



The US and USSR 1920s

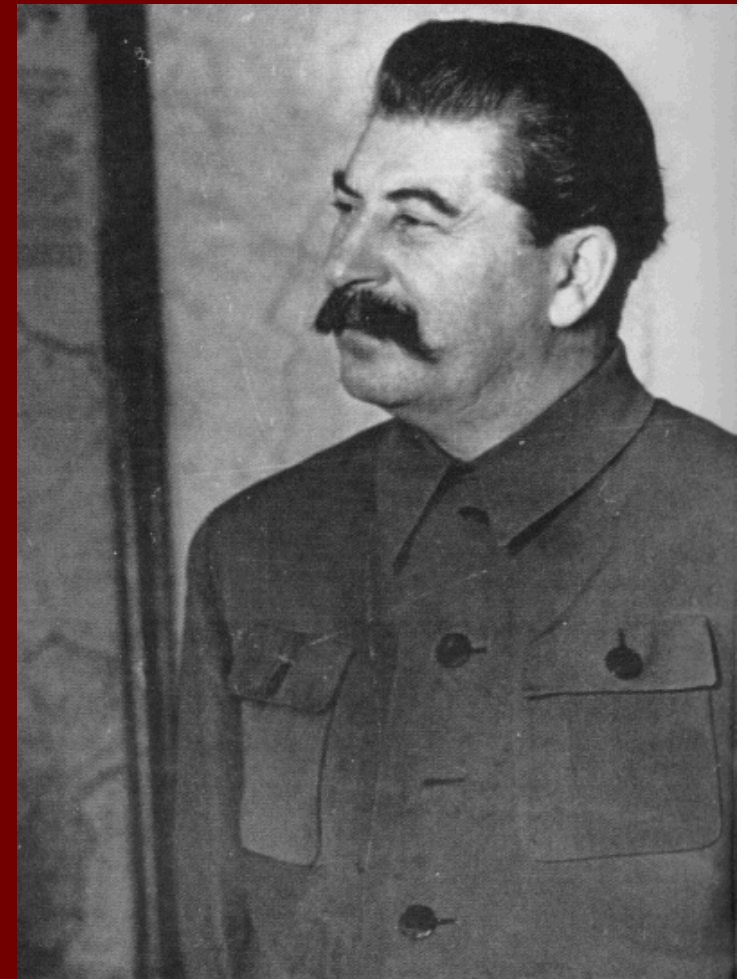
Stalin in Charge – “The Man of Steel”

A. Background

- After Lenin's death, three ideological positions developed
 - The Extreme Left Wing on the political spectrum
 - Socialism depended on world revolution
 - NEP was betrayal of communism
 - Revolution to be exported
 - This movement was lead by Leon Trotsky



- Center Socialism (less extreme communism)
 - Socialism in one country
 - Develop socialism within Soviet Union first
 - Revolution would eventually spread
 - Lead by Joseph Stalin



■ Moderate Socialism (the least left-wing version of socialism)

- Also believed in world revolution to communism
- Favoured NEP as it would save Soviet socialism
- Lead by Nikolai Bukharin



B. Stalin's Consolidation of Power

- Stalin portrayed as a man of the people, not middle-class like other communist leaders, he had allies (De Marco p. 56)
 - joined the Bolsheviks in 1900 after studying to be a priest
 - He robbed banks to fund Party activities
- Appointed General Secretary and used this position to appoint supporters into key roles
- Trotsky's influence and rapid rise was resented, also his idea of World Revolution not always popular and was not successful (De Marco p. 56)
- a more populist theory was of Socialism in one Country – patriotic, Russia first!

■ problems the communists faced:

- real losses and costs of Civil War now being felt
- need to rebuild industrial capacity and catch up to the rest of the world! – also a large base of industrial workers is necessary for socialism!!
- continued need for capital to be squeezed out of the peasants (Trotsky and others) but it had its opponents (Bukharin and Stalin) to import some things that could not be made in the USSR yet
- communists were a minority in many areas – again what was the answer to this problem?
(Paxton p. 274)

- Stalin set out to isolate Trotsky so while Trotsky was away fighting in the Civil War, Stalin won favour with other leaders to manipulate his growing power
 - He made himself an important player in Lenin's funeral
 - He even gave Trotsky the wrong date for funeral
 - Trotsky removed from Commissar for War in 1925
- 1926 party elections gained more support for Stalin
 - Stalin changed alliances and schemed (De Marco p. 57)
 - His opponents were expelled from party one by one

- Stalin seized power in 1924 and forced Trotsky to resign in 1927,
- Trotsky was expelled to Turkey and later murdered (assassinated) in Mexico in 1940 by Stalin's agents (NKVD)



C. The Plan or Plans: 10 Crazy Years from 1928-1938

- New Economic Policy ended 1927, first of 3 Five Year Plans to begin in 1928 to jump start Soviet industry and collectivize Soviet agriculture (ie. large state farms)
 - The goal: to catch up to the West in 10 years, (West had taken 150 years to industrialize)

- Why?

- in 1920's - peasants failed to deliver enough grain to the cities- underlined dangers of inefficient agriculture with small plots

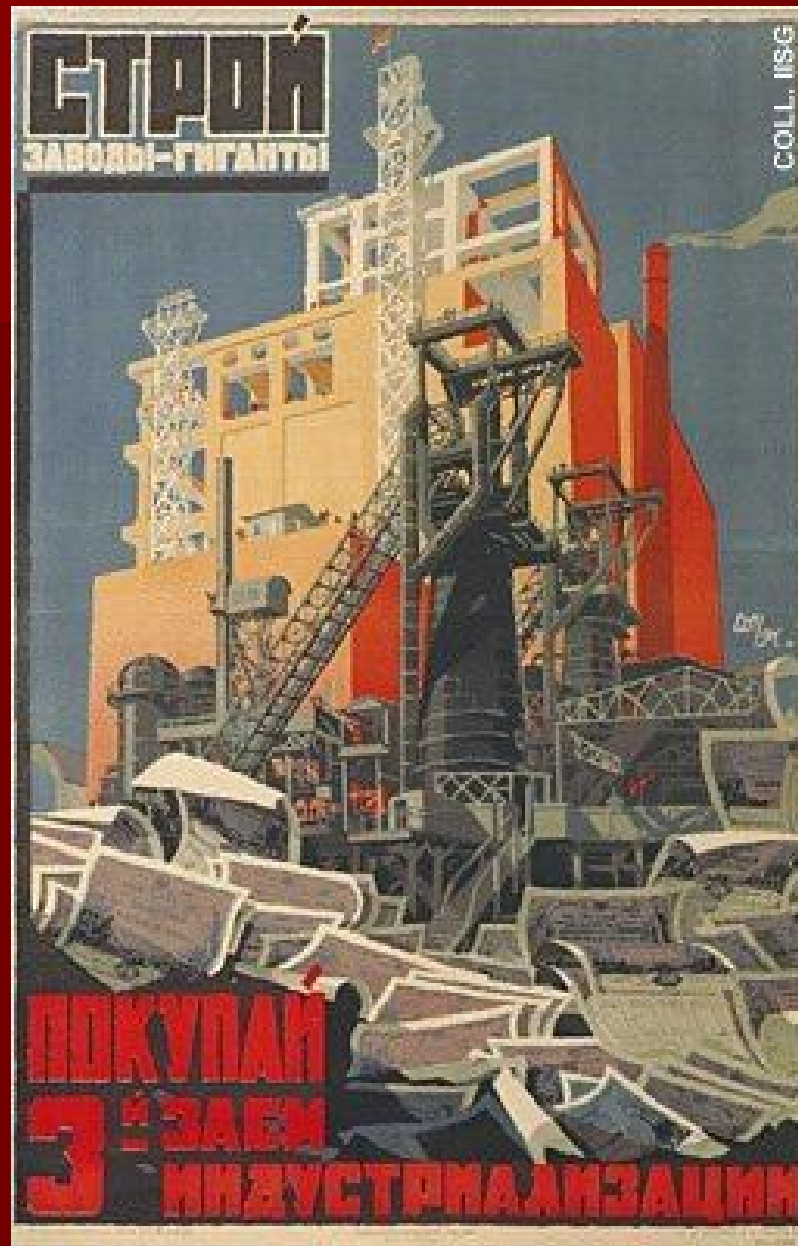
- by 1928, 5.5million families still used a wooden plow! (Howarth p. 128)

- with collectivization, agriculture production to be mechanized and made efficient, surplus farm workers to go to industry
- industrialization would provide collective farms with tractors, electricity, gasoline



“8 Million Tons of Pig Iron”

- The goal to make communism work:
 - Russia had defied Marxism by having a proletariat revolution without a proletariat! Five year plans would create a proletariat (industrial workers) “after the fact”
- to make the Soviet Union self-sufficient and a modern military power
- Stalin believed USSR’s existence threatened by capitalist countries, was there evidence? See Howarth p. 132)
 - This reflected Stalin's nationalism



“ Help Build Giant Factories”

D. The Command Economy (Howarth p. 130)

- First Five Year Plan (1928-1932)
 - goal to triple production in heavy industry and infrastructure development and electrification
- Second Five Year Plan (1933-1937)
 - Goal: more of the above
- Third Five Year Plan (1937-)
 - produce consumer goods raise the standard of living. Why do you think it wasn't successful?



Liberated woman, build up
socialism ! 1926

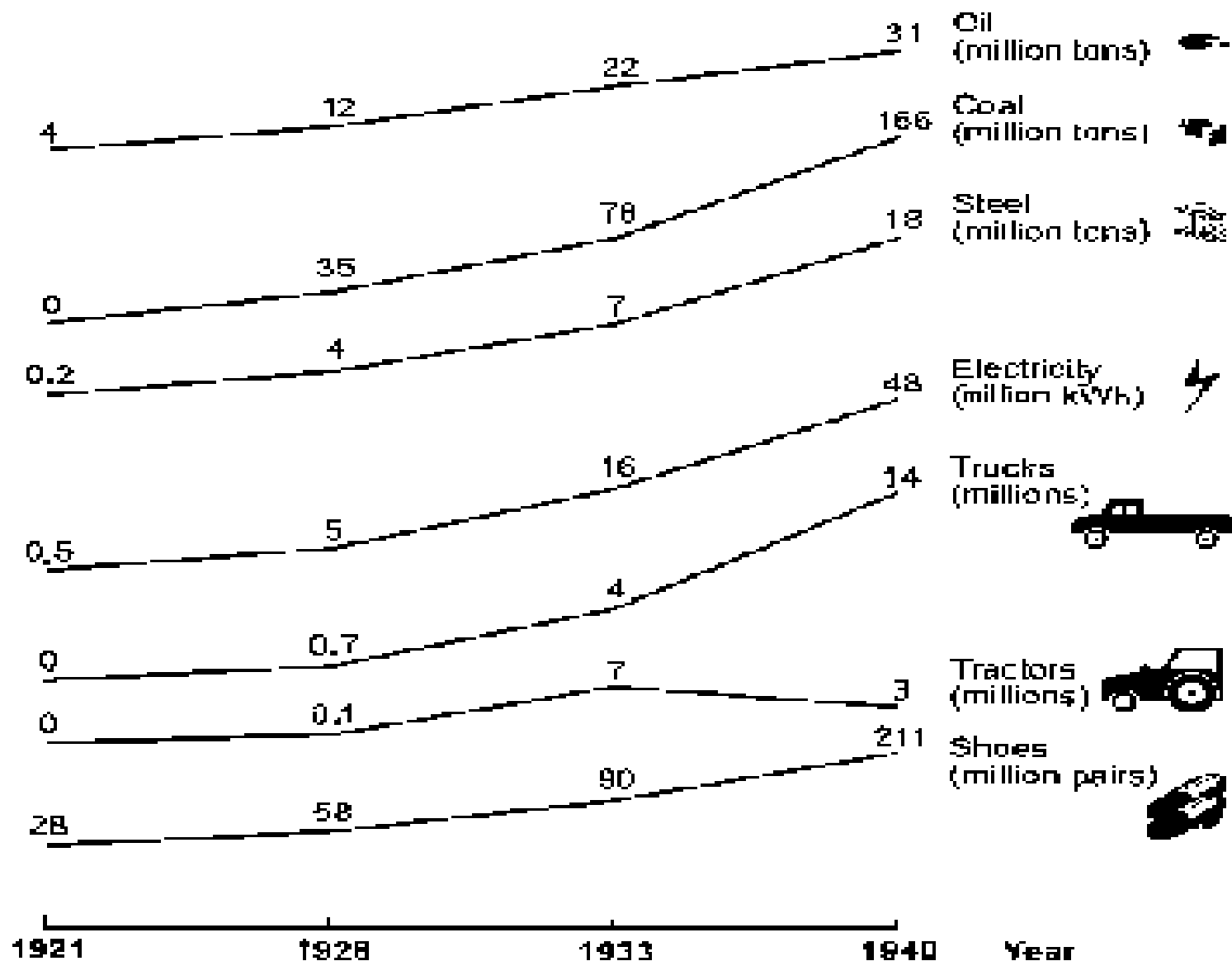
E. Results

- See your handout charts!
- agriculture- by 1939 96% of Russian farms had been collectivized – more on this tomorrow
- Industry - by 1940, USSR had overtaken Britain in iron and steel production and was within 20% of Germany's output.
 - Soviet economy run by the state
 - five Year Plans didn't always meet targets, but remarkably successful, between 1928 and 194
 - steel production- increased 4 1/2 times
 - electric power- increased 8 times
 - coal - 4 times
 - oil - 3 times



The building of socialism. 1927

Five Year Plans



F. The Consequences

- sacrifice of Marxist “egalitarianism” (Howarth p. 133)
- Collectivization was a great cost in human lives
 - about 10 million “kulaks” perished – more on this tomorrow
- more centralization and expansion of the bureaucracy – and more secret police now called OGPU



Let's annihilate the kulak's class ! 1930

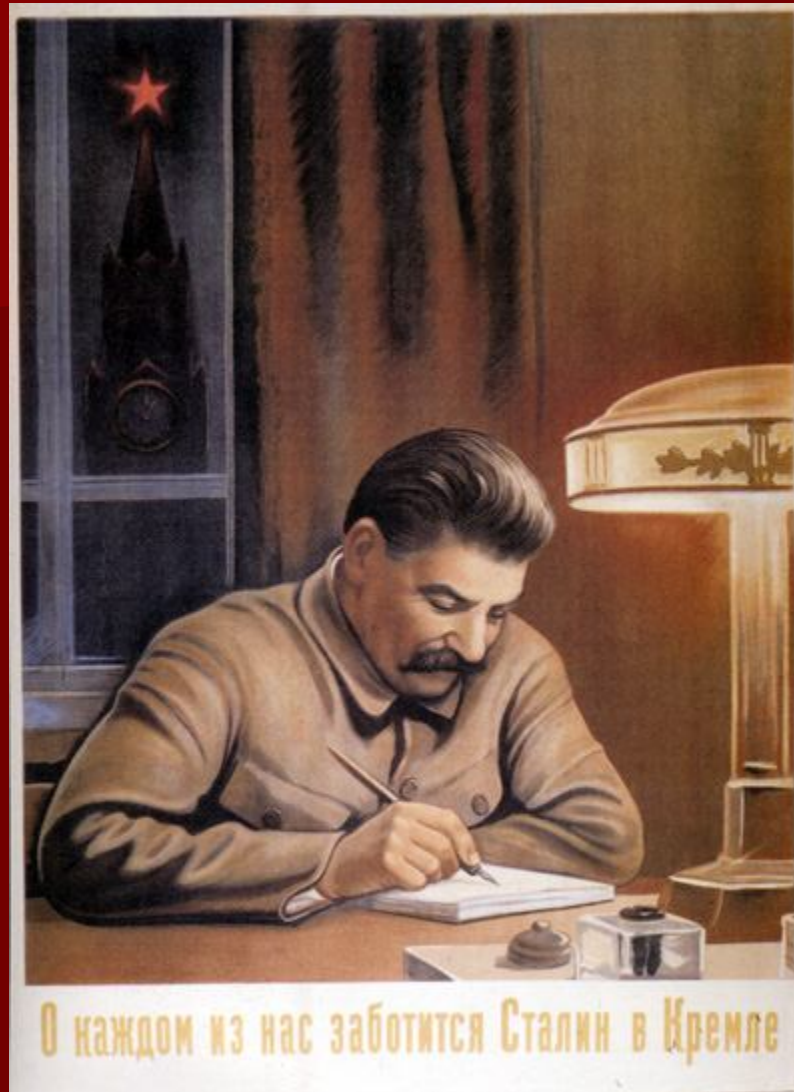
- urbanization: 13 million more people in urban areas during first five year plan, overcrowding (see Howarth p. 132)
- worker absenteeism punished by terms in labour camps and worse
- forced dislocation of workers to remote developments in Siberia – slave labour (see example in Howarth on the bottom of p. 134)
- fear of sabotage real or imagined (Howarth p. 133)



Thanks to dear Stalin for a happy
childhood ! 1936



Long live the emancipated woman of the
U.S.S.R ! 1938



Stalin cares at the Kremlin about everybody. 1940