

- (No separation of powers) **One party, one leader**
- (Brainwashing) **Implementation of Ideology**
- (Overreach of power) **State control over all sectors of society**
- (Manipulation) **State control over the individual**
- (Misrepresentation) **Use of propaganda**
- (Desecration of due process) **Use of secret police**
- (Use of violence and trickery) **Suppression of opposition**

**Prosecuting attorney :** Stalin, one of the key factors when identifying something as a totalitarian regime is the use of propaganda regarding sectors such as the economy and education. That allows the state to steer society and ensure nothing escapes from its grips. What details can you give to the court of history about your actions in regards to this accusation of your time in power as what they believe to be a totalitarian dictator.

**Stalin:** I will concede to the court then I am guilty of this charge. During my time in power I compelled artists to writers to promote my personal ideals and even created a new style of “socialist realism” focusing on the romantic view of the average factory and farmer uniting their nation. This was in an attempt to convince both average citizens that their labor was for the greater good of all instead of towards forwarding the goals and lining the pockets of the party (stalin docs, 347). I also started the seeds of propagandic praise through force, resulting in real emotion bonds to me as almost mythical and god-like. This “cult of personality” that developed around me acted as an emotional basis for exploitation,- as many believed that like in the songs they were taught I was a “strong, beautiful, wise and marvelous” man (stalin docs, 348).

**Prosecuting attorney :** Stalin, another factor when identifying a totalitarian regime is removal of opposition through pure violence and widescale manipulation. Such as the use of undercover police without oversight, the killing of political opposition, and the creation of corrective institutions. Stalin please describe to the court what specific actions you took to suppress opposition during your time in power?

**Stalin:** Unfortunately I am guilty of this charge and did in fact suppress my opposition. Such as the creation of forced labor camps known collectively as gulags, these served me in two major ways. It allowed for the segregation and removal of any political enemies alongside any those who opposed the state through their actions. It also acted as an economic advantage as their labor was unpaid meaning that anything from lumber to raw metals could be mined at a much cheaper price boosting the riches and power of the state and my military forces (stalin docs, 355). I thought that suppression of any enemies to my power no matter how small must be prosecuted, such as Mrs. Pasha. Pasha was a single mother left to raise their children after her husband's tragic death, looking for excess income she exploited the arbitrage that existed between the price of stocks in order to profit for her family. For this crime described by my courts as “speculation” of goods she was brutally imprisoned for seven years alongside my men taking all of her property and having to give up her children where they were assigned to my armies and slain during her sentence. (stalin docs, 359-360)