By 1927, Stalin had emerged as the uncontested leader of the USSR in large part to his corrupt ways and Trotsky’s arrogance.

2.1.9. **How did Stalin exert control over his people?**

- To achieve his goals and exercise control over the Soviet people Stalin organized a totalitarian government whereby a single party dictatorship controlled every aspect of citizens’ lives.
- In totalitarian states:
  - individual rights count for little or nothing
  - absolute obedience to government is not to be questioned
  - critics are often silent (ex: Trotsky exiled)
  - extreme nationalism is promoted
- Under Stalin, the government controlled newspapers, the radio, and all forms of communication.
- He censored the press and used it to pour out propaganda praising his policies.
- He stacked the party with his supporters and eliminated or exiled those who might be a threat to him
- The STALIN PURGES eliminated millions of ‘enemies of the state’
- Stalin also created a system of GULAGS across the Soviet Union.

2.1.8 **Assess the social and economic impact of Stalin’s 5 Year Plans (to be compared with the NEP)**

- Stalin’s main focus was on modernizing and industrializing the Soviet Union
- He ended the NEP and began 2 initiatives to modernize the economy:
  - Collectivization (agriculture)
  - Series of Five Year Plans (industrial production)

1. **Collectivization**
   - Goal was to provide food for workers in factories and mines
   - Called for peasant farmland to be collectivized and run by the state. Peasants would work the land
   - State would then distribute food to all
   
   **In theory....**

   **Resistance:**
   - Many kulaks resisted and hid or burned crops
   - Requisition squads executed hundreds of thousands (or sent them to gulags
   - Famine resulted as the best farmers were now gone
Economic impact

- Production dropped dramatically
- Stalin used most of the harvest to buy foreign equipment for factories—meaning lack of food for peasants and workers

Social Impact

- An estimated 5-7 million starved
- Families were separated to work on collective farms
- By 1931, estimated 80% of peasantry worked on collectives

2. Five Year Plans

- Goal was to quickly industrialize SU
  - **First 5 yr Plan** (’28-’32): Emphasis on heavy industries (coal, oil, iron and steel, electricity, minerals)
  - **Second 5 yr Plan** (’33-37): Same as first but added communication and transportation
  - **Third 5 yr Plan** (’38-’41): Meant for consumer goods but outbreak of WWII changed emphasis to war production

Economic Impact

- Increased heavy industrial output
  - Coal and iron output doubled
  - Steel production increased by 1/3
  - Machine production increased
- SU quickly modernized and to an outsider the plans were a staggering success

But...

- Salaries remained very low
- Demanded production quotas (minimum acceptable output or gulag for you!) so emphasis was on QUANTITY not QUALITY
- Production of consumer goods lagged behind all other countries

AND...

Social Impact

- Instituted 7 day workweek (so much for the workers paradise...)
- Standard of living did not rise or fell in many cases
- Failure of Collectivisation did not provide adequate food
- Citizens remained completely under control of the state (Rationing continued)