

Paper Reference(s) 1HI0/30
Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

PAPER 3: Modern depth study

Option 30: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41

Thursday 15 June 2023 – Morning

Sources / Interpretations Booklet

**DO NOT RETURN THIS BOOKLET WITH
THE QUESTION PAPER.**

Sources / interpretations for use with Section B.

SOURCE B: From an account written by Lydia Dan in 1949. Lydia Dan was a Russian living in exile. Her account is a recollection of comments made to her by Bukharin in a private conversation when he was visiting Paris on official Soviet business in 1935. Here Lydia Dan is recollecting Bukharin's comments about Stalin.

Bukharin said: 'Anyone who speaks better than Stalin does, is doomed. Stalin will not permit them to live, for they will remind Stalin that Stalin is not the best speaker.

Anyone who writes better than Stalin does, is in trouble. Stalin, and only Stalin, must be the greatest Russian writer.

Yes, yes, Stalin is a small, evil man, more a devil than a man. The workers, the people, trust Stalin and so we all must be seen to trust him. But we in the Party know for sure that one day he will destroy us. Stalin knows it, too, and only waits for the right moment to do so.'

SOURCE C: From *I Choose Freedom*, a memoir by Victor Kravchenko, published in 1947. Kravchenko was an official in the Communist Party. He fled to the USA during the Second World War, where he wrote this memoir. Here he is writing about the aftermath of the murder of Kirov.

The first accounts of Kirov's death said that Nicolayev, the murderer, was working for foreign countries. Next came a series of official reports showing that followers of Trotsky, Zinoviev, Kamenev and other old Bolsheviks were linked to Nicolayev.

The number of people who were accused of being involved in Kirov's murder rose almost hourly. Anyone who had ever raised a doubt about Stalin's policies was accused. Hundreds of suspects were executed without a trial. These purges were acts of revenge against enemies of the Party.

INTERPRETATION 1: From Hitler and Stalin: Parallel Lives by A Bullock, published in 1991.

Stalin was totally self-obsessed. He believed he was a genius who would play a unique historical role. However, he was also paranoid, seeing himself as a great man experiencing opposition from jealous enemies.

Stalin's self-obsession meant that he had, for a long time, wanted to outdo Lenin. By 1934, he felt ready to attack Lenin's original Bolshevik Party and establish his own version of the Party. This is what motivated him to begin the purges.

INTERPRETATION 2: From Revolution and Dictatorship, 1917–1953 by C Rowe and S Waller, published in 2016.

Kirov was assassinated in December 1934. This was the start of Stalin tightening his control over the country and the beginning of widespread purges.

The circumstances were suspicious, and Stalin quickly claimed that Kirov's assassination was part of a plot to overthrow the Party. As a consequence, Stalin ordered the arrest and execution of anyone found guilty of 'plotting against the state'.

Stalin's determination to have total control over both Party and country can be dated from this time.

Acknowledgements

Source B taken from: <https://spartacus-educational.com/RUSbukharin.htm>

Source C taken from: <https://spartacus-educational.com/RUSkirov.htm>

**Interpretation 1 taken from: Hitler and Stalin: Parallel Lives
By Alan Bullock © Harper Collins, July 1998**

**Interpretation 2 taken from: Revolution and Dictatorship,
1917-1953 By Sally Waller and Chris Rowe © Oxford
University Press, June 2016**