

Stalinism (1929-53)

AFTER DEATH OF LENIN in 1924 THERE WAS POWER STRUGGLE in COMMUNIST PARTY & STALIN CAME TO POWER BY 1928. HIS POLICIES & RULE ARE COLLECTIVELY CALLED STALINISM.

CONTEXT FOR POLICIES ADOPTED BY STALIN:

- # STALIN HAD A DICTATORIAL PERSONALITY

- # ECONOMY OF USSR WAS STILL LARGELY AGRARIAN & NON INDUSTRIALIZED. THE NEP OF LENIN HAD PRIORITIZED AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- # STALIN HAD LITTLE FAITH in PEASANTRY. FOR HIM THE KULAKS OR BIG LANDLORDS WERE A THREAT TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION. FOR HIM THE REVOLUTION WOULD BE SECURE ONLY IF MASSES ARE WORKERS.

- # STALIN HAD PHOBIA OF CAPITALISM & CAPITALIST WEST. BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER ATTACK FROM CAPITALIST WEST & ∴

HE WANTED A STRONG MODERN MILITARY FOR USSR.

- # WHEN STALIN CAME TO POWER USSR HAD FOLLOWING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES:

- # INDUSTRIALIZATION OF ECONOMY

- # ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

- # ECONOMIC GROWTH

Following Policies were Adopted By Stalin :

New Economic Policy (1921-29) That Prioritized Agriculture Sector Was Ended.

Full Nationalization (i.e. end of all private property) of industry & all factories & trade was now under state.
∴ Pvt ownership replaced by state ownership.
∴ State = Sole producer of all industrial goods.

Rapid Industrialization with focus on heavy industry.

Communist Revolution would be secure if Russia rapidly industrialized & have majority workers in population

Focus on heavy industry would allow USSR to also build a strong modern military ∴ sectors like power sector, steel sector, mining, transport etc. were promoted.

However this led to neglect of light industry which is important for standard of living for people.

Since Economic Growth & Efficiency were important ∴ factories continued to be under control of state appointed managers & factories not brought under workers control.

Collectivization in Agriculture :

Private ownership of property was ended.

Peasants were organized into collectives. Each collective had 300-400 families.

Land was allocated to collectives where peasants engaged in joint production.

∴ Peasant was converted into Agrarian Worker

Food security was a goal of collectivization as it led to economies of scale by ending fragmentation of landholdings

Foreign investment was unavailable due to Great Depression 1929 & political isolation of Communist Russia. Collectivization allowed state to gather capital from agriculture sector for investment in industrial sector.

5yr Plans introduced:

i.e. Command Economy was introduced via 5yr plans

Since resources were less. Proper planning for efficient utilization of resources & ruthless re-investment of all profits

Factories & collectives were given quotas of production

It was centralized planning i.e. all decisions of economic projects of production were taken by state.

Administered price instead of market price.

This led to over centralization in economy as no scope for own initiative at factory level.

Focus on modern military

Due to fear of attack from west factories were shifted to east of Ural mountains

Internally Stalin Built A Totalitarian Regime & His Cult Of Personality

All Political Opposition Was Purged i.e. suppressed, removed from party, sent to gulags or out of country & many killed

Gulags i.e. Forced Labour Prisons similar to Hitler's Concentration Camps were introduced.

High misuse of Secret Police

Total Control Over Education system for indoctrination in favor of Stalin & Communism. Education was free but also compulsory.

Total Control of media & no freedom of expression:

Role of media to be propaganda for Stalin

Nothing could be published against Lenin, Stalin, Communism, One Party system, & Communist Party.

Social Security was introduced (tvc)

Impact:

Collectivization was forced & brutal & many died resisting

Food security was achieved

USSR industrialized & built a strong modern army that won WW2 (1939-45)

Under Stalin, USSR emerged as 2nd super power post WW2 & a nuclear power by 1949

⊕ World entered phase of Cold War post WW2.