

The Leadership Struggle

1922	Stalin is made General Secretary of the Communist Party
1924	Death of Lenin
1924	Stalin tricks Trotsky so he misses Lenin's funeral
1924	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stalin, Kamenev and Zinoviev form the Triumvirate• They control important posts in the party
1925	Trotsky is fired from post as War Commissar
1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stalin now allies with Bukharin• turns against Kamenev and Zinoviev
1927	Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev are expelled from the Communist Party
1928	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trotsky is exiled to Siberia• Stalin turns against Bukharin
1929	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trotsky is banned from the USSR• Bukharin is expelled from the Communist Party
1929	Stalin is now the unchallenged leader of the Communist Party

Five Year plans and Collectivisation

1921	Lenin introduces NEP
1928	Grain crisis
1928	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalin now argues against NEP • supports collectivisation and rapid industrialisation
1928 - 1932	The First Five-year Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on major industries • Whole cities were built • New dams built to create hydro-electric power • Aimed to increase collectivization to 15%
1932 - 1933	The Great Famine (4-5 million died)
1933-1937	The Second Five-year Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy industry still priority • Mining intensified • Transport and Communications were boosted
1934	No Kulaks left
1938 - 1941	The Third Five-year Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some factories switched to consumer goods • Plan disrupted by German invasion in 1941
By the end of 1939	Almost all farms now collectivized or part of a state farm
1946 - 1950	The Fourth Five-year Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on heavy Industry • Reconstruction of Ukraine's industry and agriculture

Purges

1933	Over 550 000 party members were killed
February 1934	Kirov is widely cheered during the 17th Party Congress
December 1934	Kirov is assassinated
January 1935	Zinoviev and Kamenev arrested for conspiracy to murder Kirov
August 1936	The First show trial <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zinoviev, Kamenev and 14 others convicted for Kirov's murder
September 1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yezhov becomes head of NKVD• The great Terror starts
January 1937	The Second show trial <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17 Party members confessed to plotting with Trotsky to wreck the 5 year plans
May 1937	The purge of the Red Army begins
June 1937	Leading army officers are shot for criticizing the execution of the soldiers
March 1938	The Third show trial <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bukharin and 20 others admitted to planning Stalin's assassination
December 1938	Beria replaces Yezhov as head of NKVD
March 1939	Stalin declares at end to the mass purges
February 1940	Yezhov is shot
August 1940	Trotsky was assassinated on Stalin's orders

Second World War and after

1939	Stalin signs the Nazi-Soviet pact with Hitler
22 June 1941	Germany invades the USSR
By September 1941	Leningrad under siege (lasts for 872 days)
By December 1941	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.6 million Red Army soldiers killed• Germany now occupied vast areas of the USSR
Winter 1941	Germany troops start to struggle and Russians push them back
August 1942	Hitler orders attack on Stalingrad
February 1942	The Germans attacking Stalingrad surrender
1943-1945	Red Army liberated Eastern European countries from the Germans
May 1945	Germany's unconditional surrender
1946	The Fourth Five-year Plan starts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on heavy industry• Reconstruction of Ukraine's industry and agriculture
1946-1947	Devastating famine in Ukraine
1948	Leningrad Party purge
December 1949	Stalin's 70th birthday <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celebrated across the USSR and Eastern Europe
1953	The Doctor's Plot
1953	Stalin dies