

Unit and Year: YR 13 Elizabeth I Term 1

Purpose of Unit

Introduction to Elizabeth:
Character and aims; consolidation of power including the Act of Settlement
To learn about Elizabeth's religious policy.
Why did Elizabeth not marry?

Key Learning/Knowledge:

- What was Elizabeth's background
- Character
- How could a female monarch establish herself on the throne – Act of Settlement.
- What was the core religious policy of Elizabeth's reign – Act of Uniformity.
- Why did Elizabeth never marry?

Key Vocabulary and meanings:

- Act of Supremacy 1559. Act making Elizabeth Supreme Governor of the Church of England.
- Act of Uniformity 1559. Set out the rules about the appearance of the Church.
- Royal Injunctions 1559. All the regulations governing the reformed faith.
- 1559 Prayer Book- form of worship to be followed and was a fusion of the two Prayer Books from Edward's reign.

Key Skills:

How to write notes
How to structure essays
Second Order Concepts:
Change and Continuity
Cause and Consequence
Chronological understanding

PEEL –
categorising/applying/explaining/linking evidence
Evaluation – forming coherent judgements to key questions

Links to prior knowledge/learning:

Religious policies of Edward and Mary

Cross Curricular link/ World Issues

Establishment of the Church of England

Topic summary: Great Patriotic War and post-war era

The Great Patriotic War, also known as World War II in the Soviet Union, was a monumental conflict between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, lasting from 1941 to 1945.

The war began when Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. The initial phase of the war was extremely challenging for the USSR. The German army, known as the Wehrmacht, advanced swiftly and captured large territories. The Soviets faced numerous early problems, including surprise attacks, logistical difficulties, and a lack of preparedness.

However, several key factors contributed to the USSR's eventual triumph over the German army:

Resilience and Determination: Despite the initial setbacks, the Soviet people displayed remarkable resilience and determination. They were united in their resolve to defend their homeland from the invading forces.

Vastness of the Country: The sheer size of the Soviet Union worked to its advantage. The vast expanse of the country made it challenging for the German army to maintain a sustained occupation and supply lines.

Scorched Earth Policy: As the German army advanced, the Soviets implemented a "scorched earth" policy. This involved destroying infrastructure and resources that could be useful to the enemy. It slowed down the German advance and made occupation more difficult.

Harsh Winter Conditions: The infamous Russian winter played a significant role in the war. The severe cold hindered the German army, which was ill-prepared for such harsh conditions. This allowed the Soviets to mount effective counteroffensives.

Strategic Errors by the Germans: The German army faced strategic mistakes, such as spreading their forces too thin and underestimating the determination of the Soviet resistance. This gave the Soviets opportunities to regroup and counterattack.

Allied Support: The USSR received crucial support from Allied powers, including the United States and Britain. They provided military aid, equipment, and supplies through programs like the Lend-Lease Act, which helped bolster the Soviet war effort.

Effective Leadership: Soviet leaders, most notably Joseph Stalin, made crucial decisions that helped steer the course of the war. They organized and coordinated the military efforts and rallied the population.

Mobilization of Resources: The Soviet Union mobilized its vast resources, including manpower and industrial capacity, to support the war effort. This allowed them to continuously replenish their forces and maintain a formidable defense.

By 1943, the tide of the war began to turn in favor of the Soviets. The Battle of Stalingrad marked a pivotal moment, where the Red Army achieved a decisive victory. From there, they launched a series of successful offensives that pushed the German forces back.

In 1945, Soviet forces, along with Allied armies, closed in on Berlin, ultimately leading to the fall of Nazi Germany and the end of the war in Europe.

After World War II, the USSR entered a period of reconstruction and geopolitical realignment. Here's a summarized overview until the death of Stalin:

Post-War Reconstruction and Problems:

Devastation and Losses: The Soviet Union suffered immense human and material losses during the war. Entire cities were in ruins, and the economy was severely strained.

Occupied Territories: The USSR gained territory in Eastern Europe as a result of the war, which became known as the Eastern Bloc. However, these areas required significant reconstruction and political consolidation.

Political Tensions: The end of the war saw the emergence of political tensions with the Western Allies, particularly the United States. Ideological differences and the start of the Cold War created a new geopolitical landscape.

Economic Challenges: The post-war period presented economic challenges due to the need for reconstruction and the strain on resources. Efforts were made to rapidly industrialize and rebuild the war-ravaged economy.

Social Reforms: The government initiated various social reforms, including education and healthcare improvements, as well as housing programs. These were aimed at raising the living standards of the population.

Sovietization of Eastern Europe: The USSR sought to establish and consolidate communist governments in Eastern Europe, leading to the imposition of socialist systems in countries like Poland, East Germany, and Hungary.

Recovery and High Stalinism:

Recovery: Despite the challenges, the USSR experienced a remarkable recovery. By the early 1950s, the economy had rebounded, and industrial production surpassed pre-war levels.

Cultural and Political Control: High Stalinism refers to a period characterized by a consolidation of power under Joseph Stalin. It saw a tightening of control over all aspects of society, including politics, culture, and the economy.

Purges and Repression: The late 1940s and early 1950s witnessed purges and political repression, with Stalin targeting perceived internal threats to his regime. This included purges within the Communist Party and the wider society.

Collectivization and Agricultural Policies: The government continued its policies of collectivization in agriculture, consolidating small farms into larger, state-controlled collectives. This led to increased agricultural productivity but also sparked resistance and suffering among rural communities.

Nuclear Arms Race: The USSR developed its own atomic weapons, escalating the nuclear arms race with the United States. This further heightened Cold War tensions.

Cult of Personality: Stalin's personality cult was at its peak during this period. He was portrayed as an infallible leader, and his image was omnipresent in Soviet society.

The death of Stalin in 1953 marked the end of this period. His passing initiated a process of de-Stalinization under his successors, Nikita Khrushchev and subsequent leaders. They sought to reverse some of the more extreme policies of High Stalinism and embarked on various reforms.

In summary, the years after WWII in the USSR were marked by recovery, ideological conflicts, and the consolidation of power under Stalin. High Stalinism encapsulates this period of intense control and centralization of authority, alongside significant social and economic transformations.

Key questions

Why did the USSR win the War?

How successful were the post-war economic policies?

What was the USSR's international position after the War?

What was the USSR's domestic position after the War (the extent to which it was a totalitarian state)

Key vocabulary

Blitzkrieg: A military strategy used by the German army during World War II, characterized by quick and overwhelming attacks involving combined arms and rapid movements to achieve swift victories.

- **Buffer states:** States located between two larger powers or regions, often serving as a barrier or buffer zone to prevent direct confrontation or influence between the neighbouring powers.
- **Containment:** A foreign policy strategy adopted by the United States during the Cold War, aiming to prevent the spread of communism by containing its influence and expansion through diplomatic, economic, and military means.
- **Dictatorship:** A form of government where a single individual or a small group holds absolute power, often acquired and maintained through repressive measures, with little to no democratic processes or checks on authority.
- **High Stalinism:** A term used to describe the period in the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin's rule characterized by a highly centralized and repressive regime, marked by forced collectivization, purges, and a cult of personality around Stalin.
- **Leninism:** The political theory and ideas of Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the Bolshevik Party and the first head of the Soviet Union, emphasizing the necessity of a disciplined and revolutionary vanguard party to achieve the overthrow of capitalism and establish socialism.
- **Marxism:** A social, political, and economic theory based on the ideas of Karl Marx, advocating for the overthrow of capitalism, the establishment of a classless society, and the collective ownership of the means of production.
- **Marxist/Leninism:** A term used to describe the fusion of Marxism and Leninism, combining the revolutionary ideas of Marx with the organizational and strategic principles developed by Lenin, particularly in the context of the Soviet Union.
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- **Totalitarianism:** A political system where the state has total control over every aspect of public and private life, exercising extensive power and often suppressing individual freedoms and opposition.

Adolf Hitler:

Role: German dictator and leader of the Nazi Party.

Key Traits: Adolf Hitler rose to power as the Chancellor of Germany in 1933 and eventually became the Führer, establishing a totalitarian regime. Hitler's ideology was based on Aryan supremacy and anti-Semitism, leading to the persecution and genocide of millions during the Holocaust. He initiated World War II with the invasion of Poland in 1939. Hitler's aggressive expansionist policies and militarization of the German society ultimately led to the destruction of Nazi Germany and his own death in 1945.

Andrei Tupolev:

Role: Soviet aircraft designer.

Key Traits: Andrei Tupolev was a prominent Soviet aircraft designer and engineer. He contributed significantly to the development of Soviet aviation, designing numerous aircraft, including strategic bombers and commercial airliners. Tupolev's designs played a crucial role in the Soviet Union's military and civilian aviation industry during the 20th century.

Georgii Malenkov:

Role: Soviet politician and briefly the Premier of the Soviet Union.

Key Traits: Georgii Malenkov was a high-ranking Soviet politician and a close associate of Joseph Stalin. He held various important positions within the Soviet government, including being the Premier of the Soviet Union for a brief period after Stalin's death in 1953. However, Malenkov's power diminished quickly as Nikita Khrushchev rose to prominence, and he was eventually removed from his positions and marginalized.

Anastas Mikoyan:

Role: Soviet politician and statesman.

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Sergei Prokofiev:

Role: Russian and Soviet composer.

Key Traits: Sergei Prokofiev was a highly influential composer of the 20th century. His works spanned various genres, including symphonies, concertos, ballets, and operas. Prokofiev's music showcased a unique blend of traditional and modern elements, characterized by rich melodies and rhythmic complexity. He was considered one of the leading composers of his time, and his compositions continue to be performed and celebrated worldwide.

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Role: British statesman and Prime Minister.

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Role: 33rd President of the United States.

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