

March 1898: ·First Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party

May 29, 1899: ·Stalin is expelled from the Seminary

April 5, 1902: ·Stalin arrested for the first time, exiled to Siberia

Summer 1903: ·the Social Democrats split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.

January 5, 1904: ·Stalin escapes from Siberia, the first of many escapes from exile in the following decade.

1905: ·Revolution in Russia. Nicholas II announces constitutional reforms, and the creation of the Duma, or elected assembly.

December 1905: ·Stalin goes as a delegate to Bolshevik conference in Finland, meets Lenin for the first time.

January 1912: ·Bolsheviks officially separate from Social Democrats, Stalin appointed to the Party's Central Committee by Lenin.

January 1913: ·Stalin co-writes, with Lenin, "Marxism and the National Question"

August-September 1914: ·Outbreak of World War I.

March 1917: ·Beginning of Russian Revolution. The Tsar's government falls, replaced with a Provisional Government. Bolsheviks, including Stalin, hasten to St. Petersburg

April 1917: ·Lenin returns from Switzerland, angry with Stalin for taking a conciliar line with the Provisional Government.

November 1917: ·Bolsheviks overthrow Provisional Government, seize power. Stalin plays only a minor role.

1918-1920: ·Civil war in Russia. Trotsky organizes Red Army; Stalin commands forces in Tsaritsyn, Petrograd (St. Petersburg), and elsewhere.

1922: ·Official founding of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

April 1922: ·Stalin elected General Secretary of the Communist Party

May 25, 1922: ·Lenin suffers his first stroke

January 4, 1923: ·Lenin, in a postscript to his Testament, warns the Party to remove Stalin from his position of power.

March 7, 1923: ·Lenin suffers final stroke, loses his powers of speech

January 21, 1924: ·Death of Lenin. Stalin survives review by the Central Committee in May.

1924-25: ·Stalin publicly attacks Trotsky for being unfaithful to "Leninism."

December 1924: ·Stalin publicly articulates his theory of "Socialism in One Country."

December 1925: ·Allied with Bukharin and the "Rightists," Stalin begins attacks on Zinoviev.

October-November 1926: At the Fifteenth Party Congress, Stalin attacks the "United Opposition" of Zinoviev, Kamenev, and Trotsky.

1927: ·Beginning of the first Five-Year Plan (Kulaks, causes famine 1931-32)

November 1927: ·Kamenev and Zinoviev expelled from the Party; Trotsky expelled and sent to Central Asia.

April 1929: ·Stalin begins assault on Bukharin

November 1929: ·Bukharin removed from the Politburo

December 1929: · Stalin announces "liquidation of the kulaks as a class"; collectivization begins in earnest.

1931-32: · Terrible famine across the Soviet Union; millions die

November 8, 1932: · Suicide of Nadezhda

December 1, 1934: · Murder, by Stalin's agents, of Sergei Kirov. Beginning of "Great Terror," which continues until 1938.

January 1935: · Zinoviev, Kamenev, and others are arrested, accused of complicity in Kirov's assassination.

August 1936: · First "Show Trial." Zinoviev, Kamenev, and their allies confess and are executed.

January 1937: · Second Show Trial

June 1937: · Purge of the army begins, top generals are tried and executed

March 1938: · Third Show Trial, conviction and execution of Bukharin, Rykov, others.

March 1939: · At Eighteenth Party Congress, Stalin announces end of the Great Terror.

August 23, 1939: ·Nazi-Soviet Pact is signed in Moscow

September 1939: ·Outbreak of World War II

August 20, 1940: ·Trotsky assassinated, by Stalin's agents, in Mexico City.

June 21, 1941: ·Hitler invades Soviet Union

August 1942-February 1943: · Battle of Stalingrad. Germans are defeated, marking the turning point in the war.