

# The story of the growing power of a great dictator – joseph stalin

[People](#)



Spiritual Seminary, which trained him to be a priest. While he was there, he secretly became infatuated with reading the work of Karl Marx, "Communist Manifesto." Josef's interest steadily increased, and in 1899 he claimed he was expelled from the Seminary for Marxist Propaganda. After Stalin left the school, he joined the militant Bolshevik wing of the Marxist Social Democratic movement, which was led by Vladimir Lenin. Stalin became an underground political revolutionary who took part in strikes, propaganda distribution, bank heists, and ordered assassinations.

He was arrested multiple times and was ultimately exiled to, and imprisoned in, Siberia. He escaped often times, and was moved up in the ranks of the Bolsheviks. Josef married his first wife, Caterina Spavined, in 1906. She died of typhus in 1907, shortly after their son, Yakov, was born. Yakov died in 1943 as a prisoner of German in World War II. Stalin's second wife, Ekaterina Svanidze, was a daughter of an important Russian Revolutionary with whom he had several children. This marriage did not last long though, and Ekaterina committed suicide a few years later.

In 1912 Vladimir Lenin, who was exiled in Switzerland, appointed Stalin to serve on the first Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party. The Bolsheviks seized Russia in 1917 and were made the Soviet Union in 1922. Lenin was the first leader of the Soviets, and by this point Stalin became secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, with which he gained political support. In 1924, Lenin died and Stalin won a power struggle against Nikolai Bukharin, Lev Kinsmen, Alexei Rzykov, Mikhail Tomboy, Leon Trotsky, and Gregory Zinoviev.

By the late 1920s, Stalin was in control of the Communist Party and was the dictator of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union underwent several longtime plans launched by Stalin to transform it from an overstocking country to an industrial giant. He insisted on a government interconnected economy and on the government taking control farms. Citizens who refused to comply with Joseph's orders were brutally murdered or exiled. Millions of people died of famine because of the agriculture control. Stalin ruled by striking terror in citizens and possible opponents.

He set up a secret police and encouraged citizens to spy on one another in order to eliminate any possible uprising or opposition. Millions of people were forced into labor or killed if Joseph considered them a threat. Joseph essentially built a cult around himself by renaming cities in his honor, having textbooks rewritten to promote him, and tying himself into the Soviet's culture. In 1939, Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler signed a nonaggression pact. Stalin then annexed many countries, including Poland, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Finland and Lithuania.

Stalin was warned by America, Britain, and the KGB about a possible break of the nonaggression pact, but chose to ignore the advice. In 1941, the Nazis invaded the USSR and approached the capital, Moscow. Stalin ordered any supplies that could be beneficial to the enemy to be destroyed. In 1942, the Soviet Army defeated the Germans at the Battle of Stalingrad and drove them out of Russia. After this, Stalin took part in conferences with the Allies. Although Stalin was a loyal ally in WWII, he did not abandon the idea of a Communist empire.