

## 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.