

_____ million Soviet citizens died at the hand of Joseph Stalin. He was absolute ruler for 25 years. A Bolshevik Czar.

Czar Nicholas II and his family live a privileged, genteel life. Nine of ten Russians lived in _____, eking out a living on the land. Joseph Stalin was born into a peasant family.

He was an awkward looking boy. His face marked by scars from small pox. A childhood accident left one arm shorter than the other. And he stopped growing at 5 feet 4 inches.

The writings of Karl Marx inspired _____ to initiate the Bolshevik movement in Russia.

Born Joseph Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, in 1912 he began using the name Stalin, which means "_____".

World War I starts and Czar Nicholas II sends in his troops. _____ million Russian soldiers died or were wounded within one year.

The surviving soldiers resented dying for someone else's cause. They begin to desert. When someone asked Lenin, "Who voted for the revolution?" he said, "The _____ soldier. He voted with his feet. He deserted."

In February 1917, Nicholas II abdicates the throne, ending the 300-year-old Romanov dynasty. In April, Lenin returns to Russia demanding a completely proletarian _____.

Lenin's Bolsheviks now became _____ commanders. Stalin was given the title Commissar of Nationalities.

In 1918 Trotsky sent him a detachment of army specialists. Stalin, who distrusted the trained military, imprisoned some of the men on a boat which then sank under mysterious circumstances. When someone said this might be a problem with headquarters. The Man of Steel reportedly replied, "_____ solves all problems. No man, problem."

Stalin's first wife died a few years after they were married. They had one son, Yakov, who would live with his deceased wife's family. At age 29 marries a 17 year-old girl, and has two children.

Bolsheviks had seized every scrap of _____ during the war and people were starving. Where were the food and peace Lenin had promised? This discontent erupted in a naval base in Finland when sailors revolted and demanded food and political freedom.

Trotsky sends in the _____ and slaughters the resistors.

A few Bolsheviks now controlled millions in Russia.

Lenin dies in 1924, and had written a secret will evaluating his men. He said about Stalin, "He was too bad. He was rude and crude."

By the end of the 1920s, Stalin was the unquestioned _____ of the Communist Party.

The first step was to collectivize the _____, the cornerstone of Marxism. He had the better-off farmers, known as kulaks, kicked off their land and sent to Siberia. More than _____ million of them were uprooted in the 1930s. Many slaughtered half their cattle in 1930 alone to keep the government from getting their property.

Grain yields began to fall. The Revolution was not working. The government takes all the grain. As a result, there was a famine. Ten years hard labor was the price for stealing corn. As a result, some people turned to _____.

_____ million starved to death in the Ukraine. But Stalin completely denied the famine. He made even mentioning it a punishable offense.

Gulags were _____ camps where millions of people were literally worked to death.

One man was sentenced to 10 years in the Gulag when his _____ got stuck in the mud. It was enough to convict him of sabotage".

Terror was continuous, continuous, continuous.

_____ built some of Staling most ambitious projects.

In 1929 Stalin turned 50 years old. He was now portrayed as a secular _____. The savior of his people.

Thousands of writers, artists and scientists were tried and convicted as _____. The sentence was death or the gulag.

Trotsky, who was in exile in _____, was the only one who could speak out. But, in 1940 Stalin had Trotsky killed. His assassin used an ice-pick.

Stalin blamed the millions of deaths on the _____. But his second wife began to question him. The two argued at a banquet one night, and the next day she was found dead of a gunshot wound.

~~In August 1939, _____ and the Soviet Union sign a Non-Agression Pact.~~

Germany invades Russia. Most of the _____ command was gone, since Stalin had killed them during the purges.

When, during WWII, Stalin's son Yakov from his first marriage, was taken prisoner by the Nazis, the Nazis approached Stalin about trading him for some of their own. Stalin said he, "had no _____ by that name." Yakov was shot and killed as he ran for the barbed wire fence at the camp.

Stalin eventually joined the WWII Allies. When Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met in 1943, Joseph Stalin was reintroduced to the West as the kindly _____.

After the war, Stalin is more popular than ever in Russia. But, after the war thousands of returning Russian soldiers were sent to labor camps because Stalin was afraid they would _____ against life at home now that they had seen the splendors of Europe.

Stalin was still sure people were out to get him. His newest public enemy was the _____. He arrested some of the most prominent doctors in Moscow, many of whom were Jews because he thought they were plotting to kill him and his advisors.

In 1953 Stalin had a stroke and suffocated to death.

In 1956, Nikita Khrushchev gives a speech. He said that while Stalin had been a great leader, he had committed terrible _____ against the Soviet people.

Reflection Questions:

Why did Stalin order the murder of thousands of Russian writers, artists, and scientists?

How did eliminating so many of Russia's writers, artists and scientists impact the country's progress?

Describe one positive outcome of Stalin's leadership.

Based on what you have learned from this film: If Joseph Stalin were alive today, and you were given the opportunity to talk with him, what ONE question would you ask him?

How do you think Joseph Stalin would answer this question?

