



5.2.4 Practice: How Was the Soviet Union Different?

Practice Assignment

World History Sem 2 (2012) (S1771139)

Points possible: 20

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Date: _____

Imagine that you are a planner working for the Soviet government in 1934. You have been asked to evaluate two potential programs for the Soviet economy for the next five years. Both programs are attempting to provide food for factory workers during the current Five-Year Plan.

The first program would return to Lenin's New Economic Policy. The second program would continue Stalin's policy of collectivized agriculture and the taking of land from farmers.

1. Use this graphic organizer to evaluate both proposals, and then write a three-paragraph essay explaining what you will recommend.

	NEP	Collectivization
Agricultural productivity	Increase gradually	Increase massively
Who owns farmland	The village soviet	Collective farm
How much food is available for farmers	As much as they could eat.	As much as they could buy
How much food is available for factory workers	As much as they could buy	As much as they could buy
How is food allocated	Price - open market	State-owned shops
Does this increase or decrease the prestige of the party?	Decreases - retreat from socialism (capitalist concepts).	Increases - as long as it shows socialist methods of distribution are as efficient (or more) than capitalist counterparts.

2. Which program do you recommend that the Soviet government use? Write a three-paragraph essay recommending either that the government return to the NEP or that it move ahead with collectivization. Give evidence supporting your position.

I recommend that the Soviet government use collectivization because it strengthens Soviet ideals and has the potential to show that socialism ~~has~~ can be more beneficial to the people than capitalism.

Lenin's New Economic Policy incorporates capitalist concepts into a socialist society. Initially this may not be a ~~bad~~ thing - progress will continue to advance at a consistent rate and it will be relatively self-sustaining. However, in the long run, the success of ~~capitalist~~ capitalist concepts has the potential to undermine the rest of a Stalinist society.

Collectivization, ~~moreover~~ if successful, will strengthen the ~~fundamental~~ fundamental ideals of ~~any~~ a Stalinist society. I will potentially show that state-run collective programs are better for the average person.