

Lenin and Stalin  
World History  
Kienast

Russia changed its name to the **Soviet Union** after Russian Civil War in 1922  
Short for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Led by Vladimir Lenin

Problems immediately:

- Russian Civil War; 27 million killed
- What kind of government
  - Supposed to be a “dictatorship of the Proletariat”
  - Workers control government
  - Communist Party really in control
- Lenin died, 1924
  - Power struggle between Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin
  - Trotsky was a general in the Red Army
  - Stalin was a Communist Party leader

Stalin outmaneuvered Trotsky in politics

Stalin exiled Trotsky to Siberia as soon as possible

Eventually had him sent to Mexico City and assassinated

Stalin’s importance

Modernized Russia (industrialized)

Developed three “**Five Year Plans**” to modernize Russia

Developed heavy industry and resources (gold, oil)

Created a new political system: **totalitarianism**

Government controls every part of public and private lives of citizens

Rising atheism; Stalin did not want any other institutions in

Russia, including religion; thought people would be less

loyal to government if religious

Created a command economy (completely controlled by the government)

Many upset with Stalin’s ideas

Stalin began eliminating anyone who opposed him

Time period called **Stalin’s Purges**

Three main groups eliminated: communists who supported Lenin and

Trotsky, military leaders who supported Trotsky, and *kulaks*

*Kulaks* were wealthy farm owners; did not like state

ownership of farms

Many sent to prison camps in Siberia (**Gulags**)

Forced to labor in mining towns