

Stalin DBQ

Directions:

On the attached answer sheet you will indicate your analysis of the following documents as they relate to the question below. You are to use evidence from the documents to support your response.

Historical Content:

Joseph Stalin (December 18, 1878 - March 5, 1953) was General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union's Central Committee from 1922 until his death in 1953. During that time he established the regime now known as Stalinism. As one of several Central Committee Secretariats, Stalin's formal position was originally limited in scope, but through increasing control of the Party from 1928 onwards, he became the de facto party leader and ruler of the Soviet Union. His crash programs of industrialization and collectivization in the 1930s and his campaigns of political repression cost the lives of millions of people. However, it helped to make the Soviet Union the second largest industrial nation by 1937.

During Stalin's reign, the Soviet Union played a major role in the defeat of Nazi Germany in the Second World War (1939–1945). Under Stalin's leadership, the Soviet Union went on to achieve recognition as one of just two superpowers in the post-war era, a status that lasted for nearly four decades after his death.

Task:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of Global History and Geography, analyze the following documents as they relate to the question below.

Compare and contrast the different views of Stalin's period of rule. Discuss political, economic, and social changes that occurred during this period.

Document 1—Lenin's directive to the Communist Party Leadership in 1922

Stalin has concentrated enormous power in his hands, and I am not sure he always knows how to use that power with sufficient caution . . . Stalin is too rude and this fault becomes unbearable in the office of General Secretary. Therefore I propose to find a way to remove Stalin from that position and appoint to it a man who is . . . more patient, more loyal, more polite, and more attentive to comrades ...

Document 2

The Five Year Plans			
	1927-8	1932	1937
Coal - millions of tons	35.4	64.3	128.0
Oil - millions of tons	11.7	21.4	28.5
Pig-iron - millions of tons	3.3	6.2	14.5
Steel - millions of tons	4.0	5.9	17.7
Electricity - thousand million kilowatt hrs.	5.0	17.0	36.2
Woolen cloth - millions of meters	97.0	93.3	108.3

Document 3—Famine Testimony of Tatiana Pawlichka

After the harvest, the villagers tried to go out in the fields to look for grain left behind by the harvest; the communists would arrest them and shoot at them, and send them to Siberia. That summer, the vegetables couldn't even ripen - people pulled them out of the ground - still green - and ate them. People ate leaves, nettles, milkweed. By autumn, no one had any chickens or cattle. Here and there, someone had a few potatoes or beets.

All the train stations were overflowing with starving, dying people. Everyone wanted to leave the Ukraine because it was said that there was no famine across the border. Very few (of those who left) returned. They all perished on the way. They weren't allowed to leave and were turned back at the border. In February of 1933, there wasn't a cat, dog, or sparrow in the village. There was cannibalism in our village. On my farmstead, an 18 year-old boy, Danylo Hukhlib, died, that his not younger sisters and brothers cut him up and ate him. The communists came and took them away, and we never saw them again. People said they took them a little ways off and shot them right away - the little ones and the older ones together. The ground thawed, and they began to take the dead to the ravine in ox carts. The air was filled with odor of decomposing bodies. The wind carried this odor far and wide. It was thus over all the of the Ukraine.

Document 4—Joseph Stalin, Moscow, 1953

The party cannot be neutral towards religion, and it conducts anti-religious propaganda against all religions because it stands for science, whereas religion is opposed to science. The party cannot be neutral towards the clergy who poison the minds of the workers. Have we persecuted the clergy? Yes, we have, the only unfortunate thing is that they had not yet been completely eliminated.

Document 5

The Purge of the Red Army, 1937-38		
Political Officials and Officers	Original Number	Executed
Members of Supreme Military Soviet	80	75
Vice-Commissars of Defense	11	11
Army Commissars	17	17
Corps Commissars	28	25
Corps Commissars	36	34
Military Officers		
Marshalls	5	3
Army Commanders	16	14
Corps Commanders	67	60
Division Commanders	199	136
Brigade Commanders	397	221

Note: Precise figures were never produced. These figures are based on a Soviet estimate made many years later, after Stalin's death.

Document 6—Patriotic speech by Joseph Stalin in 1941 after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union

The issue is one of life and death for the people of the USSR; the issue is whether the peoples of the Soviet Union shall be free or fall into slavery. There can be no mercy for the enemy ... no room in our ranks for whimpers and cowards, people must selflessly join our patriotic war of liberation against the fascist enslavers (Nazis), and in the case of forced retreats by Red Army (Soviets) units ... all valuable property, including grains and fuel that cannot be withdrawn must be destroyed without fail.

Document 7

Literacy as percent of the population of Russia/USSR

1897	1926	1939	1959	1979
26.3	56.6	89.1	98.5	99.9

Document 8—An official government pamphlet celebrating Stalin's seventieth birthday, 1948

The name of Comrade Stalin takes its place beside the names of the world's greatest men of genius -Marx, Engels, Lenin. The victory of the proletarian revolution, and the creation of the Soviet social and state system: this mankind owes to Lenin and to his faithful disciple, Comrade Stalin. The victory of Socialism in the U.S.S.R. and the salvation of human civilization from the onslaught of fascist barbarism (Nazism): such is mankind's debt to Comrade Stalin.

DBQ Answer Sheet

Compare and contrast the different views of Stalin's period of rule. Discuss political, economic, and social changes that occurred during this period.

Chart your documents, explaining why you put them into their categories.
Remember that documents can fit into more than one category.

Different views of Stalin's period of rule - <i>compare and contrast</i>	Political Changes	Economic Changes	Social Changes	Missing document and why you would need it.

Identify two documents that a historian would need to take into account either the source of the document or the author's point of view that might indicate bias and explain.

Write a well-developed thesis that addresses the above question and is not merely a restatement of the question: