

Presentation developed for the Center for Slavic and East European Studies
at The Ohio State University by Kathryn Metz

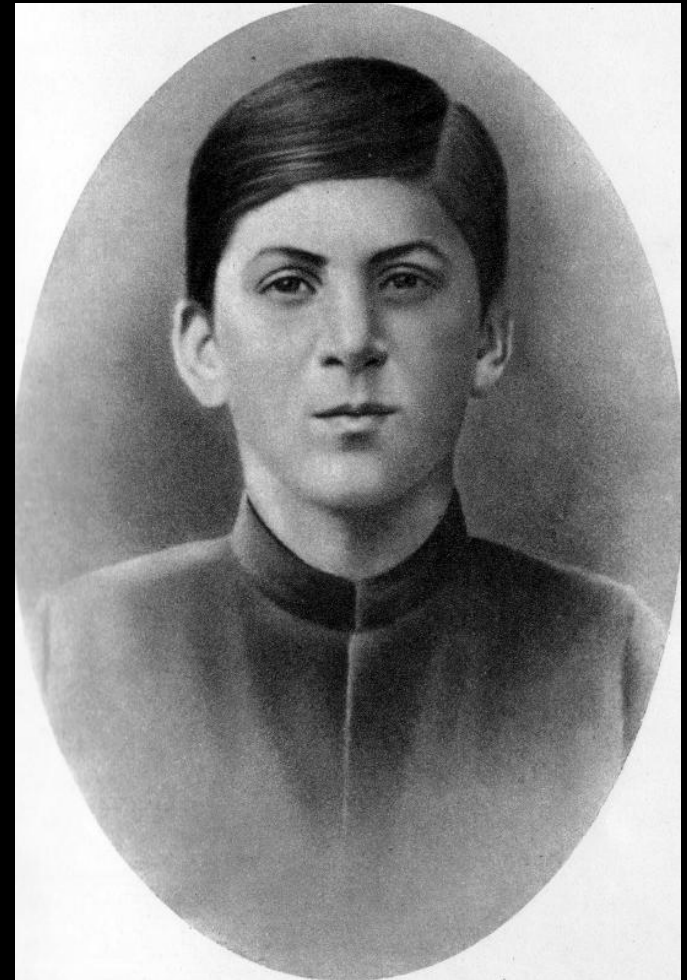
JOSEPH STALIN

1878-1953



YOUNG LIFE

- Born in **Gori, Georgia** (Birth name: Ioseb Besarionis dze Jughashvili; in Georgian: იოსებ ბესარიონის ძე ჯუღაშვილი)
- He came from a poor family
- His father was an abusive alcoholic
- He was bullied by classmates
- Joseph studied in a seminary to be a priest, but after one year he became an atheist



POLITICAL ACTIVITY

- Arrested many times for revolutionary activity and exiled in Siberia
- Between 1910-1912, He changed his name to Stalin, meaning “Man of Steel”
- 1922 – he is promoted to General Secretary of the Communist Party – this position gave him power over many people
- After Lenin’s death, Stalin began turning against powerful Bolsheviks like Leon Trotsky, who was exiled in Mexico
- By 1927, Stalin was dominating Soviet Politics



FIVE YEAR PLAN

- “Socialism in one country”
- Policy = Forced Agricultural Collectivization → *Kolkhozy 1929-1940*
- Under collectivization, peasants were forced to give up their land, crops and animals and join state-owned collective farms where everything was shared.
- Policy forced farmers to sell their crops at lower prices, and prevented them from keeping surplus grain to sell in private markets
- Instead of turning property over to the state many peasants burned their crops and killed their livestock
- **CREATED FAMINE!** Millions of Soviets died in the 1930s



FIVE YEAR PLAN

- Stalin defined Kulaks as: "peasants with a couple of cows or five or six acres more than their neighbors"
- Stalin called for the **liquidation** of Kulaks
- Stalin ordered Kulaks to be transported to collective farms in distant parts of the USSR or to be sent to **Gulags**
- **Between 1.8 and 6 million Kulaks died (numbers vary depending on who you ask)**



FIVE YEAR PLAN

Why did Stalin want to collectivize agriculture?

To ensure rapid industrialization!

The State made money buying crops from the collectives at low prices. The State then sold the crops for higher prices, creating revenue to build factories and pay workers for goods produced!

The goal was to make the USSR self-sufficient

It worked... in 20 years the Soviet Union transformed itself from an agrarian country to an industrial superpower on par with the USA

Rapid urbanization followed...

