Stalin emerged as the Boss (vozhd) on his 50th b-day in 1929 of the Communist Party

- A tremendous fuss was made over his role as Lenin’s successor
- From this time on, no one was allowed to rival him
- From the early 1930s, every party lived in Stalin’s shadows
- Mafia-style politics - never forgot who helped or hurt him get to his position
- Vindictive toward political rivals and enemies

b. Purges - The Great Purge
   i. Crushed most high level opponents by 1933, but some still remained
   ii. 1936-1938 → Moscow was the scene of show trials - leading party members were accused of absurd charges of treason and sabotage
   iii. virtually all of Lenin’s comrades had disappeared from public sight by 1939 = Stalin the lone master
   iv. hundreds of thousands of ordinary citizens were arrested at the same time for alleged “crimes against the state” and sentenced to prison or to Siberian labor camps, where most eventually died
   v. 1935-1953 - 10 million citizens were at one time or another banished to these labor camps
   vi. no one knows the true explanation of what happened and no one dared to ask Stalin

A faked photograph of Lenin and Stalin.