



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY
REVIEW PACKET**

**RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND THE
SOVIET UNION**

SECTION OVERVIEW

Factors such as dissatisfaction with czarist rule, peasant unrest, and economic difficulties created long-term discontent in Russia. After a revolution in 1905, Czar Nicholas II agreed to reforms, but they failed to solve underlying problems. Hardships caused by World War I sparked a revolution that ended Nicholas's reign. Promises of peace, land, and bread allowed Vladimir Lenin and his Bolsheviks, later called Communists, to gain control of the country. After Lenin's death, Joseph Stalin created a communist dictatorship that controlled every aspect of people's lives. He brought the economy completely under government control. Stalin industrialized the country, focusing on heavy industry. Stalin also brought agriculture under state control, causing mass starvation in the process.

KEY THEMES AND CONCEPTS

As you review this section, take special note of the following key themes and concepts:

- Change** Why did the Russian people demand change in 1917?
- Power** How did the Bolsheviks take control of the Russian government from the czar?
- Human Rights** What was life like in Stalin's totalitarian state?
- Economic Systems** How did Stalin's command economy affect the Soviet Union's industry and agriculture?

KEY PEOPLE AND TERMS

As you review this section, be sure you understand the significance of these key people and terms:

soviet	New Economic Policy	command economy
Vladimir Lenin	Joseph Stalin	five-year plan
Bolshevik	totalitarian state	collective

LONG-TERM CAUSES OF REVOLUTION

A variety of factors had been leading up to revolution in Russia for a long time. Through the 1800s and early 1900s, discontent grew as Russian czars resisted needed reforms.

Czarist Rule

In the late 1800s, Alexander III and his son, Nicholas II, sought to industrialize the country and build Russia's economic strength. Although these czars wanted to import western industrialization, they hoped to block the ideals of the French Revolution. Still, Russian liberals called for a constitution and reforms that would eliminate corruption in government. Both Alexander and Nicholas used harsh tactics, such as the use of secret police, to suppress reform.

Peasant Unrest

A rigid system of social classes still existed in Russia at the beginning of World War I. Landowning nobles, priests, and an autocratic czar dominated society. A small middle class was prevented from gaining power.

Peasants faced many difficulties. Most were too poor to buy the land they worked. Even those who owned land often did not have enough to feed their families. Even though industrialization had proceeded slowly, it had angered some peasants. Some opposed it because they feared the changes it brought and preferred the old ways.

Problems of Urban Workers

Some peasants had moved to cities and found jobs in new industries. They worked long hours, and their pay was low. Most lived in slums that were nests of poverty and disease. It was among these workers that socialists spread ideas about revolution and reform.

Diversity and Nationalism

Russia ruled a vast and diverse empire. It included many ethnic minorities. The czars maintained strict control over these groups. Under the policy of Russification, czars attempted to make all in their empire think, act, and believe as Russians. However, ethnic minorities did not want their native cultures destroyed. Pockets of nationalism remained.

REVOLUTION OF 1905

On Sunday, January 22, 1905, a march occurred in St. Petersburg. The peaceful marchers hoped to influence the czar for reform. Nicholas II, fearing an uprising, called in soldiers. The soldiers shot and killed many of the marchers. "Bloody Sunday," as it was called, destroyed the people's faith and trust in the czar. After Bloody Sunday, strikes and revolts exploded across Russia's cities and countryside.

The Russian Revolution of 1905

CAUSES

- Low spirits after defeat in 1904 war with Japan
- Poverty and bad working conditions
- Corrupt government
- Persecution of minority groups
- "Bloody Sunday" killings

Russian Revolution of 1905

RESULTS

- The "October Manifesto" – Czar Nicholas II announces reforms and new freedoms
- Nicholas II sets up the Duma, which must approve all laws
- Nicholas II dissolves the first Duma when its leaders criticize the government
- Pogroms continue
- New voting laws limit powers of later Dumas

In the face of this chaos, Nicholas made some changes. He agreed to reforms and promised to grant more rights, such as freedom of speech. He agreed to set up an elected national legislature, the Duma. However, the Duma had limited powers and did little to relieve peasant and worker discontent.

WORLD WAR I AND THE END OF CZARIST RULE

A Nation in Chaos

As you have learned, Russia was one of the Allied Powers in World War I. With little industry, however, Russia was not ready to fight a modern war. Russian soldiers lacked adequate weapons and supplies, and Russia suffered a series of battlefield defeats. Food was scarce. Many soldiers lost confidence in Russia's military leadership and deserted.

The March Revolution

In March 1917, military defeats and shortages of food, fuel, and housing in Russia sparked a revolt. In the capital city, St. Petersburg, rioters in the streets demanded bread. The czar's soldiers sympathized with the demonstrators and refused to fire on them. With no control over his

troops and with the country nearing anarchy, Czar Nicholas II abdicated, or gave up his rule, in March 1917.

Failure of the Provisional Government

After the removal of the czar, Duma officials set up a provisional, or temporary, government. Middle-class liberals in the government planned to write a constitution and promised democratic reforms. However, the provisional government continued the war against Germany, an unpopular decision that drained away men and resources. The new government implemented only moderate reforms that did little to end unrest among peasants and workers.

THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION

The provisional government's slowness to bring about meaningful change led revolutionary socialists to plot further actions. They set up soviets, or councils of workers and soldiers, in Russian cities. At first, these soviets worked within the system set up by the government. Soon, however, they were taken over by a radical socialist party.

Lenin Gains Support

Following the March Revolution, an exiled Russian revolutionary named Vladimir Lenin returned home. Lenin and Leon Trotsky headed a revolutionary socialist party, the **Bolsheviks**. Lenin and Trotsky followed the ideas of Karl Marx, but they adapted them to the Russian situation. For example, Marx had said that the urban workers would rise on their own to overthrow the capitalist system. Russia, however, did not have a large urban working class. Lenin therefore suggested that an elite group of reformers—the Bolsheviks—would guide the revolution in Russia.

Lenin gained the support of many people by making promises of "Peace, Land, and Bread." The Bolsheviks promised an end to Russia's involvement in the war. They promised land reform and an end to food shortages.

Lenin Takes Over

The provisional government had lost the support of the people. In November 1917, the Bolsheviks led soldiers, sailors, and factory workers in an uprising that overthrew the government. The Bolsheviks, now called Communists, distributed land to the peasants and gave workers control of the factories and mines. The Communists, however, still faced a struggle to maintain control over Russia.

LENIN RULES RUSSIA

Withdrawal From World War I

Lenin moved quickly to end Russian involvement in World War I. In March 1918, Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The agreement

was costly for Russia, giving Germany a large amount of Russian territory. Lenin, however, believed that he needed to make peace with Germany at any price so that he could deal with his enemies at home.

Russia's Civil War

From 1918 to 1921, Lenin's Red Army battled against forces loyal to the czar, called the Whites. Nationalist groups in the Russian empire also rose up against the Red Army at this time, winning independence for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.

Both sides used brutal tactics during the war. The Whites slaughtered Communists and tried to assassinate Lenin. The Communists employed a secret police force to root out their enemies. They executed thousands who were suspected of opposing the revolution. To eliminate a potential rallying symbol for the Whites, Communists executed Czar Nicholas II and his entire family.

Britain, France, and the United States sent troops to help the Whites. This foreign intervention, however, stirred Russian nationalism. An inspired Red Army, under Trotsky's leadership, defeated its enemies by 1921.

One-Party Government

Lenin's government had a constitution and an elected legislature. However, the Communist Party, not the people themselves, had the real

power. The Communist Party was the only legal party, and only its members could run for office. The Party enforced its will through the military and a secret police force.

New Economic Policy

During Russia's civil war, Bolshevik leaders had taken over banks, mines, factories, and railroads. This takeover had resulted in economic disaster. In 1921, Lenin adopted the **New Economic Policy**. Under this plan, also called the NEP, the government still controlled banks, large industry, and foreign trade. Some privately owned businesses were allowed, however. These helped the economy to recover.

The Soviet Union

By 1922, Lenin and the Communists had gained control over much of the old Russian empire. The Communist government then created the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, also called the Soviet Union. It was made up of diverse European and Asian peoples. Russia, the largest republic, controlled the other states in the Soviet Union.

STALIN AND COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP

Lenin died in 1924, ending the reign of Russia's first Communist leader. A new Soviet leader, **Joseph Stalin**, emerged. Stalin ruled through terror and brutality. In the 1930s, for example, out of fear that other Communist Party members were plotting against him, Stalin launched the Great Purge. During the Great Purge, Stalin accused thousands of people of crimes against the government. Many of the accused were executed; others were exiled or sent to prison camps. For the next 20 years, he pursued ruthless policies that created a totalitarian state in the Soviet Union.

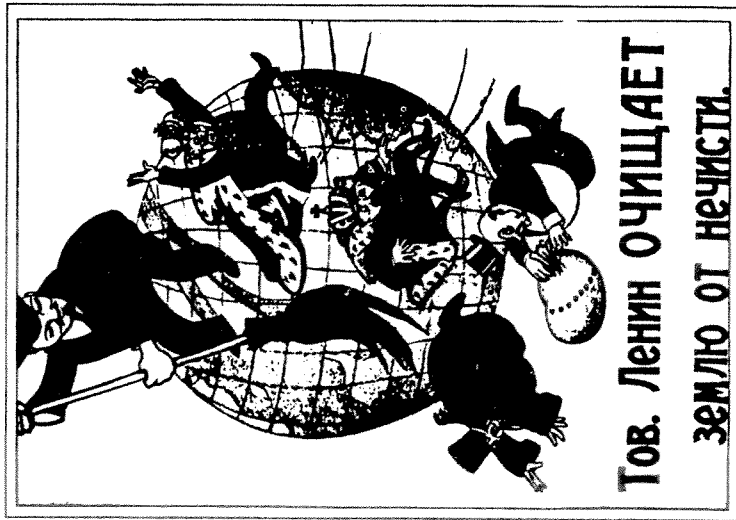
Totalitarian Rule

Stalin turned the Soviet Union into a **totalitarian state**. In this form of government, a one-party dictatorship attempts to regulate every aspect of the lives of its citizens.

Russification

Early in his rule, Stalin promoted individual local cultures. By the end of the 1920s, however, he had changed this policy. Stalin became a strong Russian nationalist. He began to create a Russian ruling elite throughout the Soviet Union. Like the czars before him, Stalin pursued a policy of Russification.

- He promoted Russian history, language, and culture, sometimes forbidding the cultural practices of native peoples.
- He appointed Russians to key posts in the government and secret police.
- He redrew the boundaries of many republics to ensure that non-Russians would not gain a majority.



Life in a Totalitarian State

Economics	Politics	Arts	Religion	Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth of industry • Growth of military • Low standard of living • Shortage of foods and consumer goods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-party dictatorship • Total government control of citizens • Total government control of industry and agriculture • Use of propaganda to win government support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censorship of books, music, art • Purpose of all art to praise communism • Observation of artists, writers, and musicians by secret police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government war on religion • Takeover of houses of worship • Secret police control religious worship • Communist ideals replace religious ideals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of secret police • An upper class of Communist Party members • Free education and health care • Public transportation and recreation • Jobs for women

themselves. The government then seized all the grain of some of those communities. Mass starvation resulted. In the Ukraine, where opposition to collectivization was especially strong, more than five million people died from starvation. Millions more died in other parts of the Soviet Union.

SUMMARY

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, autocratic rule and poor economic conditions caused many Russians to demand political and social reforms. In 1917, this discontent led to a revolution that ended czarist rule in Russia. Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin gained power by promising better economic conditions and an end to Russian involvement in World War I. He then set up a communist government. After Lenin's death, Joseph Stalin took over and established a totalitarian state, in which every aspect of life was controlled. Stalin's five-year plans boosted industry but did little to improve the life of the average worker. His collectivization of agriculture angered peasants, whose resistance resulted in mass starvation.

A Command Economy

Stalin established a **command economy**, in which government officials made all basic economic decisions. Under Stalin, the government controlled all factories, businesses, and farms.

INDUSTRIALIZATION One of Stalin's chief goals was to make the Soviet Union strong by turning it into a modern industrial power. In 1928, Stalin launched the first of a series of **five-year plans** to build industry and increase farm output. Emphasis was placed on heavy industry, while consumer goods were neglected. In the 1930s, Soviet production in oil, coal, steel, mining, and military goods increased. Across the nation, factories, hydroelectric power stations, and railroads were built.

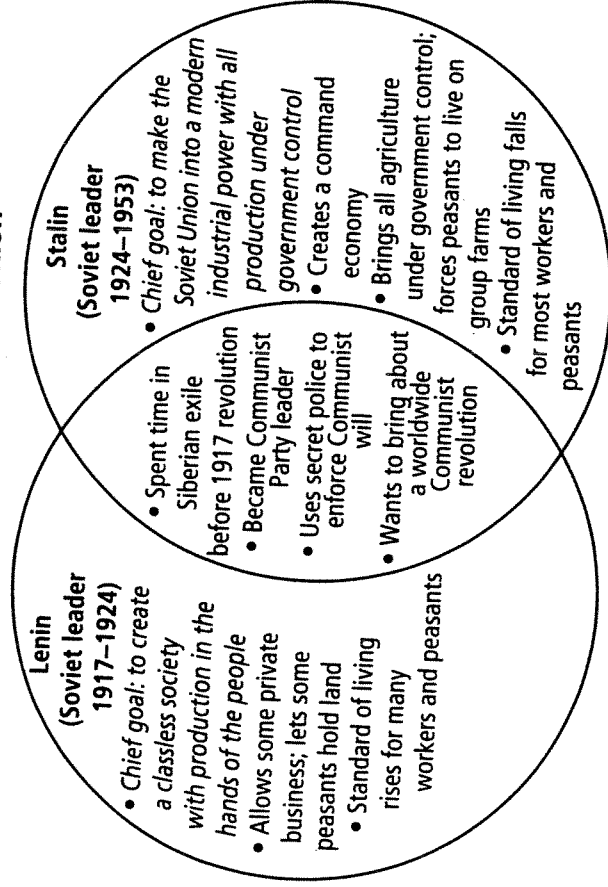
Despite this progress, however, most Russians remained poor and endured a low standard of living. Soviet central planning created shortages in consumer goods. Also, to meet high production quotas, many factories mass-produced goods of low quality.

COLLECTIVIZATION Stalin forced peasants to give up their small farms and live on state-owned farms or on **collectives**, which were large farms owned and operated by peasants as a group. The collective owned all farm animals and equipment. The government controlled prices and farm supplies and set production quotas. Stalin's plan was for the collectives to grow enough grain for the workers in the cities and to produce surplus grain to sell abroad.

Many peasants resisted collectivization. They killed farm animals, destroyed tools, and burned crops. Stalin responded with a ruthless policy aimed at crushing all who opposed him. The government seized the land of those who resisted and sent the farmers to prison labor camps. There, many died from overwork or were executed.

FORCED FAMINE The results of Stalin's policies were devastating. Some peasants continued to resist by growing just enough grain to feed

First Leaders of the Soviet Union



Name: _____

- 1) Which statement *best* describes the relationship between World War I and the Russian Revolution?
 - 1) World War I gave the Czar's army the needed experience to suppress the Russian Revolution.
 - 2) World War I postponed the Russian Revolution by restoring confidence in the Czar.
 - 3) World War I created conditions within Russia that helped trigger a revolution.
 - 4) The Russian Revolution inspired the Russian people to win World War I.

- 2) Which situation resulted from the Russo-Japanese War of 1905?
 - 1) Dissident groups challenged the power of the Russian Czar.
 - 2) Japan lost its status as a world power.
 - 3) Russia gained control of China and Japan.
 - 4) The Japanese Emperor encouraged reforms in Russia.

- 3) The Russian Revolution and the French Revolution *both* resulted in
 - 1) increases in the power of the Catholic Church
 - 2) the restoration of old monarchies
 - 3) violent political change
 - 4) the establishment of direct democracies

- 4) The French and Russian revolutions were similar in that *both* were led primarily by
 - 1) poor farmers
 - 2) unemployed city workers
 - 3) members of the middle class
 - 4) foreign agitators

- 5) A study of the French Revolution and the Russian Revolution of 1917 would lead to the conclusion that
 - 1) revolutions seldom result in long-term changes
 - 2) control of revolutions often shifts from moderates to radicals
 - 3) revolutions only occur when a majority of citizens become directly involved
 - 4) university students are most often responsible for starting revolutions

- 6) The societies of traditional China, feudal Japan, and czarist Russia were *all* characterized by
 - 1) much interaction with other cultures
 - 2) rapidly changing social values
 - 3) a rigid class structure
 - 4) great economic change

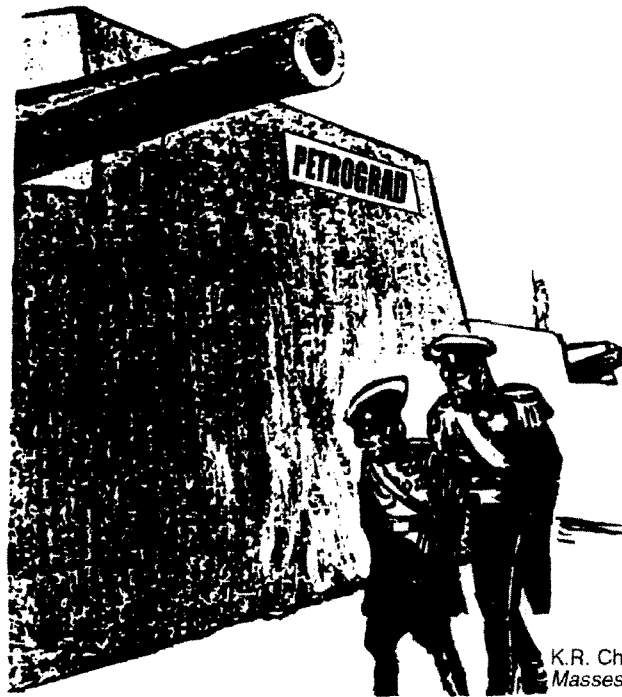
- 7) The French Revolution of 1789, the Chinese Revolution of 1911, and the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 were similar in that these revolutions
 - 1) were motivated by a desire to overthrow a monarch
 - 2) were led by ruthless dictators
 - 3) led directly to the establishment of communism
 - 4) established a higher standard of living for the middle class

- 8) A study of the causes of the American Revolution of 1776, the French Revolution of 1789, and the Russian Revolution of 1917 *best* supports the generalization that revolution is most likely to occur when
 - 1) a society has a lower standard of living than those around it
 - 2) those in power are resistant to change
 - 3) stable governments are in power
 - 4) a society has become industrialized

- 9) Which characteristic was common to *both* Russia under the czars and the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin?
 - 1) a lack of concern about territorial expansion
 - 2) persecution of political dissenters
 - 3) encouragement of free enterprise
 - 4) support of artistic and literary freedom

- 10) A major cause of the Russian Revolution of 1917 was the
 - 1) existence of sharp economic differences between social classes
 - 2) marriage of Czar Nicholas II to a German princess
 - 3) defeat of Germany in the Russian campaign
 - 4) appeal of Marxism to the Russian nobility

11)



K.R. Chamberlain
Masses, Jan. 1915

RUSSIAN OFFICER: "Why these fortifications, Your Majesty?
Surely the Germans will not get this far!"
CZAR: "But when our own army returns...?"

What is the *main* idea of the cartoon?

- 1) Russian military leaders were confident of victory over the Germans.
 - 2) The Czar expected widespread unemployment after World War I.
 - 3) There was widespread discontent in the Russian army during World War I.
 - 4) Russia spent too much for defense during World War I.
-
- 12) In 1917, Bolshevik leaders in Russia sought peace with Germany because the new Russian government
 - 1) wanted to retain power and avoid German occupation
 - 2) needed to control the Baltic Sea and wanted a warm-water port
 - 3) needed to concentrate its troops and resources on its war with Turkey
 - 4) decided to join forces with Germany and the Central Powers
 - 13) A major reason many Russian people supported the Bolsheviks in the November 1917 revolution was that the Bolsheviks called for
 - 1) the abolition of all religion
 - 2) an immediate peace settlement with Germany
 - 3) a heavy investment in industry
 - 4) the collectivization of agriculture
 - 14) The Russian peasants supported the Bolsheviks in the 1917 revolutions mainly because the Bolsheviks promised to
 - 1) establish collective farms
 - 2) maintain the agricultural price-support system
 - 3) bring modern technology to Russian farms
 - 4) redistribute the land owned by the nobility
 - 15) Which factor contributed most to the success of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in Russia?
 - 1) The Allied powers favored the revolution.
 - 2) The Czar was willing to abdicate.
 - 3) The Russian people were discouraged with their defeat in World War I.
 - 4) The appeal of Marxism to the Russian nobility.

- 16) "... The organizations of the revolutionaries must consist first, foremost, and mainly of people who make revolutionary activity their profession.... Such an organization must of necessity be not too extensive and as secret as possible..." —V. I. Lenin, 1917

This quotation refers to Lenin's plan to

- 1) defeat Germany in World War I
 - 2) maintain Communist power in Western Europe
 - 3) establish democracy in Russia
 - 4) overthrow the Russian Government
- 17) Which slogan expressed the ideals of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917?
- 1) Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity
 - 2) Land and Liberty
 - 3) Nationalism, Democracy, and the People's Livelihood
 - 4) Bread, Land, and Peace
- 18) The 1917 victory of the Communists in Russia was a contradiction of Marxist theory because Russia was
- 1) already ruled by a socialist government
 - 2) not considered to be a military power
 - 3) involved in World War I
 - 4) mainly an agricultural society
- 9) Karl Marx's ideal Communist society differed from the Communist society that existed in the former Soviet Union in that Marx believed that
- 1) economic competition should be emphasized
 - 2) violent revolutions were needed every few years to replace old socialist leaders with new ones
 - 3) government would gradually become less powerful
 - 4) investment capital was more valuable than labor
- 20) Which idea of Marxism was violated by the practices of the Communist Party in the former Soviet Union?
- 1) Privilege and class distinctions will not exist in a communist society.
 - 2) Power will be consolidated to be used in the name of the people.
 - 3) Communism will bring about a close relationship between the fine arts and the communist system.
 - 4) The old order will not be free to oppose communism once the revolution is successful.

- 21) Which statement *best* describes the political situation in the former Soviet Union immediately after Lenin's death in 1924?
- 1) Popular elections were held to choose a new General Secretary.
 - 2) A power struggle developed among Communist Party leaders.
 - 3) The nation adopted a constitutional monarchy.
 - 4) Trotsky and his followers assumed full control of the Communist Party.
- 22) One action taken by *both* V. I. Lenin and Joseph Stalin was
- 1) providing economic aid to Japan after World War I and World War II
 - 2) supporting the Russian Orthodox Church
 - 3) jailing or murdering potential opponents
 - 4) attempting to bring democracy to Russia
- 23) The ancient Greek city-state of Sparta and the former Soviet Union under Stalin were similar in that *both* societies
- 1) granted universal suffrage to their people
 - 2) placed great emphasis on literature and the arts
 - 3) were powerful military states
 - 4) were primarily concerned with the health of their people
- 24) The *main* purpose of the many purges and public trials that took place in the former Soviet Union in the 1930's was to
- 1) establish a free and independent court system in the former Soviet Union
 - 2) eliminate opposition to Joseph Stalin and his government
 - 3) reform the outdated and inadequate agricultural system
 - 4) force the Jewish people to leave the former Soviet Union
- 25) Joseph Stalin's leadership of the former Soviet Union can *best* be characterized as a period of
- 1) democratic reform and nationalism
 - 2) humanism and democracy
 - 3) censorship and terror
 - 4) religious freedom and tolerance
- 26) Under Joseph Stalin, life in the Soviet Union was characterized by
- 1) an abundance of consumer goods
 - 2) political instability and numerous civil wars
 - 3) support for small family-run farms
 - 4) the use of censorship and the secret police

- 27) A major effect of Josef Stalin's policy of collectivization on Soviet agriculture was
- 1) a surplus of agricultural goods
 - 2) an increase in the export of agricultural products
 - 3) the immediate creation of many small private farms
 - 4) a widespread food shortage throughout the nation
- 28) Which is an accurate statement about the Soviet economy under the leadership of Joseph Stalin?
- 1) The former Soviet Union increased its industrial output by developing heavy industry.
 - 2) Private farmers were encouraged to sell their surplus produce in an open market.
 - 3) The government reduced its role in planning industrial production.
 - 4) A large selection of consumer goods became available.
- 29) Under Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Union emphasized centralized economic planning and five-year plans primarily to
- 1) develop heavy industry
 - 2) expand exports
 - 3) produce more consumer goods
 - 4) create a demand for high-quality imports
- 30) Stalin's Five-Year plans and his decision to form collectives are examples of
- 1) methods of dealing with the United States during the Cold War
 - 2) programs to westernize, educate, and enlighten the population
 - 3) strategies to modernize the economy of the Soviet Union through forced communism
 - 4) a more friendly foreign policy toward China
- 31) Which term is used to identify the Soviet programs that established production goals for agriculture and industry under the leadership of Joseph Stalin?
- 1) five-year plans
 - 2) perestroika
 - 3) Great Leap Forward
 - 4) Four Modernizations
- 32) Which is the *best* example of an element of a command economy?
- 1) large, modern corporations in Japan
 - 2) cottage industries in India
 - 3) subsistence agriculture of Southeast Asia
 - 4) Five-Year Plans in the former Soviet Union

- 33) Which is generally a characteristic of a communist economy?
- 1) Investment is encouraged by the promise of large profits.
 - 2) The role of government in the economy is restricted by law.
 - 3) Government agencies are involved in production planning.
 - 4) Entrepreneurs sell shares in their companies to the government.
- 34) "A group of planners makes all economic decisions. The group assigns natural, human, and capital resources to the production of those goods and services it wants. The group decides how to produce them and to whom to distribute them."

This description *best* applies to the

- 1) command economy of the former Soviet Union
 - 2) manorial economy of feudal Europe
 - 3) market economy of the United States
 - 4) mercantile economy of 18th-century Europe
- 35) Which was a significant cultural aspect of life in many Communist nations?
- 1) organized social and economic discrimination against women
 - 2) emphasis upon athletics and other forms of non-economic competition
 - 3) encouragement of free creative efforts of writers
 - 4) restraints upon the development of social welfare programs