Stalin’s Russia 1924–53

Between Lenin’s death in 1924 and Stalin’s death in 1953, Russia witnessed a radical transformation. This timeline sets out the key social, economic and political events in Stalin’s Russia.

**Leadership struggle**
- 1924 Lenin’s death
- 1924 Thirteenth Party Congress: the Triumvirate defeats the Left Opposition
- 1925 The Triumvirate split: Zinoviev and Kamenev move to the left-wing of the Communist Party
- 1927 Fifteenth Party Congress: the Duumvirate defeats the United Opposition
- 1928 Stalin ends his alliance with Bukharin
- 1929 Bukharin expelled from the Politburo

**Economic policy**
- 1928 Emergency economic measures introduced: rationing and grain requisitioning
- 1928 First Five-Year Plan launched
- 1929 Beginning of de-Kulakisation
- 1930 Collectivisation halted
- 1931 Collectivisation restarted
- 1932–34 Famine
- 1933 Second Five-Year Plan launched
- 1936 Zinoviev and Kamenev executed
- 1937 Trial of the Seventeen removes Trotsky’s former allies
- 1938 Bukharin executed
- 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact
- 1939–40 The Soviet-Finnish War (‘The Winter War’)
- 1941 Germany invades Russia
- 1941 The Russian army enters Berlin. End of the Second World War
- 1946 Fourth Five-Year Plan launched
- 1951 Fifth Five-Year Plan launched

**Terror**
- 1928 Wedding rings banned as part of a policy to undermine marriage
- 1928 Trotsky sacked as head of the Red Army
- 1928 Fears of an imminent war with Germany lead to a greater emphasis on heavy industry in Russia’s economic policy
- 1935 Introduction of new school curriculum
- 1936 Homosexuality, adultery, abortion and contraception banned
- 1936–40 Purges of the Jews
- 1938 Trotsky assassinated
- 1939 The Soviet-Finnish War (‘The Winter War’)
- 1941 Purge of doctors

**Social policy**
- 1925 Trotsky sacked as head of the Red Army
- 1925 The Russian army enters Berlin. End of the Second World War
- 1928 Stalin ends his alliance with Bukharin
- 1929 Bukharin expelled from the Politburo
- 1934 Stalin comes second to Kirov in elections at the Congress of Victors
- 1934 Kirov’s assassination sparks the Great Terror
- 1935 Introduction of new school curriculum
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**Military policy**
- 1924 Lenin’s death
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