

The Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics' De-Stalinization

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## INTRODUCTION

Joseph Stalin ruled the Soviet Union with terror from 1929 to 1953.<sup>1</sup> The government thrived, but millions of citizens lost their lives to the dictator's ruthlessness.<sup>2</sup> Stalin's successor, Nikita Khrushchev<sup>3</sup>, was a merciless leader not in favor of Stalin's terrible acts and methods. Khrushchev worked to destroy all Stalin created. Nikita Khrushchev fought through the barriers and operation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) that Joseph Stalin created in the country with Stalinism and laid the groundwork for the Soviet Union's future.<sup>4</sup>

## JOSEPH STALIN

“Joseph Stalin was born Josef Vissarionovich Djugashvili on December 18, 1878, . . . in the small town of Gori, Georgia, then part of the Russian empire.”<sup>5</sup> Stalin grew up poor as the only child of a peasant alcoholic shoemaker father and poor laundress mother. While attending the Georgian Orthodox Church as a teenager, he “began secretly reading the work of German social philosopher . . . Karl Marx, becoming interested in the revolutionary movement against the Russian monarchy.”<sup>6</sup> It was during this time that Stalin began his involvement in “revolutionary politics, as well as criminal activities”<sup>7</sup> and when Stalin reached his 30s, “he took the name

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<sup>1</sup> The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Stalinism.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 8 Oct. 2013, [www.britannica.com/topic/Stalinism](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Stalinism).

<sup>2</sup> History.com Editors. “Joseph Stalin.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin](http://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin).

<sup>3</sup> Constable, George. *The Soviet Union, Library of Nations*. Time-Life, 1985. p. 102

<sup>4</sup> Constable, George. *The Soviet Union, Library of Nations*. Time-Life, 1985. p. 140

<sup>5</sup> History.com Editors. “Joseph Stalin.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin](http://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin).

<sup>6</sup> History.com Editors. “Joseph Stalin.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin](http://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin).

<sup>7</sup> History.com Editors. “Joseph Stalin.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin](http://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin).

Stalin, from the Russian [word] for ‘man of steel.’”<sup>8</sup>

## INTRODUCTION TO STALINISM AND ITS EFFECTS

The *New World Encyclopedia* defines Stalinism as “the name given to the political and economic system which Joseph Stalin implemented in the Soviet Union between 1934 and 1953, while he was General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.”<sup>9</sup> There were three key features to Stalinism: “reliance on dialectical materialism as a way of justifying almost any course of action that Stalin wished to pursue,” “its cult of personality,” and “the idea of ‘socialism in one country’.”<sup>10</sup> This means that any government action, policy, or method in favor of the USSR from 1934 to 1953, under the authority of Joseph Stalin, would be considered Stalinism. Stalinism was the way the country was run, both in politics and the general economy.

Under Stalinism much of the Soviet citizenry strongly disliked their leader and the way their country was being managed and guided. Some citizens and members of the Communist party praised Stalin as a Soviet leader and were in full support of his policies.<sup>11</sup> These people were referred to as Stalinists. Many Russian people were killed by the wrath of the secret police when Stalin was in power. The secret police were known as the NKVD and Stalin used them to keep his enemies in line.<sup>12</sup> “The secret police had once been used purely for enforcement, [but]

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<sup>8</sup> History.com Editors. “Joseph Stalin.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin](http://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin).

<sup>9</sup> “Stalinism.” *New World Encyclopedia*, 2 Jan. 2020, [www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/stalinism](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/stalinism).

<sup>10</sup> Dagger, Richard, and Terence Ball. “Communism.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 13 Nov. 2019, [www.britannica.com/topic/communism](http://www.britannica.com/topic/communism).

<sup>11</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. pp. 21-25

<sup>12</sup> Dagger, Richard, and Terence Ball. “Communism.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 13 Nov. 2019, [www.britannica.com/topic/communism](http://www.britannica.com/topic/communism).

expanded its control over the country” after the rise of Stalin. The NKVD had no shame in making themselves known to the people.<sup>13</sup> However, as fiercely as Stalin ruled as a dictator, he did not go unchallenged. Many members of the party tried to replace Stalin with another or themselves, and many conspired against him. Stalin’s message was not always well received by Soviet citizens or members of the party.<sup>14</sup>

### STALIN AS A LEADER

Vladimir Lenin was a contemporary of Stalin’s and was also the leader of the Soviet government from 1917 until his death in 1924.<sup>15</sup> Before Lenin died, he recorded his thoughts on many of his comrades. Lenin’s written thoughts concerned how he felt about potential successors after his death. One of the many men Lenin wrote about was Joseph Stalin who would later take Lenin’s place as head of the communist party.<sup>16</sup> In Lenin’s political journal entry from December 29, 1922, he wrote, “Comrade Stalin, having become General Secretary has immeasurable power concentrated in his hands, and I am not sure that he always knows how to use that power with sufficient control.”<sup>17</sup> Lenin also wrote:

Stalin is too rude, and this fault, entirely acceptable in relations between communists, becomes completely unacceptable in the office of General Secretary. Therefore I propose to the comrades that a way be found to remove Stalin from the post and replace him with someone else who differs from Stalin in all respects, someone more patient, more loyal,

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<sup>13</sup> “Stalin’s Security Force.” *Crime Museum*, [www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/international-crimes/stalins-security-force](http://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/international-crimes/stalins-security-force).

<sup>14</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. pp. 21-25

<sup>15</sup> Dagger, Richard, and Terence Ball. “Communism.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 13 Nov. 2019, [www.britannica.com/topic/communism](http://www.britannica.com/topic/communism).

<sup>16</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. p. 20

<sup>17</sup> “Stalinism.” *New World Encyclopedia*, 2 Jan. 2020, [www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/stalinism](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/stalinism).

more polite, more considerate.<sup>18</sup>

This statement came from a man who ruled with no mercy, killing anyone he deemed a threat to the USSR as well as using “famine relief” to justify seizing church possessions and declaring an end to private property. It would later become clear that Lenin’s concerns were well founded as we see Stalin did everything Lenin feared.<sup>19</sup>

Stalin quickly outmaneuvered his political adversaries to take control of the party. Once in control he began to eliminate the rural farming economy the Soviet Union was built on. He “[transformed] the Soviet Union from a peasant society into an industrial superpower.”<sup>20</sup> Stalin then began to focus on eliminating all that opposed him within the party by means of execution and forced labor camps.<sup>21</sup>

Stalin possessed a natural charm and charisma like that of Adolf Hitler, as well as a keen knack for leadership.<sup>22</sup> Stalin’s similarities to Hitler went beyond just these leadership traits however, as each held strong beliefs which allowed them to commit atrocious acts of violence in order to further what they believed to be the greater good.

Joseph Stalin ruled by fear and terror. He would strike panic and horror into the hearts of party members and civilians alike by means of the secret police and the pure brutality of his dictatorship. Stalin looked for opportunities to induce fear into the motherland to further tighten

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<sup>18</sup> “Stalinism.” *New World Encyclopedia*, 2 Jan. 2020, [www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/stalinism](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/stalinism).

<sup>19</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. pp. 17-20

<sup>20</sup> History.com Editors. “Joseph Stalin.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin](http://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin).

<sup>21</sup> History.com Editors. “Joseph Stalin.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin](http://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin).

<sup>22</sup> “Stalin, Joseph.” *U.S. and World Biography Online*. Lincoln Library Press, 2018. *FactCite*, [www.factcite.com/biographies/3016733.html](http://www.factcite.com/biographies/3016733.html).

his grip on the country.<sup>23</sup> In the 1930s, many higher party officials considered a change in leadership. They were convinced that Stalin was too militant during times of peace. Many of them suggested Sergei Kirov, a Stalinist and a well-received member of the party, should rise to the title of General Secretary. When Stalin was informed of this, he saw an opportunity to strike fear into the party and populous. So, in December 1934, Kirov was assassinated.<sup>24</sup> Kirov's "murder was carried out by a young assassin named Lenoid Nikolaev. Recent evidence has indicated that Stalin and the NKVD planned the crime."<sup>25</sup> According to Robert Conquest, an expert on the Stalinist period, "At Kirov's funeral, Stalin bent and kissed the cheeks of the corpse, who was certainly more useful to him dead than alive. For the assassination was the key moment in Stalin's drive to total power."<sup>26</sup> After Kirov was eliminated, Stalin "used the murder as an excuse for introducing draconian laws against political crime and for conducting a witch-hunt for alleged conspirators against Kirov."<sup>27</sup>

#### NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV

Nikita Khrushchev was born in Kalinovka, southwestern Russia, on April 17, 1894. He grew up very poor and his peasant father worked as a coal miner. In 1918, Nikita Khrushchev joined the communist party which controlled the Soviet Union as of 1922. After moving to Moscow in 1929, Khrushchev became a rising star among the communist party. By 1939, Khrushchev was already a member of Stalin's top executive team, the Politburo. In 1949,

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<sup>23</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. p. 21-22

<sup>24</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. p. 22

<sup>25</sup> "Repression and Terror: Kirov Murder and Purges." *Library of Congress*, Library of Congress, 31 Aug. 2016, [www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/repk.html](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/repk.html).

<sup>26</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. p. 22

<sup>27</sup> "Repression and Terror: Kirov Murder and Purges." *Library of Congress*, Library of Congress, 31 Aug. 2016, [www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/repk.html](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/repk.html).

Khrushchev was honored with the title of Secretary of the Central Committee in the USSR. In March of 1953, General Secretary Joseph Stalin of the USSR passed away. Upon Stalin's death, Georgi Malenkov was promoted to premier and Nikita Khrushchev took Stalin's place as General Secretary of the Soviet Union. In 1941, when Nazi Germany invaded the USSR during World War II and occupied the Soviet Republic Ukraine, Khrushchev organized the military effort to fight against the Germans. He worked to get farms, mines, and steel mills back to producing much needed goods.<sup>28</sup>

Like Stalin, Khrushchev was an able dictator whose power was growing by the day. Also like Stalin, competition was removed from jobs to ensure his power. Khrushchev did not rule as a tyrant through terror and force as his predecessor did. Instead, Khrushchev took a far less fatal approach to his dictatorship. He also limited the ability and power of the country's despised secret police.<sup>29</sup>

#### STALIN'S BARRIER TO KHRUSHCHEV

In 1941, during World War II, Nazi Germany broke its non-aggression pact with the USSR and the Russian forces found themselves in a predicament. In order to inspire the people of Russia, Joseph Stalin, spoke out calling World War II the Great Patriotic War. With his strength of will and charisma, Stalin succeeded and for the first time, the Russian population supported their government and tremendously so. "Thousands of workers representing generations of Soviet people are marching past; their life flows under the sign of love and

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<sup>28</sup> Marrin, Albert. "Khrushchev, Nikita, Sergeyeovich." *World Book Advanced*, World Book, 2020, [www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260](http://www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260).

<sup>29</sup> Marrin, Albert. "Khrushchev, Nikita, Sergeyeovich." *World Book Advanced*, World Book, 2020, [www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260](http://www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260).

gratitude to Stalin, Stalin—the beginning and end of our life.”<sup>30</sup> This leaves Khrushchev with a barrier consisting of support for Stalin and favoritism towards the dictator, halting Khrushchev’s progress in his political goals for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Joseph Stalin also advanced Soviet Russia changing it completely from rural to industrial economy and the way Russians were treated and how they operated.<sup>31</sup> Stalin changed much of the government with his policies, leaving a nearly unfathomable amount of work for Khrushchev to complete in order to be successful in his political endeavours.

#### DE-STALINIZATION

Khrushchev strongly disliked Stalin’s methods of ruling, which involved terror and extreme and unnecessary violence. He and other Soviet officials struggled with criticizing Stalin publicly without also criticizing the nation itself. Khrushchev found his solution in calling back to Vladimir Lenin’s ideals. Khrushchev addressed the 20th Congress of the Communist Party, in what is known as his “Secret Speech.”<sup>32</sup> At this address, Khrushchev denounced Stalin’s crimes and policies. He vocally praised Lenin as the true founder of communism and the one true leader of the party. Khrushchev gained support and immediately started dismantling Stalin’s policies.<sup>33</sup> Khrushchev began to excoriate and denounce Stalin and his atrocious actions and crimes against the Soviet people. This agenda became known as de-Stalinization of the USSR. Statues were torn

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<sup>30</sup> CIA. “The Course of De-Stalinization in Soviet Domestic Propaganda through June 1956.” *CIA.gov*, CIA, 8 Feb. 1957, [www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP83-00586R000300150023-0.pdf](http://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP83-00586R000300150023-0.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> History.com Editors. “Joseph Stalin.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin](http://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin).

<sup>32</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. p. 26

<sup>33</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. p. 26

down<sup>34</sup>, Stalin's body was removed from Lenin's mausoleum, the city Stalingrad named after the dictator became known as Volgograd, and even the images of Stalin around the country were gone as if he never existed.<sup>35</sup> The idea to rid the USSR of Stalinism was also reflected in the country's continued propaganda.<sup>36</sup> With this, Khrushchev strongly attempted to increase the quality of living in Soviet Russia and created his seven-year Soviet economic plan theses.<sup>37</sup>

On November 14, 1958, Nikita S. Khrushchev announced that he would begin his proposed seven-year Soviet economic plan. This included the intention for the Soviet Union to achieve the world's highest living standards and output of goods per capita by 1970. Khrushchev claimed that with his plan, the Soviet Union would surpass the western nations, including the United States of America, in nearly all respects.<sup>38</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Nikita Khrushchev tried to push past the time of Stalin's rule. He continued to destroy his legacy as well as better the nation in every way he could. Albert Marrin's article, "Khrushchev, Nikita, Sergeyevich" supports this:

Khrushchev worked to raise the standard of living in the Soviet Union. He began programs to increase the production of grain, housing, and such consumer goods as clothes and furniture. He also spent huge sums on weapons and space exploration. In

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<sup>34</sup> Marrin, Albert. "Khrushchev, Nikita, Sergeyevich." *World Book Advanced*, World Book, 2020, [www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260](http://www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260).

<sup>35</sup> Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015. p. 26

<sup>36</sup> CIA. "The Course of De-Stalinization in Soviet Domestic Propaganda through June 1956." *CIA.gov*, CIA, 8 Feb. 1957, [www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP83-00586R000300150023-0.pdf](http://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP83-00586R000300150023-0.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> CIA. "Khrushchev's Theses on the Soviet Seven-Year Economic Plan (1959-65)." *CIA.gov*, CIA, 16 Nov. 1958, [www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/DOC\\_0000234156.pdf](http://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/DOC_0000234156.pdf).

<sup>38</sup> CIA. "Khrushchev's Theses on the Soviet Seven-Year Economic Plan (1959-65)." *CIA.gov*, CIA, 16 Nov. 1958, [www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/DOC\\_0000234156.pdf](http://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/DOC_0000234156.pdf).

1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first spacecraft to circle the earth. In

1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person to orbit the earth.<sup>39</sup>

This allowed the Soviet Union to persist and advance into modern age and to keep up with the western nations such as the United States of America. Khrushchev broke through the barriers created by Stalinism and built up a new and superior nation by publicly condemning Stalinism and its effects on the country as well as the rest of the world. Khrushchev also spearheaded the dismantling of Joseph Stalin's policies, and succeeded in calling back to Lenin as the true founder and voice of Communism. Although Khrushchev was a dictator as Stalin once was, he was not a tyrant and took the first steps toward the dissolution of the Soviet Union that his successors finished. This is of great historic significance as it demonstrates the power the USSR once held as one of the great powers of the world, which effected change across the globe. Khrushchev's actions and political agendas changed the course of history itself and helped shape the Russia we now know and the world we see before us today.

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<sup>39</sup> Marrin, Albert. "Khrushchev, Nikita, Sergeyeovich." *World Book Advanced*, World Book, 2020, [www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260](http://www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260).

## Annotated Bibliography

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CIA. "Khrushchev's Theses on the Soviet Seven-Year Economic Plan (1959-65)." *CIA.gov*, CIA, 16 Nov. 1958, [www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/DOC\\_0000234156.pdf](http://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/DOC_0000234156.pdf).

This memorandum to the Director of Central Intelligence was created on November 16, 1958, declassified on June 6, 1980, and released by the CIA Historical Review Program in 1998. This was a preparatory document outlining the themes that Khrushchev presented to a meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. This source was helpful in finding evidence on how Khrushchev planned to advance the USSR into the modern era and close the gap between Russia and wealthier western nations, such as the United States of America.

CIA. "The Course of De-Stalinization in Soviet Domestic Propaganda through June 1956."

*CIA.gov*, CIA, 8 Feb. 1957, [www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP83-00586R000300150023-0.pdf](http://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP83-00586R000300150023-0.pdf)

This declassified document was originally created on February 8, 1957 and was approved for release by the CIA on August 26, 2013. This document discusses the full pathway of de-Stalinization as it was carried out both publicly and secretly within the Soviet Union. It provided several examples of how Stalin's existence was covered up and

the efforts that were used to rewrite history. The document helped me gain knowledge about how the Soviet propaganda worked to discredit Stalin by way of verbal and written media.

## Secondary Sources

Allen, John. *The Russian Federation: Then and Now*. ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2015.

This book provides a historical perspective on the Soviet Union, the events that led to the Russian Revolution, as well as the challenges that were faced during the Soviet era and after its collapse. John Allen's book examines the political, economic, and social changes that the Russian society experienced throughout history and touches on the challenges that are still to come. This resource was fundamental in discovering Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, and Nikita Khrushchev, which are the three main members of the Communist Party discussed in my research. The information in the book was vital in understanding why Lenin warned against Stalin becoming a leader, how citizens disliked Stalin ruling as a dictator, and how Stalin was challenged.

Constable, George. *The Soviet Union, Library of Nations*. Time-Life, 1985.

*The Soviet Union, Library of Nations* is a book that covers a broad range of topics about the Soviet Union. It includes historical coverage on the country, including information on the geography, culture, economy, government, and diversity of the

people. This book is where I first discovered Nikita Khrushchev working to destroy Stalin's ideology and laying the groundwork for the Soviet Union's future.

Dagger, Richard, and Terence Ball. "Communism." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 13 Nov. 2019, [www.britannica.com/topic/communism](http://www.britannica.com/topic/communism).

This article provided information on the history of communism and socialism. It introduces Karl Marx and his early theories about communism as well as discusses how Lenin revolutionized the works of Marx. Stalinism is examined as deriving from Marxism-Leninism. I used the information in this article for a basis of understanding on the three main characteristics of Stalinism.

History.com Editors. "Joseph Stalin." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin](http://www.history.com/topics/russia/joseph-stalin).

This is a brief article on Joseph Stalin's life from his birth in 1878 to his death in 1953 at the age of 74. Stalin's life as a young boy as well as his family life are described. The article provides a background on Stalin as a teen, his education, his discovery of Karl Marx's works, and his introduction into politics and movement against the Russian monarchy. I used the information in this article to provide background on Stalin's life growing up. Additionally, this is where I learned that Joseph Stalin was born Josef Vissarionovich Djughashvili and that he eventually created the name Stalin for himself, which is derived from the Russian meaning "man of steel."

Marrin, Albert. "Khrushchev, Nikita, Sergeyevich." *World Book Advanced*, World Book, 2020, [www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260](http://www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar299260).

This article contains useful information on the entirety of Nikita Khrushchev's life. I used information from this article to provide background on Khrushchev.

"Repression and Terror: Kirov Murder and Purges." *Library of Congress*, Library of Congress, 31 Aug. 2016, [www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/repk.html](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/repk.html).

This is a short article that provides information on the murder of Sergei Kirov. It briefly discusses Kirov as a member of the ruling elite and how some members of the party had secretly proposed that he take over the position of general secretary. Though Kirov didn't agree with all of Stalin's policies, he didn't pose an immediate threat. However, when Stalin heard news of the secret proposal, he decided to eliminate the threat by having Kirov murdered. I used this article to find out more about the murder of Kirov as other sources simply stated that he was murdered. This article confirmed my suspicions that Stalin was behind the crime. From this article, I also discovered that Stalin used the murder to have millions of innocent party members arrested for plotting the murder against Kirov, which allowed Stalin to continue ruling without being challenged.

"Stalin, Joseph." *U.S. and World Biography Online*. Lincoln Library Press, 2018. *FactCite*, [www.factcite.com/biographies/3016733.html](http://www.factcite.com/biographies/3016733.html).

This article provides a brief historical summary on Joseph Stalin from his birth to

his death. I used the contents of the article to compare Joseph Stalin to Adolf Hitler as far as being charming, yet ruthless.

“Stalinism.” *New World Encyclopedia*, 2 Jan. 2020, [www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/stalinism](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/stalinism).

This article defines Stalinism. It includes information on political theory, the personality cult, Stalin’s economic policies, and viewpoints on Stalinism. I used the information in the article to provide an introduction to Stalinism. This article also allowed me to provide Lenin’s views on Stalin as Lenin dictated in his political journal.

“Stalin’s Security Force.” *Crime Museum*, [www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/international-crimes/stalins-security-force](http://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/international-crimes/stalins-security-force).

This article provides details into Stalin’s security force, which is referenced in other resources as his “secret police.” It describes how the secret police were constructed after the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 and how they were mainly used as enforcement until Stalin’s era of leadership. Stalin used the secret police to expand control over the country and to commit crimes. I used the information from this article to elaborate on the generic term of “secret police.”

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Stalinism.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 8 Oct. 2013, [www.britannica.com/topic/Stalinism](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Stalinism).

This article explains what Stalinism is as well as gives a brief history and an idea of what the USSR was like under Stalinism. I used this to define Stalinism as a concept and governing style.