**Modern Europe Assignment #3**

**The Rise and Fall of Classical Communism**

**J. Lewis, Instructor -- Spring 2024**

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***This assignment is due on Blackboard on Wednesday, May 22 by 11:59PM. Note that Blackboard will not accept papers after that deadline and I am unable to access emailed papers, resulting in a failing grade for late or unsubmitted papers.***

**Instructions:**

1. **Read and follow the prompt. Write your name on your work-product and number the pages of your paper. Proof-read carefully.**
2. **Answer each aspect of the question below as an essay, NOT as short-answer responses, as thoughtfully and thoroughly as you can and using specific references from the readings to support your response. Short answer or bullet-point responses will have points deducted.**
3. **This assignment should be approximately four to six typed double-spaced pages with one-inch margins on each side. Use a standard type-face of 11 or 12-point font.**
4. **Note that the due date is after the end of class so not late submission or submissions by email cannot be accepted.**

In “The Tasks of Economic Executives” of 1931 and in “The Results of the First Five-Year Plan” Parts I, II and III in 1933, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin outlined the motivations and the result of his policy of rapid industrialization of the USSR. Discuss the reasons given by Stalin in “The Tasks” as to why it was imperative that the Soviet Union industrialize as quickly as possible, and what were the early results of Stalin’s policy as expressed in his speech on “The Results of the First Five-Year Plan,” Parts I, II and III. In claiming that without this rapid industrialization the Soviet Union “would go under” was Stalin in your view merely justifying his own ruthless dictatorship or was there any truth in his claim that in the modern world “weak countries become defeated countries” at the hands of the major industrial states? How according to Stalin in this 1933 speech did the rest of the world view the results of the Five Year Plan?

After Stalin’s death, however, Soviet leader Khrushchev denounced him for a long list of crimes. What according to this denunciation were Stalin’s crimes, why in Khrushchev’s view did Stalin behave in this was manner, and what were some of the consequences of those crimes?

Lastly, your essay should examine the fall of European Communism and of the USSR by the early 1990s as discussed in the online reading “the Collapse of the Soviet Union: History and Facts” at World History EDU to discuss how and why attempts to reform Communism failed.

**The on-line readings for this assignment are at:**

**J. Stalin, *The Tasks of Economic Executives* 1931, and**

***Results of the First Five-Year Plan*, 1933 *Parts I, II and III only***

[**https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1931/02/04.htm**](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1931/02/04.htm)

[**https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1933/01/07.htm**](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1933/01/07.htm)

**N. Khrushchev, *Secret Speech Denouncing Stalin*, 1956**

[**http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1956khrushchev-secret1.html**](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1956khrushchev-secret1.html)

**2011 Interview with Mikhail Gorbachev with *The Guardian* Newspaper**

[**https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/aug/16/gorbachev-guardian-interview**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/aug/16/gorbachev-guardian-interview)

**World History EDU, The Collapse of the Soviet Union: History and Facts**

[**https://www.worldhistoryedu.com/collapse-of-the-soviet-union-history-major-facts/**](https://www.worldhistoryedu.com/collapse-of-the-soviet-union-history-major-facts/)