How accurate is it to say that the most important result of the collectivisation of agriculture was that it imposed Communist control on the countryside?

Collectivisation was the long-term aim that Stalin chose in order to reform agriculture in 1928. This involved merging smaller farms into larger collective farms with the intention of pooling resources and labour for a more efficient workforce. However there were a variety of reasons why this was done and how they affected the result of collectivisation. These are economic consequences such as achieving the goal of procuring more grain however communist control also took place here as in order to create an efficient work force and achieve this result Stalin needed to transform the workers into good socialists. and social consequences such as the effect collectivisation had on the peasants. The question mentions the communist control on the countryside which is political factor. In my opinion I believe that this was overall more important because it meant the peasants were unable to go against the government by hoarding grain or initiating a revolt against them. There were also important results of collectivisation because it helped spread capital investment and the communist views across Russia. Without the communist control however Russia would not have stood behind Stalin who was a strong figure, therefore making it the most important result.

The Communist control in the countryside came about as a consequence of famines which worried those in the higher positions in the communist party. The way Stalin responded came about after the Grain Procurement Crisis in 1927-1929 when poor harvests brought the price of grain upwards and the kulaks withheld grain from the markets in order to push the prices up further. For Stalin this demonstrated that the peasants had too much control over the government and this would hinder industrialisation. Therefore he re-introduced the policy of grain-requisitioning, this went alongside Article 107 of the Soviet Criminal Code where hoarding grain could be punished. This indicated that the peasants had no power over the Communists. I think this was an important result because it proved that Stalin was willing to exert all power over the peasantry in order to achieve his ideological aim of industrialisation, which went with the fact that between 9,500,000 and 10,000,000 people were exiled as a part of this process. The party leaders were extremely loyal to Stalin's policies which meant that the kulaks were blamed and peasants were viewed as saboteurs of collectivisation. Stalin also imposed communist control over the countryside by sending the Twenty-five thousands to enforce dekulakisation and to force peasants into collective farms. The Kulaks were rich farmers who hoarded their grain due to lack of consumer goods. This was all done with the intention of using the kulaks as an example to other peasants and encouraging them to work more efficiently.

The economic result of the collectivisation of agriculture was also rather important as it included industrialisation and urbanisation which were two of Stalin’s main aims. The amount of grain procured increased from 11 million tonnes in 1928 to 23 million tonnes in 1933 and grain exports rose from 0.03 million tonnes in 1928 to over 5 million tonnes in 1931. This was important because it was Stalin's main aim for collectivisation as he wanted a more efficient workforce, which he clearly achieved. This was done however using harsh methods of procurement such as punishing people who didn’t reach their targets of grain by threatening them with exile or execution as enemies of the State. He was unable to restore the economy in the countryside which was evident by the harsh famines and the fact that rebels in the countryside openly revolted which led to 18 million horses, 100 million sheep and goats all being destroyed between 1929 and 1933 which meant that the peasants no longer had their livestock to develop industry in the countryside. I think that the Communist control in the countryside was the most important result here as Stalin needed to industrialise the countryside in order to achieve his aim of producing more grain, however ultimately this happened through procurement and forcing the peasants onto collective farms.