

# Instead of Introduction to Stalin Constitution 1936

“On February 6, 1935, the Congress of Soviets decided that the Constitution should be changed to conform to the changed life of the nation. A commission of thirty-one historians, economists and political scientists, under Stalin’s chairmanship, was instructed to draft a new Constitution, more responsive to the people’s will, and more adapted to a socialist state.

“The method of adoption was highly significant. For a year, the commission studied all historic forms—both of states and of voluntary societies—through which men have organised for joint aims. Then a proposed draft was tentatively approved in June, 1936 by the government and submitted to the people in sixty million copies. It was discussed in 527,000 meetings, attended by thirty-six million people. For months, every newspaper was full of people’s letters.” (The Stalin Era, Anna Louise Strong)

“In June 1936 a draft of the new Constitution appeared in the press. For over five months the historic document was discussed at all levels and by all sections of the population, in other words, more democratically and on a wider basis than had ever been the case before in connection with any other constitution. Suffice it to say that the working people put forward around 170,000 suggestions for changes and additions to the draft Constitution. This nation-wide discussion gave rise to intensified political activity on the part of the masses both in their day-to-day work and their political work...”

“On November 25, 1936, the Eighth Extraordinary Congress of Soviets of the U.S.S.R. was convened in Moscow for discussion and adoption of the new Constitution, after district, regional, and republican congresses of Soviets had been held...”

“On December 5, 1936, the Eighth Congress of Soviets adopted the final text of the Constitution of the USSR....”

“The 1936 Constitution gave legal expression to the victory of the socialist system in the USSR.....” (A Short History of Soviet Society, Edited by Y. Polyakov. Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1971, Pp: 225-6)