

## **Stalinism and the Totalitarian State Student Worksheet**

### Introduction:

After the Revolution in 1917, Russia suffered through three years of civil war, and eventually Josef Stalin succeeded Lenin as the head of the party and leader of the Soviet Union. One of Stalin's main goals was the modernization of Russia. This modernization, however, was achieved at a terrible cost. Industrialization was carried out under the "Five Year Plan," and agriculture was collectivized into large cooperative farms. Labor needs were met by arbitrary arrest of Soviet citizens, who were whisked off to concentration camps called the Gulag. People so greatly feared being grabbed by Stalin's secret police that there was an intense competition to see who could praise Stalin the most.

All Web links for this lesson can also be found at:

<http://www.socialstudies.com/worldlinks.html>.

### Directions:

#### **Stalin's Call for Industrialization**

<http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/Stalin--industrialization.htm>

Read the document, then answer the following questions:

1. Why did Stalin wish to modernize Russia?
2. At one point Stalin quotes a line from a poem: "You are poor and abundant, mighty and impotent, Mother Russia." What do you think this sentence means? Why do you think Stalin quoted it? What point was he trying to make?

#### **Letter to Bolshevik**

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/d2presid.html>

Read the document, then answer the following questions:

3. Who are the authors of this letter? What was their purpose in writing the letter?
4. The authors of the letter claim that there is "terror, tyranny, violence, and lawlessness" in the camps. What examples do they use to support this claim? List at least three.
5. According to the authors, who suffered most in the camps? Why were most of them in the camps in the first place?
6. Why do you think the authors of this letter believed that they would get help from the authorities?

## **Hymn to Stalin**

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/stalin-worship.html>

Read the document, then answer the following questions:

7. Why does the author claim that he is one of the “happiest of mortals”?
8. Read the poem at the end of the document. What achievements does the author credit to Stalin?
9. Why do you suppose this was written? Does it seem to be sincere? Why or why not?