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| **Stalin, Joseph (December 19. 1878 — March , 1953)** |
| Iusif Vassarionovich Dzhugashvili |
| Joseph Stalin (Iusif Vassarionovich Dzhugashvili) was born in Gori, Russian Empire, which is part of present day Georgia. He adopted the name “Stalin” from the Russian word for “steel.” Although he originally attended a Georgian Orthodox seminary, he read the works of Lenin and became a Bolshevik in 1903. In the prerevolutionary period, Stalin was a leading revolutionary in the Caucasus, raising funds through bank robberies. He was sent to Siberia several times as a prisoner, but frequently escaped, the last time to Petrograd during the revolution. |
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| Further reading:  (Brooks)  (Davies, Harris and editors)  (Kun) (Roosevelt)  (Rossman) |