Stalin’s Economic Miracle Socratic Discussion

IB Euro

**Instructions:**

Stalin achieved a massive development and expansion of the Soviet economy in a very short time frame (1928-1941). The question that we are exploring today is:

***To what extent do the benefits of Stalin’s economic modernization outweigh the costs?***

To explore this question, we will have a Socratic discussion that attempts to explore the different perspectives that can be used to evaluate Stalin’s economic policies and we will, hopefully, reach some evaluative conclusions. To guide our discussion, we will examine the below questions in no particular order.

1. What were the most significant gains from Stalin’s Five Year Plans?
2. What was the cost of the Soviet Union’s rapid economic development?
3. How did Stalin’s command approach to the economy help make the Five Year Plans more effective?
4. How was the Soviet society impacted by modernization of the economy? Who gained and who lost?
5. Was Stalin’s economic modernization a “necessary evil” or do you believe that he should be condemned for his actions?
6. Should we judge the morality of past events from our modern perspective? What are the benefit and dangers of this judgment?
7. How do we decide what is moral and what is immoral? Do we believe that these are individual, group or humanity decisions?
8. When historians of 2117 look back on 2017, how do you think they will judge us?