

How Did Stalin Control The USSR?

Cult of the Personality

Pictures and posters showing him all in white, larger than the others and perfect.	Rewriting history – enemies made to disappear (doctored photos and history books). For example, Short Course History Book (1938) and Stalin's autobiography (1948)	Large public displays showing Stalin as the great leader. People were expected to applaud.	Cultural control (see below) promoted the view that Stalin was leading a marvellous country.	Association with Lenin portrayed in pictures and other media, despite the fact that Lenin disliked Stalin. This gave his regime greater authority and legitimacy.
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Economic Plans

Five Year Plans directing all industry through Gosplan in the way that the Party wanted. This promoted the mentality as well as the produce which stabilised the economy.	Collectivisation ensured that grain was collected regularly. But more importantly, it made sure that the peasants were controlled.	Dekulakisation removed the peasants who most opposed Stalin. They also created an enemy to try to unify the people against.	Shock workers, such as Stakhanovites, were encouraged to out-produce their targets in return for rewards and fame. This promoted Stalinism.
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Cultural Control

Socialist Realism – All art, music and literature had to be Socialist Realism; avant-garde art was banned. All art forms had to promote a positive view of the Party and the USSR.	Cinema – This was a popular form of entertainment and as such a good way of influencing people. Films had to have strong pro-Stalin themes and show communism overcoming opposition.	Religion – This was banned. The League of the Militant Godless was formed, and religious events such as marriages were made more communist.	Education – Unacceptable subjects (RE) were removed and subject like History used to promote Communism. Technical skills were emphasised. Females given equal access.	Family & women – Divorces were made harder, abortion and homosexuality banned. Women rewarded for 6 or more children. Birth rate rose.
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Fear and Terror

Purges – anyone could be purged therefore anyone was guilty. Without a means of avoiding purging, anyone was vulnerable and therefore would strive to be more loyal.	Show trials – When politicians and army officers were found guilty of ridiculous charges, it showed the power of the State; however Stalin never openly involved himself with them.	Denunciations – all types of people denounced others, including family members. Could be for ideology or for greed. It destroyed relationships and prevented resistance groups.
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