



## AP<sup>®</sup> European History 2001 Sample Student Responses

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The French Jacobins' use of state power ~~and~~ to achieve revolutionary goals during the "Reign of Terror" and Stalin's use of state power to achieve revolutionary goals in the Soviet Union were similar in their ~~best~~ harsh uses of force, but different in their purposes and the ~~etc~~ ways in which state authority was imposed. The Reign of Terror resulted in the second stage of the French Revolution and was led by Maximilian Robespierre. Stalin was the general secretary of the Soviet Union after Lenin's death and into World War II. ~~The~~ The revolutionary goals of the Jacobins during the Reign of Terror were to stop the counter-revolution ~~the~~ movement and end the chaos that would not allow France to defend itself from Austrian and Prussian armies. The goals of Stalin from 1928 to 1939 were to ~~create~~ ~~Russi~~ also to crush dissidence to the Soviet Union and allow for a powerful military to be created. To achieve ~~these~~ Jacobin goals during the Reign of Terror, Robespierre initiated a series of purges

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aimed against anyone suspected of revolutionary activity. Similarly, Stalin began to purge public officials and citizens to force the USSR's citizens into submission. Neither the Committee of Public Safety, which directed the Terror under Robespierre, nor Stalin, hesitated to dispose of the highest officials in government. Robespierre, for example, ordered the execution of Danton, another revolutionary leader who had even been his friend. Both the Committee and Stalin used state power to secure their doctrines they supported within their own state, before these principles could be exported to the outside world. Robespierre needed to subdue opposition to defend against Austria and Prussia, while Stalin decided to secure Communism in the USSR and was not eager to start a world-wide communist revolution like Lenin wanted.

The Terror differed from Stalin's rule in that it was more public. Executions were staged in public places with a shining, elevated, red guillotine as the center of attention for the roaring crowd. Although this

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spectacles was later toned down to prevent incrimination of crime. Stalin's purge, on the other hand happened more "privately," people simply disappeared as on a photograph of the important leaders of the Communist Party faces of people were erased and the photograph republished after those people had been killed. The Terror was also designed to allow France to defend itself more adequately, while Stalin's reign ~~was~~ sought to prepare the USSR for a war of its own by preparing the Russian army before the cataclysm of the Second World War. Unlike the French Committee of Public Safety, Stalin also used his alliance with Germany to achieve the USSR's revolutionary goal of maintaining communism by force. Through the Treaty of Rapallo, Russian troops were trained by the German military, which was more adept and experienced in combat. The French Jacobins, though had ~~little~~ ties with the outside world.

Though both the French Jacobins and Stalin used brutal techniques

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to support the revolutionary goals of their established regimes, Stalin's rule was less demonstrative and less sudden. Thus, it was Katspiere who was the last victim of his government's sudden and harsh use of power, but Stalin expanded his purge, which killed more people than any other in human history, over a decade. This political technique allowed Stalin to continue to be repressive in power, despite the horrible atrocities his regime committed, which ~~was~~ surpassed the 40,000 citizens killed during the Terror.

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Although the Jacobins and Stalin were <sup>more than</sup> a hundred years apart, they were alike in believing that force was needed to create a ~~happy~~ virtuous society. ~~But~~ Although to some degree, their antipathy to religion made some of their goals similar, in general, it is one of the ironies of history that they were generally working for totally opposite goals using similar techniques.

~~The~~ However, it should be remembered that the Jacobins goal was political. They aimed to create "a republic of virtue" where every sign of the old monarchy, to the brigs on playing cards, had been chased out. ~~The~~ Stalin's goal, on the other hand, was primarily economic. He desired to start collectivization of agriculture as well as his infamous five-year plans to ~~start~~ force industrialization and catch up

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to the West. 9

However, in methods, the two periods were quite similar. The Jacobins roamed the countryside, ~~attempting~~ eventually killing 40,000 people, mostly peasants, in their quest to rid France of monarchial sympathizers. Stalin killed 20 million peasants in his quest to rid the state of any capitalists. Both acted similarly towards the Church, viewing it as a competitor for the citizen's loyalty.

In short, while Stalin's heinous crimes ~~attempts~~ were different in intent, ~~from~~ the Jacobins, the <sup>similar</sup> effect, of ~~the~~ greatly magnified, was the general suspicion of large amounts of people in the state as "enemies."