

During the twelve-year reign of the Third Reich, Germany had one police officer for every 155 citizens, serving as enforcers of the system of total control. The Gestapo relied on a system of informers so you were never too sure about who may be listening to your conversations and reporting them back. Even harmless jokes about Hitler or Germany were seen as a crime. The Nazis sometimes came up with jokes themselves and monitored how quickly they spread as this would tell them about how people felt about Hitler.

Hitler managed to pull Germany out of the depression that many countries were in by 1936. He did this by creating public works projects, like building the autobahns (motorways), and employing people to work on them. He also sacked Jews from their jobs as lawyers, doctors and teachers so that 'Germans' could take over these positions. Officially only 0.5 million were unemployed by 1939 (down from 6 million in 1932) but unofficially it was more like 1.5 million.

Stalin made good use of his secret police (known at the OGPU, NKD and NKVD at various times). They were notorious for arresting people in the dead of the night and taking them away for questioning – these individuals normally ended up in a Gulag (prison camp). Millions of Russians were executed by the secret police on Stalin's orders, in the end Stalin had the head of the secret police murdered too.



Stalin launched his 5 year plans to modernise Russia by industrialising it. He ordered the building of huge factories and industrial plants and set targets for industry. By 1941 Russia was an industrial country to rival the rest of the world but it had come at a huge cost; workers worked long hours over 7 days a week, many lived in tents with no running water in extreme temperatures while building the industrial plants.

Stalin ordered the collectivisation of farms (forcing 50-100 farms to join into one super farm) to modernise agriculture and to increase exports. Grain was taken off peasants which caused a famine in which 5 million people died. Starving peasants would be executed for attempting to steal a grain of corn. He also placed spies on the farms to report on the peasants.

When Germany invaded Russia in 1941, Stalin did not know how to react and his ministers were forced to organise Russia's response. In 1942 Germany surrounded the city of Stalingrad. Stalin ordered no surrender, he didn't allow any civilians to leave the city. Although Russia eventually won this battle by defeating the German 6th Army, hundreds of thousands of Russians were killed; it was the bloodiest battle in their history.



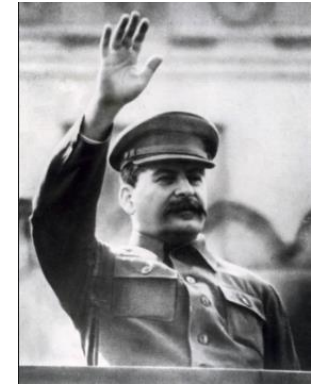
Hitler did not like the administrative side of politics and would talk at his ministers expecting his orders to be interpreted and carried out. He spent the last months of the war in his underground bunker becoming increasingly paranoid about the loyalty of his generals and claiming that if the war was lost then that's what the German people deserved. Stalin on the other hand was paranoid for the majority of his rule. It was rumoured that he kept a little black book in which he wrote down the names of those who had crossed him, these individuals eventually ended up dead. He is credited with the quote 'one death is a tragedy, a million is a statistic'.

Who was worse: Hitler or Stalin?

Hitler's massacre of European Jews was an act of genocide without equal. It is a cruel irony that Germany's own half-million, attacked from 1933, had more chance of surviving in 1933-39 than the millions in Nazi-occupied countries, once their fate had been decided in 1942. Slavs, Gypsies and what the Nazis saw as other sub-species also were killed in millions. Add on the 40m-50m dead, direct and indirect, of the war that Hitler unleashed in 1939

TASK: Use the information to gather evidence on the dictators your notes should cover war, control, death, economy and character. Then make a decision – who was worse?!

Hitler's vague policy included a planned economy in which the unemployed were put to work on government projects, working hours were shortened to open up jobs, and trade unions were banned.



In early 1930, Stalin had announced his intention to “liquidate” prosperous peasants (“kulaks”) as a class so that the state could control agriculture and use the money gained from the countryside to build industry. Tens of thousands of people were shot by Soviet (Russian) state police and hundreds of thousands deported

In Germany all education and speech was controlled. Curricula and textbooks were rewritten to reflect Nazi ideology, and all movies, newspapers, radio, and art were regulated by the vigilant Ministry of Propaganda, under Joseph Goebbels. All American movies were banned, except Disney movies. One of the Ministry's main tasks was to mobilize German anti-Semitism in support of Nazi persecution of German Jews.

The Nazi regime killed the disabled and others deemed unfit in a large-scale “euthanasia” program that accounts for 200,000 deaths

Stalin killed approximately 11 million of his own people by 1939— this far exceeds those that Hitler had notched up by 1939. Many died of famine due to forced collectivisation in Ukraine and elsewhere in 1928-33, in deportations of entire peoples later, or, at all times, in inhuman labour camps, rather than by execution. At his death in 1953, the labour camps had never been so full.



Germany bears the chief responsibility for the war. Germany invaded the Soviet Union (Russia) with elaborate colonisation plans. Thirty million Russian citizens were to starve, and tens of millions more were to be shot, deported, or enslaved. Such plans, though unfulfilled, provided the rationale for the bloodiest occupation in the history of the world