

Industry and the 5-Year Plans: Introductory lecture using the PowerPoint Lecture

Motives for industrialisation

If we are backward and weak, we may be beaten and enslaved. But if we are powerful, people must beware of us. We are 50 to 100 years behind the advanced countries of the West. We must make up this gap in 10 years. Either we do this or they crush us.
(from a speech made by STALIN to the First Conference of Workers in 1931)

Introduction

What were the objectives of the Five-Year Plans?

What were their key methods?

Types of people employed

- First Five Year Plan:

- Second Five Year Plan:

Rewards: Higher Wages, Stakhanovites

- First Five Year Plan – Wage rates:

- Second Five Year Plan – Stakhanovites:

Sanctions: Fear

Propaganda

Workers were bombarded with posters which aimed to generate support for the industrialisation programme. What is the purpose of each of the following propaganda pieces?



The Soviet people and industrialisation

The Soviet people achieved so much in such a short time. This happened because all the country's wealth belongs to the working people who create this wealth. The Stakhanovite movement spread all over the country. Thousands of workers produced more than their quota. Miracles were created by the enthusiastic work of the Soviet people.
from a Soviet school textbook published in 1976.



Were the Five Year Plans for Industry successful?

He achieved fantastic successes, but at the most appalling human cost, and while industrial output soared, the production of consumer goods remained static.

Successes	Failures

Preparation for debate

- The class will be divided into two groups:
 1. "FOR" and
 2. "AGAINST".
- Each group will be subdivided into 3:
 - (a) Cause
 - (b) Course
 - (c) Consequence

Each person then has to produce a response to their set question – either agreeing with it, or disagreeing, depending upon whether they are "FOR" or "AGAINST". This will be in the form of a PowerPoint Presentation.

The Questions

"The Five Year Plans were..."

- a. Cause: "... Motivated by a desire to increase the power of the state rather than to improve the lives of the people"
- b. Course: "...Relied more on sanctions against the workers than on rewards for them"
- c. Consequence: "...Politically, economically and socially unsuccessful"

Sources:

<http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/heroesvillains/stalin/default.htm>
<http://www.yale.edu/annals/siegelbaum/>

Utility of sources

For each of the sources you use, comment on exactly how much they tell you. Do they illustrate success / failure for a particular period in time, a particular place, for a particular industry, for particular types of people? Avoid bland generalisations – be as precise as you can and this will help you reach a more sophisticated understanding!

Summary of the Learning Curve site

Cause: "Motivated more by a desire to increase the power of the state than a desire to improve the lives of the people"

Course: "Relied more on sanctions than on rewards"

Source 1 – covers targets for wide range of industries (1936)
 Source 2 – covers fresh targets by 1938
 Source 3 – how to motivate the workers
 Source 4 – motivating women
 Source 5 – brutality against peasants
 Source 6 - increased discipline
 Source 7 - Use of forced labour

Consequence: "Unsuccessful on political, economic and social criteria"

S1 – failures and reasons for these
 S2 – attempts by Soviets to cover these up
 S3 – successes claimed by Stalin (industry)
 S4 – successes claimed by Stalin (ag)
 S5 – consumer goods (failures)
 S6 – Working conditions
 S7 – Living Conditions
 S8 - Finance