What was communism?

Using evidence from Marx and Engels, Lenin, and Mao along with communist propaganda, define early communism (through 1920s).

- Materials:
  - annotated Marx and Engels, Lenin, and Mao readings
  - class notes
  - posters and postcard (back of this page)

- One or two sentence definition of communism or communist ideas is your thesis

- Use at least three of the sources to support your definition
  - refer specifically to the documents using authors' names or poster/postcard titles
  - quote, describe, and/or paraphrase

- Include historical context in sourcing analysis or interpretation
  - How might the events of the that the time a document was produced have affected that document?
  - Check the timeline on the last page

- Corroborate: explain how sources work together to support your definition
  - What areas of agreement exist between the sources?
  - What do the disagreements tell us about changes in historical context?

- Analyze sourcing: for each source you use, explain how author or document type affects the tone or content of the document





“Workers of the World Unite” (German print, 1889, produced to celebrate May Day, May 1st, as an international day of worker unity)

“Year of Proletarian (Worker) Dictatorship” (Alexander Apsit, Russian poster, produced on the one year anniversary of the Bolshevik/Communist Revolution, 1918)



"*Off to Collective Work*", Soviet poster, c. 1930



"Let's consolidate the victory of socialism in the USSR! Let's technically reconstruct the country's economy!" Soviet poster, 1932

Key Dates:
1848: Publication of the Communist Manifesto
1914-1918: World War I
1917: Russian Revolutions
1921: Formation of the Chinese Communist Party
1922: Communists in Russia renamed the country the USSR, aka the Soviet Union
1924: Death of Lenin
1927: Beginning of Chinese Civil War between Communists and Nationalists
1928: Stalin fully in power in the USSR
1928-1940: Collectivization of Agriculture in the USSR (Ends the New Economic Policy)
1929: Beginning of the First Five Year Plan