**Communism: The Soviet Story assignment**

Name and date submitted (3 pts):

Background:

We are now beginning a section of the course dealing with *comparative forms of Government*. Communism - also known as ‘Marxism’ after its founder, Karl Marx – is a form of Government which began in 1917 when a group of Marxists murdered Czar Nicholas and his family (the Romanov family), and subsequently took over the nation of Russia by brute force - in what was known as the Bolshevik Revolution. Russia was renamed “The Soviet Union” (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or U.S.S.R.) and the Communists ran the country until 1991, when it collapsed under its own internal strife – together with International pressure – and its name was changed back to “Russia”.

What do Communists (Marxists) believe? Marxists believe that history is defined by “class struggle”. All the injustice we see in the World…. poverty, wars, suffering…. is caused by the upper classes in society exploiting the working class. Therefore, what is needed is a bloody revolution in which the working class rises up against the middle and upper classes (what Karl Marx called the Bourgeoisie) in an armed and bloody struggle. After millions are killed (by necessity) and their property taken from them, the working class (the Proletariat, in Marx’s terminology) will then own everything in common and we will finally have Utopia… Paradise on Earth.

Unfortunately, what actually happens in a Communist revolution is quite a bit different. Soldiers come to your farm or family business, and take it from you. Millions resist and are killed. You are sent to work on a communal farm, or in a government-owned factory. You are paid $35 a month, and given barely enough food to feed your family. Members of your family are taken away and ‘disappear’ forever. A corrupt group of men end up running the entire country, driving luxury automobiles in specially-designated lanes, and living in luxury.

This has been the experience in the Soviet Union, Communist China, Cambodia, Cuba, Venezuela, and recently in Zimbabwe.

“The Soviet Story” is a moving account of what went on in the Soviet Union during the last century. It is a graphic documentary, but is suitable for high school students 10th grade and above. If your parents object to you watching the film, please let me know and I can assign something else for you.

Instructions:

For this assignment, you will need to watch approximately the first 32-minutes of the documentary. As you watch it, answer the questions below. Use this handout as a template. For some of the questions, you will need to do Internet research. When your work is completed, turn it in as an email attachment by the due date.

Questions:

1. (3.07-3.10) Who was Joseph Stalin? He’s the guy with a hat on, looking straight ahead. Elaborate.

2. (3.09-3.13) What was the Soviet Union? Elaborate.

3. (4.10-4.14) What is meant by the term NAZI? What did the letters NAZI stand for?

4. (4.20-4.27) What was Communism supposed to be all about?

5. (4.33 – 4.35) What is meant by the term Utopia?

6. (4.35 – 4.45) Who was Vladimir Lenin? Briefly, what did he believe?

7. (4.48 – 5.25) Initially, when Communists come to power, how do they restructure society? Why do they do this?

8. (5.25 – 5.39) Why was Lenin using the tactics shown here?

9. (5.38 – 5.45) In 1917, the Communists seized power in Russia. Research and explain in a few sentences what was going on?

10. (5.45 -6.10) How many citizens were murdered initially?

11. (6.10 – 10.30) What was Stalin’s plan for dealing with the Ukrainians? What is Ukraine, and where is it?

12. (11.45 – 12.30) Why didn’t the rest of the World do anything to help? How many Ukrainians were murdered in 1932-33?

13. (12.50) True/False: Soviet society was the first Communist society on earth.

14. (13.08 and following) What was the goal of murdering over 7 million Ukrainians?

15. (13.32 – 13.45) “The Birth of the New Man” was the ultimate aim of Communism. What did they mean by this? Elaborate.

16. (13.45 – 14.55) Hitler and the Nazi’s also believed in “The New Man” idea. Explain the connection.

17. (14.55 – 16.12) What was the final result of the “social engineering” of the Nazi’s and the Communists? A glorious, utopian society?.... or something else?

18. (16.35 and following) Who was Karl Marx? Elaborate in a few sentences.

19. (16.35 – 18.15) Why did Karl Marx believe “killing was essential”? Why did he believe “racial trash” had to be exterminated? See if you can summarize this section…

20. (18.15 – 20.00) How did the Nazi’s get these ideas? Summarize the connection…

21. (20.00 – 22.00) Similarities between the Nazi’s (National Socialists) and the Communists? Summarize…

22. (22.10 – 24.10) Why did George Bernard Shaw (a very famous playwright who won an Academy Award and a Nobel Prize) – and the Western Press – initially support the dictators Hitler and Stalin?

23. (23.36 – 23.48) Was George Bernard Shaw in favor of mass murder? What can you conclude from his statements?

24. (24.50 – 25.50) The Communists exterminated people according to “class”. How did they first ‘vilify’ their victims?

26:00 – 29:00 This is not required viewing for this assignment.

25. (29.00 – 30.15) To what extent did Communists murder their fellow citizens who were deemed “enemies”?

26. (30.15 – 31.00) After all this terror, did the people finally “fall into line” and give their masters the proper respect?

27. (31.33 – 32.05) What other famous individual was watching all this and taking notes?

There will be more on the Nazi form of government later in the class….

The rest of the video is optional.