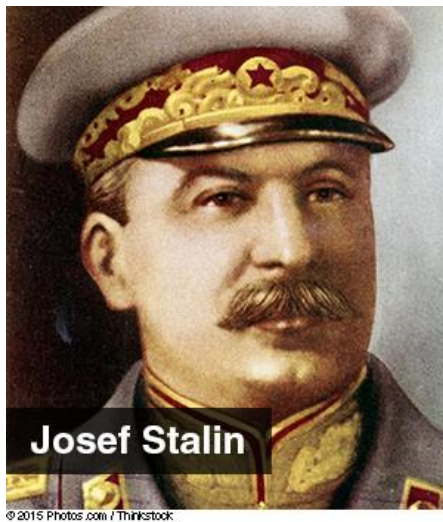


# PROJECT: GOVERNMENT VIOLENCE

*"A state of war only serves as an excuse for domestic tyranny." - Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn*

The Holocaust was an awful atrocity that a civilized government did to civilized people in a civilized world. It's hard to image that it happened, but it did and the world knows all about it. What most people don't know is that the Soviet Union quietly killed millions upon millions more people than the Nazi Holocaust in the 20th century, and most of them were good Soviet citizens, purely Russian. Estimates put the number somewhere between 20 million and 50 million people killed in Soviet work camps from starvation or hypothermia, shot by authorities, or simply taken away in the middle of the night, never to return.



*"Death is the solution to all problems. No man -- no problem."  
"One death is a tragedy; one million is a statistic." - Josef Stalin*

The majority of these deaths happened under the reign of Soviet communist dictator Josef Stalin, while the Chinese communist dictator, Mao Zedong, is reported to be responsible for somewhere between 40 million and 70 million Chinese citizens whom he deemed a threat to the Chinese communistic way of life. These numbers are staggering, and even more so because it is a person's own government justifying the killing of its citizens. These two dictators and the violence they justified in the name of communism and the common good is the focus of this project.

*"Violence can only be concealed by a lie, and the lie can only be maintained by violence."  
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn*

## Directions

This project's purpose is to bring the atrocities committed by Mao and Stalin to light. Explore and analyze the two regimes of Josef Stalin and Mao Zedong and the violence they perpetrated against their own citizens. Create a slide presentation that has a minimum of 7 slides, includes graphics, and that covers the following:

Slide 1 – Title page

Slide 2 – Introduce the topic

Slides 3-4(s) – Give an overview of both countries and the violence that happened under these two leaders. Pay careful attention to the method, the manner, and the meaning behind the violence. Include evidence of who was targeted and the reasons they were targeted.

Slide(s) 4-5 – Use the ideas of Stalin and Mao to justify the violence. Put yourself in their position, explain why they were doing what they were doing, and argue why the violence was necessary. (1 slide for each leader)

Slide(s) 6-7 – Using the experience and writing of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who suffered under the communist regime, re-create a Soviet gulag or prison camp with you in it. Give details of what the prison camp is like, the guards, the other prisoners, and you. (Include graphics – may use more than 2 slides)

Slide 8 - Finally, give your opinion on the violence. Was it justified? Why or why not? How did these leaders get away with it? What can be done now to deal with these two countries? What about countries that do the same thing to their own people now?

Slide 9 - References