



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_2of8pmHYU



Joseph Stalin



By 1929 Stalin was firmly in control of the Soviet Union.

Throughout the 1930s he ruthlessly eliminated all of his opponents, real or imaginary, in a series of political *purges*. Under Stalin, artists, scientists, and members of the *intelligentsia* were jailed, exiled, sent to labor camps (*Gulags*), or killed.

Stalin's economic policy centered around a series of *five year plans*. He made it a priority to industrialize Russia and he concentrated on heavy industry. In fact, within 10 years iron and steel production increased by 400% and coal production by 350%.

In agriculture, he confiscated private farms and forced them into groups of state-run farms known as *collectives*. By 1934 over 70% of Soviet farms were collectivized.

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_aF_sRXVdoU

Under Stalin, one-party rule became one-person rule. From an economic perspective however the Soviet Union did not suffer from the extremes of the *Depression* of the 1930s.

Although one of the most ruthless dictators in history, many do credit Stalin with *modernizing* the Soviet Union.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TXHL7FsKvU>