

Joseph Stalin (A Wicked History)

Chapter Overview Reference Sheet

Chapter	Topic	Subtopics
1	Stalin's childhood	• Difficult home life with an abusive father • Showed an early propensity for violence • Highly intelligent and eager to learn
2	Stalin's early engagement with communism and politics	• Discovered Marxism and became politically active, organizing protests and strikes • Sent into exile in Siberia by the tsar
3	Stalin's role in the Bolsheviks	• Joined the Bolsheviks, led by Lenin • Became a brutal thief and murderer in the name of the Bolshevik cause • Regularly arrested and exiled
4	Stages of the Russian Revolution	• The people of Russia were fed up with the war and blamed the tsar • Tsar Nicholas II finally stepped down • Temporary government established, people quickly grew discontented • Bolsheviks took power of government
5	Civil War	• Civil war started between the new government and people who opposed them (Red Army vs. White Army, respectively) • Farmers were forced to give up all their food to help the war effort • Stalin's brutality grew more obvious
6	Lenin's death and political struggle after	• Lenin became ill and then died • Trotsky and Stalin both wanted political power • Stalin worked carefully to make alliances

7	Five-year plan	● Stalin worked to rapidly modernize Russia ● Peasants were forced to collectivize ● Peasants suffered, were brutally punished for any resistance
8	Gulags and kulaks	● Stalin created the designation "kulaks" for people who resisted collectivization. Kulaks were murdered or sent to gulags (work camps with horrifying conditions) ● Millions died
9	Holodomor in Ukraine	● Stalin sold all of the grain produced in Ukraine ● Millions died of starvation ● Believed to be an intentional attempt to stop Ukrainian resistance to communism
10	Stalin's use of propaganda	● Stalin worked to create a positive public image with different propaganda techniques
11	Political rivalries	● Members of Stalin's party were privately frustrated with his techniques ● Kirov was murdered, Stalin accused political adversaries
12	Great Terror	● Stalin yet again set out to murder anyone who resisted him ● Used NKVD, his secret police, to do this ● Created an atmosphere of fear