

Stalin Played Major Role in Shaping World

(Continued from page one)

One night during the "Big Three" meeting at Tehran in 1943, Stalin solemnly got to his feet at a dinner, looked soberly about him at the assembled military and diplomatic leaders of the United States, Britain and Russia and lifted his glass to American war production.

Without American production the United Nations could never have won the war, he declared.

On another occasion, Stalin clinked his glass with that of President Roosevelt and toasted "my fighting friend Roosevelt." He repeated the performance with Churchill. The British Prime Minister, at a solemn ceremony, awarded Stalin the "Stalingrad sword" commemorating Britain's recognition of the heroic Soviet defence of that city.

Upon President Roosevelt's death in the spring of 1945, Marshal Stalin said in a message of condolence to Mrs. Roosevelt: "The Soviet people highly valued President Roosevelt as a great organizer of the struggles of freedom-loving nations against the common enemy and as the leader in the cause of insuring the security of the whole world."

But after the war a new Communist International organization was formed to seek to defeat the Marshall Plan for European aid and to fight "United States imperialism." This was known as the Cominform, or Communist International Information Bureau.

The Russian revolution of March, 1917, developed so suddenly that it found the Bolsheviks unprepared for the very event for which they had been agitating for 14 years. Most of the minor members of the party,

like Stalin, were in Siberian prison camps. Lenin, head of the party, and Trotsky, his first lieutenant, were in neutral territory, waiting out World War I. Both had taken a strong stand against the war.

In the late 1890s of the Czarist regime, Stalin organized strikes, wrote pamphlets for publication on illegal printing presses and in various other ways carried the Bolshevik ideas to the masses.

It was under his direction that the first issue of the newspaper Pravda was prepared in 1912. "The Pravda of 1912," Stalin wrote on its tenth anniversary, "was the laying of the cornerstone of the victory of Bolshevism in 1917."

Stalin was jailed eight times and exiled to Siberia seven times between 1902 and 1913. He escaped from there six times. The last sentence was to the Arctic regions. There, in a closely guarded camp, he remained until the czar's overthrow emptied Siberia of its political exiles.

While in Siberia in 1903, Stalin received a note from Lenin—his first contact with the man who was to become Russia's leader and whom he was to succeed.

Trotsky made a bad guess in 1922 by refusing Lenin's suggestion that he become secretary of the Communist Party. The post went to Stalin, who saw in it the real power behind the figurative throne that Lenin had occupied. Lenin's post of chairman of the Communist Party was not filled after his death in 1925.

STALIN'S IRON RULE

There were many evidences of Stalin's iron rule.

Early in his regime the well-off peasants—the kulaks—who opposed his collectivization drive were eliminated as a class. It was estimated that more than 1,000,000 kulaks died of hunger after their grain had been confiscated.

Gregory Zinoviev and Leon Kameney, who had aided Stalin against Trotsky but had later gone over to Trotsky's side, were executed. Many others fell like wheat before the scythe during the purges of the 1930s or disappeared from sight.

On December 1, 1934, Sergei Kirov, close friend of Stalin, had been slain in Leningrad. Executions for this killing passed the hundred mark. Zinoviev and Kameney, tried with 17 co-defendants, pleaded guilty to participation in the murder plot and were sentenced to prison terms.

Later, however, the case was reopened. Zinoviev, Kameney and 14 others were brought to trial in Moscow. All confessed that Kirov's assassination was part of a plot to wipe out all the leaders of the Soviet Union, with Stalin heading the list of intended victims.

They named Trotsky, then havened in Norway, as arch-conspirator. All 16 were executed. The Norwegian government, holding that Trotsky was a political refugee, refused to give him up.

A number of onetime chief Bolshevik figures were among those executed in the purge trials. Many others were imprisoned.

The uniformity with which the defendants on trial confessed to the most sweeping crimes and plots against the government and old comrades caused wonder throughout the world.

Until Trotsky was removed from the Moscow scene by banishment, expediency dictated that no action be taken against the kulaks.

But with Trotsky and his followers out of the political picture, Stalin started rebuilding the economic structure. Private trading was ended and a program for collectivizing the farms instituted. The five-year plan for industrializing the country

was launched and modernization of the army and air force began.

The kulaks proved troublesome. They clung to their land and, rather than surrender their livestock to the government, slaughtered it for a feast of meat such as the villages had not seen for centuries. They refused to send their products to the cities to feed workers in the new factories and ignored official requisitions.

Their opposition reached a peak when they planted only enough grain for their own use. Bread was rapidly becoming a luxury when Stalin's agents moved in, took the grain that had been raised as the government's share of what would have been a normal crop, and left millions of country people to face famine. Estimates of hunger deaths went beyond the million mark.

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