

## The Soviet Union – Stalin's Genocides

- 1917
  - Bolsheviks come to power w/ enormous confidence
- Young Turk utopia =
- Bolshevik utopia =
- w/in socialist society all sorts of possibilities for human development
- “Good” communists abandon individualist
- Soviet Utopia replaces individual advancement w/ emancipation
- Socialism meant Russia becomes a modern nation
- To achieve:

- Bolsheviks believe achievement of utopia required race against time
  - Stalin said: “We are 50 or a 100 years behind the advanced countries. We must make good this distance in 10 years. Either we do it, or they crush us.”
  - “We have all the objective opportunities [for this pace of development]. The only thing lacking is the ability to make proper use of these opportunities. And that depends on us. Only on us!”
  
- Realities of utopia-in-the-making fell far short
  - Immense transformations to achieve Stalin’s goals actually caused unfathomable hardships
  
- Despite reality, visions of utopia were inspiring
  
- BUT, were Utopian hopes related to population purges that became staple of Soviet life that begin 1918 & lasted until Stalin’s death in 1953?

- Soviet enemy defined in terms of social class
  
- Communist Party = embodiment of class consciousness of proletariat
  
- Ex. “Nationalism” viewed as distinct from “Soviet Patriotism”
  
  
- 1929
  
- Stalin begins systematic “revolution from above”
  
- Goal = Crush 2 elements hostile to his regime:
  
- Why target Ukrainian population?
  
- Stalin consolidates power

- Launches attack immediately
  
- Began with double blow:
  - Dekulakization
  
  - Collectivization
  
- Kulak = “tight fisted one”
  
- 1921 Stabilization through New Economic Policy (NEP)
  
- 1923 NEP accompanied by indigenization
  
- Stalin ends NEP & indigenization thru dekulakization & collectivization
  - Dekulakization meant purges

- Stalin purges all he labels “enemies of state”
- Categorization enabled regime to identify:
- Purging was complex, multidimensional phenomenon
- Collectivization = effective abolition of private property
  - Forced collectivization viewed as a war:
- Essence of collectivization:
  - Replacement of individual farms by large collective farms
  - Allowed entire agricultural population to plant/harvest as group

– Those allowed to live outside collectives

- Early 1930s
- Article 182, Penal Code of 1929
- End 1931 state had won its war in Ukraine
  - By July 1932, Moscow warned of possible famine
- 1932-33 Coming of terror-famine
  - Inflicted on collectivized peasants
  - Stalin blamed Nationalism
  - One aims of collectivization

- Ukr peasants too suffer twice

– Statistics

- Harvest of 1930

- Harvest of 1931

- Harvest of 1932

- Fall 1932 – things grew worse

- Inhabitants of 20,000 villages faced move menacing future

- Oct 12, 1932, Ivan Akulov & Mendal Khatayevich sent in to “strengthen” the local party

- Moscow launched into crescendo of terror by hunger
  - Utilizes decree of Aug 1932
  - Violators to be considered enemies of the people
  
- Some party activists tried to get fair treatment for peasants
  - Real Tragedy, @ district level there was plenty of food
  
  - Brigades made complete formal searches every couple of weeks