

Speeches on the Communist Party USA

Questions for Guided Study and Curricula

I. Historical Context and Background

1. What was the historical context of Stalin's speeches to the American Commission?
2. Why was the Communist Party USA experiencing internal factionalism at this time?
3. What were the main groups involved in the factional dispute?

II. Factional Conflict

1. How did Stalin characterize the relationship between the Lovestone and Foster groups?
2. What were the specific criticisms Stalin made of the Lovestone faction?
3. How did Stalin view the Foster faction's approach to the conflict?

III. Organizational Issues

1. List and explain the three main organizational problems Stalin identified in the CPUSA.
2. Detail Stalin's proposed five-point solution to resolve the factional conflicts.
3. What specific role did Stalin designate for the Comintern in solving these problems?

IV. Ideological Questions

1. Define Stalin's concept of "Communist morals" versus factional behavior, using examples.
2. Explain Stalin's critique of "American exceptionalism" in Marxist-Leninist theory.
3. How did Stalin view the relationship between international and national aspects of Communism?

V. Leadership and Unity

1. List and explain Stalin's four criteria for effective Communist leadership.
2. How did Stalin define Party unity and discipline in practical terms?
3. What was Stalin's specific vision for the future of the CPUSA?

VI. Theoretical Analysis

1. Analyze Stalin's perspective on the relationship between American capitalism and revolution.
2. Explain Stalin's three-part critique of factionalism as a theoretical problem.
3. How did Stalin connect the American situation to broader Communist principles?

VII. Practical Implementation

1. List the six specific steps Stalin proposed for reforming the CPUSA.
2. Detail Stalin's guidelines for implementing Comintern decisions in America.
3. What five practical measures did Stalin recommend for building Party unity?

VIII. Historical Significance

1. What were the three immediate consequences of Stalin's intervention?
2. How did these speeches reflect broader changes in the International Communist Movement?