**Lessons 4: Depth 1.2:**

**Title: How was a Russian communist dictatorship formed and what was life like for the people 1920-1953?**

**Starter: What is the difference between a democracy and a dictatorship? Cross whether the statement is true of a democracy or a dictatorship. The first two are done for you.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **Democracy**  | **Dictatorship** |
| Everybody can vote and help to choose the government | X |  |
| There are no free elections to change the government |  | X |
| Everybody, including the government, must obey the laws of the land |  |  |
| The government control the media, allowing people to see and hear what they want |  |  |
| People who criticise the government may be tortured, imprisoned or sent to special camps |  |  |
| Secret police keep the police under control, often using brutal methods like torture |  |  |
| People have the freedom to criticise the government and protest about its policies |  |  |
| People can follow any religion they wish |  |  |
| Trade unions are banned |  |  |
| Newspapers can write what they like about the government |  |  |
| A government has a limited time in power, after which voters can choose a different government.  |  |  |

**Challenge: Was Russia pre- 1917 a democracy or a dictatorship? Give examples to support your answer.**

**Activity 1: How did Russia turn from a communist state to a dictatorship? Read and select true/false below** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N8hsXQapjY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N8hsXQapjY)

1. **True/ False** Russian workers worked for 11 hours a day before 1917
2. **True/ False** In 1905 opened fire on peaceful protestors
3. **True/ False** Tsar Nicholas created a constitution but kept ultimate power for himself.
4. **True/ False** the temporary government was very successful
5. **True/ False** the Bolsheviks took power peacefully
6. **True/ False** the Bolsheviks looked after the Tsar’s family and made sure they were safe
7. **True/ False** peasants were killed with poison gas in the Tambov Rebellion
8. **True/ False** After the Bolsheviks won a Civil war there were famines and executions

**Activity 2: read the information below and highlight 10 keywords.**

Lenin was a ruthless leader. He led Russia through civil war, famine and hardship. He died in 1924. He was succeeded by Joseph Stalin. Russia was now called the USSR or the Soviet Union. Stalin wanted to turn the Soviet Union into a great power, which would show the world how good communism was. He wanted to turn it into a modern, industrial country. He wanted to catch up with the powerful countries in the West, like the USA and Britain. And he wanted to build the weapons he needed to protect his country. In the 1930s, some people thought he was doing a good job; others, who knew what was going on behind the scenes weren’t so sure.

**Activity 3: How did Stalin control the people?**

**\*Individuals \*Terror \*social and economic factors \*Propaganda and controlling ideas**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| All the main industries were run by the government. Each industry was set targets that it had to reach in five years. Some of these targets were almost impossible because there was a shortage of raw materials. But the results were amazing. Over 1500 massive new factories and 100 new industrial towns were built during the first Five- Year Plan | Peasants were forced to hand over their land, animals and tools to a collective farm and work co-operatively. They had to give a lot of their produce to the state and were then allowed to share out what was left. Many peasants refused to join the collectives. Stalin sent police and soldiers to round up and deport them to labour camps. Millions died.  | Workers had to work very hard for long hours, without much reward. If they made mistakes, they were accused of ‘wrecking’ or ‘sabotage’ and were arrested. Even so, many workers supported Stalin because they thought he was building a better future for them. |
| Stalin had a huge secret police force, which had spies and informers everywhere. Children were even encouraged to inform on their parents!  | Stalin ‘purged’ all the people in the Communist Party who might challenge his leadership. They were arrested and put on trial in public. At these great ‘show trials’ people were forced to confess to all sorts of crimes before they were sentenced and executed.  | The state controlled all newspapers, books, films and radio programmes. The Russian people only received the information Stalin wanted them to receive.  |
| There were statues and paintings of Stalin everywhere. Propaganda, films and posters were designed to convince people that Stalin was the best person to guide them to a wonderful Communist future.  | Anyone who opposed or criticised Stalin was arrested, tortured, and either executed or sent to a labour camp. Stalin used the prisoners from the labour camps to dig canals and cut timber in the frozen north where no one else would work | Churches were closed and religion was banned in many places because the Communists did not believe in God. School books were re-written to show children how great Stalin and the Communist system was.  |

**Activity 4: Write the following response in your exercise book: “Stalin’s main method of control was his use of fear” How far do you agree?**



**You may use the following in your answer:**

* **The ‘purges’**
* **propaganda**

**Include other information of your own.**

Sentence starters:

**Paragraph 1:**

There is (some, greater) evidence Stalin was able to create a communist dictatorship using methods to create fear…

Firstly……..For example…..This helped Stalin keep control because….

Secondly……For example… This helped Stalin keep control because ….

**Paragraph 2**:

However, there is (some/greater) evidence that Stalin was able to be a dictator by his use of propaganda and his control of ideas…

Firstly……..For example….. This helped Stalin keep control because …

Secondly……For example… This helped Stalin keep control because ….