READING DISCUSSION - The Great Terror

1. Who/what threatened the regime? Why were they purged? Identify specific groups/people.
    a. Who?
        i. Anybody who threatened Stalin
            1. military
            2. politburo
            3. trotsky
            4. anyone with power
            5. pretty much errybody else
    b. Why?
        i. To preserve Stalin's power/life
2. How were the purges justified by the regime?
    a. Insure the spread of socialism
    b. The purges preserved the people, "If you truly were a communist you would do anything to preserve it" ~Teddy Wyman 2015
3. Who was Kirov? What happened to him?
    a. Who?
        i. Presumed to be Stalin's heir.
    b. What?
        i. He got died.
            1. Zinoviev and Kamenev
                a. Were tried and retried eventually leading them to plead guilty and being executed
4. Why would people to confess to crimes they didn't commit?
    a. You know you'll get killed, why not get it over with.
    b. If you confess, only you get killed, if you don't, your whole family is killed
5. "Stalin purged people to keep the USSR strong." To what extent is this true?
    a. In terms of improving Stalin's power, it did a very good job of keeping the USSR strong.
        i. Beat Hitler
        ii. Became Industrialized in 10 years
        iii. Strength came from total people
            1. Which Russia had a few of
    b. Strength is vague.