The First 5 Year Plan 1928-1932

Reasons for Enactment:
1. Build Communism in one country (totally against Marx, but Bolsheviks realize that world wide revolution is far off)
2. Restructure Soviet economy in order to compete with other modern nations
3. Counter-act the effects of NEP (NEP grew semi-capitalists (NEPmen) and small businesses)
4. Soviet leadership convinced that another “imperialist” war was going to happen

Goal:
1. Modernize military
2. Increase production of coal, iron, electricity, and machinery

How:
1. Reduce money paid to peasants for their crops
2. Collectivize agriculture by confiscating land, livestock, and tools
3. Imprison and sometimes execute Kulaks (kulaks resisted because they had more to loose, thus liquidated as a class)
4. Village class war: means by which collectivization was accomplished

Successes:
1. Stalin pronounced First Five Year Plan (1928-1932) as successful
2. Oil iron, and steel production doubled
3. Electricity output tripled
4. 2nd Five Year Plan made USSR third largest industrial power

Collectivization Issues:
1. Peasants (big and small farmers) slaughtered livestock rather than turn it over
2. Depression caused worldwide drop in agriculture prices, which required more ag. Products to be exported to offset drop in price
3. Two summers of bad weather
4. Add 1-3 together, and the result is a feminine in 1932 (2-3 million die, but Stalin has reports squashed)
5. Propoganda increased to “sell” the Five Year Plan

** By 1939, almost completely collectivized
Industrialization Issues:
1. Real wages fell and increased need for laborers, thus need for women to enter work force
2. limited unemployment
3. competition to meet quotas
4. Gulags (Stalin control method)
5. purges (Stalin control method)

** 40,000 million deaths attributed to starvation, executions, forced labor