



Communism

An Overview



A Review

- **Think back to what you have learned about communism and capitalism.**
- **Discuss all you know and remember.**
- **Also note how they differ.**

Capitalism vs. Communism

- **Capitalism**
 - Economy is mostly controlled by individuals and private companies; they own the land, factories, and other resources needed to produce goods and services
 - Economic choices are made privately; workers can change jobs, people can spend their income as they please; companies decide what and how much to make and how much to charge
- **Communism**
 - Based on Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
 - Class systems would be eliminated (no rich or poor) and everyone would have equal wealth and have a fair share of what is produced
 - Economy is controlled by the gov, which owns the land (no private property), decides production, determines cost, etc.
 - Workers should rebel against owners to take over factories, etc.
 - The government had to be overthrown because violent revolution was the only way to achieve this (unlike in socialism, where their means to get this was through voting)



The Communist Manifesto

- Written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in 1848, this widely read document outlined a different form of socialism (what is often called Marxism and what is the inspiration for communist governments)
- Some ideas expressed include...
 - “The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles...”
 - “The history of all past society has consisted in the development of class antagonisms... whatever forms they may have taken, one fact is common... the exploitation of one part of society by the other...”
 - “The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Workingmen of all countries, unite!”

A decorative background featuring several sets of curved lines in the corners. On the left, there are solid and dashed lines curving upwards and to the right. On the right, there are solid and dashed lines curving downwards and to the left. In the center-left, there is a red speech bubble containing the text 'A Video Refresher'.

A Video Refresher

- **As you watch the video...**
 - **Listen for the theory of communism and the reality of its implementation.**
 - **Think about why the United States felt communism was a threat to democracy.**

<https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/worldhistory/communism/>

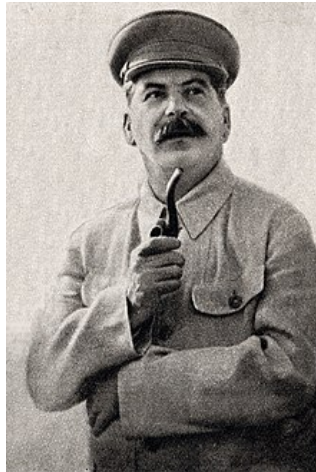
The Russian Revolution



https://www.biography.com/image/at_11128Cc_611%2Ca_s_srgb%2Ca_face%2Cq_auto:good%2Cw_300/MTIwNjA4NjMeODgyNTwODYw/vladimir-lenin-9379007-1-402.jpg

- In 1917, the Russian Revolution occurred (czar overthrown).
 - Vladimir Lenin took power in 1922 and gave Russia a new name: the Soviet Union (USSR = United Socialist Soviet Republic).
 - “Soviet” = “Council”; refers to “councils of workers and peasants” organized in cities in early 20th century with Russian Communist organizations
- Lenin changed Marx’s ideas:
 - Leaders had to *tell* workers to rebel; a few would lead the masses
 - Those that rebelled in Russia were peasants, not factory workers, because they had basically no factories in Russia yet (no real IR)
 - “Some people are more equal” = a small group ended up on top with more power and rights

Stalin & Russia's Communist Reality



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/4/43/Stalin_Full_Image.jpg/220px-Stalin_Full_Image.jpg

- Josef Stalin ended up in charge in 1924 when Lenin died.
- Eliminated competition and became a dictator
- Russians lost freedoms, such as speech, press, religion, “movement”, etc.
- Enemies sent to gulags (prison/work camps in Siberia)
- Factories = government owned, unrealistic goals, wasted resources
- Farming collectives = government owned, collected crops to redistribute, many farmers died (millions perished due to famine/starvation)
- Brutal to his people, population lived in terror, and often said that millions died during his reign

How Did America View Communism?

- In 1953, President Truman gave his Farewell Address.
- Truman knew that people were fearful about communism and the Cold War, but he gave a parting message saying he was optimistic that the U.S. was on the right track to win the “fight”.
- Truman expressed the following reasons why democracy would prevail and communism would not.
 - “The fatal flaw in communist society” is that there is “no freedom in it, no consent”.
 - He said the Cold War was a “conflict between those who love freedom and those who would lead the world back into slavery and darkness”.

This poll was taken in 1958 by *Scientific American* magazine; it asked 3,000 high school students across the nation about various topics.

The most serious danger to democracy in the United States comes from communists and communist-dominated groups.

Agree	76%
Disagree	13%
Uncertain	11%